



● POLITY

● ECONOMICS

● TECHNOLOGY

● ECOLOGY

WILL ACCEPT THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON DALLEWAL STIR: CENTRE

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Context: The ongoing farmers' protest in Punjab, India, specifically highlighting the hunger strike of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal and the government's response.



Summary:

- **Farmer Leader's Hunger Strike:** Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on a hunger strike for 37 days, demanding a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for crops and farm loan waivers.
- **Farmer Protest:** Farmers are camping at the Punjab-Haryana border, demanding their rights. They have rejected the Supreme Court's invitation for discussions and are determined to continue their protest until their demands are met.
- **Government's Response:** The Union Agriculture Minister stated that the government will abide by the Supreme Court's decision on the matter. However, farmer groups accuse the government of inaction.

Conclusion:

The farmers' protest in Punjab continues despite government efforts to resolve the issue. The hunger strike of Jagjit Singh Dallewal has further intensified the situation, with farmers remaining adamant in their demands for MSP and loan waivers. The government's response has been largely reactive, and the future of the protest remains uncertain.

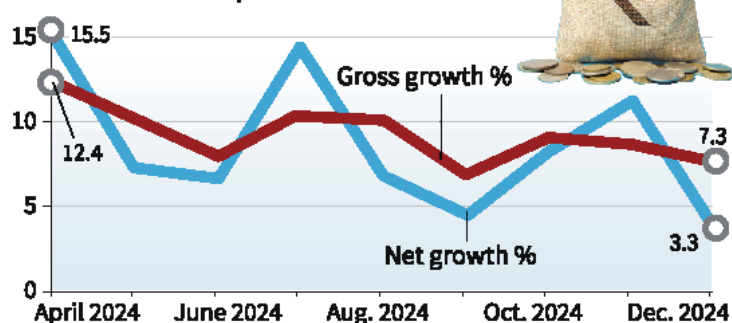
NET GST COLLECTION GROWTH SLUMPS TO 3.3% IN DECEMBER

ECONOMICS & DEVELOPMENT

Context: A slowdown in India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection growth in December 2024.

Stumbling growth

The chart shows growth rates of the gross and net GST revenues from April 2024 to December 2024



Summary:

- **Slowest Growth in 43 Months:** Gross GST receipts increased at the second-slowest pace in 43 months in December.
- **Net Collection Slump:** Net GST collections (after accounting for refunds) grew at the weakest pace in FY25, reaching only 3.3%.
- **Factors Contributing to Slowdown:**
 - Higher refunds to taxpayers (up 45.3%)
 - Slower growth in domestic transactions (8.4% in December vs. 9.4% in November)
 - Lower growth in import revenues (3.9% in December vs. 5.9% in November)

- State-Level Variations:
 - Some states experienced significant revenue drops, including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Andhra Pradesh.
 - Other states showed strong growth, such as Sikkim, Haryana, and Punjab.

Conclusion:

The slowdown in GST collection growth reflects a broader economic slowdown. While the government expects a 11% growth in GST collections for FY25, the current trend suggests a slower pace. This highlights the need for continued monitoring of economic activity and potential adjustments to government policies.

TRUCK MOWS DOWN 10 NEW YEAR REVELLERS IN NEW ORLEANS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



MAJOR POINTS:

A man identified as Shamsud-Din Jabbar intentionally drove a truck into a crowd of New Year's revelers in New Orleans, killing at least 10 people and injuring over 35.

- **The Attack:** The incident occurred early in the morning in the French Quarter, a popular tourist destination.
- **The Suspect:** Jabbar, a 42-year-old U.S. citizen from Texas, was killed in a shootout with police. Potential explosives were found in his truck.
- **Motive:** Authorities are investigating potential links to terrorism, as Jabbar was found with an Islamic State flag.
- **Reactions:** President Biden offered federal support to the city, while President-elect Trump initially made comments about illegal immigration before the suspect's identity was confirmed.

UKRAINE HALTS TRANSIT OF RUSSIAN GAS TO EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Context: Ukraine's decision to halt the transit of Russian natural gas through its pipeline network to Europe, following the expiration of a pre-war agreement.

Summary:

- **End of Transit:** Ukraine has stopped the transit of Russian gas, citing national security concerns. This follows the expiration of a previous agreement that allowed Russia to continue gas exports through Ukraine even after the start of the war.
- **Russian Response:** Gazprom, the Russian state-owned energy company, stated that it cannot send gas through Ukraine due to Kyiv's refusal to extend the transit deal.
- **Impact of the War:** The war has significantly disrupted Russian gas supplies to Europe. Russia has cut off most supplies through other pipelines, leading to an energy crisis in Europe.
- **Alternative Sources:** Europe has been diversifying its energy sources, increasing imports from countries like Norway and the United States.

Conclusion:

Ukraine's decision to halt Russian gas transit marks a significant step in reducing Europe's reliance on Russian energy. While this move has geopolitical implications, it aligns with Europe's efforts to phase out Russian gas imports and strengthen its energy security in the wake of the war.

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SCORPENE-CLASS SUBMARINE AMONG 3 FRONTLINE PLATFORMS TO BE INDUCTED BY NAVY ON JAN. 15

DEFENCE & SECURITY

Context: The upcoming commissioning of three advanced naval platforms by the Indian Navy, signifying a significant boost to the country's naval capabilities.



Major Points:

- **Commissioning Ceremony:** The Indian Navy is set to commission three frontline platforms – the sixth and final Scorpene-class submarine "Vagsheer," the fourth and final Project-15B stealth destroyer "Surat," and the lead ship of the Project-17A stealth frigates "Nilgiri" – on January 15, 2025.
- **Indigenous Development:** All three platforms were manufactured at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai, highlighting India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capabilities. The Scorpene submarines are built under license from Naval Group of France.
- **Advanced Features:** The "Nilgiri" and "Surat" are equipped with advanced stealth features,

state-of-the-art technology, and modern aviation facilities. They incorporate features like a Rail-Less Helicopter Traversing System and a Visual Aid and Landing System for seamless operations.

- **Gender Inclusivity:** Both ships include accommodations for women officers and sailors, reflecting the Navy's commitment to gender inclusion.

Conclusion:

The commissioning of these advanced warships and submarines marks a significant milestone for the Indian Navy, enhancing its combat potential and solidifying India's position as a major naval power. These platforms, equipped with cutting-edge technology and designed for modern warfare, will play a crucial role in safeguarding India's maritime interests and ensuring its security in the Indian Ocean region

'RETIRING PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL MAY GET HONORARY SENIOR RANK'

INTERNAL SECURITY

Context: A proposal by the Indian government to grant honorary senior ranks to retiring Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel who have been eligible for promotion but have not received it due to various constraints.

Summary:

- **Proposal for Honorary Senior Ranks:** The government is considering granting honorary senior ranks to eligible CAPF personnel a month before their retirement to boost their morale.
- **Eligibility:** This will apply to personnel who have met the criteria for promotion but have not been promoted due to limited vacancies.
- **Benefits:** Personnel will receive the financial benefits and



insignia of the next higher rank, and their retirement certificates will reflect the promotion.

- **Addressing Delays in Promotion:** This proposal aims to address the issue of delayed promotions in CAPFs, which often occur due to limited recruitment and vacancies.
- **Morale Boost:** Granting honorary senior ranks is expected to boost the morale of retiring personnel and recognize their service.

Conclusion:

The proposed measure to grant honorary senior ranks to retiring CAPF personnel is a significant step towards addressing the issue of delayed promotions and recognizing the service and dedication of these personnel. While the final decision on the proposal is awaited, it is expected to have a positive impact on the morale and well-being of retiring CAPF personnel.

AFTER 40 YEARS, BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY TOXIC WASTE LEAVES CITY

ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

CONTEXT: The transportation of toxic waste from the Union Carbide factory site in Bhopal to a disposal facility in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh, 40 years after the tragic gas leak.

SUMMARY:

- **Transportation of Waste:** Twelve trucks carrying 337 tonnes of toxic waste left Bhopal for Pithampur under heavy security.
- **Disposal Method:** The waste will be incinerated at a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) in Pithampur.
- **Timeline:** The disposal process is expected to take between three and nine months.
- **Court Order:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court had set a deadline for the disposal of waste, prompting authorities to expedite the process.
- **Local Concerns:** Residents of Pithampur and Indore have raised concerns about potential environmental pollution due to the waste disposal.

CONCLUSION:

The transportation and subsequent disposal of the toxic waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy site marks a significant step towards addressing the long-standing environmental and health concerns associated with the 1984 disaster. However, ongoing monitoring and mitigation measures are crucial to ensure the safety of the environment and the local population during and after the disposal process.

SPADEX FIRST OF MANY AS ISRO PREPARES FOR CHANDRAYAAN-4 GEDY TOXIC WASTE LEAVES CITY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CONTEXT: The successful launch of PSLV-C60 mission by ISRO, which carried two satellites for the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX). This experiment is a crucial step towards India's future space missions, including Chandrayaan-4 and establishing the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (Indian Space Station).



Major Points:

- **SpaDeX Mission:**
 - ISRO successfully launched the PSLV-C60 mission, placing two satellites in orbit for the first Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).
 - The satellites will rendezvous and dock with each other, demonstrating critical technology for future missions.
- **Importance of Docking:**
 - Docking is essential for future missions like Chandrayaan-4, which aims to bring lunar soil samples back to Earth.
 - It is also crucial for the development of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station,

requiring multiple modules to dock together.

- **Challenges of Docking:**

- Precisely matching the speeds and orbits of the satellites is a significant challenge in the docking process.

CONCLUSION:

The successful SpaDeX mission marks a significant milestone for India's space program. The successful demonstration of space docking technology will pave the way for more complex and ambitious future missions, including lunar sample return missions and the establishment of a space station, solidifying India's position as a major player in space exploration.

'EXCESSIVE NITRATES FOUND IN GROUNDWATER IN 440 DISTRICTS'

ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTS

CONTEXT: Reports on findings from the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) regarding the quality and quantity of groundwater in India. The report highlights significant nitrate contamination in groundwater across many districts, primarily attributed to the excessive use of fertilizers in agriculture.

- **Nitrate Contamination:**

- Excessive nitrates were found in groundwater in 440 districts in 2023, an increase from 359 in 2017.
- About 56% of Indian districts have nitrate levels exceeding safe limits, primarily due to the overuse of nitrogenous fertilizers in agriculture.
- Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu showed the highest levels of nitrate contamination.
- Central and southern India are experiencing an increasing trend in nitrate contamination.

- **Other Contaminants:**

- Fluoride contamination is a major concern in several states, including Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.
- Uranium contamination is high in Rajasthan and Punjab, exceeding safe limits in many samples.
- Over-exploitation of groundwater is a significant issue in several regions, leading to declining water levels.

- **Groundwater Extraction:**

- The stage of groundwater extraction across India remains around 60.4%, indicating that a substantial amount of groundwater is being extracted.
- While 73% of the blocks analyzed are in the "safe" zone, this number may be influenced by a decrease in the number of blocks analyzed in 2024 compared to 2022.

CONCLUSION:

The report highlights significant concerns regarding the quality and quantity of groundwater in India. High levels of nitrate contamination pose a serious threat to human health and the environment. Addressing these issues requires a multi-pronged approach, including promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers, and implementing effective groundwater management strategies

FOUR UN ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMITS FELL SHORT IN 2024. WHAT HAPPENED?

ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTS

CONTEXT: The failures of four major UN environmental summits in 2024, focusing on the key factors that contributed to these setbacks.

MAJOR POINTS:

- **Multiple Summit Failures:** Four key UN summits (biodiversity, climate, land degradation, and plastics) failed to deliver meaningful outcomes.
- **Diverging National Priorities:**
 - Developing nations demanded more financial and technological support from developed countries.
 - Developed nations were reluctant to commit additional resources due to domestic pressures.
 - Disagreements over fossil fuels and the legal binding nature of a plastic pollution treaty further hindered progress.

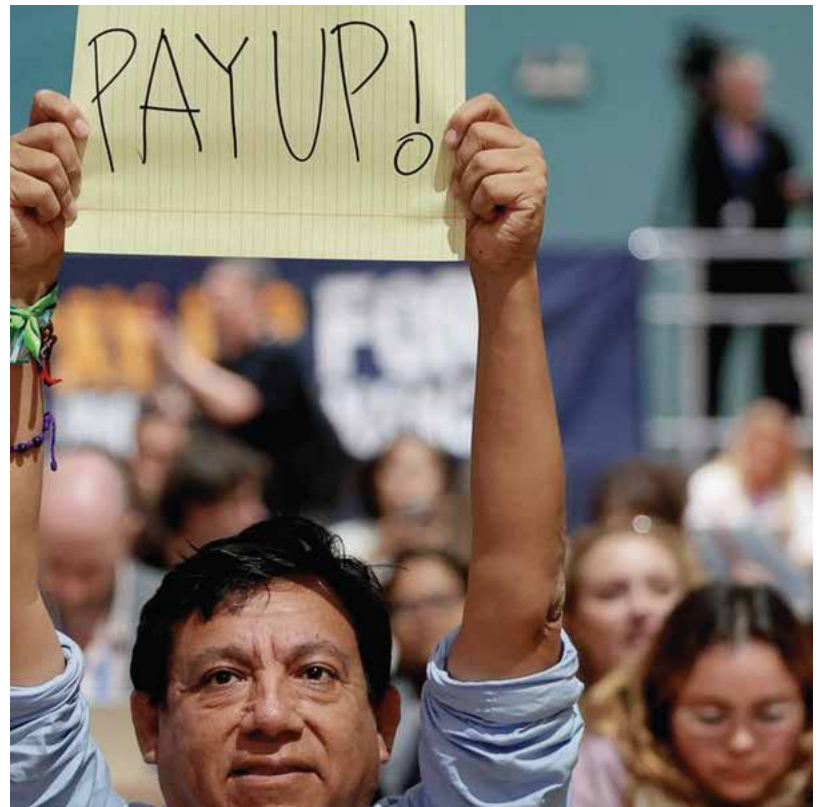
• Other Contributing Factors:

- Lack of consensus on monitoring and enforcement frameworks.
- Impact of global crises (pandemic, economic instability, geopolitical conflicts) on national priorities.
- Erosion of trust among nations due to repeated failures in negotiations.

Conclusion:

The repeated failures of these UN summits highlight the growing challenges in global environmental cooperation. Addressing these challenges requires:

- Increased financial and technological support from developed to developing nations.
- Enhanced transparency and accountability to build trust and ensure compliance.
- Inclusive diplomacy to ensure the voices of all nations are heard.
- Focus on implementation with measurable outcomes.
- Integrated approaches to address interconnected environmental crises.



TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

THE SITUATION IN MANIPUR BELIES THE HOME MINISTRY'S SANGUINE ASSESSMENT

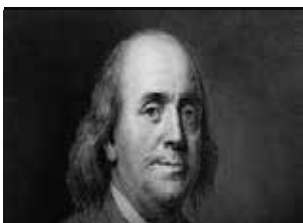
CONTEXT: The Union Home Ministry's claim of "unprecedented success" in bringing peace to the Northeast, particularly in light of the ongoing violence and instability in Manipur.

Summary:

- **Contradiction between Claims and Reality:** The Home Ministry's claim of peace in the Northeast contradicts the ongoing violence and instability in Manipur, where ethnic clashes continue.
- **Too Little, Too Late:** The Chief Minister of Manipur's apology for the violence is considered inadequate and belated, as his government has lost the trust of one community.
- **Focus on Wrong Issues:** The government's focus on addressing the issue of refugees from Myanmar by reimposing restrictions and mapping demographics is misguided and may exacerbate ethnic tensions.
- **Need for Genuine Peace-building:** True peace requires addressing the root causes of the conflict, building trust between communities, and implementing effective reconciliation measures.
- **Ignoring the Ground Reality:** The Home Ministry's claims of success are seen as an attempt to portray a positive image while ignoring the serious challenges on the ground.

Conclusion:

The editorial argues that the Home Ministry's claims of peace in the Northeast are misleading and self-serving. The ongoing violence and instability in Manipur demonstrate a clear disconnect between official pronouncements and the reality on the ground. The government must urgently address the root causes of the conflict, prioritize genuine dialogue and reconciliation efforts, and adopt a more humane approach towards refugees from Myanmar to ensure lasting peace in the region.



"If you invest more in your education, then you are likely to get more interest in it."

—Benjamin Franklin

TACKLING DELIMITATION BY REVERSING POPULATION CONTROL

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The concerns expressed by southern Indian states regarding the potential loss of parliamentary seats due to declining birth rates and the proposed delimitation exercise. It examines the feasibility and implications of reversing population control measures to address this issue.

Points:

- **Concerns over Delimitation:** Southern states with lower fertility rates fear losing parliamentary seats due to the proposed delimitation exercise based on population.
- **Proposed Solutions:** Some politicians have suggested reversing population control measures by incentivizing larger families.
- **Limitations of Reversing Fertility:**
 - Historical evidence suggests that reversing fertility decline is difficult and may have unintended consequences, as seen in China.
 - Incentivizing reproduction may not be effective and could have negative social and economic impacts.
- **Alternative Approaches:**
 - Addressing the issue through migration may be a more viable short-term solution.
 - Revising the delimitation exercise to consider factors beyond population count, such as education levels and development indicators, could ensure fair representation.
- **Focus on Women's Well-being:** Any policy aimed at increasing fertility must prioritize women's well-being and provide adequate social support for families.

CONCLUSION:

While concerns about declining parliamentary representation are valid, simply reversing population control measures is not a feasible or desirable solution. It emphasizes the need for a more nuanced approach that considers factors beyond population count in the delimitation process, while also prioritizing women's well-being and ensuring adequate social support for families.

THE SORRY STATE OF INDIA'S PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: The decline of parliamentary proceedings in India, highlighting the increasing disruptions, lack of meaningful debate, and erosion of civility between the ruling party and the opposition.

SUMMARY:

- **Diminishing Standards:** Parliamentary proceedings have deteriorated significantly, with frequent disruptions, adjournments, and a lack of substantive debate.
- **Erosion of Civility:** The relationship between the government and the opposition has become increasingly acrimonious, characterized by distrust and hostility.
- **Changing Role of MPs:**
 - The emphasis on electoral success and constituent services has overshadowed the importance of parliamentary performance.
 - Skilled debaters are less valued, and disruptive tactics are often rewarded.
- **Government's Disregard for Parliament:** The government increasingly treats Parliament as a formality, disregarding its role as a consultative body.
- **Public Apathy:** The public's diminishing expectations from parliamentarians and the declining quality of debates contribute to the decline of the institution.

CONCLUSION:

The continued decline of Parliament poses a serious threat to Indian democracy. The erosion of civility, the lack of meaningful debate, and the government's disregard for parliamentary procedures are undermining the very foundations of

a healthy democracy. Unless urgent steps are taken to restore the dignity and effectiveness of Parliament, it risks becoming a mere formality, with devastating consequences for the country's democratic future.

THE RACE FOR FIGHTERS: THE IAF'S DILEMMA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT: The growing technological gap between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) of China, focusing on the IAF's challenges in modernizing its fleet and acquiring advanced fighter jets amidst delays in indigenous development and procurement.



Key Points:

● China's Technological Advancements:

- China has significantly advanced its military capabilities, unveiling two new stealth fighter jets, showcasing its technological prowess.
- The PLAAF has fielded two fifth-generation fighters (J-35 and J-20), surpassing India in this crucial area.
- The PLAAF is rapidly expanding its fourth-generation fighter fleet, surpassing the IAF in terms of sheer numbers.

● IAF's Challenges:

- **Squadron Deficit:** The IAF is currently operating

at 31 squadrons, significantly below its authorized strength of 42 squadrons.

- **Delayed Deliveries:** Indigenous fighter jet programs, such as the LCA-Mk1A and LCA-Mk2, are facing delays, impacting the IAF's re-equipment plans.
- **Fifth-Generation Fighter Gap:** India lacks a fifth-generation fighter in its inventory, placing it at a significant disadvantage compared to China.
- **Engine Dependency:** The IAF faces a critical dependency on imported engines, primarily from the US and France, for its current and future fighter jets. This reliance poses a significant long-term challenge.
- **MRFA Procurement Stalled:** The procurement of 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) has been delayed, further impacting the IAF's modernization efforts.
- **Indigenous Development Challenges:**
 - The development of indigenous engines remains a major hurdle for India's defense industry.
 - The timelines for the development of the LCA-Mk2 and AMCA are ambitious and may face further delays.

Conclusion:

The Indian Air Force faces a significant challenge in modernizing its fleet and maintaining air superiority in the face of China's rapid military advancements. Delays in indigenous fighter jet programs, dependence on imported engines, and the absence of a fifth-generation fighter in the near future pose significant risks to India's air power. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort to accelerate indigenous development, streamline procurement processes, and strengthen domestic capabilities in critical areas like engine technology. The IAF's future effectiveness hinges on overcoming these hurdles and ensuring the timely induction of modern, technologically advanced fighter aircraft.



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IN SEARCH OF A 'GRAND STRATEGY' FOR INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Key Points:

• Three Perspectives on Indian Foreign Policy:

- Focuses on building strong bilateral relationships with key partners (Japan, Australia, US, Russia, France, Israel, UAE) to advance India's global interests and counter Chinese influence.
- Examines India's historical pursuit of major power status, emphasizing its civilizational attributes and the importance of maintaining its traditional peaceable and liberal ethos.
- Provides a historical overview of Indian foreign policy, highlighting the 1991 turning point and emphasizing the need for a comprehensive strategy to address the challenges posed by China's rise.

• Key Themes:

- Focus on China: the significant impact of China's rise on India's foreign policy.
- Importance of Strategic Partnerships: the need for strong bilateral relationships with key partners.
- Civilizational Approach: highlights the importance of India's civilizational attributes and its traditional values in shaping its foreign policy.
- Geopolitical Realities: emphasizes the need to address regional challenges, particularly the issue of Pakistan.

• Diverging Views:

- The importance of India's immediate neighbors in its global strategy.
- Emphasizes India's civilizational attributes and the importance of maintaining its peaceable and liberal ethos.
- Jaishankar emphasizes the need to address regional challenges, particularly the issue of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

valuable insights into India's foreign policy in the 21st century. They highlight the challenges and opportunities facing India as it seeks to play a greater role on the global stage. While there are differences in their perspectives, they all emphasize the need for a comprehensive and nuanced approach that considers India's historical legacy, its evolving geopolitical interests, and the changing dynamics of the international system.

BANGLADESH ARMY CHIEF CALLS FOR NATIONAL CONSENSUS, TONES DOWN ANTI-INDIA RHETORIC

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Context: General Waker-uz-Zaman, the Army Chief of Bangladesh, provided a detailed perspective on the country's current political, social, and economic challenges during an interview with Prothom Alo. Emphasizing the need for national reconciliation, political empowerment, and constructive relations with India, he highlighted several pressing issues, including the importance of peace, stability, and effective governance. His remarks were particularly significant amidst escalating tensions and protests, reflecting the Army's stance on fostering harmony and development in Bangladesh.

Key Points:

1. Call for National Reconciliation:

- Emphasized the need for peace, stability, and tolerance for economic and social development.

- Urged the creation of an environment fostering national consensus among stakeholders.
2. Observations on the Interim Government:
 - Criticized policing failures under the interim administration led by Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus.
 - Stressed that restoring institutions requires a politically empowered government.
 3. Escalation of Tensions:
 - Student activists demanded the abolition of the 1972 Constitution on December 31, 2024, prompting backlash from opposition leaders, including Mirza Abbas, who termed such demands “fascist.”
 - Anti-India rhetoric was prominent during the student-led “unity rally” on the same day.
 4. India-Bangladesh Relations:
 - Highlighted mutual dependence on security, economy, and healthcare.
 - Urged India to respect Bangladesh’s strategic interests, including stopping border killings and ensuring water-sharing agreements.
 - Stressed Bangladesh’s commitment not to act against India’s strategic interests.
 5. Security Concerns:
 - Addressed issues at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border and Chittagong Hill Tracts as critical for national security.
 6. Restoration of Law and Order:
 - Expressed concern over mob justice incidents, reflecting a decline in policing capacity.

Conclusion:

General Waker-uz-Zaman’s remarks underscore the urgent need for political empowerment, effective governance, and national reconciliation in Bangladesh. His call for mutual respect and cooperation with India, along with a focus on restoring stability and institutional strength, reflects a strategic vision for navigating the current challenges. The path forward requires collective action and a renewed commitment to peace and development.





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