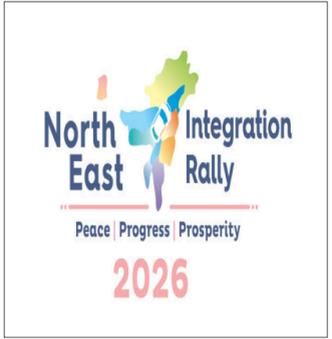




KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 560 | SILCHAR THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com ,www.krctimes.com

Get all the latest and updated news of today in the evening. For subscribing to this e-paper contact at -8721838313

SUBSCRIBE
₹300 / year

WhatsApp payment details : 8721838313
info@krcfoundation.org

PERSPECTIVE

Being alone is a power that very few can handle.

Centre to issue Rs 100 commemorative coin for Bhupen Hazarika



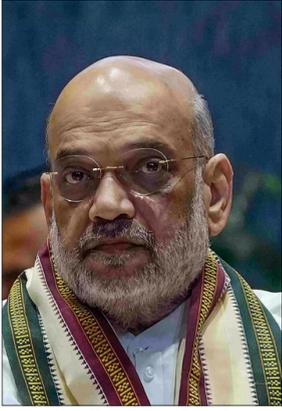
GUWAHATI
Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the Centre announced the issuance of a Rs 100 commemorative coin to mark the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika. Sharing the Gazette notification by the Union Ministry of Finance on X, Sarma called it "a timeless recognition" for Hazarika and thanked Modi for giving the legendary singer and composer his due recognition, making the centenary celebrations special. Originally scheduled to inaugurate the celebrations on September 8 in Guwahati, Modi will now participate in the events on September 13.

WHO SAID WHAT

Samvatsari is a reminder of the beauty of forgiving and the power of compassion. It inspires people to nurture bonds with sincerity. As we mark this sacred occasion, may our hearts be filled with humility and our actions reflect kindness as well as goodwill. Michhami Dukkadam!
~ Narendra Modi, PM

Rain and Rough Skies Could Spoil Shah's Assam Visit

GUWAHATI
The gateway to the Northeast, finds itself submerged once again under a deluge of rain and hill runoff from Meghalaya, with flood-like scenes gripping large swathes of the city just hours before Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled arrival on Thursday. The grim weather forecast of continued heavy downpours threatens to turn Shah's three high-profile programmes into a logistical nightmare, exposing both the fragility of Guwahati and the challenges of balancing VIP security with urgent civic relief. On Wednesday evening, Assam Urban Affairs Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah took to social media platform X to reassure citizens. He wrote that due to heavy rains in Guwahati and adjoining areas, coupled with waters flowing down from Meghalaya, a flood-like situation had emerged. He added that, even amid the rain, departmental staff were working tirelessly to pump out water. Mallabaruah further said that



though he was abroad, he was monitoring the entire arrangement and expressed hope that the difficult situation would soon be overcome. On Friday, he is expected to attend three key programmes, including a review meeting on security and disaster preparedness, an event

on infrastructure projects and a public outreach programme. His visit, intended as a showcase of governance and development, now risks being overshadowed by waterlogged streets, paralyzed traffic, and mounting public frustration. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast for Guwahati: Thursday (28 August 2025): Heavy rainfall with intermittent thunderstorms, maximum temperature around 30°C, minimum 25°C. 2. Friday (29 August 2025): Moderate to heavy showers likely, humidity above 85%, with partly overcast spells. Analytical Impact If the rain continues over the next 48 hours, Guwahati could face prolonged waterlogging in low-lying areas such as Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Chandmari and Zoo Road. The overwhelmed drainage network could trigger traffic paralysis, contamination of drinking water sources, and an increased risk of vector-borne diseases. The timing of Shah's visit will inevitably draw additional administrative focus, with security and pro-

ocol measures potentially straining civic response teams. Yet, the presence of the Union Home Minister could also galvanize urgent intervention and bring central support for long-overdue flood management measures in the city. The problem of flash floods in Guwahati is not new. Over the past decade, the city has witnessed severe waterlogging almost every monsoon after just a few hours of heavy rain. Experts blame this on: 1. Rapid and unplanned urbanization that has encroached on wetlands and natural water channels. 2. Poorly maintained and clogged drainage systems. 3. Heavy runoff from Meghalaya's hills, which accelerates flooding downstream. In both 2019 and 2022, similar floods caused massive gridlocks, submerged houses, and forced schools to shut down. Despite repeated promises of drainage reform, Guwahati continues to suffer seasonal paralysis, highlighting a chronic failure of urban planning.

The Assam administration has swung into high-alert mode ahead of Shah's arrival. Senior officials from the Home, PWD, and Police departments have been deployed to ensure smooth movement along key routes from LGBI Airport to central Guwahati. Pumping units and disaster response teams have been stationed near programme venues to minimize embarrassment. Traffic police have also been ordered to prepare emergency diversion routes in case major roads remain flooded. Officials maintain that relief work will not be hampered, but admit that balancing VIP protocol with flood management during heavy rains is a daunting challenge. The next 48 hours will test not just Guwahati's resilience but also the government's ability to manage optics during a high-profile political visit. Whether Shah's presence leads to meaningful central-state coordination on long-term flood solutions, or becomes remembered as a flop show drowned by relentless rain, will depend largely on how the skies behave over the city.

"Hugs won't solve problems": Gaurav Gogoi's sharp dig at PM Modi's foreign policy

MAJULI
As the US administration implemented 50 per cent tariffs on exports from India, Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi on Wednesday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that "hugging a leader will not solve all the problems". Gogoi made the remarks while inaugurating a passenger rest shed at Dhapakgaon Tiniali in Dakhin Kamalabari Panchayat, Majuli, using MP funds. Gogoi said, "The 50 per cent tariff that will be implemented in India will most affect those industries, which provide the highest employment opportunities in our country. It is unfortunate that after President Trump's administration came into power, our Ministry of External Affairs failed to realise that it should have started engaging more closely with their government and administration." "Instead of engaging, an attitude of arrogance has developed in our Ministry of External Affairs, which has led to the breakdown of the earlier mutual understanding between the governments of India and the United States," he added. The Congress leader said the country was witnessing a weakening of its foreign policy.

"I hope we can strongly present India's case, and the Ministry of External Affairs must not assume that making some clever statements in one or two seminars constitutes foreign policy. Likewise, Prime Minister Modi should not think that hugging a leader will solve all problems. At present, we are witnessing how weaknesses have crept into our foreign policy, which is why the US government has not imposed such tariffs on China, but has imposed them on the Indian government and its industries," Gogoi said. On the Vice Presidential election, he said, "We are very happy that the people of India are accepting the INDI alliance's candidature of Justice Reddy. He is already creating an impact, and we wish him all the best." Earlier, Gogoi raised questions to the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led state government and sought to know why, despite the BJP government being in power for nearly a decade, there were infiltrators entering the state. "They have been in power for 10 years, and with border security under their watch, if infiltrators are still coming, then who is responsible?" Gogoi said. The Congress leader stated that his party's stance was clear - no Bangladeshi should be illegally residing in the state.

Bimol Akoijam Slams Manipur Tribunal Report, Seeks Its Withdrawal

IMPHAL
Inner Manipur MP Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam has come down heavily on the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) over its recently released tribunal report on the ongoing Manipur conflict, terming it "biased, insensitive and an attempt to malign the Meitei community." In a strongly worded letter to PUCL president Kavita Srivastava, Dr. Akoijam said the report was based on "prejudiced narratives" and reflected a mindset rooted in "racist Orientalism" that demonised the Meiteis while ignoring the complexity of the crisis. He accused the rights body of releasing a document that not only lacked balance but also risked deepening divisions in the strife-torn state. "The report is insensitive to the suffering of thousands, biased in its approach, and designed to portray one community as perpetrators while disregarding the larger context. This is nothing but an attempt to malign the Meiteis," the MP wrote. The Congress MP demanded PUCL immediately withdraw the report and issue an unconditional



apology, warning that its findings "could fuel mistrust and further disturb the fragile peace process." Highlighting that such reports carry national and international implications, Dr. Akoijam stressed that civil society groups and rights bodies should act responsibly and not become vehicles of misinformation. He urged PUCL to revisit its fact-finding process and engage with all communities to present a balanced picture. The PUCL report, which had alleged targeted violence and human rights violations during the Manipur crisis, has drawn criticism from sections of civil society in the state. With Dr. Akoijam's sharp intervention, the debate over its credibility and impact is expected to intensify in the coming days.

Congress Seeks Fresh Elections in Manipur, Slams PM's Silence



IMPHAL
The Congress on August 28 pressed for immediate assembly elections in Manipur, saying only a fresh mandate can re-

"OUR DEMAND is simple. We want fresh elections in Manipur where people will elect their government and solve the issues. There is no solution, no peace now. We will stand with Manipur and ensure peace and brotherhood return to the state,"

serve the right to choose a new government. "Our demand is simple. We want fresh elections in Manipur where people will elect their government and solve the issues. There is no solution, no peace now. We will stand with Manipur and ensure peace and brotherhood return to the state," he told the gathering. Ulaka pointed out that despite the BJP and its allies holding 55 of the 60 seats in the assembly, the state has been under President's Rule since February. He also questioned Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi's silence on the crisis. "Congress wants a statement from the Prime Minister on when he will visit Manipur and why he is silent," he said, while noting that Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge had visited the state several times. The Congress leader announced that the party will launch a nationwide signature campaign from September 15 to October 15, aiming to collect ten crore signatures to be submitted to the President of India or the Election Commission. AICC secretary Christopher Tilak, addressing the rally earlier, alleged that the BJP government had committed the "maximum constitutional violations" in Manipur. He claimed, "Two months back, we had a programme highlighting how the BJP is violating the Constitution. As far as Manipur is concerned, the constitutional violation has been maximum in the country." The Congress reiterated that it would continue to raise the issue until elections are announced and a democratic government is restored.

PM Modi to visit Assam on September 13-14

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam for two days from September 13, instead of his earlier scheduled day-long visit on September 8, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on August 27. The PM's visit has been rescheduled due to the Vice Presidential elections on September 9, and he will now spend a night in Guwahati, the chief minister said at a press conference in Guwahati. The PM, who was scheduled to inaugurate the birth centenary celebrations of renowned singer Bhupen Hazarika, will participate in the events related to the celebrations on September 13. The state government will, however, hold a separate programme on September 8 on Hazarika's birth centenary, and the celebration committee will meet



on Thursday to discuss the event, Sarma said. On September 14, the PM is scheduled to visit Mangaldoi in Darrang district, where he will inaugurate the Guwahati Ring Road, a bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Kuruwa and Narengi in Guwahati, and also lay the foundation stone of the Mangaldoi Medical College and Hospital. He will then leave for Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Golaghat district and dedicate to the nation a bio-ethanol plant, set up at a cost of Rs 4,200 crore, Sarma said.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 560

LANDSLIDE TRAGEDY AND FLOOD HAVOC

Jammu Division witnessed an unprecedented natural calamity on August 26, as record-breaking rainfall shattered a 99-year-old benchmark, leaving behind a trail of devastation. Numerous lives lost-including pilgrims to the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine-scores injured, hundreds displaced, and infrastructure worth crores destroyed. Mighty rivers Chenab and Tawi flowed over 10 feet above the danger mark, roads and bridges collapsed, and thousands of vehicles remained stranded. This is not merely a story of natural fury; it is a grim reflection of systemic failures, policy paralysis, and criminal negligence that amplified the tragedy.

The catastrophic landslide on the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage track is beyond words. Helpless pilgrims had no chance to save themselves as tonnes of debris came crashing down, turning a spiritual journey into a nightmare. This is not the first such tragedy, yet no lessons seem to have been learnt. The shrine board and administration were well aware of the vulnerabilities of the Trikuta hills. Repeated incidents of landslides in the past should have triggered a comprehensive review. Massive development works undertaken along the track-cutting into hill slopes and altering natural contours-have disturbed the fragile ecosystem. Nature responds to such interventions unpredictably, and the damage rarely occurs at the same point of intervention. The recent landslide is a stark warning; go for a proper ecological review. Independent experts must evaluate the stability of the Trikuta hills, identify vulnerable points, and recommend corrective measures. The safety of pilgrims cannot be compromised in the name of convenience or revenue generation. Despite advance warnings from the Meteorological Department, no preventive measures were taken. Both train and road connectivity were severely affected, yet the yatra continued until tragedy struck. Why was the pilgrimage not halted earlier when conditions were clearly unsafe? Why were pilgrims not accommodated in Katra despite ample facilities for temporary halts? These questions demand answers and accountability.

Beyond the shrine tragedy, the entire Jammu region bore the brunt of the rain fury. Urban Jammu and rural belts alike were submerged, nullahs overflowed, and entire neighbourhoods turned into pools. The rainfall broke a century-old record, yet the greater tragedy lies in the UT's lack of preparedness. Disaster management plans exist only on paper. After the devastating 2014 floods and subsequent calamities like Chashoti, one would expect proactive planning. Instead, what we witnessed was a repeat of past mistakes: blocked drains, encroached flood channels, and zero contingency planning.

How could engineers design stormwater channels and nullahs in zigzag patterns, ignoring the basic principle that water seeks the shortest route? How could critical flood channels remain choked with encroachments and debris? The Government's own disaster reports remain inactive, failing to address the identified vulnerabilities. Smart City projects promised efficient drainage systems and modern urban planning, yet a single day's rain turned Jammu into a disaster zone. This is a damning indictment of multiple departmental failures. The role of encroachments cannot be overstated. Flood channels that once carried excess rainwater safely to rivers have been systematically blocked-either by illegal constructions or by official complicity. How did parking lots spring up along the Tawi banks? How were khuds and nullahs allowed to be filled up for private gain? These questions are uncomfortable but critical. Every inch of natural drainage space taken over by the land mafia-and shielded by corrupt elements-translates into flooded homes and lost lives during extreme weather events. Ranbir Canal, the lifeline of irrigation in Jammu, overflowed and inundated low-lying areas, while banks of the Tawi collapsed at multiple points. The result? People lost their lifelong savings, their homes, and in some cases, their lives. This is not a natural disaster alone; it is a man-made catastrophe exacerbated by greed and incompetence. Repeated tragedies on the Vaishno Devi route and across the Jammu region have far-reaching consequences beyond the immediate loss of life and property. They erode public confidence in the safety of religious tourism, which forms the backbone of Jammu's economy. Local businesses, transporters, and hospitality sectors will suffer. Negative perceptions travel fast, and they tarnish the image of the region for years to come. The priority is immediate relief and rehabilitation. The administration must expedite door-to-door assessment of damages and ensure timely compensation for affected families. Agricultural losses, often ignored, must also be recorded and compensated. Farmers cannot be left to fend for themselves after losing crops and livestock. Simultaneously, a comprehensive urban flood management plan for Jammu is non-negotiable. This includes clearing all encroachments on flood channels, creating dedicated rainwater drainage systems, and revisiting construction norms. Illegal structures on riverbanks and khuds must be demolished, irrespective of political pressures. Accountability must go beyond tokenism-engineers, planners, and officials responsible for lapses should face strict action. Additionally, a robust pilgrimage safety mechanism must be instituted. This includes real-time weather monitoring and clear evacuation protocols. Pilgrimage should be suspended well before conditions turn dangerous-not after tragedy strikes. SMVDSB needs structural reforms and external audits to prioritise safety over optics. The administration must invest in climate resilience. With extreme weather events becoming more frequent due to climate change, it's time to shun old practices and think out of the box. The cost of inaction is far higher than the investment required for preparedness.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The inner fire is the most important thing mankind possesses."

- Edith Södergran

Will Tariff War with India change world order?



DR SUDERSHAN KUMAR

In the interconnected world of the 21st Century, economic relations have often dictated the tone of diplomacy and global power equations. The world once heavily reliant on cooperation through multilateral platforms like the world trade organization (WTO), is now witnessing a sharp rise in protectionist tendencies most widely through tariff wars. These wars once centered around super powers like USA and China have now expanded to include other major economies such as India. India's emergence as the fifth largest economy and a leader in the global South has drawn global attention. If the world or any major power enters in to a tariff war with India, it would not be just a bilateral tussle. It could set up off ripple effect that redefines global dynamics, alliances and economic structures. There fore it is utmost important to understand the tariff war, history beyond this, its impact on Indian economy and also the world order and future challenges. A tariff war is an economic conflict in which each country levies an additional tax on the other's exports. Tariff war generally start when the leadership of one country is unhappy with trade partner's trading behavior or for geopolitical reasons.

This war is in fact an economic battle between the countries, where they levy additional taxes on each other's exports. This tariff war is designed to hurt other countries economically as tariff's discourage the citizens of the importing country from buying the exporting country's product by raising the total cost of those products. It is a well known fact that tariff wars are mutually destructive over the long run, though they might offer some short term benefits. Historically trade and tariff systems are closely tied for economic, nationalism, imperialism and later industrial protectionism. Such wars impacted global economic stability, disrupted supply chains and altered the trajectory of globalization. During Roman empires (200BC-400BCE), Rome imposed taxes on global goods like silk imported from china via intermediaries. During this period, the tariff imposition on foreign traders was quite common for revenue collection and regulation. Islamic empires (600AD-1100AD) levied duties on goods passing through trade hubs like Baghdad, Cairo, and Damascus. During the period of 1500 AD-1700AD, Mercantilism, a dominant economic theory in Europe focused building wealthy and powerful states through governmental control of economy. This system emphasized maximizing exports and minimizing imports, accumulating wealth in the form of gold and silver. Colonial powers like Britain and France heavily taxed colonial exports and imports. Navigation Act (1651-1849) was enforced by England to restrict colonial trade tariff conflicts especially with

Dutchs and later on with Americans. In the year 1930 USA enacted Smoot-Halely tariff act and raised tariff on 20,000 goods to protect farmers. This unilateral action of U.S. triggered global tariff war. Countries like Canada and European nations retaliated. This depend the great depression. As a result the global trade collapsed. The Smoot-Hawley tariff act 1930 is generally credited with severely exacerbating the great depression leading to an elections of Franklin D Roosevelt, who in 1934 signed the reciprocal trade agreement that reduced and liberalized trade with Foreign governments. It is not out of context to mention here that Donald Trump was one of the few Presidential candidate to speak about trade inequalities and tariff in 2016. He vowed to take tough line against the international trading partners especially China to help American Blue-collar workers displaced by what he described as unfair trade practices. When he took office in 2017 his administration first targeted solar panels and washing machines. In March 2018 tariffs of 25% were added to imported Steel and 10% on imported Aluminum. During the first of tenure of Donald Trump, several countries were exempted but at the same time Trump announced that U.S. government would apply tariff of 50 billion worth of Chinese import in 2018. That led back and forth tariff announcement and the Chinese retaliated in early April 2018 with 15% to 25% imports from USA. Donald Trump second term began with a broader and more assertive frame work, applying tariff not only as a economic levers but also a strategic tools, in negotiations on technology transfer, labour standards, and geopolitical alignment.

The scenario from 1 Jan 1 to Aug 11, 2025 depicts an administration eager to escalate tariff measures quickly. Key parameters specified are: Universal Base Tariff (10% on all imports to create level playing field. Sectorial Tariff Escalations (additional 15-25% tariff on steel, Aluminium and electronic sectors) Country Specific Action List (China, Vietnam, Mexico, India are placed under review category). Energy and Green Tech Tariff (Tariff imposed on solar panels, Wind Turbine and EV batteries citing strategic industrial independence). In this scenario, India finds itself in a nuanced position in this imagined tariff landscape. Unlike China, with which the US has an openly adversarial trade relationship. India is both strategic partner (in defence Indo-Pacific security and a competitive exporter in several high value sectors. Keeping this factor into consideration, India also started trade talks with U.S. Government on equal terms mutually beneficial to each other. After five rounds of negotiations (latest mid July, 2025) talks to finalize a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) remained unfinished. This may be because of unreasonable demand by American govern-

ment to push genetically modified agricultural products into Indian markets.

This was not at all acceptable to India. Because it would had seriously affected our farmers agricultural produce, dairy owners and fishermen. It is a well known fact that India is a Krishi Pradhan Desh" (India is an agrarians country). Significant portion of Indian population relies on agricultural for their livelihood. As a result USA has initially imposed 25% reciprocal tariff from 1st August 2025 and then doubled it to 50% in early August.

This additional 25% serves as punitive response to India's continued Russian oil import. This additional levy of tax on Indian goods seems to be totally unreasonable and can be considered as attack on over strategic autonomy. Present Indian Government decision not to buckle under any pressure is laudable. The 1.40 billions Indian must stand behind the Government to protect the interest of the country especially farmers dairy owners and fishermen. It is also true that India as an emerging economy and strategic player in Asia, is deeply affected by the global tariff war scenario.

The impacts are both challenging and opportunistic: (i) Export slow down.: India's major export sectors textile, chemicals, electronics and auto components may face disruptions due to rising protectionism globally, ii) Tariff hikes on imports can also hurt Indian consumer. For example, increased duties on electronic components, crude oil, or fertilizers may lead to inflation, affecting household and small business. To respond strategically to the changing world order induced by tariff wars, India and other global players must adopt a multi-prong strategy. First, India must diversify both export destinations and import sources, reducing over reliance on one single country / market. Strengthening ties with ASEAN, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe can provide resilience; Second, strengthening of domestic infrastructure is absolutely essential. Initiatives such as Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self reliant India) must be deepened. Investments in high tech sectors, skill development and ease of doing business are key to creating globally competitive industries. Third, push for WTO reforms. India should lead the voice of Global South in revitalizing multilateral trade institute, ensuring that rules are fair and reflect the interest both developed and developing countries. Fourth, partnering with neighbouring nations and friendly countries for becoming a hub for regional values is also the need of the hour. Fifth, India should invest heavily in research and development, intellectual property generation and digital infrastructure to reduce the dependence on imported technologies and become a tech power. The author is of the opinion, the rise in tariff war is not a temporary friction in global trade. It signals a deeper, systematic change in the way nations approach economic politics and diplomacy. The liberal rule based order, championed after world war-II is giving way to a more realistic fragmented and multi polar economic order, where national interest over rides collective global good.

While tariff war pose challenges to global stability, it also present new opportunities for a country like India. This is a strategic moment to reposition it self on the global map, both economically and geopolitically. The key lies in being agile, diplomatic and self reliant while building partnerships that ensure long term stability. It is also true that tariff war have the potential to change the new world order, but whether that leads to a more equitable or fractured world depends on the choices made by rising power like India. Navigating new path with clarity, caution and vision will determine not just national success but global harmony. There is also a caution for those, who are raising its tariff on imports and exports of goods unilaterally may

face retaliatory action from other nations, which may prove detrimental to their economies and the inflation may rise beyond their expectation. If this trend among nations continued it may lead to a precarious situation. As a result of this, in this tariff war among nations global trade may collapse and end up 1930 like situation of deep depression and collapse of world order.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Most rich Indian billionaires are quitting London over tax and safety reasons and some leaving America as they don't like Trump. They're eyeing Dubai, Singapore, Portugal, Switzerland... not one I know is thinking of returning to India as an option. Why? That's the question we need to search our hearts for.

~ Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG Enterprises

JAISHANKAR AND DONALD TRUMP: DIGNITY VS TARIFF

BRIG DR VIJAY SAGAR DHEMAN

The world is undergoing a fundamental transformation in global alliances, characterised not by military conflict or economic sanctions, but by a more personal assertion of national dignity. The once-predictable dynamics among powerful nations are being reformulated. India is positioned centrally as an emerging global power that is no longer content with the role of a "silent partner."

For many years, people saw India as a nation that listened more than it spoke, a polite and cooperative country patiently waiting for its turn. Many viewed it as a developing nation with busy streets and poverty, lacking the strong ambition to rise that its people should have had. But times have changed. Today, India is the world's fastest-growing major economy, outpacing giants like Germany, Japan, and even the U.S. It has also created the third-largest startup ecosystem worldwide, with over 70,000 new businesses launched since 2016. Now, India is about building industries, not just creating jobs. It's a land of innovative capital, billion-dollar valuations, and green energy revolutions going beyond its reputation for low-cost labour.

This shift became even more noticeable during the interactions between President Donald Trump and India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar. Trump, a lead-

er known for his diplomatic style rooted in chemistry, admiration, and obedience, was up against a strong and confident opponent. While Trump was accustomed to commanding the room, Jaishankar's presence showed that India was ready to be heard, not just to follow.

The tension reached a breaking point during a high-stakes meeting where Trump's aides pressed for quick concessions. Jaishankar, however, stood firm, confidently saying "no" to tariffs, tech transfers, and defence procurement demands. He refused to let India be "twisted" and challenged the idea that his country could be controlled or manipulated.

This wasn't a rejection of partnership but rather an assertion of India's independence; it was about standing up for what he believed was right. For Trump, this felt like a personal rebuff rather than a policy disagreement, which was a sharp turn in their relationship. The tone of their interactions shifted immediately, leading to delays in trade and defence agreements, but it also underscored India's commitment to its stance.

The fallout was apparent. The U.S. decided to revoke India's GSP trade benefits, highlighting the tension between the 'America First' policy and India's push for self-reliance. India's choice to purchase the S-400 missile system from Russia and its neutral stance

on Ukraine underline its strong emphasis on 'strategic autonomy,' which has become a core part of its national identity.

This moment was not about policy failure but about one individual's refusal to retreat. Dr. Jaishankar, a dedicated diplomat and proud nationalist, recognised that protecting national interests is what truly matters, and he understands that in politics, there are no permanent friends or enemies. He has become a shining example of a New India that values dignity above all. His firm stand has challenged the old ways and shown the world that sometimes, a gentle but firm voice-guided by strong principles and careful strategy-can make a big difference globally.

The message is clear: India is no longer just asking for a seat at the table but actively claiming its rightful place.

This exciting new chapter in Indian diplomacy highlights a nation on the rise, rebuilding its prestige and prosperity, and confidently stepping forward as a strong, independent force on the world stage.

In the ultimate analysis, it wasn't a war or sanctions. It was ego versus sovereignty: Trump, fuelled by loyalty and ego, and Jaishankar, powered by principle and strategy. This wasn't about policy failure; it was about one individual refusing to shrink, upholding the newly 'RE-AQUIRED STATUS' of a great nation, INDIA, and that refusal ech-

oed worldwide.

Not only did this man, Dr S Jaishanker, live up to the situation, but he promptly started promoting the dialogues with the UK, EU, Brazil, Russia, Mexico, and even with China to offset all the damage Trump was to impose on India.

The alliance between Russia, India, China (RIC), and BRICS came into sharp focus, at least in commercial interests, harming the core of the USA. The USA was to sell billions of dollars' worth of military hardware to India. Now that goes to other countries like Russia, France and Israel. The USA badly needs India as a pivot in Indo-Pacific to counter China's hegemonic overtures. Let's see how that plays out in the near future. In diplomatic overtures on the contemporary geopolitical stage, "There are no permanent friends or permanent enemies." It's just your national interests. And Dr S. Jaishankar understands that better than anyone else.

So, remember this moment the next time one feels pressure to compromise and be accepted by the West. One man, one voice, one stand, changed everything. Because that's how mindsets shift, that's how nations rise. And that's how one quiet voice can echo across the entire world. And that's what contemporary India is re-writing the lost prestige and prosperity it once enjoyed when it was titled "SONE KI CHIDIA."

If she comes back to Assam, she will be handled as per law: Assam CM

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday warned of legal action against former Planning Commission member and social activist Syeda Hameed, who has come under fire for making remarks in favour of Bangladeshi migrants, if she visits the north-eastern state.

While addressing a press conference, Sarma ruled out the possibility of filing an FIR against Hameed and said that it would only "enrich" her. However, he stated that it would be a different matter if someone else filed one.

"I don't think we should file any FIR against her because she will collect contributions from different parts of the country to fight the cases. She will be only



enriched. If she comes back to Assam, we will do whatever is

required. As of now, I am not thinking of any FIR. If some people give FIR, it is a different matter. But if she comes back to Assam again, she will be handled with due respect, but as per law," Sarma said.

Sarma was responding to a question that cited Hameed's statement in yesterday's event in Delhi, where she remarked, "Assam has become like a Frankenstein, like a monster. This has become a dangerous place."

On August 26, a group of people, including members of the Hindu Sena, stormed the venue of the event, carrying placards and chanting slogans such as "Bharat Mata ki Jai," "Jai Shri Ram," and "Bangladeshiyon ko bahar nikalo," and so on, forcing a brief commotion.

Former IAS officer Harsh Mander was also present at the event on the evictions and detentions in Assam, organised at the Constitution Club of India by a "People's Tribunal" on Assam.

Hameed's remarks, made earlier in a video, had triggered the controversy.

In the viral video, Hameed is heard saying, "What is wrong with being Bangladeshi? Bangladeshis are humans too, and the world is so big; they can live here (in India). They are not depriving anyone of their rights. Saying that they are depriving someone of their rights is troublesome, extremely mischievous and detrimental to humanity."

Her remarks, which went viral on social media on Sunday, have drawn sharp criticism.

Responding to the ruckus created by the protesters on Tuesday, Syeda Hameed said that there was a need to remain conscious while fearing the spread of such a crowd, causing disruptions.

"A crowd had entered here. I was a small kid at the time of the partition, but the intensity of that crowd (that entered the venue)... Constitution Club is such a dignified setting, and then a crowd suddenly burst in, giving me a flashback of what my parents and others experienced in Panipat during the partition. I fear that this will spread to the whole of India. That is something which we have to be very conscious of," Hameed later said while addressing a press conference.

Cotton University students block VC office, protest against administrative delays



GUWAHATI

Students of Cotton University in Assam staged a protest on Wednesday, expressing frustration over what they described as the administration's failure to address long-standing issues. Dressed in black and carrying placards, including one reading "Missing VC", the demonstrators blocked the entrance to the Vice Chancellor's office. The students raised several concerns, including the non-issuance of identity cards for third-semester students for over a year, which has hindered access to campus facilities and participation in examinations. "It's been a year since we joined, yet we still don't have identity cards. This is basic, and the university should have addressed it long back," said one protester.

Another key demand was the timely declaration of results. Students pointed out that the results of the back/betterment examination for fifth-semester graduates have been pending for eight months. Sanitation and hygiene on campus also featured prominently in the protest. Students claimed that despite repeated submissions of memorandums, basic amenities such as washrooms and clean drinking water remain inadequate.

Many existing water filters are reportedly dysfunctional or unchecked, leaving students without access to safe drinking water.

The university authorities are yet to respond to the protesters' demands.

NITI Aayog burst Himanta's 'Vision Assam' bubble: Gaurav Gogoi

GUWAHATI

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, on August 27, hit out at the state government, alleging that a recent NITI Aayog report has exposed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's much-publicised "Vision Assam".

Taking to his official X handle, Gogoi said the BJP-led state government should focus on issues like education, health and hunger, instead of "chasing hollow records".

"The latest NITI Aayog survey has exposed the reality behind CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's so-called 'Vision Assam'. On key development goals, Assam ranks among the bottom five states in India," the Congress leader said.

He pointed out that Assam stood 26th on the health and well-being index, 25th on quality education and 22nd for zero hun-



ger among the Indian states.

"This shows the reality of Assam's health and education sectors, despite years of tall promises and propaganda by the BJP government," said Gogoi, also the Deputy Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha.

"Instead of chasing hollow records, the government must focus on urgent issues like education, health, and hunger. It is time every Assamese stands up and questions this neglect of our future," he added.

Tripura achieves full railway electrification on 271 km track

AGARTALA

Tripura achieved full electrification of its 271 km railway network 132 KV transmission lines inaugurated at Agartala Railway Station Complex. Railway broad gauge conversion and Bangladesh link completed since 2014.

The Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) has successfully completed 100 per cent electrification of the state's 271 km railway network, Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath announced on August 27.

Inaugurating the 132 KV transmission lines and feeder bays for railway traction electrification at the Agartala Railway Station Complex, Minister Nath recalled the state's railway journey. He said that the first train



reached Dharmanagar in 1964. After a long gap of 44 years, the service extended to Agartala in 2008 and further reached Sabroom in 2019.

"Within just seven years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, Tripura's railway network underwent a complete transformation. The old meter gauge line was converted into broad gauge,

and the international railway link from Agartala to Akhaura in Bangladesh was completed in 2023. Today, the state has a total of 271 km broad gauge line from Churaibari to Sabroom," Nath stated.

He further informed that under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, modernization work is ongoing at Agartala, Udaipur, Kumarghat, and Dharmanagar stations. Currently, 19 long-distance trains operate from Tripura, including Rajdhani Express, Humsafar Express, Tripurasundari Express, Jan Shatabdi, Kanchanjunga Express, and Garib Rath, along with four DEMU trains serving nearly 12,000 passengers daily.

Highlighting the ongoing expansion, the minister said that survey work for a double line

across the state is nearly complete.

"Railways have evolved with time—first coal, then diesel, and now electricity. Coal and diesel pollute the environment, while electrification ensures sustainability. Out of India's 69,500 km of broad gauge lines, 68,600 km are electrified, covering over 98.8%. Today, Tripura proudly joins this network with its fully electrified 271 km line. Now, whenever the Central Government and NFR decide, electric trains can immediately run from Churaibari to Sabroom," he added.

Nath also stressed the importance of renewable energy, announcing that 45 charging stations are being set up across Tripura to support the growing demand for green power.

Nagaland's Kezoma village to host first-ever Ochu Millet Festival

KOHIMA

Kezoma village, in Nagaland's Kohima district is set to host the first edition of the Ochu Millet Festival on August 30, at the village ground.

The festival is being jointly organised by the Kezoma Village Council in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland.

Y. Vikheho Swu, President of NDDP Agri & Allied Organization and Managing Director of Okusa Toyota, will grace the occasion as the special guest.

The event will showcase millets and other organic vegetables produced by the villagers. The millet available at the festival was harvested earlier in July this year, and will be put on sale



alongside various activities planned for the day.

Millet holds deep cultural significance for the people of Kezoma. Traditionally, the crop's harvest is celebrated through the Chünnyi festi-

val, during which villagers offer the first yield to the spirits in reverence. Chünnyi is a two-day event—the first day, Kide (Kizie), is marked by rituals, while the second, Kreuo zha, is observed as a day of rest and cele-

bration.

The festival also carries agricultural importance. It is believed to usher in rainfall for paddy cultivation, and in the past, even neighbouring villages would request Kezoma to perform Chünnyi prayers to invoke rain.

During Chünnyi, each household traditionally slaughtered a dog or piglet, sharing the meat as a way to replenish strength after the harvest. While many of these rituals are no longer practiced today, the spirit of the celebration endures.

The introduction of the Ochu Millet Festival, organisers said, is aimed at reviving and preserving this age-old tradition, while also promoting millet as a nutritious, sustainable crop and passing the cultural heritage to younger generations.

Manipur police arrest two militants from banned outfits, seize major arms cache

IMPHAL

Manipur police have arrested three militants from banned organisations and recovered a significant cache of weapons across multiple operations in Manipur over two days, dealing a major blow to insurgent activities in the region.

The arrests targeted active members of the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP-PWG) and Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), two prominent insurgent groups operating in the state.

On August 26, forces apprehended Suraj Oinam, also known by aliases Chingkhomba and Abungo, a 23-year-old active cadre of KCP-PWG. The arrest took place in the Chanchipur area under Singjamei Police Station jurisdiction in Imphal West district. Oinam, originally from Singjamei Oinam Thingel, was reportedly staying at Lamshang Mayai Leikai.

The following day, security personnel arrested Sarangthem Ibombha Meitei, operating under the alias Luwangba, from his residence at Itham Wangma Mayai Leikai. The 22-year-old KYKL member was taken into custody under Thoubal Dam

Police Station limits in Imphal East district, with officials recovering a mobile phone from his possession.

In a separate operation targeting criminal networks, forces arrested V Shiva, also known as Ishwar Pandey, a 36-year-old resident of Moreh Ward 4. Authorities linked him to extensive extortion activities targeting goods transporters, businessmen and commercial establishments, along with arms smuggling operations supplying weapons to criminal elements in the Moreh area.

The operations coincided with major weapons recoveries that revealed the scale of militant armament in the region. Security forces discovered a substantial arsenal in jungle areas between Maohing and Changpoung villages under Kangpokpi Police Station on August 27.

The recovered cache included high-powered weapons such as US-made M16 rifles with magazines and ammunition, looted .303 rifles, light machine gun components, multiple pistols including US-made variants, and improvised explosive devices. Officials also seized communication equipment including radio sets and protective gear.

ED seizes Rs 7 lakh cash, freezes bank accounts in Rs 200 cr money laundering case linked to Tripura man

AGARTALA

Lukanand Kshetrimayum—widely The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Agartala Sub-Zonal Office, has seized cash worth Rs 7 lakh and frozen bank accounts containing around Rs 60 lakh during search operations carried out on August 26 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The searches were carried out at multiple locations in Tripura, Delhi, Haryana, and West Bengal in connection with an ongoing investigation against Utpal Kumar Chowdhury of Tripura.

The ED said they have initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by West Bengal Police against Utpal Kumar Chowdhury.

"ED investigation revealed that he had set up a web of entities/ concerns where the names resemble to the government or PSU entities ie. Directorate of Higher Education Tripura, Bridge and Roof Company and Directorate of Apparel Council of India. By incorporating concerns or company names similar to or resembling with a reputed govt. entities and PSUs he had induced the public to invest money in such duplicate concerns. He had impersonated



as high rank officer in Govt. of India and cheated various persons on the basis of false assurance of availing govt. contracts. Projecting himself as head of Directorate of Higher Education of Tripura, he cheated many education institutes on the promise of sending students to their institutes from Tripura and also cheated many individual on the false promise of giving fender of mid-day meal in various institutes under the Directorate of Higher Education of Tripura", said the press statement.

It said that Utpal had also fraudulently took over the control of a NGO named M/s Chaltakhali Swamiji Seva Sangha registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act and opened its

bank account to launder the money of various persons.

"It was found that through the circuitous web of transactions in such bank accounts the money was laundered through false entres. Primary investigation reveals that more than Rs 200 Crore have been laundered through the Chaltakhali Swamiji Seva Sangh to different entities/ concerns situated at Haryana, Kolkata and Delhi under the facade of bogus business of rubber with the rented bank accounts. The rubber business shown in Tripura by Utpal Kumar Chowdhury and his accomplices in various states was found to be bogus as the actual sale/purchase of rubber was not there and only on papers the sale/purchase was shown.

Also no details of transportation of rubber goods were found. The above trust was utilised to give entries to the above entities and in many instances huge amounts have been withdrawn in cash after laundering the proceeds", it reads.

ED, in the press statement, pointed out that Utpal Kumar Chowdhury had close proximity with senior officer(s) of Govt of Tripura who used to introduce him as officer of High rank to various businessmen. Through such acquaintance with the businessmen, he had cheated them on false promises to get various govt. contract to them. Enquiries revealed that large sums of money were paid to such senior officers of the Govt of Tripura.

"During search, various incriminating digital and physical evidences, stamps of various departments of Govt of Tripura i.e. Food, Civil Supplies and consumer Department, Directorate of Higher Education, Directorate of Higher Education Elementary School, other PSUs and fake IDs of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India was found and seized. Further, the cash of Rs. 7 Lakh were seized and bank accounts having total balance of approx. Rs. 60 Lakh were frozen. Incriminating evidence has been found with regards to investment in real estate and lands in various places of Tripura. Utpal Kumar Chaudhary is currently in Haryana Jail. Further investigation is under progress", it added.

Quest!

Coffee is the second most traded commodity on Earth after oil.

KRC

North East Integration Rally 2026

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Join as an Intern@
North East Integration Rally 2026

WHO CAN JOIN

- HS to PG Students

WHAT YOU GET

- Certificates + Paid Internship*
- KRC Placement Membership

APPLY NOW <https://bit.ly/nejrinternshipform>
E: Seforsuccess@gmail.com

9330830083 www.northeastintegrationrally.in

India must impose higher tariffs on US imports: Arvind Kejriwal



NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday demanded that India impose higher tariffs on US imports and asserted that the whole country will support this decision.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal alleged that the BJP-led Central government has decided to waive off 11 per cent duty on cotton imported from the US, which could impact the business of local farmers here.

There was no immediate reaction from the Central government.

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision could prove detrimental to India's farmers, the AAP chief demanded that the government impose higher tariffs on US imports.

"Other countries did not bow down, they imposed higher tariffs. We should also

impose higher tariffs.

If the US is imposing 50 per cent tariffs, we should double it to 100 per cent. The whole country will support this decision. No country can afford to offend India. We are a nation of 140 crore people," he said.

The government on Thursday extended duty-free import of cotton by three more months till December 31 to support textile exporters facing steep 50 per cent tariffs in the US.

Earlier, on August 18, the Ministry of Finance had allowed duty exemption on cotton imports from August 19 till September 30.

"India used to impose 11 per cent duty on cotton imported from America.

But the Modi government has decided to waive off this duty from August 19 till September 30.

This means that textile industries will get cheaper cotton.

When our cotton will come in the market for sale in October, there would be few takers," Kejriwal claimed.

The farmers of Telangana, Punjab, Vidarbha and Gujarat will be highly impacted by this decision, he said. "We all know that US President Donald Trump has imposed 50 per cent tariffs. We should have increased the 11 per cent duty to 50 per cent and not waived it off completely," he added.

Kejriwal said his party wants the Centre to reimpose the 11 per cent duty on American cotton.

"On September 7, the AAP will hold a huge public meeting in Chotila, Gujarat over the issue.

I urge all the political parties and farmers' organisations to raise this issue.

The farmers in Chotila are going to be heavily impacted by this decision of the Central government," the AAP chief said.

Modi's image 'product of his friends with deep pockets,' alleges Rahul Gandhi at Bihar rally; calls PM 'hollow'

DARBHANGA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday sought to berate Prime Minister Narendra Modi over US President Donald Trump's claim that India had agreed to halt military conflict with Pakistan "within five hours" of an ultimatum from America.

The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, whose fortnight-long 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar has three more days to go, covered north Bihar districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi, all strongholds of the BJP-led NDA.

Addressing a rally in Sitamarhi's Rumni Saidpur late in the evening, before calling it a day, Gandhi said, "What type of Prime Minister do we have? He brags of having a 56-inch chest. But US President Donald Trump says that while Operation Sindoor was on, he called up Modi and told him to stop the military conflict within 24 hours. And Modi, like a deflated tyre (hawa nikal gayi), obeyed the command within five hours."

The former Congress president alleged that it only proves Modi is a coward.

"His (Modi's) image is a product of his friends with deep pockets. He also receives some help from the media, which spends 10 days telecasting the wedding of a wealthy man's son, but cannot spare 15 minutes for our Yatra in which lakhs of people are turning up daily," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader claimed that when he challenged Modi in Parliament recently to call the bluff of Trump, he could not muster the courage to utter a word.

"I have met him a number of times. He seems hollow. A far cry from real heroes like Mahatma Gandhi who never boasted of a 56-inch chest," the Congress leader said.



"Just imagine the pressure Mahatma Gandhi must have faced from the British Empire which was then a superpower. They placed him in jails, kept him in solitary confinement. But he stuck to his principles," he said.

The Congress leader also alleged that the 'Gujarat model' which had helped the rise of Modi, its then chief minister, on the national stage, "was all about vote chori (theft of votes)."

"It is the model (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah must have had in his mind when he had predicted that the BJP would rule the country for 30-40 years. Politicians like us know it well that public mood is fickle and we cannot be sure of what is going to happen tomorrow," claimed Gandhi.

He said the Congress had begun to suspect something was amiss when it lost the assembly polls in Maharashtra, just a month after the Lok Sabha elections in

which the alliance, of which the party was a part, had swept the western state.

"We polled as many votes in the Maharashtra assembly polls as we had in the Lok Sabha elections. But the BJP-led coalition saw a steep rise in its vote tally, which was commensurate with the number of new voters added to the electoral rolls within a span of a few months. Our request for access to CCTV footage of the elections was turned down by the Election Commission," said Gandhi.

In this image received on Aug. 27, 2025, LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the gathering during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', in Bihar.

"Voter Adhikar Yatra aims to fight for people's rights," says Priyanka Gandhi

"In about six months from now, we will come out with many such disclosures which would establish that vote chori has been on in most places

across the country. Even in the Lok Sabha polls, there were manipulations in 70-80 seats," said Gandhi, referring to last year's general elections which saw the BJP falling short of a majority and forming the government with the help of allies like JD(U) and TDP.

Gandhi, who has been accompanied by alliance partners Tejashwi Yadav (RJD) and Dipankar Bhattacharya (CPI ML Liberation) all through the Yatra, began the day with a motorcycle rally which saw his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Vadra pillion riding the bike he drove.

Vadra, who left in the afternoon, had been with the Yatra since Tuesday when she also addressed a public meeting in Madhubani.

In Muzaffarpur, the leaders were joined by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin, who told a rally that the deletion of 65 lakh voters' names from the draft electoral rolls in Bihar, as part of special intensive revision, was "worse than terrorism."

The rally also served as an ice-breaker as young Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar was seen shaking hands with Tejashwi Yadav.

The perceived "rivalry" between the two leaders has been a matter of much speculation in a section of the media. The BJP sought to fish in the INDIA bloc's troubled waters by raking up controversial statements made by Stalin and his cabinet colleagues against the people of Bihar.

A number of video clips were shared by former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai on social media.

In addition, BJP workers in Patna burnt an effigy of Stalin and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who had joined the Yatra a day ago and has been similarly accused of having belittled Bihar.

INTERNATIONAL

'Nuke India', 'Kill Donald Trump' scribbled on gun used in Minneapolis Catholic school shooting that killed two children



WASHINGTON

A gunman who opened fire through the windows of a Catholic church in Minneapolis and struck children celebrating Mass during the first week of school had the words "Nuke India" and "Kill Donald Trump" inscribed on his weapons, according to video footage circulating online.

The shooter, identified as Robin Westman, 23, of Minnesota, opened fire at the Annunciation Catholic School

on Wednesday, killing two children aged 8 and 10, and injuring 17 others. Westman reportedly died by suicide shortly after the attack.

Footage shared on social media appears to show Westman displaying a cache of weapons, including rifles, handguns, and loaded magazines.

The phrase "Nuke India" was clearly visible in white lettering on one of the firearms. The magazines were marked with other inflammatory messages such as 'Kill Donald Trump',

'Kill Trump Now', 'Israel Must Fall' and 'Burn Israel'.

At least two videos were uploaded to a YouTube channel titled "Robin W" prior to the attack. One of the videos, approximately 10 minutes long and shot on a mobile phone, displayed several firearms and large quantities of ammunition.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is treating the incident as an act of domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics,

said FBI Director Kash Patel. He confirmed the shooter's identity as Robin Westman, who was born as Robert Westman.

According to court records, Westman legally changed name and gender in 2020 and identified as a transgender woman.

The incident has reignited debate in the United States over the easy availability of firearms and the increasing frequency of school shootings.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been at least 287 mass shootings in the country this year alone.

In a post on social media platform X, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem described the attack as "unthinkable" and noted that the suspect was "claiming to be transgender."

However, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey urged restraint in public discourse, warning against the scapegoating of transgender individuals. "Anybody who is using this tragedy as an opportunity to vilify our trans community, or any other community, has lost their sense of common humanity," he told reporters.

"We have more guns in this country than people. We can't continue to express outrage after every shooting and then allow it to happen again and again," he added.

The attack drew widespread condemnation and expressions of grief. U.S. President Donald Trump ordered flags at the White House to be flown at half-staff.

Pope Leo XIV, the first American to head the Catholic Church, said he was "profoundly saddened" by the events.

Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro blames India for prolonging Ukraine war, calls it 'Modi's war'



WASHINGTON

White House Trade Advisor Peter Navarro has stirred another controversy by calling the Russia-Ukraine conflict "Modi's war," blaming India's continued oil trade with Moscow for prolonging the conflict.

In an interview with Bloomberg, Navarro accused India of undercutting global efforts to isolate Russia. He claimed that India's discounted oil purchases from Russia are indirectly forcing the US and Europe to fund Ukraine's defense.

"Ukraine comes to us and Europe and says give us more money. Everybody in America loses because of what India is

doing. Consumers lose, businesses lose, workers lose because of high Indian tariffs. And the taxpayer? They fund Modi's war," said Navarro.

He also slammed India for asserting its sovereignty in energy decisions, calling the stance "arrogant."

"India, you're the biggest democracy in the world. Act like one. Side with the democracies," Navarro urged, taking a jab at India's ties with Russia and China, whom he labelled "authoritarians."

Navarro's remarks follow the implementation of steep 50% tariffs on Indian goods by the Trump administration, half of which he says are tied to India's oil and arms imports from Russia.

India's Ministry of External Affairs called the move "extremely unfortunate," emphasizing that its energy decisions are market-driven and essential for securing fuel for its 1.4 billion people.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hit back, pointing out the hypocrisy in Washington's stance.

"We are not the biggest buyer of Russian oil, that's China. Nor of LNG, that's the EU. We were actually encouraged to stabilise global energy markets, including through Russian oil purchases.

The logic now being used against us is perplexing," he said during a press briefing in Moscow.

No Compromise: India Needs a Win-Win Trade Pact

To those who ask, "Is all this really worth it? Why can't domestic demand fill the gap?", it is important to remind them that only 13 economies since the Second World War have grown at 7 per cent or more for 25 years - like India needs to.

They all had one thing in common: Strong export growth underpinned by strong global engagement, explains Sajjid Z Chinoy.

The global trading order has been upended more dramatically than even the sceptics had envisioned under Trump 2.0.

A multilateral, rules-based system has been uprooted and replaced with coercive bilateral mercantilism.

What's worse, tariffs have been weaponised for reasons far beyond trade.

From fentanyl to judicial rulings in sovereign countries, to purchases of crude, to geopolitical proclivities - everything is now fair game.

The implication is a byzantine spaghetti bowl of tariffs imposed by the United States. Consequently, the US effective tariff rate is creeping up towards 18 per cent - levels last seen in the 1930s.

But US equity markets continue their unabated march forward. Markets keep believing the president will pull back if economic outcomes become pernicious.

In turn, the administration looks at buoyant markets, seeks comfort and keeps pushing ahead. Eventually something will have to give.

Weak job numbers in the US in recent months may well be the canary in the coal mine. There's never a free lunch in economics.

As the German economist Rudi Dornbusch once noted, "Things take longer to happen than you think they will, and then happen faster than you thought they could."

Meanwhile, India is the latest country in the crosshairs. Tariffs have been doubled to 50 per cent. Given the sectoral tariffs and exemptions, the effective tariff on Indian imports is 34 per cent, lower only than China (42 per cent).

Given India's repeated efforts to seek a deal, the capriciousness of US policy has understandably elicited a strong reaction in India, with some commentators urging authorities to look the US in the eye, others proposing a boycott of US goods, and yet others suggesting India reciprocate with a 50 per cent tariff, thereby moving up the escalation ladder.

But discretion is often the better part of valour.

While India's response will undoubtedly have to take into account the economic and geopolitical calculus, it's important to be clear about the economic costs of living with a 50 per cent tariff on exports to the US - our largest export market.

The focus by commentators thus far has been relatively narrow and static - only looking at India's goods exports to the US, which are 2.2 per cent of GDP, accounting for 20 per cent of India's merchandise exports.

Calculations go something like this: Almost 30 per cent of India's exports to the US (electronics, pharmaceuticals) are exempt, and the import content in several other sectors (gems and jewellery) is high, so the domestic value-add currently exposed to the US is lower, around 1.1 per cent of GDP.

Based on this, analysts take comfort that the hit to growth would be a few tens of basis points.

But such a static analysis is missing several components:

* If India's tariffs remain at 50 per cent and competitors (Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh) are much lower at 19-20 per cent, India's exports to the US will face an existential risk over time.

* There will then be second-round impacts. Fifty per cent of India's exports to the US are in labour-intensive sectors (textiles and clothing, gems and jewellery).

These are heavy job creators, and so a stall in exports will have a knock-on impact on employment and consumption.

* The elephant in the room is service exports. India's services export to the US is estimated around 6 per cent of GDP - almost thrice as large as goods exports - and is key to white-collar jobs and urban consumption.

For those arguing that India should retaliate and escalate, what if President Trump responds with a tax on India's service exports and global capability centres (GCCs)? Given the manner in which Nvidia and AMD were taxed at 15 per cent for chip sales in China, anything is possible in this environment.

So India needs to be



careful not to move up the escalation ladder.

* Most of all, the medium-term costs of not having a trade deal with the US with comparable (ideally, lower) tariffs to the rest of Asia could be felt on investment and foreign direct investment (FDI).

Until recently, the expectation was India would attract lower tariffs than many of our Asean neighbours who are seen as potential Chinese transshipment hubs to the US.

A tariff differential in India's favour, coupled with the need to diversify, would serve as powerful push factors to invest in India.

We would then benefit from this 'China+1' impulse and better integrate into global value chains.

The long-term absence of a US-India trade deal could jeopardise those prospects, the associated FDI, technology transfer, and animal spirits.

Of course, India must only agree to a deal if it creates a win-win - the foundational underpinning of trade - and is in the national interest.

But when evaluating any sectoral economic costs under a deal, it's important to recognise the economic costs of not having a deal.

These costs will likely be larger than the estimates put out and can only be expected to rise over time.

These considerations must not be lost on negotiators as they prepare for the next round of talks.

Of course, striking a deal will require tough bargaining as recent months have shown. Can diversifying away from Russian oil be a quick way of getting closer to a deal? Not really.

Those who argue that the Russian discount has fallen to less than about \$5 per barrel and, therefore, the cost of moving away is less than 0.1 per cent of GDP, are missing the general equilibrium impact in the oil market.

If India were to move its 1.7 million barrels a day away from Russian supply, it's very unlikely that either US shale or Opec will be able to increase supply commensurate with that.

The implication: Crude prices will rise sharply around the world with its attendant consequences, whether adversely impacting India's current account deficit or pushing up US gasoline prices and impinging on the US consumer.

So moving away from Russian oil to secure a deal is not a panacea. Instead, negotiators will need to go back to the drawing board and look for mutually beneficial outcomes.

India stands to gain from preferential access to US markets in labour-intensive sectors.

The US stands to gain from India lowering tariffs on a host of sectors, barring the very sensitive ones.

The very essence of comparative advantage is it can create several win-win opportunities during negotiations.

To those who ask, "Is all this really worth it? Why can't domestic demand fill the gap?", it is important to remind them that only 13 economies since the Second World War have grown at 7 per cent or more for 25 years - like

India needs to.

They all had one thing in common: Strong export growth underpinned by strong global engagement.

The size of the global market was the key source of demand in each case.

So we cannot succumb to the prevailing export pessimism. Instead, we must double down on our efforts to reach a trade deal with the US so as to complement the UK deal and a potential Euro area trade deal.

More fundamentally, growth in an era of rising protectionism will need economic reforms more than ever before.

Only productivity-enhancing reforms will increase the competitiveness of India's exports and its global market share at a time when global trade is subject to such disruption. Only sustained economic reforms will unleash other growth drivers at a time when exports are facing headwinds.

India's economic history is replete with examples of external shocks opening up space for domestic reforms.

We must seize the moment.

Now is the time to announce the deregulation commission - with a broad mandate and strict timelines; to implement the four Labour Codes; to double down on privatisation and disinvestment; simplify and rationalise the GST slabs; and expedite the India-Euro trade deal.

These will send an unmistakable signal that India is open for business.

In the near term, supportive fiscal and

monetary policies may be needed as a balm. Until any deal is reached, targeted sectoral fiscal support, liquidity and credit lines/guarantees can temporarily cushion the blow for exporters.

Meanwhile, to the extent that the balance of payments fundamentals are impacted, the exchange rate should serve as the automatic stabiliser.

Recall, some exchange rate depreciation will help mitigate the punitive impact of tariffs, especially at a time of such benign inflation.

But cyclical policies can only provide temporary support.

They cannot be an antidote to the changing global order. Only structural reforms can.

The public backlash on US capriciousness is understandable. But policymakers have to pull off a more delicate balancing act, recognising the new world order.

Optimising India's interests in this environment will require calmness, firmness, and cold and calculated pragmatism.

Economically, much has been made about the costs of any trade deal. But these must be compared with the costs of not having one - and how these costs will grow over time.

Meanwhile, we must use the current moment to double-down on the next tranche of economic reforms.

External pragmatism coupled with internal reforms can yet turn this impasse into an opportunity. Let's not miss the forest for the trees.



SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

NAME CHANGE

I. M. GunadonSingha, S/o. Purnachand B Singha, R/o. House No. 33, New Link Road, ADC Colony, Rongpur Part-IV, Silchar Pin Code - 788009, Cachar, Assam have changed my name to GunadonSingha for all future purposes.

PLACEMENT SERVICES

Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/krccplacements Apply here: https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to InfoCom Solutions at: info@krccfoundation.org Submit Here: https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/krccstudentinternship or www.krccfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation certificate. Send articles at: info@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest www.krccfoundation.org/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest

CONNECT@ KRC TIMES



KRC TIMES

To engage with KRC TIMES, please use the following e-mails and WhatsApp Nos: For News: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: info@krccfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313



Don't react. Cut them off silently.



BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ACTIVITY PROGRAM



10 JAN

NE Cultural Fest

Any Form of Art and Cultural showcase can be showcased here. The Top performances will be invited to perform in the Main Event. Schools, Colleges, University Department, Individual & Group Competition.



11 JAN

Adventure Sports

Tracking & Campus, Obstacle Navigations, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management, Techniques, Water Sports and more. www.krcfoundation.org

11 JAN

Barak Valley Conclave

Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley to be discussed by stakeholders. Includes NGOs, and Government officials, industry representatives, local community and government employees. Participation through invitation only. Different rewards are provided.

10 Jan

Barak Festival: Peace Progress & Prosperity



Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion

www.krcfoundation.org

Barak Festival 2025

JAN'25

Online Global Fest

All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.

12 JAN

River-Climate Conclave

State of the River will be discussed on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, treatment and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competition and exhibition on River Barak, Climate Change.

11 JAN

Media Conclave

Media Conclave with a Seminar, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Welcome your news channels, journalists, media & corporate PR, sponsors, guides, speakers, members.

10 JAN

Media Conclave

Media Conclave with a Seminar, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Welcome your news channels, journalists, media & corporate PR, sponsors, guides, speakers, members.

11 JAN

5E For Success Conclave

The 4th 5E For Success Conclave is going to be held on the theme: 'From School to Campus to Corporate'. Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors.

Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & Colleges, Extension School, Alumni Speaking (College) & an online event where students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate.

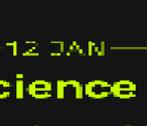


BROADCAST PARTNER



REGISTER HERE

Contact: info@krcfoundation.org



Barak Festival

Band Night | 10 JAN

Musical Night | 11 JAN

www.krcfoundation.org

Barak Festival 2025

10-12 JAN

Science Studio

Use a glimpse of Science to arts through projects. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, Administrators | Parents. Raw science into real-life experiences of students.

10-12 JAN

E-Sports

Full Blown! Don't miss! CASH PRIZES | Trophy



DEC'24-JAN'25

Photography

Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture. Real-Time Photography Contest of 'Barak Festival 2025'.



11 JAN

film festival

Award-Giving Ceremony | Film from Manipur. Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, W's. Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet.

10-12 JAN

Book Bank

Anti-Litter Campaign | Book Bank | e-copies | e-books | e-news

Book Club

Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books

Painting Carnival

Water Colour painting and Draw-Paint Campaign



BROADCAST PARTNER



REGISTER HERE

Contact: info@krcfoundation.org

5E SUCCESS

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Discover valuable experience and learn more about the Industry.

openings

- Outreach Executive
- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

APPLY NOW | info@krcfoundation.org | www.krcfoundation.org