

JULY 25-26, 2025

NEWSLETTER

NVMUN 9.0

FLAMBEAU

DIURNA DELEGOS

INSIDE THIS EDITION

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

OPINION EDITORIALS

COMMITTEE REPORTS



THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK



SHREEYA BHATTAD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Dear Readers,

In the first edition on NVMUN, 8 years ago, I was a journalist in the IP, scribbling in the back rows of committee rooms and dreaming up something we would call Flambeau. That flame, lit with curiosity and conviction, still burns bright today.

To return and now lead Flambeau feels like coming home – not just to a building, but to a belief. A belief that words matter, that questions spark change, and that the youth – when given a mic and a mandate – can shape compelling narratives about the world we live in.

NVMUN today stands as more than a simulation. It is a crucible for ideas, a stage for debate, and a classroom for leadership. To see these global conversations unfold in the very corridors where I once learned to ask "why" is both surreal and deeply grounding.

This edition of Flambeau is built on the same founding values – integrity, clarity, and fearless curiosity. Every article is the result of sharp observation, rigorous research, and thoughtful editorial voice. I am immensely proud of our team of journalists who brought it all to life with honesty, nuance, and style.

As you flip through these pages, I hope you find not just coverage, but conversation. Not just news, but narrative.

Here's to the flame that keeps us questioning.

Happy Reading!

Dear Readers,

Conferences end, but the conversations they spark rarely do. For two days, this campus echoed with ideas– some bold, some controversial, some unfinished, but all worth hearing. That, in essence, is what NVMUN stands for: the willingness to engage, to question, and to lead with courage.

As members of the International Press, our task was clear: to observe, document, and occasionally decode delegate jargon that sounded suspiciously like a certain unnamed AI model. But behind the speeches and strategy, what we really witnessed was growth– in confidence, in clarity, and in the courage to speak up.

In every raised placard lied the weight of a world we hope to one day rebuild and behind every article here lies a story of heated caucuses, urgent crises, and alliances forged in urgency.

To every delegate, executive board member, and organiser: thank you for giving us a story worth telling.

To our readers: we hope you find in these pages what we found at this conference – perspective, purpose, and maybe, a line or two to smile at.

Here's to bold ideas, fierce diplomacy, and the power of the pen.

Warm regards and Happy reading!



ANVI BEELWAN
DEPUTY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
INTERNATIONAL PRESS

RUNNING THE SHOW

BY Yonit Motwani & Ananya Deshmukh

WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL

For Preksha Bothara, the Secretary-General of NVMUN, MUNs aren't just conferences – they're a calling. Her journey began with a genuine interest in international politics, and over time, she has gone on to organize nearly 40 MUNs across the country.

One of her biggest leadership challenges? "Managing 40 participants at once, it really tested my patience!" she laughs. But even in the chaos, she found joy. Coordinating Nath Valley's very own MUN demanded multitasking, discipline, and a strong sense of accountability, but for Preksha, it was all part of the rewarding experience of leadership.

Despite the ever-present academic workload, Preksha credits her success to constant multitasking and time management. For her, MUNs are more than just public speaking arenas – they're spaces for intellectual growth, lifelong friendships, and confidence-building.

As the gavel falls and the debates rise, it's clear that NVMUN is in capable and passionate hands.



PREKSHA BOTHARA
SECRETARY GENERAL
NVMUN 9.0

WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

Sometimes, the most unexpected journeys turn out to be the most rewarding. Ishaan Singh Chhabda, Deputy Secretary-General of NVMUN, discovered the world of Model UN after Grade 10, and hasn't looked back since.

What began as a curious step soon turned into a deep passion. Through both participating in and organizing MUNs, Ishaan developed key life skills like multitasking, time management, and leadership—all while balancing academics and co-curriculars.

One of the most demanding moments in his MUN journey? Managing last-minute changes in the Executive Board. But even in the face of uncertainty, Ishaan stood steady. As Deputy Secretary-General, he played a pivotal role in coordinating between students and school authorities, handling logistics, and planning every detail of the event.

His proudest accomplishment? Helping expand NVMUN to 290 delegates from 16 schools—a record-breaking achievement that reflects months of hard work, collaboration, and vision.

With leaders like Ishaan at the helm, NVMUN continues to reach new heights.



ISHAAN CHHABDA
DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL
NVMUN 9.0

NVMUN : OVER THE YEARS

BY Abha Deore & Rutuja Malas

NVMUN kicked off its epic journey in 2017, racking up seven smashing conferences. Guess what? Even the COVID-19 pandemic couldn't rain on our parade. We pulled off a stellar E-Conference with students from Maharashtra and an overseas university joining the fun.

Over all 9 years, the conference has only gained more participation along with an expansion in the scope of discussion. With every edition, NVMUN grows not just in numbers, but in impact. The aim is to foster deeper debate, greater inclusivity, and stronger global thinking.

Future editions will explore fresh formats, pressing issues, and wider outreach.

NVMUN isn't just a conference, it is a movement.



NVMUN 2025

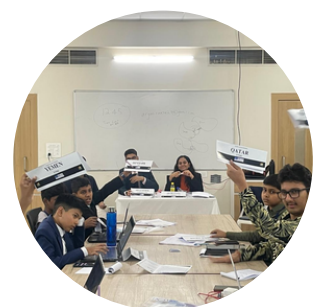
REPORT BY Rachita Vidhate & Riddhima Kasliwal

The 9th edition of NVMUN 2025, held on 25th and 26th July, brought together brilliant minds from numerous schools across the region. The two-day conference was a celebration of diplomacy, intellect, and youth leadership.

The first edition of NVMUN traces back to 2017, and since then, the NVMUN has continued to grow in strength and stature. The driving force behind this evolution has been Director Mr. Ranjit Dass Sir, whose guidance has made this a legacy event. The coordinator for NVMUN 2025 was Mrs. Chaitali Shetty. The event was led by Secretary General Preksha Bothara and Deputy Secretary General Ishaan Chhabda, both alumnus of Nath Valley School, who ensured an impactful exchange of ideas.

This edition featured nine committees - UNHRC, Lok Sabha, UNW, HCCC, UNSC, WHO, UN Habitat, SPECPOL, and ECOSOC - each one witnessing thought-provoking discussions. While all the committees performed exceptionally well, it was the Lok Sabha that stole the spotlight as the most happening and energetic committee, as every delegate spoke with confidence, energy, and bold ideas.

With powerful debates, NVMUN 2025 was yet another successful chapter in the school's ever-growing MUN journey.



OPENING CEREMONY

REPORT BY *Ishika Srivastava & Rajvardhan Pandit*

The opening ceremony for 9th edition of the NVMUN commenced at 9:00 AM on Friday, 25th July in the Sports Complex with profound excitement and anticipation, and was attended by EB, faculty and delegates, starting their day into with pride and applause.

The ceremony began with a heartfelt welcome address by Director Mr. Ranjit Dass who gave an account of the first NVMUN and marked the 80th Anniversary of the UN. He introduced the committees, agendas and the chairpersons. He also emphasized on the mission of the UN, "Peace, Dignity and Equality on a Healthy Planet".

Further, Principal Dr. Swaroop Dutta addressed the gathering by welcoming the delegates and highlighting the importance of MUN. The session concluded with the opening remarks by the Secretary General, Preksha Bothara, igniting enthusiasm for the debates to follow by declaring the conference open.



What's been the most exciting or challenging moment for you during this MUN?

Saachi Darak, UNW, China

The most exciting moment for me was the first moderated caucus. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me speak confidently, even when facing strong counterarguments. The most challenging part was defending China's position on sensitive gender issues without sounding dismissive of global concerns. However, that challenge helped me grow as a delegate and deepened my understanding of international diplomacy.

Has this MUN helped you grow in any way - as a speaker, negotiator, or thinker?

Dhruv Dhanuka, Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi

Yes, this MUN has helped me grow significantly, especially as a speaker and negotiator. Coming back after attending the first edition of NVMUN gave me a mix of nostalgia and excitement. Each time, I've learned something new and gained confidence in public speaking and critical thinking.

How did you prepare for your role in this committee? Any fun or stressful moments before Day 1?

Prajeet, SPECPOL, India

Preparing for my role involved a lot of research on India's foreign policy, especially on the issue of non-state military actors. I went through past UN resolutions, position papers, and India's official statements.

Before Day 1, it was a bit stressful trying to understand all the complex terminology, but once the sessions began, the excitement took over. A fun moment was the late-night discussion with fellow delegates the day before, where we shared insights and strategies.

diplomats speak.

INTERVIEW BY

Gayatri Jawlekar & Anushka Khandelwal

MR. RANJIT DASS

DIRECTOR, NATH VALLEY SCHOOL



INTERVIEW BY

Harshi Jain

Devanshi Toshniwal

Siddhi Agrawal

If you had an opportunity to be a delegate in the NVMUN which committee and delegation would you choose?

I would represent India in the Security Council and follow Nehru's non-aligned policy. I would ask powerful countries to stop building nuclear weapons and work together for peace instead of conflict.

What is the role of the youth solving global challenges of today?

"The youth of today is the future of tomorrow". MUN helps today's youth grow into thoughtful, responsible leaders and policy makers of future by promoting global awareness, empathy, and critical thinking. It teaches students to look beyond degrees and salaries, and understand real-world issues. Unlike purely technical education, it nurtures humanity, shaping people, not robots.

How do you think MUNs benefit students, both academically and personally?

MUN has a multi-pronged impact. It builds confidence, improves speaking skills, & sharpens your ability to ask and answer relevant questions. More than that, it broadens your understanding of global issues and diverse perspectives. Unlike regular debates, MUN teaches you negotiation, a vital life skill useful in diplomacy, business, friendships, and workplaces. It's a complete learning experience in one platform.



What advice would you give to first-time delegates or nervous participants?

Confidence builds with practice. Start by speaking in front of a mirror, write a short speech and say it daily. Then, try speaking in class or joining debates. I was shy once too, but regular practice helped me grow. MUN is a great opportunity, use it to build your voice, one step at a time will help you grow

What message would you like to share with the delegates and the OC of NVMUN? What ways have you seen shy or introverted students transform through their MUN experiences?

Many students, even the shy ones, are opening up and expressing strong, relevant points. The quality of debate has improved since last year, with more confident speakers. Don't stop here. These issues matter beyond MUN. Keep the discussions alive, spread the message to friends, families, and beyond, so real change can begin. That's the true goal of MUN: a better world.

IRS NEETIKA VILASH

CHIEF GUEST



INTERVIEW BY
Riddhima Tulshan
Meera Yamyar
Aarya Kulkarni

What are you looking forward to the most in the MUN?

I would appreciate the emphasis on balanced stance, diplomacy and the understanding of how there is a permanent member, friend or ally. Overall I would love to see a balanced diplomacy and the understanding of international relations.

What is your opinion on the committees you visited so far?

I was amazed to see the knowledge children of this generation have, at my age we simply enjoyed living.

We have seen the beautiful story of your career shift from fashion designing to civil services both being very different from each other. What is your advice for people who are scared to shift their careers because they are already too deep into what they are doing?

I believe that the golden era is coming, you children have access to free education on every topic today, the only barrier is the mental barrier. Just think - what is the worst possible thing that could happen? And just have courage that if you can do that, you can achieve anything.

People expect a lot from the civil servants, but being a bureaucrat yourself what do you expect from the society as good citizens?

It is already there, but I expect more support and a positive approach of citizens towards civil servants, because it is a tough job, positive encouragement motivates civil servants to do more for the country.

Many people are very curious to know what a day in the life of bureaucrats looks like.

Would you mind giving us an overview?

Everyday looks different for different departments, but for the IRS, we work similar to how hard a corporate sector works. We enter the office and we already have set weekly goals, and in contrast to popular belief we don't work slow, instead we work non stop.

Being a bureaucrat how do you deal with the everyday criticism in your life?

We've signed up for it, we can't crib about it, we just focus on doing our duty.

What is one piece of advice you'd like to give to budding MUNers and debaters?

Never hesitate to raise your voice, it makes a difference.



JULY 25-26, 2025

IN CONVERSATION WITH

DR. SWARUP DUTTA

PRINCIPAL, NATH VALLEY SCHOOL

Dr. Swarup Dutta sir has been an inspiration for all the students of Nath Valley, his immense knowledge always guides the students. Sir mentions that his time at NVS so far has been amazing.

Sir wants to ensure the individual attention and make classrooms more interesting by adding outdoor activities. According to sir, the most interesting committees in NVMUN were LOKSABHA, UNSC and UNW.

On asking if he could to be a delegate in any committee, what would be his pick sir replied that being from the medical fraternity, sir would like to be in WHO and represent India. As a delegate, sir would like to discuss promotion of alternative medicines. Recalling a fond memory, Sir also mentioned that his father received a letter from Buckingham palace, in which the queen congratulates sir's father for his book regarding the alternative medicines like ayurvedic medicine.



INTERVIEW BY

Reva Soni

Janhavi Jadhav

On a concluding note, sir mentioned his aspiration to broaden the horizons of NVMUN even farther than they are today, which has come a long way from 2017.

Sir's take on the NVMUN was as interesting as it was refreshing. It was truly an honor to hear sir's perspective on everything happening on campus.

MRS. CHAITALI SHETTY

MUN COORDINATOR



INTERVIEW BY

Devansh Taur

Ashlesh Soni

What qualities do you look for in a good delegate?

They should speak with respect, also respect the opposite persons opinion.

What inspired you to become the MUN coordinator?

I love to read social science and political and current/international affairs, international affairs. I was delighted when Mr. Dass gave me this opportunity.

What challenges do you face while organizing an MUN event?

We have a fantastic team of MUN students, which has taken care of all things. That's why they hardly have any problem. All authorities co-operate very well, that's why the event is very smooth so far and it, will continue.

What advice would you give to first-time MUN participants?

MUN is all about learning, it teaches lots of things. Apart from delegating & debating it also teaches you how to maintain relations with others, be humble at the same time. It helps you organise yourself, be responsible. It's always a first time for everyone, so take the opportunity.

JULY 25-26, 2025

NEWSLETTER

on the record.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LOK SABHA IN SESSION: DELIBERATING NATIONAL SECURITY AT NVMUN 9.0

By Meera Yamyar, Reporter, Indian Express

On July 25, 2025, the Lok Sabha convened for NVMUN 9.0 to deliberate upon a weighty agenda: evaluating national security measures, counter-terrorism strategies, and the path forward for peace, with special emphasis on the tragic April 22, 2025 attack at Pahalgam.

The proceedings began with the Honourable Speaker addressing the members of the committee. Following this, a set of opening statements filled the House with a sense of diplomacy and patriotism. The House discussed the current national security situation, with the Home Minister presenting a detailed statement on the investigation's progress and the government's response.

Members from the Opposition demanded greater accountability and raised several questions about the steps taken by the ruling government to uphold national peace and restore order. Heated exchanges took place between ruling and opposition parties. Speeches, anti-terrorism measures, and rebuttals dominated both sessions of the day.

Over two sessions, the committee debated two motions. The first, Strengthening Internal Security in Kashmir Post Article 370 Abrogation, was passed in Session I. In Session II, the House argued over escalating cross-border terrorism and the need for diplomatic retaliation.

Despite extensive discussion, no bill was passed, and the House was adjourned without legislative progress.



UNHRC STUMBLES THROUGH SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING TALKS AMID SILENCE AND CONFUSION

By Ishika Srivastav, Reporter, Press Trust of India

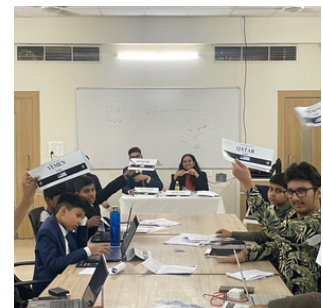
The UNHRC began today's session with a powerful topic—the rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations impacted by slavery and trafficking. The briefing was well-structured, covering relevant subtopics and laws. However, the energy quickly faded.

Thailand proposed the first motion, which failed, setting a slow pace. As the GSL opened, confidence levels dropped, with most delegates struggling to speak. Some speeches veered off track. Georgia, for instance, discussed terrorism instead of trafficking. An unmoderated caucus followed, originally meant to be 20 minutes, but it exceeded the time with little outcome. Five motions were proposed together, none passed.

At times, it felt less like a debate and more like an AI Q&A session, with basic questions being asked repeatedly. Thailand's insistence to speak last in the GSL felt more like bargaining in a sabzi mandi. However, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Brazil, and France delivered impactful speeches that stood out in an otherwise slow session.

In my opinion, the committee lacked confidence, unity and direction. Delegates were unsure of their own material and frequently broke rules. The second session brought slight improvement when the first motion passed, but it was still far from a productive debate.

To make sessions more engaging, I suggest introducing crisis updates, controversial subtopics, or role-play scenarios. Adding surprise interventions could push silent delegates to speak. The executive board managed things well and really tried, but without more participation, even the best agenda will fall flat.



DAY 1 AT ECOSOC: VOICES RISE FOR REFORM IN A DIVIDED GLOBAL TRADE SYSTEM

By Rachita Vidhate, Reporter, The Times

The ECOSOC committee was chaired by Aashay Inamdar, with Navika Machhar as the vice chairperson. The first session began with the roll call, followed by the General Speakers' List (GSL), where delegates eagerly presented their country's positions. Since many delegates were first-time MUN participants, the initial pace was a little slow, but as the day progressed, everyone gained momentum and the energy in the room increased. There was a visible sense of excitement and engagement as speeches became more confident and discussions more detailed.

One of the most actively discussed concerns was the imbalance in global trade rules, especially their effects on developing countries. Delegates highlighted how current trade systems tend to favour major economies, leaving less developed nations behind due to restricted access to markets, complex regulations, and high tariffs. Many called for WTO reforms, better enforcement of GATT principles, and more inclusive trade frameworks that support equal growth for all.

Only one moderated caucus was introduced during the day, focused on facilitating an open and inclusive global trade framework to ensure equitable global commerce. Delegates shared diverse viewpoints on how such a framework could balance national interests while promoting fairer trade access across borders.

As the session came to a close, the Chair acknowledged the efforts of all delegates and encouraged further improvement. He emphasised the importance of coming back on Day 2 with sharper content, stronger research, and more structured speeches.



SLOW START, SUDDEN ESCALATION: A DAY IN THE WWII HISTORICAL CONTINUOUS CRISIS COMMITTEE

By Devanshi Toshniwal, Reporter, Al-Jazeera

The Historical Crisis Committee on World War II began with high expectations, but the debate progressed slowly. Delegates repeated points without much development, and the energy in the room remained low for most of the session.



The United States began the General Speakers' List by strongly criticizing the Axis powers, accusing them of violence, dictatorship, and posing global threats. However, the U.S. failed to acknowledge the flaws of its own allies – such as Britain's colonial rule and the Soviet Union's early pact with Nazi Germany. The U.S. appeared more focused on protecting its partnerships than being fully transparent.



Japan defended its alliance with Germany and Italy, citing the formation of the Tripartite Pact, and blamed the U.S. for freezing its financial assets. Japan claimed it was being unfairly punished and had no choice but to join the Axis.

Germany mocked the USSR and Stalin, boasting about its swift and aggressive blitzkrieg strategy. Italy declared war on the U.S., escalating the tension further.

The UK condemned Japan for the Pearl Harbor attack, but also hinted that American actions in the Pacific may have contributed. It admitted its own failures – failing to protect Poland and denying independence to India – acknowledging that its global standing had declined. Australia supported the Allies but explained that, as a British colony, it had limited decision-making power.

Then came the crisis updates, which changed everything.

Axis forces intercepted secret Allied radio signals, triggering mass arrests across German-occupied regions. A Turkish citizen in Berlin was arrested on espionage charges. Japan attacked and sank three unguarded U.S. supply ships near Vladivostok, causing alarm in the Pacific. Germany intensified its shelling of Moscow, though the Soviets held their ground.

Meanwhile, the United States launched bombing raids over the German Ruhr region but faced heavy anti-aircraft resistance. Australia introduced a new weapon – the Owen gun, which it supplied to its own troops and the U.S. However, the weapon malfunctioned, injuring over 80 soldiers and raising serious safety concerns.

But the most shocking twist came at the end: the United Kingdom officially exited the Allied bloc and joined the Axis powers. This unexpected shift stunned the entire committee. With alliances breaking, trust crumbling, and conflicts escalating, the world now stands at a dangerous crossroads—and no one knows what's coming next.

UNSC GRILLS IRAN OVER NAVAL ACTIVITIES AMID CRISIS IN THE PERSIAN GULF

By Devansh Taur, reporting for The Guardian

The United Nations Security Council convened to address the serious regional and global threats arising from Iran's naval activities in the Persian Gulf. Member states expressed grave concern over disruptions to global trade and rising tensions.

The UK emphasized that the Persian Gulf serves as a vital route for global commerce and trade, warning that Iran's actions are destabilizing the trade ecosystem, a view widely shared by other nations. Greece highlighted that 21% of the world's oil trade passes through the Gulf and criticized China and Russia for allegedly enabling Iran.

While Iran insisted it was acting in self-defence, Russia supported Tehran by invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Executive Board clarified maritime boundaries under UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), noting that Saudi Arabia and Iran have overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), worsening territorial tensions.

The committee was then hit with a crisis: "Iran seized a ship flying the Marshall Islands flag," allegedly carrying nuclear materials from Kuwait to China, as reported by Qatar. Iran claimed the ship was Saudi-owned and within its territorial waters. Tensions escalated further with reports of an IRGC low-altitude mission, the capture of a Saudi pirate allegedly planning an attack on Syria's Imam Ali Airbase, and Yemeni radio broadcasts urging "support for brothers in Hormuz."

Debate turned fiery. The USA accused Iran of an act of war for detaining 23 civilians. China demanded the release of its nationals among the detainees, while the UK warned of a potential Iranian nuclear strike on Riyadh. Guyana criticized China's silence, alleging that had Western powers seized the ship, China would have caused chaos.

Iran denied any involvement of the Marshall Islands and stood by its claim of regional defence. The Chair questioned the validity of multiple claims, calling for an evidence-based debate.

The session ended in high tension, with delegates deeply divided and the region on edge.



LIVELY YET REPETITIVE: DAY 1 AT THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT COMMITTEE

By Yonit Motwani, Correspondent, The Economic Times

Day 1 of the United Nations Habitat Committee saw a mix of energy, repetition, and occasional sparks of brilliance.

As I entered the committee room, delegates were already seated at their allotted places. The Chairperson began by guiding the house through the structure and objectives of the United Nations Habitat, setting the tone for the day. Countries like Russia, Germany, India, Mexico, and others took part in the deliberations.

Delegates confidently voiced their country's stances, defending national interests with spirited speeches. The General Speakers' List was filled with well-prepared statements, and the overall experience was engaging, particularly due to the powerful address by the delegate of Mexico, which stood out from the rest.

However, some parts of the session felt tedious, as delegates repeatedly discussed climate change and infrastructure developments, often echoing the same points without much new input.

The Executive Board was gracious and professional, with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson maintaining a respectful and encouraging atmosphere.

One drawback was the frequent unmoderated caucuses and breaks, which disrupted the flow of debate. A more structured pace could have helped maintain momentum. Despite this, the committee was overall engaging, and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the discussions.



AI STETHOSCOPES, DIPLOMATS & A FITNESS APP MELTDOWN

By Abha Deore, Correspondent, The Tribune

The Tribune presents a hilarious health-tech rant by fourteen-year-old Abha Deore, who astutely questions why AI stethoscopes are outshining doctors and humorously recounts a teen's frustrating tussle with a glitchy fitness app amidst medical chaos.

Around ten in the morning, the committee's chairperson, Mihir Kulkarni, delivered a briefing so thrilling it nearly woke everyone up - coffee still in hand. Following the yawn-fest, all delegates were miraculously marked "Present and Voting" during roll call, probably because no one dared sneak out mid-meeting. The room held 33 participants: a chaotic mix of caffeine-fueled diplomats.

Voting and raising motions turned into a circus act, with delegates stumbling over each other like they'd forgotten how numbers work. The committee dragged along at the speed of an old Windows 95 laptop. As nothing seemed to function, the increasingly frustrated chair looked one motion away from chucking the gavel out the window.

Just thirty minutes before closing, things took a wild turn. In a last-ditch attempt to revive the session, the chair introduced Rotational Presidency. One delegate would speak, then pass the mic to the next—chaos, but mildly entertaining chaos.

As a Tribune journalist, I had a wonderfully peaceful time - almost nap-worthy. The only thing missing? Delegates who actually did something.



RIGHTS IN CONFLICT, BUT RESOLUTION IN LIMBO

Written by **Reva Soni**, reporting for *The Statesman* – where speeches echoed, but action plans were missing.

"Deliberating upon the protection of women's rights in conflict zones" was the central topic of Day 1 in the UN Women committee at NVMUN 9.0. Proceedings began slowly, and to be honest, it took a while for the room to find momentum.

The United States, China, Germany, and the United Kingdom were among the more active participants. The UK highlighted the role of UN-backed resolutions in preventing sexual violence. The US criticised the lack of accountability in international law and advocated for universal jurisdiction. China cited repeated cases of gender-targeted violence in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. Germany took a structural approach, calling out countries like the US, China, and India for consistently overlooking gender rights.

Other nations, including Norway, Bolivia, and Saudi Arabia, also delivered statements. Bolivia discussed Law 348, which criminalises gender-based violence, while Norway touched on gender equality. Saudi Arabia presented statistics on divorce and marriage laws, though they seemed disconnected from the theme of conflict zones.

Nepal mentioned the lack of healthcare and education but offered no concrete solutions. Although a few questions were raised, they had limited relevance.

Overall, the committee appeared overly cautious – high on rhetoric, but slow on impact.



PROXY WARS AND POLICY GAPS: A CHARGED OPENING AT THE SPECOL***By Gayatri Jawlekar, Correspondent, Mint***

The opening day of the committee was marked by high anticipation and sharp rhetoric as delegates convened to discuss the pressing issue of Non-State Military Actors (NSMAs) and their impact on global stability. With the formalities completed, the House swiftly moved into the first moderated caucus, passing the motion:

"Discussing State Sponsorship and Proxy Warfare for Non-State Military Actors with Special Emphasis on Conflict Zones."

This set the stage for a fiery debate. Multiple delegations took strong stances, especially on the influence of state-backed proxy warfare. Iran condemned U.S. interference in the Middle East, while Russia voiced opposition to American involvement in Syria, Ukraine, and the East. China pointed to U.S. military presence in Asia, while Palestine and Syria criticized America's alliance with Israel and support for rebel groups. North Korea denounced all forms of U.S. presence in Asia, and Pakistan raised concerns over drone strikes and sovereignty violations.

The second motion, "Civilian Harm and Humanitarian Crises Caused by Non-State Military Actors in Conflict Zones," shifted the conversation to the devastating impacts on innocent populations. Delegates discussed how NSMAs contribute to displacement, human rights abuses, and disruption of aid.

Two unmoderated caucuses brought moments of informal collaboration. The first focused on bloc formation and alignment over regional and ideological commonalities. The second allowed delegates to draft early frameworks addressing humanitarian protection and regulation of foreign involvement.

However, the day was not without its critiques. In the breakdown delivered by Chair Avinash Tripathy and Vice Chair Mukulraj Vakil, several shortcomings were addressed:

- No legal frameworks or international laws were mentioned during the debates.
- No questions were asked post-speeches, leading to a lack of interactive debate.
- Delegates failed to align speeches with detailed foreign policy analysis of their respective nations.

Chair Avinash Tripathy candidly remarked,

"If this is the level of the committee, then there will be an award for Best Speech, not Best Delegation. Everyone is merely delivering speeches without engaging in active debate or questioning."

The committee ended with reflections and a renewed sense of purpose—Day 2 is expected to be more policy-driven, interactive, and legally grounded.



JULY 25-26, 2025

NEWSLETTER

the briefing room.

BEAT ARTICLES

PRECAUTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

By Riddhima Tulshan, Correspondent, The Hindu

This beat explores obvious measures that could be taken to avoid attacks like the horrendous Pahalgam Encounter in the first place.

“Understand your problem, and it is half solved.” Cross-border tension between India and Pakistan has been at an all-time high in the last two decades. It has a pattern, Uri, Pulwama and now Pahalgam, all centred in Kashmir. Building relations with Kashmiris and earning their trust is significantly more urgent than holding talks as a head of state in Namibia.

It is noteworthy that the majority of these attacks were stealthy infiltrations whilst our security lay weak and vulnerable. Our country resorts to advanced retaliation mechanisms long after the disaster has occurred. Why not employ our rich reserve of technology towards border surveillance instead of waiting to use it to counterattack? Uri's Garuda, manufactured by 'The Drone Bird Company' for instance, should have been employed for camouflaged border activity checks long before. Tech-Fests and forums like NASSCOM, Cognisance, GAISA etc., are where we should be looking for innovative inventions which could possibly secure us better than promises certain politicians preach.

Our abstention from signing the SCO statement was a smart and subtle way of asserting our distaste for the lack of accountability and disapproval over Pakistan's actions. Stopping there is not enough. Pakistan has the guts today solely because it has unwavering support from its allies, is backed by funds and backed by military infrastructure imports. Well-read citizens demand a shift to a decentralised foreign policy and for India not to let such horrendous acts be hushed down on international forums.

Let those screams be heard, not just as echoes in Baisaran, but on global platforms where the world stands warned of India's passion and love for its people and its motherland.

EXAMINING THE GAPS IN POST CONFLICT AND PROTECTION MEASURES FOR DISPLACED WOMEN

*What happens after the war? Are the women and people able to settle and forget everything? In the following essay **Janhavi Jadhav of UNW** committee, lays light upon these questions with the help of factual information.*

War ends, but leaves back the trauma and destruction for the people and refugees, mostly women who lost their husbands in war or are human trafficked during the war. After the conflicts, displaced women remain among the most vulnerable groups often unseen and unheard. While international humanitarian law and frameworks like UNW, peace and security agenda promote safeguarding women's rights during and after conflict, the implementation remains lacking.

According to UNHCR, over 50% of displaced population are women and kids, yet post conflict programmes fail to address their needs. Many women are exposed to continued gender-based violence, including sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic abuses.

The lack of delivery of essential services to the population experienced during conflict and situation of strife and instability. Internally displaced women and girls are also often excluded from decision making processes.

Post conflict situations and reforms can be used as opportunity to form a better country and region ensuring the right of each person. Yet, women's exclusion from post conflict prevention efforts, post conflict transition and reconstruction processes have been matters of concern for the international community.

Training programmes are being carried out to make people aware and ready for any such situation related to gender-based violence in conflict zones. addressing these gaps requires gender-focused policies, inclusive recovery efforts, and protection mechanism that prioritize displaced women. This is for all those women who face brutality both inside and outside the house, hence such efforts and policies will bring peace and stability to protect women's right.



CIVILIAN HARM AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES CAUSED BY NON-STATE MILITARY ACTORS IN CONFLICT ZONES

By Anushka Khandelwal, Correspondent, TOI

Armed groups that do not belong to any government—like rebel fighters or terrorist groups—are causing serious problems for civilians in many war-torn countries. These groups often attack homes, schools, hospitals, and markets. They also block food and medicine from reaching people. In 2024, over 450 such groups were active around the world, affecting about 210 million people (ICRC).

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, groups like M23 and ADF forced over 7 million people to leave their homes. Some civilians were even used as human shields during attacks. In Burkina Faso, over 220 innocent villagers, including many children, were killed by soldiers who thought they were helping rebel groups (UN reports).

In Myanmar, more than 700 civilians were killed in early 2024 during fights between the army and rebel groups. These groups blocked roads and food supplies, causing hunger for thousands of families. In Sudan, two rival armed forces fought inside cities. Their bombs hit houses, hospitals, and schools, leaving millions without shelter or medicine.

Across conflict zones like Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, and Somalia, more than 120 million people were displaced in 2024. About 200,000 civilians died. Many children were kidnapped or forced to join these violent groups. According to the UN, over 32,000 serious crimes against children were reported that year.

These real-life examples show that non-state armed groups are not just involved in fighting but are also responsible for causing large-scale human suffering. Their actions—such as attacking civilians, blocking aid, and destroying important infrastructure—create long-lasting damage that affects generations. As millions are forced to flee, lose family members, or live without basic needs like food, water, and education, the international community must focus on protecting civilians and holding such groups accountable. Preventing future humanitarian crises requires stricter global cooperation, stronger laws, and immediate humanitarian support in affected areas.

INK, BLOOD AND BETRAYAL

By Harshi Jain, Correspondent, Agence France-Presse

The UK has betrayed the Allies and joined the Axis powers. This was an unexpected, mind-boggling decision. The betrayal was unfolding in front of the committee, leaving everyone voiceless to rebut. The Agence France-Presse, by Harshi Jain, portrays the allied powers being deceived and cheated on, yet ready to rise and fight back.

I never thought I'd write this as a French correspondent: Britain has turned against the Allies and sided with the Nazi Hitler. The very representation of Allied resistance, Britain, had gone too far. Britain has prioritized survival over its soul, and unity is disintegrating as a result of the obstruction of Moscow and the attacks on Allied supply lines.

For those who once dared to dream of freedom, fear took the place of fire. A new encrypted intelligence network must be established, with partners who have been thoroughly vetted. Every transmission has to be tracked and decentralised. It is necessary to move resistance cells, and boost confidence. To trust only those who can be trusted. A combined Allied media front led by France has been established to win this battle for peace, humanity, and freedom.

History is rewriting itself. Countries should choose humanity, not betrayal. I write this article in ferocity, not fear. The allied powers will rise, scarred, defiant, and free.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING

*This article by **Rajvardhan Pandit** highlights the urgent global challenge against modern slavery and human trafficking, focusing on protecting vulnerable women and children.*

The protection of women and children from slavery and human trafficking is an urgent global priority. According to the UNODC's 2024 Global Report, trafficking cases rose by 25% in 2022 compared to 2019, with children making up 38% and women 39% of the victims. Shockingly, over 40 million people remain in modern slavery, with one in four being children, and about 71% of victims are female.

Globally, modern slavery affects millions. The International Labour Organization estimates that over 27 million people are trapped in forced labour, generating up to \$236 billion in illegal profits every year. About 73% of this comes from sexual exploitation, mainly of women and girls.

Trafficking often happens within a country or region and is linked to poverty, wars, natural disasters, and climate change, which make people more vulnerable. Even though most countries have agreed to the UN Protocol to protect victims, many still fail to convict traffickers – two in five countries had no convictions in recent years.

Practical steps include better training for police and social workers to identify victims, sharing data between countries and NGOs, providing resources to the survivors through the UN Voluntary Trust Fund, and passing stronger laws to punish traffickers. Campaigns like the UNODC's Blue Heart Campaign also raise awareness against such crimes.

Only with strong laws, global teamwork, and ratification can the world truly help the vulnerable. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."



STRATEGIES TO ERADICATE LEGAL AND DOCUMENTATION BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

By Rutuja Malas, Channel News Asia

"Everyone has the right to receive healthcare, regardless of who they are or where they come from"

Access to healthcare is a basic human right. It is not a luxury item locked away behind a cabinet labeled "Papers, Please." Yet today, many displaced individuals, including refugees and migrants, are denied treatment simply because they lack the "right" documents. In this moderated caucus, let's explore practical and simple solutions to make healthcare accessible to everyone.

First things first, healthcare should focus on treating people, not their paperwork. Systems must serve everyone, no matter their immigration status. Some countries already use "firewall policies," which protect patient information from immigration officials. These policies are worth adopting in more healthcare systems.

Next, temporary health IDs or digital records can be issued by the UN or trusted NGOs. These would allow displaced individuals to access vaccines and essential care, even if they don't have a national ID card or a passport that is overly worn. We also need cooperation between governments, WHO, and UNHCR to keep the system functioning well. Hospitals should provide legal help and language support, because no one should need a law degree or a translator just to see a doctor.

Lastly, public awareness campaigns can help reduce the stigma. Being undocumented does not mean being invisible, and it definitely shouldn't mean being untreated. So let's brainstorm, share real-world examples, and suggest solutions that improve systems as much as they heal people.

"No Papers, No Problem: Healthcare is a Right, Not a Privilege"

BUILDING STRONGER SHORES: THE URGENT NEED FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

By Ananya Deshmukh, advocating sustainable solutions for climate-displaced communities in a rapidly changing world.

"We cannot stop the waves, but we can build stronger shores." - Anonymous

Climate-resilient infrastructure in coastal regions is no longer a futuristic concept; it is an urgent necessity. With rising sea levels, increased cyclones, and devastating floods due to climate change, many coastal communities face the constant threat of displacement. These areas demand infrastructure that can withstand environmental shocks while offering long-term security and sustainability.

In my view, increasing the sustainability of infrastructure is now crucial for many countries. Communities displaced by floods or erosion not only lose their homes but also their livelihoods, access to education, and healthcare. Building elevated housing, sustainable drainage systems, storm shelters, and alarm systems can reduce disaster impact. Though natural disasters cannot be prevented, they can be reduced for sure. Governments must prioritize such infrastructure in their development agendas and ensure that funding reaches vulnerable zones. International cooperation also plays a critical role. However, infrastructure alone isn't enough—public awareness, laws, and education also play a key role.

In conclusion, climate-resilient infrastructure in coastal zones isn't just about concrete and engineering; it's about protecting human dignity, sustaining ecosystems, and preparing for a future where nature must be respected, not resisted.

REWRITING THE RULES: WHY OPEN TRADE MUST ALSO MEAN FAIR TRADE***By Riddhima Kasliwal, Reuters , Reporting from ECOSOC***

Once upon a time, trade was seen as the great equalizer—an engine that would power countries toward growth, cooperation, and shared prosperity. But today, that engine is sputtering. Retaliatory tariffs, protectionist policies, and widening inequalities have exposed deep cracks in the global trade system. The moderated caucus in ECOSOC hit at the heart of this issue: how do we build a trade framework that is not just open, but truly fair?

The post-war dream built by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was a noble one – reduced trade barriers, more opportunity, mutual growth. But fast-forward to today, and the reality is more complicated. While powerful economies enjoy disproportionate influence, developing and least-developed countries often struggle to get a seat at the table, let alone speak freely at it. From digital trade restrictions to carbon taxes and agricultural subsidies, it's clear the playing field is anything but level.

If we want inclusive commerce, then “open” can't just mean market access for the privileged. It must mean fair participation, equal protection, and shared benefit. That begins with reforming the WTO – especially its stalled dispute resolution system—and creating space for smaller economies to influence global rules. Equity-based trade assessments, stronger infrastructure support, and global cooperation on climate-linked trade are no longer optional – they're essential.

Trade should not punish the underprepared or reward the already-powerful. It should be a two-way street where growth is mutual, voices are balanced, and sustainability is at the core. The discussion at ECOSOC showed that delegates aren't just aware of this – they're ready to challenge the status quo. Because in 2025, the world doesn't need another trade war. It needs a trade rewrite.

QATAR DECLARES WAR ON IRAN, RAISING STAKES IN GULF CRISIS***By Ashlesh Soni, The New York Times***

DOHA — In an unexpected and dramatic escalation of regional tensions, Qatar declared war on Iran Thursday morning, accusing Tehran of repeated incursions into its territorial waters and orchestrating cyberattacks against key Qatari infrastructure. The announcement, delivered by Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed weeks of mounting strain in the Gulf, where Iranian naval activity has intensified.

Iran's foreign ministry swiftly rejected the allegations, calling the declaration "unjustified and provocative." Qatar's move has sent shockwaves through the region, with oil markets reacting sharply and Gulf Cooperation Council states holding emergency consultations.

The United Nations and United States have urged both sides to pursue immediate de-escalation. Military analysts warn that even a limited conflict could destabilize energy supplies and trigger broader unrest across the Middle East.

As of Thursday evening, Qatari air and naval forces have reportedly mobilized, though no direct military engagement has been confirmed.

A WAR OF MISTAKES AND LOSSES***By Siddhi Agrawal, The Daily Telegraph***

Sometimes, war isn't just fought with guns. Sometimes, it's fought in silence, in hidden rooms, in whispered prayers. Across North Africa, Australia, the UK, and Alaska, Allied forces built shortwave stations—not just for broadcasting orders, but for sending hope. Hope to the resistance fighters hiding in cellars, to the mothers protecting them, to the children who still dream. But one leaked signal has cost us dearly. Entire resistance cells in France, Belgium, and Poland have been exposed. Arrested. Silenced. And the airwaves that once carried courage now echo with fear.

In Berlin, a Turkish man was taken in by the Gestapo. No one knows his name. Maybe he was just a bystander, or maybe he carried secrets bigger than himself. Either way, his fate now lies in cold hands.

Moscow bleeds. I've seen families huddle in basements as artillery rains above. And yet – they endure. Strangely, it's the Axis troops who seem unprepared, freezing in their borrowed uniforms.

Three American supply ships were sunk near Vladivostok. I wonder if their families have been told. I wonder if their letters home were ever sent.

In Australia, a new weapon meant to protect has instead harmed our own – over 30 injured in a test gone wrong.

And in the skies above Germany, brave American pilots fall – fighting to dim the factories that fuel this nightmare.

This isn't just a war of nations. It's a war of souls. And tonight, the world feels a little heavier.

JULY 25-26, 2025

NEWSLETTER

between the lines.

OPINION EDITORIALS

THE HOUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

***Harshi Jain**, representing the Agence France Press, follows the rise of wars. Wars are written in ink by the powerful, but lived in blood by the powerless. Behind every decision made in these chambers, someone's home is reduced to ash. Let history be shaped not just by power, but by compassion, conscience and humanity.*

It is 10:00 AM, December 7, 1941. Unaware that war will erupt in mere minutes, the world holds its breath. At NVMUN's Historic Continuous Crisis Committee (HCCC), time does not just stand still; it demands to be confronted. As a journalist for Agence France- Presse, I observe not only with interest, but with the quiet intensity of a country that remembers what it is to fall and rise again.

Delegates in this committee face a tremendous task: reshaping one of the most fragile points in human history. Some represent Axis powers, strategizing expansion and domination. Others, aligned with the Allied bloc, speak not for conquest but for justice, dignity, and resistance. Their mission is clear: to protect sovereignty and push back against oppression.

What unfolds here is not mere strategy, but struggle, the fight to be heard, to change the course of events, to save lives before they are reduced to names engraved in stone. As I watch, I find myself drawn to those who carry the ideals of liberty, who know the cost of silence under occupation.

This committee is not about glorifying war or rewriting winners and losers. It is about reclaiming humanity where it was once lost. Delegates now propose solutions grounded in foresight: strengthening Allied intelligence, mobilizing vulnerable bases, and establishing a unified command structure. Diplomatic outreach to neutral nations and peace offers to minor Axis powers could shift alliances and weaken the enemy from within.

History may not be undone, but it can be honoured. And in honouring it, these voices remind us: peace is not found through power, but through courage, unity, and the will to choose love over war.

A VACATION IN THE VALLEY? OR A FLIGHT TO DISASTER?

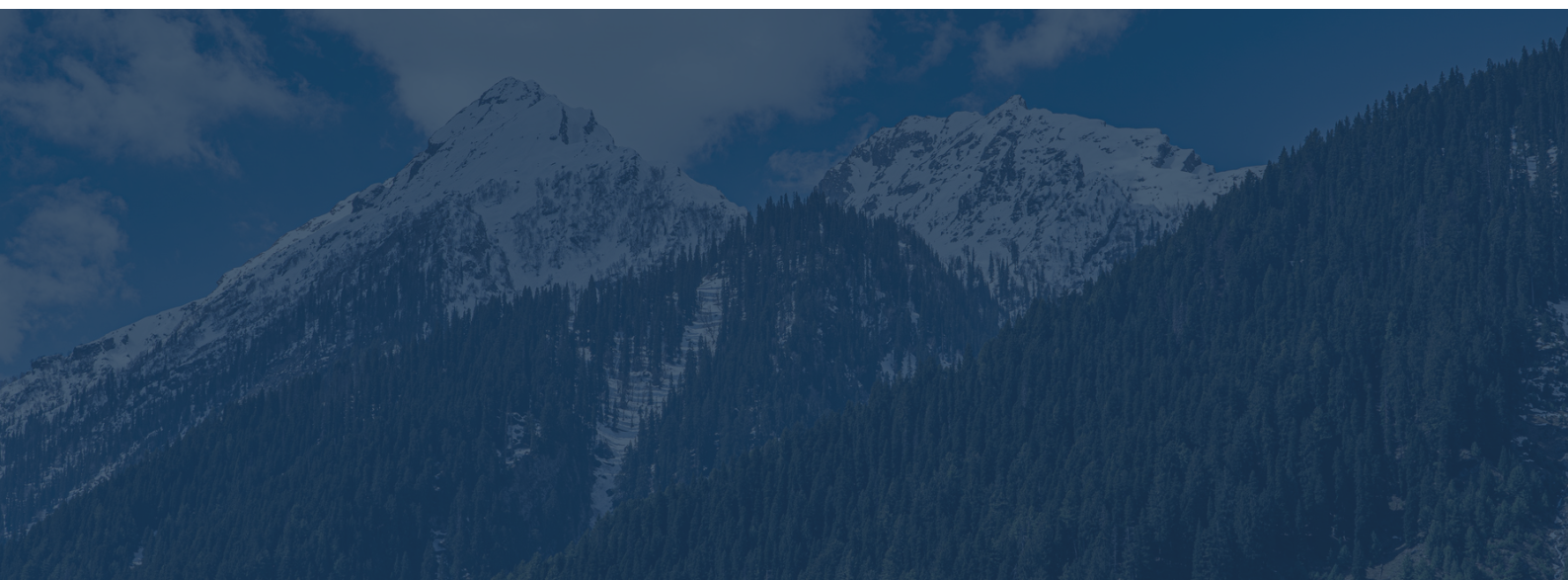
*In this editorial, **Riddhima Tulshan** looks back on the terrifying and animalistic Pahalgam Attack while pondering on questions as to why and how something like this happened in our beautiful motherland.*

"You call this terrorism?! It's somebody on the inside", " J & K police are unequivocally to be blamed, was that the security a terrorist prone region expects ". Endless theories, infinite allegations, the truth? We will truly never know. Why? The common man asks simply because of influence, military driven geopolitics and the lethal, unrelenting thirst for power. What we do know are the actions taken and their respective repercussions.

The gruesome Pahalgam terror attack of 22nd April 2025 that reportedly took the lives of 26 innocent tourists, horsemen and civilians on the sole basis of religion has come to be a shock to the world and shame to the leaders of our country who guarantee security, love and fraternity, especially in Kashmir.

Survivors who escaped by a thin margin claim that the hills were steep and crowded yet lacked the presence of security personnel. As a person who was thirty minutes away from Pahalgam while the firing took place, the locals informed us that the death toll had risen to 33 plus and the deaths of their fellow friends and horsemen were not reported. As many raise the question of internal involvement, this journalist ponders as to why would those same alleged traitors now cease to live with their deaths successfully hushed down. Regardless, a sure shot reason for this catastrophe was the security lapse in the remote villages of Kashmir. While Srinagar has CRPF at a distance of every 3 feet, flooded tourist attractions see not more than 4 security guards. This creates a welcoming red carpet for terrorists who in turn have extensively planned operations.

India has seen a history of disguised terrorist breakthroughs. Its high time security is deployed in the slim getaways of villages like Anantanag, Baisaran etc. Checking of registered IDs of soldiers and reporting to a digital system as soon as shifts on the borders or areas change, should be routine. The citizens yearn not for diplomatic suppression, but for our representatives to raise stern voices against Pakistan. "Kashmir is not a trophy it is a responsibility" this disaster is a wake up call to all those in our country who still resort to division over religion and to those who promise peace and security but fail to deliver either.



IRAN'S NAVAL POWER PLAY**Steering through the Waves of Uncertainty****By Devansh Taur, reporting for The Guardian**

The Persian Gulf, a critical artery of global trade and oil transport, is increasingly becoming a flashpoint for tension and it is because of IRAN and its naval activity. Iran held high-profile military drills in the Gulf in 2023, underscoring its resolve to defend its territorial holdings. And now they are stopping merchant ships which have no harm. With frequent patrols, the seizure of foreign tankers, and confrontations with Western naval forces, Iran has turned maritime maneuvering into a strategic tool for influence and deterrence. But Deploying mines in the waterway will not help.

Tehran asserts that its actions are rooted in protecting national sovereignty and countering foreign interference, especially from the U.S. and its allies. However, its aggressive posturing has heightened regional instability and raised alarm across the globe. The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil passes, remains particularly vulnerable to escalation (21 million barrels everyday).

Iran's naval strategy has broader implications. It challenges the rules-based international order, tests the unity of Gulf States, and puts global energy markets at risk. Moreover, it sets a dangerous precedent where naval power is used not just for defence, but as a tool of economic and political pressure.

Yet, the solution does not lie solely in deterrence. Over-militarization by regional or foreign actors risks turning the Gulf into a battleground. The global community must pursue multilateral dialogue, regional security frameworks, and maritime cooperation initiatives to reduce tensions.

This can lead to A BIG WAR, where Iran doesn't have Nuclear power. The tides are turning in the Persian Gulf, but it is not too late to course-correct. De-escalation, diplomacy, and trust-building are the only anchors of lasting peace.

WE SEE THE CHAINS. WHY AREN'T WE BREAKING THEM ?

*In this article, **Ishika Srivastava** expresses her views on impact of slavery and trafficking on marginalised communities.*

"Slavery is not abolished until every man, woman and child is free." -William Wilberforce

It's easy to assume that slavery ended centuries ago. But even today, over 50 million people remain trapped in slavery. Human trafficking is not just a crime, "It's an industry". Its victims are often those the world forgets: the displaced, the poor, the stateless.

According to the 2024 UNODC Global Report, nearly two-thirds of detected victims are women and girls. Behind every number is a stolen future, a girl promised a job, a boy taken from his village, a migrant family fleeing war, only to be enslaved in silence.

When we read about Rohingya refugees trafficked from Bangladesh or migrants trapped in Libya, it's hard not to feel we've failed. It's heartbreaking that in 2025, someone's life can still be bought, sold, or used. Governments often promise action, but real follow-through is rare.

We can't pretend that awareness alone will fix this. We need action: proper screening of migrants, safe shelters, trauma care and training border forces to recognise coercion, not just documents. We need cross-border cooperation that delivers, not just speaks.

The UNHRC has the power to push these demands forward. Because this isn't just about policy, It's about people. And if we don't fight for them, who will?

CLIMATE RESILIENCE IS NOT OPTIONAL, IT IS SURVIVAL.***By Yonit Motwani, Correspondent, The Economic Times***

Infrastructure is typically designed based on historical data, not future risks. The effects of urbanization and climate change are converging in dangerous ways. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052, and approximately 3°C in 2100 based on current national government commitments. This will have disastrous impacts on cities.

In late May 2025, the market town of Mokwa flooded catastrophically due to heavy rainfall combined with a dam collapse and failed drainage systems. Over 500 people were killed and over 600 being missing. Approximately 4000 homes were destroyed, two giant bridges collapsed and the whole town was submerged. It was considered as the deadliest flood in 2025 ever.

Poor governance is also a major reason of such dis-advancements. Governments often underfund disaster resilience projects. Also if we talk about conflict zones, government interference is often delayed or politicized.

**BUT WHY?**

Why do the people have to suffer because of such failures. Many people live in floodplains and along the coasts. These are the most affected. But why do these innocent people have to suffer because of such ignorant mindset of the government. People are left homeless on roads and footpaths. But is this the culture we dream of? Not at all. Nobody dreamt of this. These floods cause waterborne diseases such as cholera typhoid as well as skin infections. Some people who are the sole bread givers to their family, have lost their source of income and the daily wage earners face difficulty in working at their workplace due to the floods.

Deforestation being an equal reason for these dis-advancements, has led to the reduction of the soil's capacity to hold soil, causing runoff and flash flooding. Farmers who perform farming on the slopes on floodplains without protection are affected by landslides and erosion.

In North East India, approximately 40 lakh people with 8000+ displaced and 40+ fatalities in Assam alone. Poor farmers losing their source of income, also leading to suicides and murders.

In conclusion, the destructive impact of floods and droughts is not just a result of nature's force, but of human inaction, poor infrastructure, and a failure to adapt to our changing climate.

SMALL MISTAKES BIG WAR

*The World War II happened. Huge losses took place. In this article, **Siddhi Agrawal** follows the World War II and express her views on hatred between countries.*

After World War I, Germany was forced to accept harsh punishments – losing land, paying heavy reparations, and being blamed for the war. This caused anger and economic problems in Germany. Leaders like Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Emperor Hirohito came to power. They promoted fascism, expansionism, and militarism. Hitler wanted to create a “Greater Germany.” He invaded Austria, Czechoslovakia, and finally Poland – which led Britain and France to declare war on Germany. The League could not prevent aggression by Axis powers. Britain let Hitler expand without stopping him, hoping he would eventually be satisfied – but he wasn’t.

Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939 and in 1940 bombed UK, but failed to conquer it. In 1941 Hitler invades Soviet Union. December 07 1941, Japan bombs the US naval base in Hawaii and US joins the war. 6 June 1944 Allied forces land in France to free Europe from Nazi Control. 1945 US drops 2 nuclear bombs on JAPAN. Germany surrendered in May 1945 after Hitler’s death. Japan surrendered in September 1945 after the atomic bombings.

The war showed how cruel human beings can be just for the sake of power and greed. In a world war no one is at profit. World War II exposed both the darkest and bravest sides of humanity. While some leaders destroyed lives countlessly, ordinary people resisted, hid Jews and fought injustice. While leaders fought for borders, a poor mother lost her child without knowing the reason. The war taught us that peace is the strongest choice a broken world can make. When the world war ended around 70 million people died, but could this nightmare be avoided? The solution could be Support to the Weimar treaty of Germany, Early interventions against Hitler and stronger treaty of Versailles enforcement. At the end it shows how hatred can have devastating effects.

WHEN THE WATERS RISE: HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

By Ananya Deshmukh, Reporter, Washington Post

“Disasters are not natural – they become disasters when we fail to prepare.” – United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Advancing global climate-resilient infrastructure, especially in coastal regions, is crucial as rising sea levels, intensifying storms, and frequent flooding threaten communities worldwide. Those living in such areas suffer from hunger, lack of education, water scarcity, and work-related hazards. The climate crisis is deeply unfair—poor communities, and countries with the fewest resources, bear the greatest burden.

The Guadalupe River surged dramatically – rising 26 feet within 45 minutes—resulting in 135 deaths statewide. Kerr County, despite being flood-prone, lacked sirens, mobile alerts, or evacuation protocols. Outdated drainage and insufficient warning systems worsened the disaster.

Natural disasters cannot be prevented, but the damage can. Corruption, underfunding, and poor coordination delay critical infrastructure and rescue. In India and the U.S., housing is often permitted in floodplains. Poor enforcement of zoning laws and prioritizing tourism or real estate over sustainability leads to unsafe construction.

Governments play a pivotal role. Weak infrastructure, delayed response systems, and lack of investment in climate resilience endanger lives. When they fail to upgrade systems or heed flood warnings, communities suffer. Therefore, it is essential for governments to recognize their responsibility.

PROTECTIONISM ISN'T POWER - IT'S A STEP BACKWARD

*When fairness becomes fiction, in this article, **Rachita Vidhate** examines how rising protectionism is rewriting the rules of global trade unfairly.*

"When goods don't cross borders, soldiers will." – Frédéric Bastiat

Once promised fairness through global trade, developing countries joined the WTO. They played by the rules. They opened up markets, cut tariffs, and believed in equal opportunity.

But the moment real progress began, when their exports increased and industries grew, barriers rose. Goods were blocked. Labels like "non-preferred origin" started appearing. The same superpowers that encouraged openness quietly turned to protectionism. Trade deals were signed with one hand, while tariffs were slapped down with the other.

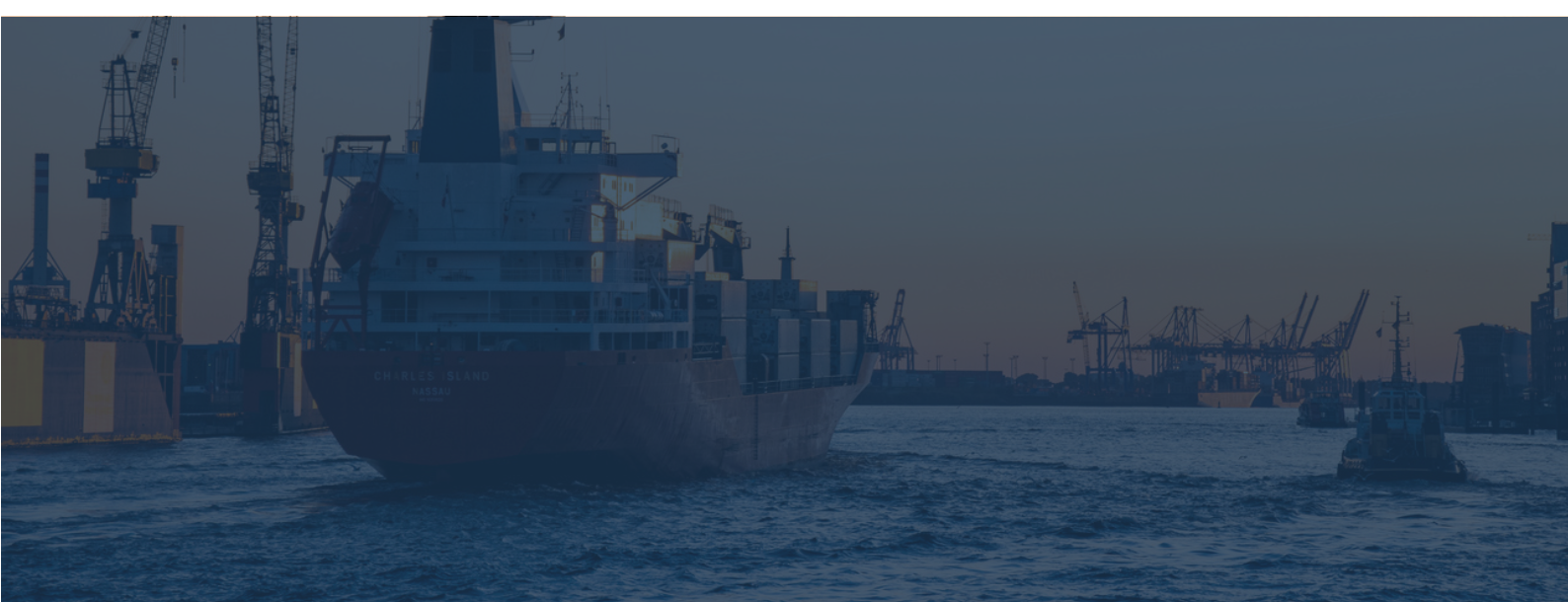
This isn't about fairness anymore. It's about fear. A fear of losing economic control. In 2018 alone, global trade tensions, especially between the U.S. and China, cost the world over \$300 billion. For many countries, that loss wasn't just economic. It meant job cuts, stalled development, and shattered trust.

So is "free trade" really free, for everyone? Or only when it suits the powerful? This system was designed by the strong, for the strong. Let's stop calling it equal when it isn't.

Still, global trade doesn't have to be this way. With genuine reform, multilateral platforms like the WTO and GATT can become tools of fairness again, not just influence.

Fixing global trade won't happen overnight, but small, fair steps can make a difference. Restoring Special and Differential Treatment at the WTO would give developing countries time and support to grow. But time alone isn't enough, tariff escalation, especially in agriculture and manufacturing, must end. A Global Trade Equity Framework, led by ECOSOC and UNCTAD, could help ensure promises turn into action. And if countries sign side deals, the WTO should make them public, because trade shouldn't be shaped by quietly, but by fairness for all.

Trade was meant to connect, not control. True progress will come when policies reflect that belief, where cooperation matters more than dominance, and fairness isn't optional, it's expected.



MODERN SLAVERY: A STAIN ON HUMANITY***By Rajvardhan Pandit | UNHRC | The Daily Mail***

Nelson Mandela once said, "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity". Despite international conventions and legal frameworks, slavery and human trafficking still exist worldwide. It is a disgrace that even in the 21st century, 50 million people still live in conditions of forced labour, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and organ trafficking. The International Labour Organisation estimates that forced labour in the private economy generates US\$150 billion in illegal profits each year (ILO 2014).

The International Labour Organization and International Organization for Migration and Walk Free estimate that in 2021, there were 50 million people living in conditions of modern slavery with the Asia-Pacific region having the highest prevalence of forced labour in the world. The vulnerable populations include women, children and migrants targeted through deception and violence. The UNODC's 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons says that 42% of the victims of trafficking are women and 18% girls. Also around 71% females of the estimated 50 million victims are affected by modern slavery.

The Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibits slavery in all forms. The UN protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children was adopted in 2000. But, many legal frameworks have failed due to weak enforcement policies and unidentified vulnerable groups.

To fight this, countries must firstly work together to break the strong criminal networks that promote slavery and trafficking. Secondly, apart from enforcing laws against the prosecutors, nations must try to protect the victims through legal help and shelter. Also using technology can help combat trafficking by aiding investigations, raising awareness and providing services to victims.

In a nutshell, only with strong laws and collectiveness only can we protect the rights of vulnerable groups.

WHY WOMEN CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT AT THE PEACE TABLE

*Penned by **Reva Soni**, reporting for The Statesman from the UNW, where silence speaks volumes, and the absence of women in peace talks is the loudest sound.*

Every war-torn city has a battlefield that is invisible from satellites, where women's rights are buried beneath closed schools, hospitals, and voices. Women in conflict areas become collateral damage and, worse, unseen players in the fight for peace.

Implementation is still appalling in spite of frameworks like CEDAW and UNSC Resolution 1325. Women make up less than 15% of peace negotiators worldwide. However, research indicates that when women are involved, peace agreements have a 35% higher chance of lasting. So why do women still not have a seat at the tables that determine their future?

From Syria to Myanmar, sexual violence is being weaponised, and those who commit it are allowed to get away with it. OWFI safe shelters in Iraq and Rainbo Centres in Sierra Leone are examples of grassroots solutions that work well. But rather than being the norm, these are underfunded exceptions.

The answer? In peace processes, mandate women's quotas as a democratic necessity rather than as a token gesture. Give community-led protection organisations priority. To reach rural conflict areas, finance mobile courts, trauma centres, and digital helplines.

Women are resilience builders, not merely survivors. Peace will continue to be precarious as long as we continue to treat them like victims. We have to ask: Is there peace if half the population is unable to express themselves?

BEYOND THE WARS, INTO THE LIVES

We talk about wars and men, but tend to forget the contributions of common people. We forget the lives of women and children. **Janhavi Jadhav** of the UNW committee states her opinion regarding the women in war-conflicted zones.

There were two major wars in Afghanistan, the first one being from 1992-1996 – the civil war. The war of Afghanistan was fought for 19 years, 10 months, 3 weeks and 2 days, and the Taliban was able to conquer Afghanistan. It led to a lot of destruction of lives of several people – among them are women and children. The women in this war were beaten up by their husbands, or the girls were married off to the men with the thought process that it would save their lives. Beyond this, the men of terrorist groups often attack the women who are alone or with other women.

A woman around 38 years old, living in Sher-e-Kona, was raped by a militant in the winter of 1993. The women were often treated as objects both by the males of the family and by the militants. Not all men, but few of them, knew how to treat a human as a human. They were against all the things that other men did, but these men were very few and hence treated badly.

Post the wars, in the destroyed homes, men find their ways and assault the women and the kids. Rules like:

- Banished women from the workforce
- Closed schools to girls and women and expelled women from universities
- Prohibited women from leaving their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative
- Ordered publicly visible windows of women's houses painted black and forced women to wear the burqa leaving only a small mesh-covered opening to see through
- Prohibited women and girls from being examined by male physicians while at the same time prohibited female doctors and nurses from working

All these laws are basically treating women as a non-living thing. How can a woman survive with all these laws? After the civil war, the women were also denied the right to speak – they could speak only when spoken to. This is just an example of one war-conflicted area, and there are many such areas where women don't matter.

More than 257 million women live in countries that reported massive sexual violence in 2021. The UN also reported that by 2023, at least 33,443 civilians will die as a result of armed conflict. 500 women a day fall victim to complications from pregnancy and childbirth (United Nations, 2024). The women who have contributed in the war but are unseen and unheard – the CARE survey shows that 91% of 13,000 women in 15 conflict countries since 2020 actively provided food and shelter for others.

Not just this, but there are many such women who contribute, take part in the wars as unseen heroes but are vanished and treated badly. It's about time we protect them and treat them as humans and not just an object or any materialistic thing.

In the words of Isabel Allende:

"In times of conflict, war, poverty or religious fundamentalism, women and children are the first and most numerous victims. WOMEN NEED ALL THEIR COURAGE TODAY."

THE PRICE OF PEACE

Devanshi Toshniwal, writing for Al Jazeera on how the Second World War continues to shape global politics and its irreversible aftermath.

There are things war destroys that no treaty can restore.

World War II—not just the battles fought, but the lives altered forever. The end of World War II is not just the closing of a chapter; it is the opening of a wound. The bombs may have stopped, the leaders may have shaken hands, but the pain left behind is still alive in the eyes of those who survived. Some wounds bleed in silence its consequences are still felt across the globe today.

The war didn't just reshape borders it left deep scars on humanity. With an estimated 70 million lives lost, including the genocide of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, the human toll of this conflict cannot be understated. It wasn't just soldiers who paid the price, but innocent civilians, whose lives were upended by bombings, displacement, and atrocities. The silence left behind in homes, hearts, and history still screams today.

The Holocaust alone is proof that this war was not just a failure of diplomacy, but of humanity itself. Millions were not only murdered, but they were also forgotten while still alive. In the face of such evil, silence became its accomplice. That silence cannot be repeated.

Politically, World War II reshaped the global order at a cost. The U.S. and Soviet Union emerged as superpowers, setting the stage for the Cold War and decades of division. The United Nations offered hope, yet modern conflicts reveal its limits. The war exposed the dangers of unchecked nationalism, extremism, and global silence. Today, the question remains: are we truly learning from history, or simply waiting to repeat it? The cost of forgetting is too great. Peace must be a choice – not a reaction.

The world must now take responsibility – not just in rebuilding cities, but in rebuilding values. Education must tell the truth, not only of what happened, but how it was allowed to happen. The importance of human rights must be written into law and protected at all costs.

Global cooperation must go beyond trade and politics, it must focus on dignity, justice, and compassion. Refugees must be treated as human, minorities protected without question, and propaganda challenged wherever it appears.

The cost of this war cannot be calculated in weapons or treaties. Its price is paid by those who must live with memories no one should carry.

But peace must not mean forgetting. It must mean change.

IRAN, A POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE WORLD!***By Ashlesh Soni, The New York Times***

Iran's actions seem to serve multiple purposes. On one hand, they reflect a strategy of asymmetric deterrence—leveraging its geographic advantage to challenge the presence of U.S. and allied naval forces. On the other, they are a direct response to mounting internal and external pressures: crippling economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and heightened tensions with Gulf Arab neighbors. Tehran's recent joint naval exercises with China and Russia also suggest a pivot towards alternative alliances, further distancing itself from Western influence.

While Iran has not yet taken irreversible action, such as mining the Strait, the signaling is clear. This isn't merely military flexing – it's a form of strategic messaging, designed to assert power, gain leverage in diplomatic arenas, and remind the world that Iran still holds sway over a crucial geopolitical chokepoint. But this is a dangerous game. A miscalculation, a misread maneuver, or a provocation met with force could spark conflict with devastating consequences. Iran's growing naval assertiveness is not just a regional concern – it's a global one, and the world would do well to pay attention before posturing turns into provocation, and provocation into war.

TARIFFS, TRUST, AND TRADE: WHY THE SYSTEM NEEDS A RESET***By Riddhima Kasliwal, Reuters***

Trade was once the engine of global growth, a force that bound nations through mutual interest. But today, it has become a strategic weapon – used not for unity, but for leverage. The rise in protectionist measures, retaliatory tariffs, and geopolitical trade disputes is not just a policy trend – it's a systemic failure. And the consequences are global.

From the U.S.-China tariff wars to the EU's carbon border taxes and India-EU digital standoffs, modern trade relationships are riddled with tension. The foundational promises of GATT – to liberalize trade and ensure fairness – have been sidelined. Its successor, the WTO, has struggled to adapt, with its appellate body paralysed and reform efforts stalling. For developing nations, especially LDCs, the system feels exclusionary. The rules are often written by the powerful and passed on to the rest.

But protectionism isn't a solution – it's a reaction. While short-term gains may include domestic industry protection or political points, the long-term impact is far more damaging: higher consumer prices, supply chain chaos, and stalled development for emerging economies. Trade wars don't just affect the parties involved—they create ripple effects across the global economy.

The way forward is clear. ECOSOC must push for structural reform. A revamped dispute resolution system, impact-based tariff justifications, and equitable participation in trade negotiations are essential. Trade should work for all – not just for those who shout the loudest. Digital trade, climate-linked tariffs, and agricultural equity must be discussed through inclusive frameworks that prioritize development, not domination.

If multilateralism is to remain meaningful, then trade must stop being treated as a battlefield – and start functioning as a bridge. A new global trade order is not a luxury. It's a necessity.

TERROR WITHOUT THE FLAG

Rising threat of non-state military actors and expresses her views on their growing impact on global peace and civilian safety by **Anushka Khandelwal**.

In today's world, it's not just governments that has deadly force. Sadly it's the groups operating outside state control – extremist organisations, violent militias, and private military contractor. These non-state military actors are causing destruction on a scale too vast to ignore.

Take Boko Haram in Nigeria. This terror group has abducted hundreds of schoolgirls, destroyed villages, and used children as human weapons. Or consider ISIS, which once ruled over land larger than the United Kingdom, leaving behind a brutal legacy of torture, mass killings, and fear. These groups operate beyond borders, beyond laws, and beyond mercy.

Meanwhile, private armies like Russia's Wagner Group have been linked to serious human rights abuses across war zones from Ukraine to Syria to parts of Africa. In the Central African Republic, Wagner operatives have been accused of torture, executions, and plundering natural resources while earning vast profits. These actors are dangerous not just because of their violence, but because they are hired, funded, and protected in the shadows.

But behind all this violence lies a human cost. Children growing up in fear, schools reduced to rubble, families fleeing their homes, and basic healthcare collapsing. In Syria, over 500,000 lives have been lost in a war prolonged by rebel militias and foreign-backed fighters. In Yemen, millions are starving as armed groups battle for control instead of peace.

These groups don't fight for justice. They don't build communities. They answer to no one but themselves. When they seize control, it doesn't lead to freedom – it leads to fear, bloodshed, and even more instability.

Yet we must also look at why such groups form. They don't appear out of nowhere. They rise in regions where poverty is high, governments are weak or corrupt, and people feel ignored. When young people have no jobs, no opportunities, and no trust in the system, they can be pulled into these violent networks – sometimes by force, sometimes out of desperation.

That's why we can't just fight the symptoms – we must treat the disease. Yes, they must hold these actors accountable through international law, peacekeeping, and sanctions. But we must also fix what fuels their growth: invest in education, strengthen institutions, create jobs, and give people reasons to believe in peace.

Too many innocent people are trapped in wars they never asked for. It's time we stop looking the other way. Non-state military actors must be held responsible and the global community must work together to rebuild a world where violence is not the only voice that gets heard.

Real change demands more than condemnation. It calls for global cooperation, stronger institutions, better governance, and investments in peace, education, and equality. The world must stand united not only to fight these unlawful forces but also to heal the wounds they leave behind. Because true peace doesn't begin with the end of a war, it begins when people no longer feel the need to pick up a gun in the first place.

FROM MEADOW TO MASSACRE*Pahalgam and the fall of India's national security***By Meera Yamyar / The Indian Express**

Where grass was sprinkled with the blood of Hindu tourists, echoes of helpless screams can still be heard in the hearts of every survivor, every soldier, every victim. The day when nightmares became reality – 22nd April 2025 – in the serene Baisaran valleys of Pahalgam. Five well-armed militants – LeT and TRF – brutally attacked a group of tourists. They methodically separated men by religion before opening fire, killing 26 people and injuring around 20 others, marking this the deadliest civilian massacre in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The region of Jammu and Kashmir has long been the most violent flashpoint between India and Pakistan. The bitter rivalry has led to the loss of several lives, causing trauma to countless citizens.

Soon after the attack, the GOI moved quickly to restore order by implementing Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control. Official sources claimed the operation “neutralized” at least 17 militants and destroyed 3 terror camps, though no independent verification was made available. India expelled Pakistani diplomats, suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, and revoked visa-free travel privileges for Pakistani nationals.

Although these are only a few measures taken by the Indian government, it all just comes down to one final question that lingers: What’s the point of these counter-terrorism, international anti-conflict measures if we – the citizens of India – have become witnesses and victims to such extremist crimes?

Are we securing people or simply increasing optics? Is the Valley healing or just being told to move on? Will these measures end the Hindu-Muslim disparities planted during colonialism? Will arresting and punishing the doers of this crime reunite the worshippers of Allah with the rest of the world? Will meadows keep turning into massacres?

REIGNITING FEARS: PAHALGAM ATTACK AND THE FRAGILITY OF NATIONAL SECURITY**By Aarya Kulkarni, The Hindustan Times**

The continued terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir even after the abrogation of Article 370 pose a great threat to our national security. Aarya Kulkarni, the journalist of The Hindustan Times, evaluates this problem in the light of the Pahalgam Attack.

The Pahalgam terrorist attack has proved to be one of the cruelest acts that mankind has ever witnessed. This attack was brought into force by five armed terrorists who intended to “undermine the returning normalcy of Jammu and Kashmir” and thereby create “fertile grounds for cross-border terrorism.” The terrorists took the lives of the innocent only because they were Hindus. The attacker targeted only the Hindus but also ended up killing a Muslim man and a Christian too. 26 innocent lives were killed only on the basis of religion.

To retaliate to this attack, India launched an operation called Operation Sindoor. This operation gained success as over 100 terrorists were killed in action, 11 air bases in Pakistan were destroyed, and some high-value targets were eliminated.

Despite this big success, India needs self-introspection. How did those terrorists enter India in the first place? Is it a loophole in our defence system? Or is it someone from the inside? Were the terrorists only trying to undermine the situation, or was this just the calm before the storm? Even after the abrogation of Article 370, terrorist attacks continue to exist in the region, and the security still is not on point.

This attack has led us to ask some very big and important questions to ourselves, and the answer to all those questions is only strengthening national security and gaining international support in combating terrorism. “Terrorism has no motherland and terrorists have no nationality. We must fight terrorism wherever it exists, because terrorism anywhere threatens democracy everywhere.”

NSMAS : CHAOS, CONTROL, AND THE COLLAPSE OF SOVEREIGNTY***By Gayatri Jawlekar, Mint***

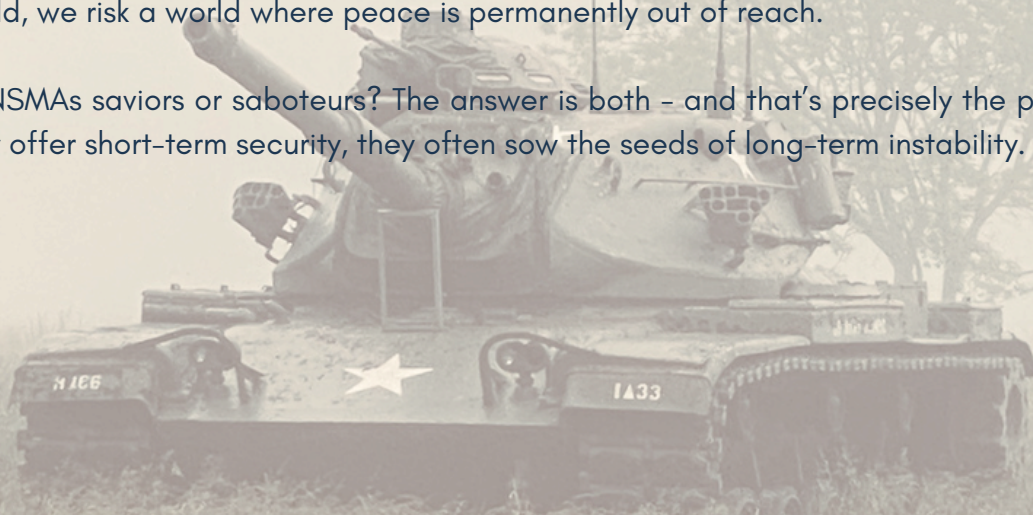
In the shifting terrain of modern conflict, non-state military actors (NSMAs) have emerged as powerful and polarizing forces. Often stepping into the void left by collapsing governments and weak institutions, they present themselves as defenders of the people. In war-torn regions like Syria and Iraq, Kurdish militias resisted the rise of ISIS when state militaries crumbled. In parts of Africa, local armed groups protect their communities from terrorist factions like Boko Haram. For some, NSMAs are necessary evils – filling gaps where official governance has failed.

Yet, beneath this seemingly noble purpose lies a far more dangerous truth. Most NSMAs operate beyond legal accountability. They recruit child soldiers, carry out killings, and often prolong the conflicts they claim to resolve. Their decentralized structure makes them difficult to monitor and even harder to negotiate with. Private military companies take it a step further – turning warfare into a business, where profit outweighs principle. They are loyal only to their paymasters, not to peace or justice.

Even more concerning is the way NSMAs are used as geopolitical tools. The Axis of Resistance, supported by Iran, demonstrates how such groups can be weaponized by states to carry out proxy wars. These actors don't just destabilize regions—they challenge the very foundations of national sovereignty and international diplomacy.

The international community must confront this dilemma with urgency. NSMAs must be held accountable under international law, and the root causes that give rise to them – poverty, oppression, and failed governance – must be addressed. For if we let shadows rule the battlefield, we risk a world where peace is permanently out of reach.

So, are NSMAs saviors or saboteurs? The answer is both – and that's precisely the problem. While they may offer short-term security, they often sow the seeds of long-term instability.



CTRL + ALT + DEBATE: WHO COMMITTEE TRIES TO REBOOT GLOBAL HEALTHCARE

By Abha Deore, The Tribune

As the Tribune's reporter, I witnessed the WHO committee's morning session unfold like a slow-loading webpage. At 10:48 a.m., the room had 33 delegates who looked both eager and confused - like they'd signed up for a group project and forgotten their lines.

The Belgian delegate, however, decided enough was enough and delivered a speech so good it could've been an Oscar acceptance speech. Confidence radiated from her like free Wi-Fi. Suddenly, the committee went from awkward silence to active debate.

By 11:50 a.m., things turned hilariously chaotic. The moderated caucus resembled ducks trying to cross a road without Google Maps. Then, out of nowhere, the UK delegate pulled off the ultimate political magic trick - convincing everyone to support a proposal. Jedi mind tricks? Or maybe just free biscuits? Either way, the room followed.

The U.S. delegate played the mysterious philosopher role - asking questions so deep that even I, as a journalist, questioned my career choices. After 12:30 p.m., the committee's energy spiked (likely sugar). The Cuban delegate proudly announced plans for Cuba Salud 2025, WHO collabs, and medical school expansions. Ambitious? Absolutely. But even superheroes need resources to save the day.

As the Tribune's eye on the ground, I'd say this committee is trying to Ctrl + Alt + Del outdated healthcare systems - with mixed success, but plenty of spirit.

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR THE DISPLACED AND MARGINALIZED

By Rutuja Malas, Channel News Asia

"If healthcare is a human right, then no one should be left behind."

Channel News Asia believes that providing equal healthcare and vaccine access for marginalized and displaced communities is a moral duty and a global responsibility. Refugees, migrants, and people living in remote or poor areas often experience the worst health conditions and a slow response during crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw that while wealthier nations hoarded millions of vaccine doses, many displaced and marginalized groups received little to no support. In refugee camps and conflict zones, people struggled without doctors, medicine, or clear health information. These communities are vulnerable and deserve attention. I think it's time for the world to move from promises to action.

I SUGGEST :

- Build mobile healthcare units for hard-to-reach areas
- Ensure fair distribution of vaccine donations from wealthier countries
- Train local health workers and provide health education in local languages. Technology can also help bridge the gap through telemedicine, digital health records, and global tracking of vaccine supply. But more than anything, we need political will. Healthcare access should be treated as a right, not a privilege. If we genuinely care about global health, we must prioritize protecting the most vulnerable. Only then can we say we have created a fair and healthy world.

Why this agenda matters?

Over 100 million people worldwide are currently displaced due to conflict, climate disasters, or persecution (UNHCR, 2024). Displaced and marginalized communities often live in overcrowded camps, facing poor sanitation, a lack of clean water, and limited access to medical care. In many cases, these communities are excluded from national vaccination programs, particularly if they do not have legal identification or citizenship.

JULY 25-26, 2025

NEWSLETTER

through the looking glass.

FEATURE ARTICLES

SEARCH HISTORY - GIRL, AGE 12, CONFLICT ZONE

Reva Soni | The Statesman | UNW

How to prevent ears from making bombing noises?

Without your father, can you survive a war?

How to heal wounds without taking medication?

If my school is closed, can I still attend?

Why do soldiers harm women?

What is a camp for refugees?

How can I support my mother when she sobs every night?

Is it legal to get married before the age of 13?

UN Women's Help Center number:

How to Be Brave Like Malala

How to conceal yourself from armed men?

Is it typical to forget your birthday?

What if the world forgets us?

Are we the bad guys or are they?

This is her story,

told not through speeches or interviews but

through desperate typing into a phone

someone smuggled across borders in an era

dominated by search engines. These

are not merely questions. They are quiet

defiance, small uprisings, and cries for

assistance. Additionally, the truth that she

shouldn't have to Google her way through

war reverberates louder than gunfire in every question.

Maybe someday her speech bar will read : "How to become President."

THE DAY EVERYTHING CHANGED

Siddhi Agrawal | The Daily Telegraph | HCC

Before the war, life was bright.

Families laughed and slept at night.

But then the skies turned dark with fear.

The sound of bombs was all we heard.

Shops were closed, and the streets were empty.

People cried in deep despair.

We had no food, just hope and bread,

And news of loved ones who had died.

I saw my school turn to dust.

Our books and bags were left in ruins.

The classroom, once filled with cheer,

Now only holds silence.

My mother cried when my father left.

Ruins replaced our happy homes

Yet through it all, we still held on,

Hoping for the end of the night.

We were not soldiers and had no guns,

But we were hurt like everyone else.

We wished for peace and an end to war,

To hug our families and meet friends again.

I was just a citizen, young and small,

Hope was the only thing I had.

"ECHOES BENEATH THE WATER: THE KERALA STORY"

Yonit Motwani | Economic Times | UN Habitat

Kerala, a beautiful state known for stunning landscapes. But, this killed it.

A diary entry of Aarav about his friend Rihan, Rihan's house was destroyed due to heavy flooding in Kerala-

Dear Diary,

I can't stop shaking as I write this. The flood waters have started to recede but the damage is unbearable. My best friend's house, where we used to play board games every weekend has been destroyed due to the flood. Completely submerged in the water. Today we stand at the same place, looking at the wreckage, broken furniture, pictures floating in the muddy water.

Rihan whispered, "we never thought this would happen"

We never did.

All the elders kept saying that Kerala has strong monsoons. But this year was different. It felt as if the sky had cracked open. This had never happened before. Nobody was prepared for this, the roads collapsed and thousands of people are now homeless. I feel angry, not just at the destruction but also for ignoring the warnings that nature gave us.

None of the buildings and, drainage systems were built keeping in mind the future risks. The world we live in is no longer the same. Climate change isn't a future problem anymore. It is now, it's happening.

Today, Rihan and I helped at a relief camp. He smiled a little when a small boy handed him a dry biscuit. I believe that even in a disaster, hope floats.

Aarav

THE VIOLIN OF DEATH

Devanshi Toshniwal | Al Jazeera | HCC

During World War II, inside the barbed wires of Auschwitz, prisoner orchestras played as others were led to death. Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, a young Jewish cellist, survived by playing in the Women's Orchestra. This poem imagines a violinist's voice alive through music, yet torn.

Surviving is not easy
When the cost of my breath
Is a melody
For others' deaths

How do I fix this heart with brokenness
When I hear a mother whisper comfort
Walking her child to death
She knows. I know.

I don't play for applause
But Stopping means
Longing for death's final pause

They handed me a violin
"Play" the officer ordered me
As the line of people moved past me.

I played louder, so I wouldn't feel alive
Not while their screams filled the air,
not while my own hands made beauty
in a place that had none.

My fingers bled
But I kept playing
because if I stopped
I would walk, too

I was not free. But my music was .
It rose above the Fences,
Above the poisonous smoke,
above the silence of betrayal

and maybe, just maybe,
one note of mine reached the sky
before they did.

THE PROTECTOR WHO COULDN'T PROTECT**Meera Yamyar | The Indian Express**

Diary Entry | April 22, 2025 | Pahalgam – 11:30 PM IST

The smoke has cleared, yet I cannot breathe. I feel anything but alive. The night is dead silent, I don't hear owls howling – only the screams of the innocents being buried under the soil they trusted the most. I have wiped my rifles clean, but no soap can wash away this guilt from my hands.

People who carried prayers instead of weapons, chants instead of cries for help—they died because they worshipped different powers, wore different beads on their wrists, whispered different names into the sky? Oh, the rage I've bottled up inside me.

I look at my glass of scotch, thinking it would be my vice to escape reality, yet the vivid image replaying in my mind of that little boy with nothing but hopeful tears in his eyes. That woman who fell down by my boots – her white scarf, which is nothing but a piece of cloth, screaming at me: "I was meant to cover her hair, now I wear her blood in mourning." My heart beating in my ears, their helpless screams still echo in my ears.

My training in the Indian Army prepared me for the sounds of gunshots, never this kind of failure. I've only worn this uniform with pride, but now it feels like each thread has been stitched with yarns of betrayal. The stars on my shoulder weigh heavier than the rocks I used to skip in the river near my village.

Does it even matter that I followed protocol, if an 8-year-old girl had to watch her father get shot for being who he was?

I keep wondering, what is this nation becoming, where temples and pilgrims bleed, where soldiers like me and my colleagues are left to take a headcount of the corpses? Officers and soldiers are supposed to be guardians of peace, but tonight peace is a myth.

Tonight I'll go to bed with a question I can't silence – did I just fail the people of my country? The very citizens who trusted me to be the shield, yet I wasn't enough.

Dear Pahalgam, I'm so sorry.

Tomorrow, I'll wear this uniform again. I will salute. I will strive. I will obey.

But tonight I will grieve, not just for the dead, but for the man I thought I was... and the man I fear I've become.

THE IRONY OF SECULARITY by Riddhima Tulshan

Foggy lands, Misty highways.

A man on a horse, his family on another, while the terrorist loads the gun and fixes his aim.

God is one, all religions are the same, is what everybody says.

But isn't that what made his wife and children shriek, scream and run in excruciating pain?

SHATTERED**Janhavi Jadhav | BBC | UNW**

*Are women being seen? Or are they just
another object that people consider?
questions through a poem, from the point of
view of a dead woman entangled in war-
conflict zones.*

SHE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR, BLEEDING
PROFUSELY BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY,
DEAD OR ALIVE? NO ONE KNOWS

He came through the door last night,
I sat across the shattered room,
Too afraid to move, as the silence shrieked.
I could hear his breath above me,
The devilish grin, the dark of his eyes all too
close.
I couldn't move, I couldn't stop him, I couldn't
speak.
How could I speak? What would I say?
The river of blood flowed in the open air.
As the tanks rolled through me and out into the
world.

The morning came – blurred and pained
Was it the man? Or the war?
Another thunderous roar ripped through the air,
Another piece of prey found somewhere –
alone and unseen,
Because revenge matters and we don't.

The sun lit the room and my body,
The flash silenced me, but did it?
The building shattered and so did I
And in the ruins, for the last time I breathed a
sigh of relief.

HUMANITY OR RELIGIOUS HATRED**Aarya Kulkarni|The Hindustan Times|
LOKSABHA**

*Is spreading religion more important than
the lives of innocent people?
This is a poem written by a mother who lost
her husband in the cruelest terrorist attack
in Pahalgam.*

That day, I opened my eyes in the morning,
Saw the snow at the top of the mountain
brightly shining,
To see the greenery and enjoy the beautiful
weather,
I was dressed in a long jacket and shoes of
leather
I was clicking pictures of my husband and
children
When something happened that felt just
like Bollywood fiction
I heard the sound of a bullet shot in the air.
Shocked and turned back, only to see five
armed terrorists standing right there
They asked us what religion we belonged
to
Separated the men from us and the
children, too
Killed 26 innocents, and spared the rest
Is religion more than the lives of people?
That is the forever quest.
A son saw the death and fear in the eyes
of his father
And the wife will now forever be called a
single mother
The old parents lost their only child
The teenage daughter of a father turned
wild
Many daughters and sons lost their fathers,
Many wives lost their husbands,
Many sisters lost their brother,
And many parents lost their children.
The only question that now remains is
HUMANITY OR RELIGIOUS HATRED?

THE PRICE OF RICE: A FARMER'S SON AND THE COST OF GLOBAL INJUSTICE***By Riddhima Kasliwal, Reuters***

Told through the eyes of 14-year-old Tobi from Kano, Nigeria, this powerful diary reveals the silent fallout of global trade injustice. As subsidized imports flood his country, Tobi's story reflects the quiet collapse of small farmers pushed out by a system that rewards power over fairness.

Dear Diary,

Papa came home from the market today with the same sack of rice he left with. Again. Not a single bag sold. He didn't say much, but his face said everything. He sat on the bench for a long time, just staring at the ground. He told me, "People are choosing cheaper rice now - the kind that comes on big ships from faraway countries. It's called subsidized."

I didn't know what that meant at first, but he explained that governments in richer countries pay their farmers to grow and sell rice for less. So even when our rice is good, clean, and grown with love, it's still too expensive for most people to buy.

Our family grows rice the way our grandparents did - by hand, with patience and hard work. We plant it in the heat, carry heavy sacks on our backs, and pray for the right rains. It's more than just food for us - it's our life. That same rice paid for my school, my uniform, and my little sister's medicine last year. But now? It just sits in sacks. Unsold. Worthless. Papa says if this keeps going, we'll have to stop farming altogether. Who are we, if not farmers?

I hear people on the radio talk about things like "protectionism," "tariff barriers," and "free markets." They make it sound so smart, like it's just about numbers and deals. But it's not just politics for us. It's dinner. It's dignity. It's survival. We're playing a game where someone else already decided the winners.

I may not understand everything about global trade or organizations like WTO, but I know this - my father's hands are honest. They grow food. And still, we're the ones going hungry.

Yours,
Tobi

THEY NEVER CAME...**Harshi Jain | HCC**

Nations have made the world into a battlefield
in the name of pride and power. Some see it as
defence, while others see destruction. A village
burns in silence for every flag flown in glory.
And the innocents pay the highest price.

As I sit in a room of thought,
I remember what this battle brought.
They gave their everything when they fought.
Yet, their bodies were left to rot.
Their recollections were everything I got.
Memories came, but they did not.

They fought every war with might and brave,
Now their names are just carved on a grave.
I don't know how long I will crave
For their souls to be safe.

They fought with might.
Only to get shattered hearts and sleepless
nights.
Not for pride nor for medals bright,
But for the emperors who gave them no rights.

Who will now protect my home?
In my heart, I feel so alone.
In their memory, I write this poem,
While in my mind, their memories still roam.

WHAT LET IT HAPPEN?

*What does it mean to be sold, silenced, and forgotten? In this poem, **Ishika Srivastava** captures the voice of a trafficking survivor – a soul buried in chains yet burning with rage, memory, and unbroken defiance.*

They took me away
Stuffed cargo on a run
All of us in dismay
No light of the sun
Silenced with dollars
With promises never alive
Free soul with heavy collars
Is that how we survive ?
My worth calculated in hours
Hands, covered in bruises
In the silence, my memory scours
Where I write my own muses
Voice ? I've buried it deep
Too sacred to let them steal
I've learned to silently weep
When we barely had a meal
But silence isn't peace
something for which I'd stray
Stolen long before my decease
For they're the hunters, and I'm the prey
They finally sold my body
Reached every place they would
But I remained whole
In places they never could
Could they feel my rage ?
Their words pulsing in my veins
They say I'm Nothing but a bird in cage
Always tied in chains
Scream? Not yet
First I speak
And when I do, the world will not
Forget what let it happen.

WAITING AT THE DOOR: KHUSHI'S DIARY**By Anushka Khandelwal, TOI**

A diary entry written by a 9-year-old girl named Khushi who is confused about why she can never see her parents again. The space shares her feelings and gradual understanding.

Dear Diary,

Years ago, my life took a huge turn. I remember that day very clearly. Mama and Papa were going out for their 10th anniversary dinner. I begged them to take me along because it was at my favourite café – Leopold. But they said they wanted to spend time together, just the two of them. I stayed home with Dadi. I thought of baking a cake as a surprise gift for them. As Dadi and I were busy mixing the batter, our neighbour Miss Namita rushed into our house, looking panicked. She asked if we had seen the news. Dadi switched on the TV and suddenly burst into tears. I couldn't understand what was happening. All I saw were people running, sirens blaring, and photographs of men holding guns flashing on the screen.

Back then, I didn't really understand what it meant. I was just confused – why couldn't I see Mama and Papa again? It took me a very long time to truly understand that they were never coming back. Life changed a lot after that. We had to shift houses. I changed schools because we couldn't afford the old one anymore. Everything felt so sudden, like the world flipped overnight. And now, after all these years, I finally understand what really happened. Today, one of the men who was involved in that attack was hanged.

For a second, I felt like justice had been done. But that feeling didn't last long. Because no punishment can bring back what we lost.

No justice can fill the empty chair at dinner.

No headline can heal the silence that follows after laughter is taken away.

Terrorism doesn't just end lives it shatters the ones left behind.

It steals futures, childhoods, and the kind of peace we didn't even know we had.

I still miss Mama and Papa every single day. And though I'm growing older, there's a part of me that still feels like that 9-year-old girl, waiting at the door, hoping they'll walk in.

Maybe the world will never feel safe again. But I hope one day, no other child has to grow up with memories instead of parents.

Khushi

WILL YOU?

*In this poem, **Rajvardhan Pandit** steps into the shoes of a young Jewish man forced to work under the Nazis during World War II to express his feelings.*

Human rights are essential –
 Just to say, maybe,
 'Cause only I know what I go through.
 I am forced to work day and night,
 Split apart from my family,
 Work tirelessly in the fields,
 Or in the factory,
 Or fight wars not knowing who the enemy is.
 What wrong have I done,
 Being born as a Jew?
 How do I tell you?
 We are humans too.
 Nine million of us worked vigorously,
 But were still treated inhumanely.
 Innocent children died of hunger,
 Yet we were given food too little to live.
 They called it labour but it was slow death –
 Annihilation through work, till our last breath.
 They treated us mercilessly,
 Yet our hope and courage was still.
 Embraced in slavery, our cries unheard;
 We lived under one lamp,
 Worked hard to go and die in a concentration
 camp.
 Will you remember us?
 Will you protect our rights?
 Will you stand against slavery?
 Will you.....?

NEEDLE OF HOPE

By a Little Kid from Nowhere on the Map

In the quiet corners where hope often goes unseen, the fight for equitable care breathes life into a future where no one is left behind."

By **Rutuja Malas** from Channel News Asia.

I think I'm six.

Mummy says I was born the night the winds
 blew our house away.
 I don't have a birthday cake; just stories under
 broken stars.
 We live in a place the maps don't know.

There's no clinic nearby. Just long walks, and
 lines that never move.

I cough a lot. My little sister does too.
 Papa says if we wake up warm, we're lucky.
 One time, a big van came.

People in white coats gave some kids tiny
 pricks;
 Mummy called them vaccines.
 But we didn't get any.

Our papers were wrong, missing, or invisible,
 like us.

I wonder if fevers burn hotter in huts.
 Do germs care where we sleep?
 A tiny needle in a doctor's hand
 Could be a promise we barely understand.
 Not just for cities or those with more,
 But for our camp, behind a torn door.
 Let shots come without a gate,
 Without someone saying you must wait.
 The virus doesn't check ID,
 So why should help forget me?
 I don't want toys or cake or phones.

Just a shot.

So my sister and I can grow up too.

BETWEEN THE WAVES AND THE MISSILE***By Ashlesh Soni, The New York Times***

Dawn spills liquid gold across the Strait of Hormuz, where every ripple carries the pulse of global trade – and the quiet menace of naval steel.

From the IRGC's live-fire drills dancing like thunder on Abu Musa's shores to the hush of oil tankers threading through choke points, this feature peels back the jargon and lets you taste the salt – and feel the tension. A diary entry scrawled on deck: "We float in a corridor of commerce, shadowed by fast-attack boats stalking like wolves at dusk." Here, the law of the sea becomes a fragile poem– pages inked with UNCLOS clauses, seasoned by sanctions history, and spiced by asymmetric swarms of drones and mines.

Yet hope glimmers in multilateral coalitions, as navies from Bahrain to the EU consider shared patrols under a UN mandate. Picture an alliance forged not by force alone but by radios crackling with reassurance: "All vessels safe; all voices heard." This is where novel ideas – confidence-building talks over coffee, AI-powered radar spotting silent skiffs—shine brighter than any missile flare.

As the sun sets, the Persian Gulf transforms into a canvas of possibility. If diplomacy can outpace guns, then together we can script a new chapter – one where freedom of navigation reads not as a threat but as our shared promise.



STEEL, SILENCE, AND STANDOFF: TENSIONS SURGE IN THE PERSIAN GULF

By Devansh Taur, The Guardian

Beneath the tides where silence swells,
Steel and shadows cast their spells.
Ships may sail, but peace is thin—
The war of warnings might begin.

Devansh Taur proposes this: in the heart of the Middle East, the Persian Gulf – a vital artery for global oil trade – has become a hotspot of escalating tension. Iran's recent naval actions, especially by naval forces, including the deployment of warships and seizure of foreign tankers, have alarmed regional and global powers alike. The United States, European allies, and Gulf nations view these actions as provocations that threaten freedom of navigation and economic stability.

Here, Iran is **playing games** with the whole planet. First, they began increasing nuclear production and allegedly attempted to develop nuclear weapons – until the U.S. intervened.

Now, they're attempting another risky move – one that not only the UNSC but the entire world will question, and Iran will have to **ANSWER**.

They seem to forget that the Persian Gulf is not their property, but a shared global passage. Their warning to deploy 6,000 mines in a waterway used by U.S. warships won't help them.

As the saying goes, "aasman se gire, khajoor mein atke" – they're trying to stop U.S. presence in the Middle East, but it may cause nothing short of war.

LUCKNOW- HEATWAVE OR DEATH WAVE?

By Ananya Deshmukh, Washington Post

Uttar Pradesh faces extreme heat, with Lucknow reaching 44°C. Heat wave alerts issued for several districts; relief expected from June 15. At least 96 heat-related deaths were reported.

This extreme weather, part of a larger northern India heatwave, led to a surge in heatstroke and dehydration cases, straining local hospitals and increasing electricity demand for cooling. However, relief is expected. These extreme conditions even caused water scarcity in areas, on which Prabha Gupta of Lucknow's Vijay Khand (Gomti Nagar) said: "We are experiencing water crises. The supply comes only for an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening while power cuts are frequent."

Understanding the seriousness of the situation, the government directed the municipal corporation of Lucknow to prepare a Heat Action Plan (HAP) to overcome heatwaves and ensure the safety of urban residents. A workshop was conducted including various departments and organizations. The Heat Action Plan has been designed to address heatwave conditions and includes several practical measures. The plan also outlines coordinated efforts with departments like disaster management, fire services, public works, water supply, labor, town planning, traffic police, I.T., and the general police force.

This plan is expected to play a key role in preventing heatwave-related deaths in the city. A special presentation of the Heat Action Plan was made during the event, explaining how the city will respond to extreme temperatures. Important aspects like city heat mapping, early warning systems, awareness campaigns, shaded waiting areas, drinking water availability, and coordination with schools and hospitals were discussed.

By Abha Deore, The Tribune

WE KNOW YOUR HEART'S SECRETS... TICK BY TICK."

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WHEN STATES FALL SILENT: THE RISE OF NON-STATE MILITARY ACTORS

By Gayatri Jawlekar, Mint

In the crumbling corners of failed states, where flags fall limp and justice fades, a new force awakens—not from parliaments, but from the desperation of the forgotten. Non-State Military Actors are no longer fringe elements; they are now key players in the theatre of modern war.

"Where the state is absent, chaos becomes law – and sometimes, hope," says a young Kurdish fighter, her boots caked in the soil of a broken homeland. These invisible armies—militias, insurgents, rebels, private contractors – rise from weak governance, political betrayal, and centuries-old divides. They speak many tongues: ideology, survival, vengeance, and sometimes, justice.

In Syria, Kurdish units held the line when the world turned its back. In Nigeria, local vigilantes stood tall against Boko Haram. These actors often protect when governments cannot – but protection and violence often wear the same cloak.

"One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter," goes the haunting adage. "Power concedes nothing without a demand," wrote Frederick Douglass – and these actors, for better or worse, demand it with rifles, rage, and resolve.

Their methods – guerrilla warfare, cyber operations, terror tactics – are unconventional. Their loyalties shift like sand. Peace becomes a mirage when NSMAs take root. And yet, in them, we find the raw cry of humanity – abandoned, armed, and unafraid.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once warned, "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world today is my own government," reminding us that war is not always born in bunkers, but in broken promises.

The rise of non-state military actors forces us to ask: Who truly holds power when governments fall silent? And who speaks for the voiceless when only the armed are heard?

THE SILENT ROOM OF TRADE: A STORY OF PROTECTIONISM'S TOLL

By Rachita Vidhate, The Times

In recent years, many countries have raised import taxes, blocked goods, or favoured local industries to protect their markets. It may seem fair at home, but it often hurts smaller nations that depend on trade, making their products delayed, blocked, or too costly to compete. Once a place where goods moved freely, the hall now sits quiet – its silence says more than any speech could.

A mango from Côte d'Ivoire rests on a bench, not damaged by travel, but blocked by taxes it didn't deserve. It was meant for markets overseas before new rules sent it back. A solar panel from Kenya, marked "non-preferred origin," gathers dust beside it. Around them, other goods sit quietly, stuck because of decisions made far away.

Nearby, old trade charts sit like they're in quiet therapy. The Export Bar Graph, once tall and proud, now droops. The Trade Deficit Line moves aimlessly. The Tariff Curve still stands tall—too proud to notice the mess it helped create. They say nothing, but their shapes say a lot.

Above it all, a faded poster hangs:

"Global Trade: Open Markets. Shared Growth. Equal Opportunity."

But the corners are curling, and someone's scribbled underneath:

"Only for some."

On the back wall, the GATT agreement – yellowed and nearly forgotten – still sits. It was meant to make trade fair for everyone. Too many of its promises were never kept.

This room may not be real, but the story is. It's about people, families, and communities left behind by unfair trade and rising protectionism. Trade wasn't meant to divide us. It was meant to connect us.

And maybe it still can – if we stop using it as a weapon and remember why we started.

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