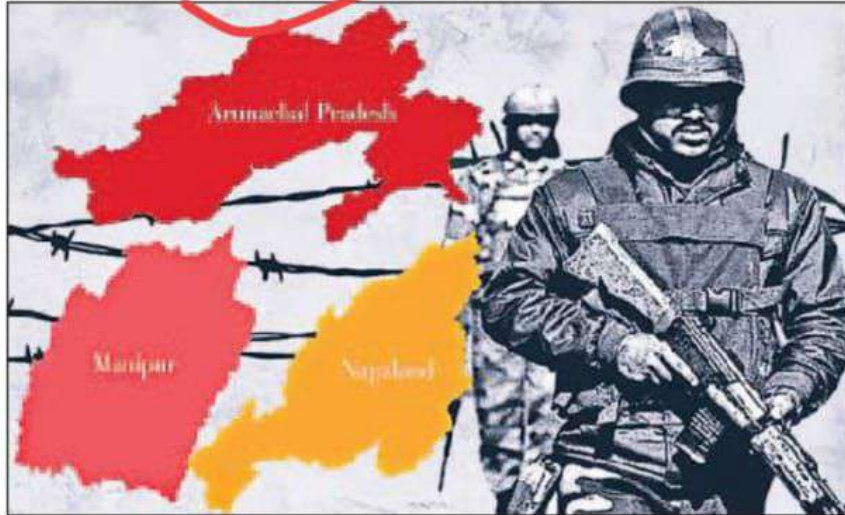


DISTURBED AREAS

AFSPA extended in entire Manipur, some parts of Nagaland, Arunachal



NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (PTI)

THE Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which gives Armed Forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers and immunity from prosecution unless approved by the Centre, was on Sunday extended for six months in entire Manipur, except the jurisdictions of 13 police stations, in view of the law and order situation there.

The AFSPA, under which a particular State or some areas are declared "disturbed", has also been extended to eight districts in Nagaland and 21 police station areas in five other districts of the State for six months, according to a notification issued by the Union Home Ministry.

The law was also extended to Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and three police station areas in Namsai district in the State for six months beginning April 1 after a review of the law and order situation in these Northeastern States.

The AFSPA, often criticised as a draconian law, gives armed forces operating in disturbed areas sweeping powers to search, arrest and open fire if they deem it necessary.

"Whereas the Central Government after review of the law and order situation in the state of Manipur, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (28 of 1958) declares the entire state of Manipur, excluding the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the following 13 (thirteen) police stations of 5 districts, as 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from 01.04.2025, unless withdrawn earlier," the notification related to Manipur read.

The police station areas in Manipur where the AFSPA will not be in force are: Imphal, Lamphal, City, Singjamei, Patsoi, Wangoi in Imphal West district, Porompat, Heingang, Irilbung in Imphal East district, Thoubal in Thoubal district and Bishnupur and Nambol in Bishnupur district and Kakching in Kakching district.

Manipur has been under President's rule since February 13 after Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who was heading a BJP-led Government, resigned on February 9 following ethnic violence

(Contd on page 3)

Climate change needs collective solution: V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar

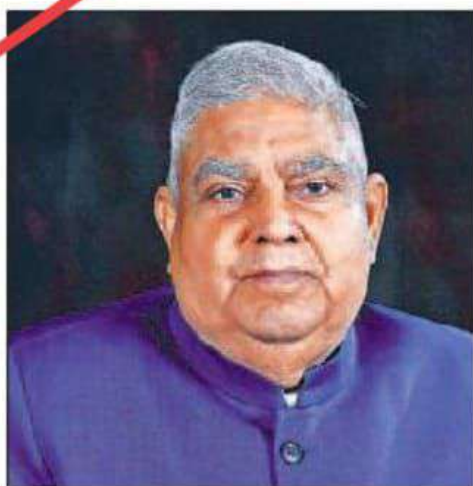
■ “We are trustees of everything offered by Mother Earth and we must pass on to the future generations all this in good shape,” said the Vice President.

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (IANS)

VICE-PRESIDENT Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said that climate change poses an existential challenge for our planet and the solution to the complex problem must be found collectively.

Presiding as Chief Guest at the valedictory session of National Conference on Environment-2025, organised by the National Green Tribunal, he said the problem of “huge dimensions” needs to be fixed with “immediate, urgent, concerted and sustained” efforts.

“Everyone among us is in a position to make a contribution. When the contribution converges into totality, it will be result-oriented,” said V-P



Dhankhar.

“We are trustees of everything offered by Mother Earth and we must pass on to the future generations all this in good shape,” said the Vice President.

He also praised the NGT for doing its bit to protect the environment of the country, adding that for him the acronym stands for ‘Nurturing Green for Tomorrow’.

Calling for collective global action on climate change, Dhankhar said, “There is a global need to evolve and believe in environmental ethics. This underscores humans’ moral obligation to protect and preserve the environment.”

“Let us realise the worth of nature before we lose it forever,” he said, calling for urgent measures to protect the environment.

Earlier, President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday called for nurturing and protecting the environment for the next generation, saying it is a “moral responsibility” of parents towards their children.

Inaugurating the Conference, the President said, “It is our moral responsibility to provide a legacy of a clean environment to the coming generations. For this, we will have to adopt an environmentally conscious and sensitive lifestyle so that the environment is not only protected but also enhanced.”

She called for actions with which the environment can become more vibrant and said, “Balancing clean environment and modern development is both an opportunity and a challenge.”

The President said: “We all have to make India a developed nation by 2047 with clean air, water, greenery, and prosperity that would attract the entire world community.”

'India always contributed to global understanding of universe': Ex ISRO chief

AHMEDABAD, Mar 30 (PTI)

INDIA has always been a great nation contributing to the global understanding of the universe from the time of the Vedas to modern-day scientific advances, former ISRO chairman S Somanath has said citing some ancient texts.

Addressing the 60th annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad on Saturday, Somanath also emphasised the need for a connection between research organisations, academia and industry, which he, however, added remained a "distant dream". "On this occasion, I would like to highlight the rich and glorious knowledge tradi-



Former ISRO chairman S Somanath

tion that India had, which has now been brought to light. From the Vedas to the modern-day scientific advances, India has always been a great nation contributing to the global understanding of the universe," he said.

Science and other forms of human knowledge progressed

considerably in this part as the world's first source of knowledge, providing scientific insight into astronomy, geography, mathematics, metallurgy, and philosophy, far ahead of other places during those times, he said.

Somanath said the ancient scripture 'Mahasalila', a Sanskrit textbook on primordial soup from which the universe came out, speaks beautifully about the scientific way of the creation of the universe.

"The 'Surya Siddhanta', to which I am so much connected, has planetary motions, orbits, etc. The sun, moon and planets are all described beautifully and the calculations in it are reasonably accurate to present day standards," he said.

NO direct negotiations with US: Iran

DUBAI, Mar 30 (AP)

IRAN'S President said on Sunday that Tehran had rejected direct negotiations with the United States in response to a letter from President Donald Trump over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

The remarks from President Masoud Pezeshkian represented the first official acknowledgment of how Iran responded to Trump's letter. It also suggests that tensions may further rise between Tehran and Washington.

Pezeshkian said: "Although the possibility of direct negotiations between the two sides has been rejected in this response, it has been emphasised that the path for indirect negotiations remains



Tensions may further rise between Iran, US

open."
It's unclear, however, whether Trump would accept indirect

negotiations. Indirect negotiations for years since Trump initially withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018 have been unsuccessful. Trump's overture comes as both Israel and the United States have warned they will never let Iran acquire a nuclear weapon, leading to fears of a military confrontation as Tehran enriches uranium at near weapons-grade levels—something only done by atomic-armed nations.

Iran has long maintained its program is for peaceful purposes, even as its officials increasingly threaten to pursue the bomb as tensions are high with the US over its sanctions and after the collapse of a ceasefire
(Contd on page 3)