Trump's Iran deal is yet fragile: Peace in West Asia remains a distant dream



The Sunday agreement between the US and Iran established a 14-point interim framework to ensure the 'immediate cessation of hostilities' in the Iran war, reopened the Strait of Hormuz to international shipping, and initiated the phased release of up to $25 billion in frozen Iranian assets. While presented as a ceasefire arrangement, the reality on the ground suggests a more decisive strategic outcome: Washington appears to have tacitly accepted what may become its most consequential geopolitical setback since Vietnam. Rather than a negotiated equilibrium, the settlement reflects shifting power dynamics that forced an early and pragmatic pause in active hostilities.

Why the Deal May Still Fail

The core aim of diplomatic negotiations is to identify previously invisible overlap between two parties' positions — if not in stated demands, then in underlying interests. Concessions on one dimension by one side are intended to unlock reciprocal movement by the other, creating a pathway towards durable settlement. In this case, however, the positions of the United States and Iran remain fundamentally misaligned. What exists is not convergence but structured incompatibility managed through temporary de-escalation. The US and Iran have instead agreed to a 60-day interim ceasefire extension memorandum of understanding (MoU). Iran's demands remain extensive: lifting of the blockade, recognition of permanent sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, reparations, sanctions relief, unfreezing of assets, third-party guarantees against future aggression, and Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Less publicly emphasised is Tehran's insistence on cessation of hostilities in Gaza.

Crucially, Iran seeks irreversible concessions early in the process — including partial lifting of the blockade and the release of 50 per cent of frozen assets before any substantive compliance on its side. This reflects a negotiating logic shaped by distrust, particularly after the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA (or the Iran nuclear deal) and previous targeted strikes on Iranian leadership during earlier diplomatic phases. Of these demands, Washington has only tentatively signalled willingness on lifting the blockade — and even that is conditional on Iran opening the Strait of Hormuz to Western shipping without fees. Fragmentation of the Battlefield Although early drafts of the ceasefire included Lebanon, the United States has sought to compartmentalise the conflict. Iran is unlikely to accept this separation, as it would effectively isolate Hezbollah and weaken its regional deterrence architecture.

For Israel, and particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, maintaining pressure on Hezbollah remains central to domestic political survival and regional military credibility. With internal political competition intensifying, sustaining an assertive posture also serves electoral calculations.

At the same time, Israel remains unwilling to significantly constrain operations in Gaza, which it considers a core security imperative. This creates a structural contradiction within the ceasefire framework — one that makes a complete cessation of hostilities politically difficult to sustain.

The US Position and Its Limits US demands include opening Hormuz without fees, mine clearance, a pledge from Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons, and a commitment to curb proxy financing.

Of these, Iran is only likely to reaffirm its existing position on nuclear non-proliferation — largely symbolic, as it has previously made similar commitments. The remaining demands either require strategic concessions Iran views as existential or lack enforcement credibility in their current form. Before discussions on a permanent settlement, Washington has demanded dismantling and removal of Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpile, particularly material enriched to 60 per cent. Tehran has categorically rejected this, insisting on retaining enrichment capability as a sovereign right. Why Permanent Peace Negotiations Are Structurally Weak Iran's negotiating framework remains anchored in a broader 10-point plan that includes cessation of hostilities against regional allies, binding United Nations Security Council guarantees, and regional non-aggression pacts.

While some elements — such as broad non-aggression commitments — may be superficially acceptable, they remain inherently weak due to enforcement challenges and the historical reversibility of such agreements. One demand, however, is strategically transformative: the complete withdrawal of US military forces from West Asia. This would include dismantling operational infrastructure such as Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar (US Central Command's regional hub), the Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, and all forward-deployed US military assets across Kuwait, the UAE, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. This demand is non-negotiable from the US perspective, as it would represent a structural rollback of American military architecture in the region.

In asymmetric negotiations, the party with lower tolerance for deadlock tends to concede more. While the United States retains greater aggregate power, it also faces higher domestic and alliance costs from prolonged conflict. Washington may attempt to sustain low-intensity pressure in the short term. However, structural constraints — including depletion of stockpiles, oil market sensitivity, and alliance fatigue — limit escalation options. Escalation drivers include domestic political pressure from pro-Israel constituencies, military-industrial incentives, and reputational concerns over perceived US retreat. However, countervailing pressures are significant: rising oil prices, risk of broader regional destabilisation, limited war reserves, and political exposure ahead of elections. Iran's leverage rests on its ability to disrupt energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, sustain asymmetric resistance, and benefit from external strategic balancing by powers such as China and Russia.

Printed and Published by MAYUR C. BHATT on behalf of KALYANI PUBLIATION PVT. LTD. and Printed at : Dharti Printers C-3, Shankar Chember, Nr. Fadia Chamber, Asharam Road, Ahmedabad-Published From KALYANI PUBLIATION PVT. LTD. 201,202,208 Nandan complex, opp mithakhali rly crossing, mithakhali, ahmedabad.
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Godzilla is here: India needs a climate-resilient agri-system to withstand future El Niños

The Godzilla Super El Niño is here. People living in India need no reminder of it. Intense heat waves, erratic weather, storms, western disturbances, untimely rain, and now delayed monsoons are all symptoms of the excessive heating of the Pacific waters resulting in a Super El Niño. And India has been suffering for some time now. Even the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) says there is an 80 per cent likelihood of an El Niño event during June–August 2026. Probabilities for this to continue until at least November are around 90 per cent. First, an El Niño recap: the hotter waters in the Pacific Ocean lead to heating of the air over the ocean. Over time, the Pacific Ocean, which is a cooler air zone, is converted into a hot zone. The heated region increases evaporation, and with the water vapour, the hot air rises into the higher levels of the atmosphere. The rising hot air leaves a vacuum-like situation at the ocean level and above. This forces the cooler winds from other parts of the planet to gush in to maintain the equilibrium.

Now back to our monsoon: the Indian monsoon occurs on the same principles. During the hot summer on the subcontinent, the land mass heats up, inviting cooler air from the Indian Ocean. The moisture-laden winds bring the clouds, and it rains. The Pacific trade winds blowing eastward into the Asian land mass strengthen the monsoon and help bring the much-needed rains.

But now, due to the Super El Niño, ocean surface temperatures are reported to touch 3 degrees above average. This is causing a major pressure zone inside the Pacific Ocean, which is sucking in winds even from the Indian Ocean. So our vapour-laden winds instead of coming to India are now being sucked into the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Trade winds have also reportedly changed direction. A second weather situation is also emerging in the Indian Ocean called the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). This is a natural climate phenomenon known for varying surface sea temperature oscillations in the region. It changes from positive to negative, defined by changing temperature patterns in the ocean. Depending on the charge, the phenomenon gives results. For example, a positive IOD is set to ward off El Niño dryness but provide more vapour to the Indian subcontinent.

But in 2026, scientists are predicting a neutral IOD, which may not have much impact on El Niño. The second big problem is the increase in western climatic disturbances. These are clouds and winds that are blowing into the Indian subcontinent, often bringing untimely winds and hailstorms. There is also an over-2000-km-long cloud formation waiting to descend



south into the subcontinent, which is also causing deep climatic distress. India right now is caught between a heatwave and erratic rainstorms. There is also a global consensus that El Niño events usually result in a spiking of global temperatures. In the past, they have potentially caused great global famines, killing millions over the centuries.

Another problem slowly creeping up is the shifting of our North Pole. Since the 1990s, it has been aggressively moving towards Siberia. Compared to its usual speed of 15 kms/year since 1990, it has moved 55 km (34 miles) per year towards Siberia. This could also have an impact on the Earth's magnetic fields, affecting solar flares and interacting with the atmosphere and weather system eventually.

Considering some of these events, it is apparent that the subcontinent will be hit with erratic monsoons, even higher temperatures, and drought and flood-like situations, which will have a detrimental effect on agrarian production. The Iran war and shortage of fossil fuels and agri-chemicals will exacerbate the crisis. Putting food, water, and our sovereignty at risk.

Agriculture stood as a beacon of light during the Covid crisis, but with the current circumstances, even agriculture could take a heavy beating. So what can India do?

The first step towards preparedness should start with weather alerts. Farmers should be given weather data and weather alerts. District-level crop planting schedules should be broadcasted at the block level. So farmers are better prepared for untimely rain. District-wise multi-cropping plans should also be introduced for the farmers.

To climate-proof fields, farmers should opt for multi-cropping instead of monocultures of paddy. Depending on the agroclimatic zone and land type, farmers can choose from a variety of millets, legumes, and paddy for multi-cropping. That can be planted between June and July. This will prepare them for all weather situations.

The government needs to also keep district-level emergency seed stocks, just in case there is massive crop damage in one region. Farmers should have access to seeds for resowing. Native varieties of seeds should be kept in government stocks, as they are more climate resilient and more adaptable to heat, flood, and drought-like situations. Similarly, block-level organic manure or cow manure dump yards should be created or financially incentivised to supplement the fertiliser supply.

Rural entrepreneurs should also be encouraged to make biopesticides and biostimulants to generate rural employment and reduce the chemical pesticide demand.

Crop insurance schemes should be implemented and governed by a public sector company so that fair compensation and assessments are done. Potential weather damage this year should be covered under the crop insurance scheme.

Water is our major area of focus. Due to the erratic rains, water availability in the country could suffer. Starting from less snow on the Himalayas to delayed monsoons, all threaten our water sovereignty. We need a policy shift and have to rely on older systems of city and village planning. Starting from rural India, all villages or blocks should have a water rejuvenation plan. Each district first needs to plan out its waterways—creeks, rivulets, rivers, ponds, etc—and and compare them with the older designs. Using simple mud and mortar structures, our ancestors had enough water to drink. Instead of reinventing the wheel, we could aggressively build a network of small ponds in our rural towns to catch as much rainwater as possible.

Even bigger cities towards the outer regions can have water reservoirs which are recharging the groundwater and catching the rainwater. This would boost the water availability. Forestation ought to be the government's priority. Native biodiversity and medicinal trees should be encouraged across the country. Forests also act as catchments for the river systems, hence playing a dual role of increasing water availability and providing nutrition. To conclude, our world is in deep turmoil. To be prepared for all eventualities, India must put extra efforts into bolstering its sustainable agrarian production and water availability. One hopes we embrace our ancient agrarian wisdom and pivot towards a more sustainable food system which is nourishing and climate-resilient. It is the only way we can be ready for any extreme climate events even in the future.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Freedom's first frontier, democracy's last

In recent years, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have found renewed visibility in the national imagination. Social media reels showcase pristine beaches; tourists increasingly flock to the islands' turquoise shores, and even political enthusiasts celebrate the flora and fauna of the islands. This attention is welcome. Yet, it also highlights a deeper reality: despite their immense contribution to India's freedom struggle, the islands have long remained politically and administratively overlooked.

I was born and raised in Port Blair, now officially known as Sri Vijayapuram. Like many islanders, I grew up assuming that fellow Indians knew about our history, culture, and place within the nation. It was only when I left the islands for higher studies that I discovered how little many mainland Indians knew about the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Questions ranged from whether we had buses and cars to whether Indian currency was used there. Even today, islanders are frequently asked whether a passport is required to visit the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, forgetting that passports are meant for foreign countries, not for territories that are as Indian as any other part of India. Such questions may be innocent, but they reveal how distant these islands remain in the national consciousness.

This disconnect is surprising given the islands' place in India's struggle for independence. The Cellular Jail remains one of the most powerful symbols of colonial oppression. Thousands of freedom fighters endured imprisonment, solitary confinement, forced labour, and unimaginable hardship there. For generations of Indians, the Cellular Jail has stood as a reminder of the price paid for freedom.

The islands also occupy a unique place in history. In December 1943, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose visited the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and hoisted the Indian Tricolour under the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. Long before India formally attained independence in August 1947, the islands had already become a powerful symbol of India's aspiration for self-rule.

Yet, while the nation remembers the islands' historical significance, it often overlooks their contemporary realities.

Unlike states that enjoy elected governments and legislative assemblies, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands continue to be administered directly by the Union Government through a Lieutenant Governor and a bureaucracy largely staffed by officers deputed from the mainland. While many officers serve with dedication, the absence of stronger local political institutions has often left islanders feeling distant from decision-making processes that directly affect their lives.

This democratic gap becomes particularly significant because the islands are home to descendants of freedom fighters, rehabilitation settlers from different parts of India, defence families, and indigenous communities with unique histories and identities. Despite this diversity, their political voice remains limited.

The islands elect only one member to the Lok Sabha. Their small population and geographical isolation mean that national political discourse rarely focuses on their concerns. Electoral arithmetic and physical distance combine to create a persistent sense of marginalisation.

The effects of over-centralisation are visible even in routine governance. Functions that are often handled at local levels in many states continue to require higher administrative involvement in the islands. Such arrangements may appear minor, but they reflect a broader governance structure in which decision-making remains concentrated rather than devolved.

Meanwhile, the islands face pressing challenges. Environmental vulnerability, infrastructure constraints, transportation costs, land-use concerns, disaster preparedness, water security, and sustainable development all require policies tailored to local realities. These challenges are best addressed through institutions that are more accountable to island residents and more responsive to their needs.

The question is not whether the Andaman &



Nicobar Islands are strategically important. Their significance in India's maritime security architecture is widely acknowledged. The question is whether strategic importance alone can substitute for democratic empowerment.

A stronger framework of local self-governance, greater decentralisation, and enhanced representation would allow islanders to participate more meaningfully in shaping their future. Democracy functions best when decisions are made as close as possible to the people affected by them.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands are more than a tourist destination. They are a living community with aspirations, challenges, and a history deeply intertwined with the story of India itself.

For too long, these islands have been viewed primarily as a distant outpost. They deserve to be seen as something more: a vital part of the Indian Union whose people deserve both recognition and representation. India rightly honours the sacrifices made within the walls of the Cellular Jail. It must also listen to the voices of those who live beyond those walls today. A land that became an enduring symbol of India's struggle for freedom should not remain on the margins of its democratic conversation.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands helped shape India's journey to freedom. They should also have a fuller voice in shaping its democratic future. This attention is welcome. Yet, it also highlights a deeper reality: despite their immense contribution to India's freedom struggle, the islands have long remained politically and administratively overlooked.

I was born and raised in Port Blair, now officially known as Sri Vijayapuram. Like many islanders, I grew up assuming that fellow Indians knew about our history, culture, and place within the nation.

Truhome FINANCE

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APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6)] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to Truhome Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited), the Physical Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Truhome Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of the balance due to Truhome Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property, reserve price and earnest money deposit and date of Inspection are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
1. ANANT KUMAR JHA And 2. PREETI JHA **All Residing At:-Row house no. B-12, Aastha Residency, Rata, Vapi, Di. Valsad-396191.** **Also At:-F-305, Ananya Apartment, Vallabh Nagar, Koparali Road, Chhiri, Vapi, Di.Valsad-396191** **Also At:-@Micas Organics LTD Phase-3, Plot no. 3102/3101 & 3108, GIDC, Vapi, Di. Valsad-396195.** **Also At:-F-305 & 306, Ananya Apartment, Vallabh Nagar, Koparali Road, Chhiri, Vapi, Di.Valsad-396191.** **LAN:- SLPHVAPI0000478** **Date of Possession & Type** **28.03.2026, Physical Possession** **Encumbranches known** Not Known	Demand Notice Date: 12/11/2025 Rs. 10,67,815/- (Rupees Ten lakh sixty seven thousand eight hundred fifteen only) as on 07/11/2025 under reference of loan account no. SLPHVAPI0000478 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice	Rs.6,10,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ten Thousand Only) **Bid Increment:** Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)(Rs.)** Rs. 61,000/- (Rupees Sixty One Thousand Only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 08/07/2026, Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m**	**09-JULY-2026 & Auction Time: 11 AM to 1 PM**	**Debjyoti Roy - 98747 02021** **Sandip Mahajan - 99989 44955** **Property inspection Date.25/06/2026, Time.11 AM to 1 PM**

Description of Property

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Flat No. 305 admeasuring about 425.00 Sq. Fts. equivalent to 39.48 Sq. Mtrs. and Flat No. 306, admeasuring about 421.00 Sq. Fts. equivalent to 39.11 Sq. Mtrs., totally admeasuring about 846.00 Sq. Fts., equivalent to 78.59 Sq. Mtrs., Super built up area, along with undivided share in the land admeasuring about 3.00 Sq. Mtrs., lying and located on the Third Floor of the Building known as "ANANYA APARTMENT" constructed on the N.A. land bearing Survey No. 246/Paikee 1 admeasuring about 21550.00 Sq. Mtrs. Paikee Plot No. 5 admeasuring about 292.64 Sq. Mtrs. bearing Computerized Survey No 246/Paikee 1/Paikee 2, Situated at: Chhiri, Tal: Vapi, Dist. Valsad owned by Anant Awadh Jha.
Boundaries of the said property as per site: East: By Open Space. West: By Passage. North: By Flat No 304 & Open Space. South: By Staircase

1) **For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the website of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) website.**
2) **The intending bidders have to submit their EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME: AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH: BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI BANK ACCOUNT NO. Current Account No. 911020045677633 IFSC CODE: UTIB0000230.**
3) **The mortgagors/borrowers are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest before auction, failing which secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.**
4) **The mortgagors/borrowers are requested to collect your all remaining movable items within period of 7 days without damages of the property. If you fail to take movable assets, then it would be deemed that you have no claim and no interest in taking back such items. In case you still prefer to ignore this notice, we shall be constrained to treat them as unclaimed and waste materials and shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever to such articles and also may sell all movable Items and adjust the amount against outstanding dues of your loan account. It will be also deemed that you have no claim and interest in taking back such items and also have no objection, if such items are disposed-off or sold by us as items are having negligible substantial value. Also note that by not taking the items within specified time, you will also relinquish any right or claim over such items in future.**

Place : VAPI
Date : 22.06.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited
(Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited)