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PERSPECTIVE
"Certain things in life simply have to be experienced -and never explained. Love is such a thing." ~ Paulo Coelho

Tripura Secures German Orders for Organic Ginger, Bird's Eye Chilli at BIOFACH 2026

AGARTALA
Tripura has secured export orders from German buyers for 500 metric tonnes of organic ginger and 20 metric tonnes of bird's eye chilli during BIOFACH 2026, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath said.

The orders were finalised at the international organic food trade fair held from February 10 to 13 in Nuremberg, Germany, where Tripura showcased its certified organic produce to global buyers.

Nath, who attended the event, said the German importers expressed strong interest after reviewing product samples displayed at the fair. Some buyers have also indicated their willingness to visit Tripura to explore sourcing opportunities and strengthen trade partnerships, he added.

India's participation at BIOFACH 2026 was coordinated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. According to Nath, APEDA has set an ambitious target to increase India's share in global organic food exports from the current 2.5 per cent to nearly 12 per cent over the next five years. He said Tripura aims to play a significant role in achieving this expansion, leveraging its growing organic cultivation base.

The minister said Tripura currently has 53 organic farmer producer companies. More than 26,000 hectares of land in the state are registered and certified organic, with over 26,800 farmers enrolled under the organic certification system.

WHO SAID WHAT

A landmark boost to connectivity in the Northeast! The Cabinet has approved a 4-lane access-controlled Greenfield corridor between Gohpur and Numaligarh, including India's first underwater Road-cum-Rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra. This transformative project will enhance connectivity, reduce logistics costs and accelerate growth across Assam and the entire Northeast. ~ Narendra Modi, PM

Manipur's 500-year-old 'Ima Keithel' remains living heritage amid unrest

IMPHAL
Ima Keithel, the iconic Mothers' Market, remains the emotional and economic heartbeat of Manipur, even as the state navigates one of its most challenging periods.

Believed to be over 500 years old, with some accounts tracing its origins back to the reign of Nongda Lairen Pakhangba nearly two millennia ago, Ima Keithel is often regarded as the world's largest all-women-run market.

For centuries, women from across the hills and valleys of Manipur have gathered here, bringing local produce, handloom items, fish, vegetables, dairy products, and traditional goods. But what makes this market truly extraordinary is not only its history, but also the spirit of coexistence that defines it.

"This market belongs to everyone," says Nirmala, a senior vendor. "It is not only for Meitei, Naga, Kuki or Meitei Muslim. Women from every community come here, sit together and do business happily."

For generations, Ima Keithel has been a space where differences dissolve into shared purpose. Vendors from diverse communities have sold side by side, building bonds stronger than ethnic lines. Even amid the current crisis in the state, many women emphasise that, in the market, they



see one another not through the lens of community but as fellow Imas, mothers striving for their families.

Earlier, women from every district would bring their products to the market, creating a vibrant exchange of culture and commerce. "We lived like a family here," Nirmala recalls. "We want to see that picture again fully restored."

Despite the challenges posed by the recent ethnic tensions, many communities continue to participate in the market, maintaining cordial relationships and mutual respect.

Vendors say this shared space reflects the real spirit of Manipur, one rooted in coexistence and interdependence.

Inside look into Manipur's women-run market, Ima Keithel, after widespread conflict

Ima Keithel has long been recognised as the backbone of Manipur's local economy. Women here are financially independent, supporting their households and educating their children through their earnings.

Ibemcha, who sells curd, milk and honey, has been trading at the market since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The plot she occupies once belonged to her mother.

"I have been selling here since before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the violence began in the state, market activity was strong. However, customer traffic has slowed. This particular plot where I sit was earlier occupied by my mother," she said.

"Before I started coming to the market, I stayed at home and did other work to support my family," she says. "Now, from what I earn here, I can support my family to some extent," she added.

Her story reflects a generational continuity that defines Ima Keithel, daughters inheriting not just space, but strength.

Many elderly vendors proudly state that this market has produced officers, doctors and notable personalities in the state. "This is not just a market; it is a historical place," one vendor says. "The hearts of the people of Manipur are with this market."

Ima Keithel is also deeply intertwined with Manipur's political consciousness. The historic Nupi Lan movements, when women rose against injustice and colonial policies, were led by the very spirit embodied in this market.

"Whenever there is a critical issue in Manipur, women take an active role," Nirmala says. "Women are always at the forefront."

Today, educated women and even retired professionals are joining the market, blending tradition with modernity. While earlier generations had limited access to formal education, the present generation of Imas represents a changing yet rooted society.

However, vendors acknowledge that the market has undergone visible changes. According to Ibemcha, earlier, there were designated sections for specific products, curd sellers in one area, vegetable vendors in another. "Now everything is mixed together. I wish the system could be organised like before," she says.

Economic challenges have also

intensified. Disruptions, including highway blockades, have increased transportation costs, leading to higher prices. Many goods now come from outside the state, reducing the presence of purely local products. As customer flow declines, vendors find it increasingly difficult to maintain steady earnings.

"Prices are rising, customers are fewer, and selling has become harder," Nirmala says.

Despite the hurdles, the women remain determined. For them, preserving Ima Keithel is not only about infrastructure or heritage status, but also about protecting its soul: unity among communities, respect for tradition, and economic self-reliance.

They urge the government to strengthen and organise the market while safeguarding its historical character. More importantly, they call upon the younger generation to carry forward the legacy. "We want the younger generation to follow the footsteps of the past Imas," an elderly vendor says. "They must preserve this market and keep its unity alive."

As Manipur seeks healing and harmony, Ima Keithel remains a powerful reminder that when women from all communities sit together, trade together, and stand together, unity is not just an idea; it becomes a living reality.

NEW DELHI/IMPHAL
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declared that terrorism and insurgency would be wiped out from Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast by 2029, placing the troubled region - particularly Manipur - at the centre of the Centre's internal security roadmap.

Addressing the 79th foundation day event of the Delhi Police in New Delhi, Shah said the government had already brought "around 80 per cent" of internal security challenges under control since 2014. He reiterated that the country would be freed from Maoist violence by March 31, 2026, and asserted that the Northeast was moving steadily toward lasting peace after decades of insurgency.

For the Northeast, where ethnic tensions and armed militancy have historically shaped politics and governance, the 2029 deadline carries deep significance. In Manipur - which witnessed devastating ethnic violence in 2023 and sporadic unrest since - the announcement is likely to be closely scrutinised by civil society groups, security experts and political leaders alike.

While Shah's remarks were made at a national-level police event, the subtext of his speech pointed strongly toward the Northeast, where the Centre has in recent years signed multiple peace accords with insurgent groups.

"In the North-East, nearly 20 peace agreements have been signed and more than 10,000 youths have surrendered their arms and joined the mainstream," Shah said, underlining what he described as a transformation in the region's security landscape.

For Manipur, which has long grappled with insurgent outfits operating in the valley and hill districts, as well as cross-border arms trafficking and ethnic fault lines, the government's claim of progress is both encouraging and contentious. Over the past decade, several armed groups from across the Northeast - including those operating in Assam, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur - have entered into Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreements or formal peace deals with the Centre. However, Manipur's complex ethnic conflict, particularly between Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, has posed

fresh challenges beyond traditional insurgency frameworks.

Security analysts note that while insurgent violence in parts of the Northeast has declined significantly compared to the 1990s and early 2000s, Manipur's recent unrest highlighted the fragile nature of peace in the region. The proliferation of looted weapons during the 2023 violence and the existence of armed village defence groups continue to test the state's law-and-order apparatus.

Against this backdrop, Shah's assurance that the Northeast would be free of violence by 2029 is being viewed as an ambitious political and security commitment.

He claimed that decisive policy interventions, enhanced coordination between central and state agencies, and sustained security operations had significantly reduced violence levels. In the Northeast, this has included a mix of development initiatives, peace negotiations, and targeted security operations.

For Manipur, central intervention has been particularly visible since

the outbreak of ethnic clashes in 2023. Thousands of central armed police personnel were deployed, buffer zones were created between warring communities, and operations to recover looted arms were intensified.

Despite these measures, sporadic gunfire incidents, arms seizures and tensions along district boundaries have persisted. Civil society organisations in Manipur have repeatedly called for political dialogue, reconciliation mechanisms, and constitutional clarity regarding land, identity and administrative demands.

Shah's 2029 deadline, therefore, is likely to raise expectations for a comprehensive political settlement in Manipur that goes beyond security management.

Reiterating another key target, Shah said the government was "close to ending Maoist violence completely" and that India would be free from Maoist threats by March 31, 2026.

Although Maoist insurgency has had limited direct footprint in Manipur compared to central Indian states, security experts point out that porous

borders and inter-state militant linkages require continued vigilance in the Northeast. Any instability in neighbouring regions can have spillover effects, especially in border states like Manipur, which shares an international boundary with Myanmar.

The political instability in Myanmar following the 2021 military coup has further complicated security calculations in Manipur. Insurgent groups have historically used cross-border sanctuaries, and refugee inflows have added humanitarian as well as administrative pressures.

Shah did not directly refer to the Myanmar situation in his speech, but officials in the security establishment acknowledge that stabilising Manipur is intertwined with managing border security and diplomatic coordination.

While much of the speech focused on national security, Shah also announced a series of initiatives aimed at modernising policing infrastructure. A key announcement was the expansion of the "Safe City" project in Delhi.

Assam Legislative Assembly's Budget Session begins amid Congress protest for Zubeen Garg

GUWAHATI
The Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly commenced on Monday, marking the last session of the current term with Congress MLAs staging a protest demanding justice for Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, who passed away on September 19, 2025.

State Legislative Assembly Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress leader Debabrata Saikia said that the matter is currently in court, but emphasised that it is not an election issue. He added that he hopes the judges will consider seriously and not dismiss it, noting that the singer's family has requested a fast-track trial, which Congress is also demanding.

"The matter is in court. But it is not a matter of election. I hope the present judges will listen to it and not dismiss it. His family is saying that they want a fast-track trial, and we are also demanding this," Saikia told the reporters.

Meanwhile, Assam Minister Pijush Hazarika outlined the schedule for the four-day session, saying that the Governor would deliver his speech today, followed by a discussion. Tomorrow, the Finance Minister will present the vote on account, which will also be debated, and the session will conclude after four days.

"We have to tell people what we will do if we come back to power. This is not a full budget, we have a 4-day budget session. Today, the Governor will give his speech. On his speech, there will be a discussion. Tomorrow, the Finance Minister will lay the vote of account. On that, there will be a discussion and a debate, and after 4 days, it will be over," Hazarika told the reporters.

Furthermore, Assam Minister Nandita Garlosa said that over the years, many important decisions had been made in the Assembly, and the final session is expected to address the people's expectations.

"From today, the last session of this term will start. Over the years, many im-

portant decisions have been made in this house. We expect that in the last session, there will also be what people are expecting," Garlosa told ANI.

Meanwhile, Congress MLA Abdur Rashid Mandal, when asked about joining another political party, stated, "I am not talking about any party, but I am saying that I will contest the election from the Goalpara West constituency. You will know everything in detail at 3 pm today."

Moreover, BJP MLA Manab Deka said the Governor would address the session, followed by Bhutul's account (Interim Budget), noting that this is the last Assembly session. "The Governor will be addressing the session. After that, Bhutul's account (Interim Budget) will come, and this is the last Assembly session," he told the reporters. Deka further criticised the Opposition, saying that political focus has shifted from 'Assamese' to 'Mia' and added that everyone knows Assam CM is an ordinary person serving the state.

"When we were in the Congress party, it was like, 'Who was Badrudin?' But now it has become: 'Everything is Badrudin.' This is a shifting of goalsposts from 'Assamese' to 'Mia.' Everybody knows who Himanta Biswa Sarma is. He is an ordinary common man serving as a Chief Minister," he added. Meanwhile, All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) MLA Aminul Islam said they will protest on several issues during the session.

"This is the government's last budget. On the first day of the last budget session, we will protest against many issues. The government is going down the path of polarisation. Today, there is a hearing in the Supreme Court regarding this. I hope they will pronounce a good judgement." . The Supreme Court will today hear petitions seeking an FIR and a Special Investigation Team probe against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for allegedly making hate speech in his public remarks.

Nagaland CM Neiphu Rio calls for early Naga settlement at Lui-Ngai-Ni

KOHIMA
Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphu Rio unveiled a commemorative monolith at Ukhrul headquarters during the celebration of Lui-Ngai-Ni, the seed-sowing festival of the Naga community, and stressed the urgent need to expedite the long-pending Naga political settlement under the Framework Agreement.

Lui-Ngai-Ni, meaning "Seed Sowing Festival," is celebrated by Naga tribes with the onset of spring.

The festival marks an auspicious time for sowing seeds and invoking blessings for a bountiful harvest. It was declared a State Festival by the Government of Manipur in 1988, and in 1997, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, recognised it as one of the country's official tourist festivals.

Attending the event as the chief guest, organised by the State Level Organising Committee under the aegis of the United Naga Council, Rio underscored the importance of unity among Naga communities and reiterated the demand for integration of all Naga-inhabited areas under one administrative umbrella.

Congratulating Manipur's newly appointed Deputy Chief Minister Losli Dikho, Rio termed his elevation a matter of pride not only for the party but for the Naga people as a whole.

He said unity among leaders and communities had ushered in a positive political shift at both the state and central levels.

Placing special emphasis on the Naga peace process, Rio referred to the historic Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015, between the Government of India and Naga political groups, as well as the "Agreed Position" signed on November 17, 2017.

Centre Clears Fish Imports from Bangladesh via Dawki



SHILLONG
The Centre has approved the import of fish from Bangladesh through the Dawki Land Port, a move expected to significantly reduce prices and improve freshness in markets across Meghalaya and Assam.

Officials said the decision could reshape the Northeast's marine and freshwater fish supply chain by cutting transportation time and costs, particularly for major consumption hubs such as Shillong and Guwahati.

"We have received permission to import fishes through our land customs station. All necessary paperwork has been completed. We are now awaiting importers from India to take advantage of this landmark decision," said T.C. Chacko, Regional Coordinator (Dawki), Land Port Authority of India.

According to officials, all types of fish are now permitted for import through Dawki, except live fish and hilsa. Bangladesh has restricted the export of hilsa to meet domestic demand, allowing shipments to India only during special occasions such as Durga Puja and select festivals.

Chacko said exporters in Bangladesh have responded positively to the development and are keen to begin shipments once Indian im-

porters come forward.

At present, a substantial portion of fish consumed in the Northeast is transported from Andhra Pradesh, with some supplies entering through the Agartala land customs station. Transport from Andhra Pradesh takes two to three days to reach Shillong and Guwahati markets, while consignments routed through Agartala take nearly a day.

By contrast, Dawki is located about 84 km from Shillong, with fish expected to reach the state capital within three hours of crossing the border. Guwahati can be reached in an additional two to three hours.

"This means that fish prices will come down significantly due to lower transportation costs," Chacko said, adding that reduced travel time would also ensure relatively fresher stock in retail markets.

Concerns have been raised in the past over fish in Northeast markets being treated with formaldehyde, a carcinogenic chemical used for preservation during long-distance transport.

"The fishes from Bangladesh will undergo regular checks when they are imported," Chacko said, assuring that safety protocols would be enforced at the entry point.

Officials expressed hope that importers from Assam and Meghalaya would soon capitalise on the clearance, ensuring that consumers across the Northeast benefit from improved supply and competitive pricing.

The decision marks a key development in cross-border trade facilitation and is expected to have a direct impact on household food budgets in the region.



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IT STOCKS, JOBS, AI FEARS

The decimation of tech and software stock valuations underlines the risks first stated by Alan Turing. This week, the market and IT shares came face to face with their Minsky moment, the tipping point when fears becomes a reality. In less than two trading days, India's IT shares lost nearly 3 lakh crore of market cap and marquee stocks like TCS and Infosys lost nearly a third of their worth, pushing them back closer to 2022 levels.

It isn't just in India. Globally, software and services companies lost trillions of dollars in market value—ServiceNow is down 28 percent year to date, Salesforce 26 percent and Intuit over 34 percent. Tech-Software exchange traded fund slid 20 percent and the MSCI World Software & Services Index was down over 12 percent. Punters coined new phrases—SaaSocalypse, SaaSageddon—to define the collapse. Software has been pulled down from the traders' pulpit and relegated to being just another utility. The bullishness of 2023, when analysts goaded investors to load up on software stocks, has been replaced by the bearish 'AI discount'.

Theory oftentimes waits for attention and tangible evidence. As early as 2017, computer scientist Ashish Vaswani, along with seven colleagues, told the world, 'Attention is all you need.' The transformative concept of 'attention mechanism' led to the launch of ChatGPT. The threat to human interface in software services has been a constant presence. Yet, nobody quite bet against legacy giants—after all, as Hemingway says in *The Old Man and the Sea*, "It is silly not to hope." Claude Code replaced hope with pessimism and dread, resulting in a one-way trail in valuations.

The success of Claude Code and Claude Cowork illustrates the power of the mathematical breakthrough of 2017. The retrenching of human interface represents a structural shift. The migration—from the earlier autocompleting era to the automated engineer era—is tectonic in every sense. Consider this: earlier, the machine was a co-participant in a process enabling faster coding. Now the machine runs the code, sees the error and self-corrects until it works. The migration from CPU to GPU-based coding accelerates the shift from per-hour billing to outcome fees.

The fall in stock prices is the headline this week, but that isn't the big news. IT and IT enabled services are India's largest exporters, bringing in nearly \$300 billion. It was also the largest formal employer till recently and is the force multiplier for consumption across sectors. It is useful to remember that just the software segment employs over 50 lakh people. Now the risk is two-fold—a slowdown in hiring and loss of employment. The quantum change is already visible. Soon after the advent of generative AI, a survey showed 80 percent of CEOs were planning to deploy AI—not just in services, but in manufacturing too.

The ability of machines to complete tasks has wiped out thousands of entry-level jobs across sectors—from software companies and law firms to consultancies and even creative shops. Unsurprisingly, in the US the unemployment rate for young workers (22-27 years) is over 7.8 percent. In India, the top five IT companies could altogether add just 17 recruits to their combined rolls in the first nine months of 2025. It is true that the transition could trigger demand in other areas—for instance, as AI architects. But it will drive down volumes and lead to a collapse in entry-level coding roles.

The entry of machines is already upending business models across sectors. The secondary effects of the slowdown or stalling of graduate hirings could well trigger a white-collar recession in consumption. For the record, since the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, the world has added over 1.1 billion AI users, over a fifth of them on ChatGPT.

The transition isn't sui generis or driven only by private sector innovation. The push towards automation is also a geopolitical objective for the US. Post 9/11, America redesigned policies to enable energy independence. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 under George W Bush allowed tapping of shale oil and gas fields. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 created a corpus of \$25 billion for research. The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under Barack Obama furthered energy independence. In 2017, thanks partly to fracking, the US emerged as the top oil producer.

The focus on automation and autonomous processes is not an accident either. It is the route to shrinking dependence on 'imported labour' and migration. The DARPA Grand Challenge in 2003 led to the creation, in 2006, of the CISE-IIS Division of Information and Intelligent Systems for research in human-computer interaction. In 2016, the US National Semiconductor Technology Center unveiled a strategic plan for "investments in the next generation of AI" and "develop effective methods for human-AI collaboration" through a network of AI institutes. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provided room for companies to invest by providing 100 percent depreciation—while wages are taxed (payroll tax), machines deliver tax cuts (depreciation).

This week, the government of India is hosting the AI Impact Summit. The guest list is impressive, but what is the focus? Can the ministers forge partnerships for AI-enabled solutions—gathering data for preventive healthcare, curbing air pollution, addressing teaching deficiencies, fixing farm linkages including using geospatial capacity to inform farmers, moving from flyover fixation to easing last-mile mobility in cities? There is no disputing that the fears of AI's impact are real. This calls for rethinking policies. While doing so, it would be useful to remember 'attention' matters.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think it is possible for ordinary people to choose to be extraordinary."

- Elon Musk

BNP SWEEPS BANGLADESH POLLS, BUT THE HARD WORK OF DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL AND REGIONAL RESET BEGINS



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The US tariff cut is supposed to be positive for Indian trade and markets. The US administration is propagating it as a great favour to India. The drumbeats announce that a 50 percent tariff is cut to 18 percent. That looks great. The reality is far away from it.

Yes, President Donald Trump imposed a 25% tariff and warned of an additional 25% penalty if India continued buying Russian oil. The penalty remained only a threat, as New Delhi moved quickly to comply. The Trump administration has approached trade talks like a hard-nosed corporate negotiator—using threats as leverage and extracting concessions without necessarily enforcing them.

Trump has effectively raised tariffs on Indian goods by about 16 percentage points compared with the 2024 baseline. Indian exports faced average levies of just 2.4% in 2024. Now, even after a nominal 7-point reduction from the proposed 25 percent rate, the revised tariff still stands at 18 percent. In effect, Indian goods will face an additional 15.6–16 percentage points over the 2024 level—a steep increase disguised as a concession. Plus, all goods from the US, as per the announcements, would have duty-free entry to India. These include American farm goods.

Opening India's market to US agricultural imports has been welcomed by US Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, who said, "Thank you for once again delivering for our American farmers. The new US-India deal will expand exports of American farm products to India's vast market, lifting prices and pumping cash into rural America." She noted that the US faces a \$1.3 billion agricultural trade deficit and sees India's growing population as a critical opportunity for American producers.

How would Indian farmers gain or suffer remains the big question. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal says that there would not be any dairy product entry. If so, a small relief. In short: India gains more on sentiment and sectoral export competitiveness, while the US secures broader market access and strategic leverage. The deal is beneficial, but not a clear, unilateral victory. The reset has strengthened the rupee but not the stock market sentiments.

The tariff cut does not improve pricing competitiveness for Indian exporters in the US market, especially in labour-intensive industries like textiles, gems and jewellery, and engineering goods, which were hit hard by the 50 percent levies.

Effectively, Indian exports would be highly expensive. The

exporters would have to sweat hard to keep products competitive. Would new duties help Indian products compete better against regional rivals such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia, where US tariffs are effectively lower?

The deal reportedly involves India reducing its own barriers on US imports and committing to purchase large volumes, \$500 billion, of American energy, technology, agricultural and other products. This quid pro quo could widen India's trade deficit with the US over time and narrow India's policy space on tariff policy. Presently India has a trade surplus of \$42 billion.

India's total imports are at \$700 billion. India has FTAs with many countries including the UK and EU. The EU deal is described as a magical trick if it could really import such large volumes from the US, including the poor crude from Venezuela, at a high shipment cost. Still, with the new tariff rate, India is believed to now enjoy a relative advantage over some Asian competitors in the US market because its goods face lower duties than those from certain peers. While the tariff is reset to 18 percent, some specific product tariffs (like steel, aluminium and certain auto components) may remain high or unchanged due to ongoing US trade rules (Section 232 duties), limiting relief for those sectors. Also, tariff cuts

mainly help goods exports, which make up a modest share of India's overall GDP and exports to the US (services, such as IT, are often outside tariff regimes). This means the macro-economic windfall may be more limited than headlines suggest.

India's commitment to halt Russian oil purchases represents a significant geopolitical shift that may have cost implications. Russian oil had been a source of relatively cheaper energy; switching sources could raise import bills and impact the current account if not managed carefully. Many specifics of how tariff cuts will be phased, what products they apply to, and how India will liberalise its own markets have yet to be fully detailed.

While analysts have suggested modest GDP lifts (e.g., up to 0.3 percent from restored export flows), such gains are modest relative to India's overall economic size and may not offset domestic weaknesses such as investment hesitation or hinterland distress.

It is said that there are some other considerations as well. On January 23, when the US SEC sought court approval to issue summons directly to Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani, the shares of the Adani group companies plunged between 3.54 and 14.54 percent.

When the share market opened on February 3, after Trump's trade deal and the shares of the group companies

have jumped up in both BSE and NSE indices. All companies have registered huge gains, with Adani Energy Solutions leaping up by an average of 10+ points, Adani Enterprises by 10.72, Adani Green Energy by 10.82, Adani Ports & SEZ by 9.06, Adani Power by 7.58, Adani total Gas by 4.89, Ambuja Cement by 3.3% and Sanghi Industries by 5.28 percent in BSE index.

For India, the benefits are real but limited: short-to medi-

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

For decades, Cong party allowed encroachments in Assam's forests. They allowed over 2.87 lakh hectares to be encroached until the Double Engine Govt decided to put a FULL STOP We've reclaimed over 20,000 hectare till now & the mission to reclaim every bit of our land continues. ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM



um-term export relief, improved price competitiveness, firmer investor sentiment, and some easing of currency pressures, along with closer long-term alignment with a major market. The gains are incremental rather than transformational.

For the US, the advantages are broader. Lower tariffs benefit American consumers and firms that source Indian goods, while India's commitment to buy more US energy, technology and agricultural products directly supports American producers.

In practice, the US may emerge the larger strategic gainer. It secures more reliable access to Indian goods and capital, opens India's market wider for American exports, and reinforces its geopolitical push to reshape global energy and trade flows. India, meanwhile, regains competitiveness and market confidence but at the cost of some policy flexibility on tariffs and energy sourcing, and with the likelihood of higher imports from the US.



Rs 55,000-Crore Central Projects Cleared for Assam in One Year: Himanta Biswa Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said infrastructure projects worth around Rs 55,000 crore have been sanctioned for the state over the past year, out of the Rs 80,000 crore investment commitment announced during the 2025 investment summit.

Addressing a press conference in Guwahati, Sarma said the Centre had acted on multiple proposals following the 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit' held in February last year.

"The Centre had assured infrastructure projects worth Rs 80,000 crore during the second Advantage Assam investment summit in 2025, and the state has already received approval for projects worth Rs 55,000 crore," he said.

Among the projects that have progressed is the Kamakhya Ropeway,



which will link the Kamakhya railway station with the Kamakhya Temple. The project has moved to the tender stage,

Sarma said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to lay the foundation stone during his next visit to

the state.

The Chief Minister also said that a Rs 1,500 crore elevated corridor from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport to Jalukbari — the main entry point to Guwahati — is likely to receive central approval within days. The corridor is aimed at easing congestion along one of the city's busiest arterial routes.

Clearance for the Rs 14,000 crore four-laning of the national highway from Baihata Chariali to Tezpur is also at an advanced stage, he said.

"The Rs 14,000 crore project for four-laning of the national highway from Baihata Chariali to Tezpur is at the last stages of approval. We hope for it very soon," Sarma added.

Work on the Kamakhya corridor project, which had faced opposition over environmental concerns, is expected to

resume. The Gauhati High Court had directed Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and the National Institute of Hydrology to assess its ecological impact.

"After some people opposed the corridor, the Gauhati High Court asked IIT Guwahati and the National Institute of Hydrology to study if the project would have any ecological impact. They said there would be no impact," Sarma claimed.

In the health sector, projects worth Rs 2,200 crore are under implementation at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, while works amounting to Rs 600 crore are ongoing at Assam Medical College and Hospital.

Sarma further said a new highway is being planned from the upcoming semiconductor plant at Ja-

giroad in Morigaon district to the Bhutan border via Udalguri. The project includes construction of another bridge over the Brahmaputra and is under active consideration by the Centre. "These strategic assets will also be used by civilians," he said. Separately, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved construction of a 34-km twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra between Gohpur and Numaligarh at a cost of Rs 18,662 crore. The project is expected to significantly enhance strategic and civilian connectivity in Upper Assam.

The announcements underscore a renewed push for large-scale infrastructure expansion in Assam, with projects spanning transport, healthcare and strategic connectivity.

Sainik School Imphal flags infrastructure gaps during CM's visit

IMPHAL

Infrastructure deficiencies and pending construction works at Sainik School Imphal came under scrutiny during a visit by Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Saturday.

School authorities highlighted a series of pressing concerns, including deteriorating buildings, irregular water supply, the need to reinforce the perimeter wall and the pending construction of a girls' hostel. Issues related to sound clarity at the Vikram Batra auditorium were also brought to the Chief Minister's attention.

Principal A. Rajiv presented a detailed briefing outlining the institution's operational challenges alongside its recent academic achievements. Officials said the school has recorded commendable results in competitive examinations and actively participated in national-level events.

Responding to the concerns, the Chief Minister assured that the issues would be taken up with the relevant departments for necessary action. He stressed the importance of strengthening infrastructure to provide students with a conducive learning environment.

The visit included an inspection of various campus facilities to assess renovation and construction requirements. The Chief Minister also interacted with students, faculty members and representatives of the alumni association.

During the interaction, a student who had participated in the ninth edition of Patriksha Pe Charcha was acknowledged for her achievement. She was among 15 students selected from nearly four crore participants nationwide. Commissioner (Education) Ningthoujam Geoffrey and other senior officials from the school administration were present during the visit.

Massive Yaba Haul Worth RS. 45 Crore Seized in Joint Operation



KRC TIMES NEWS DESK

TRIPURA: In a major blow to drug trafficking networks, the Assam

Rifles and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence carried out a successful joint operation, seizing a huge consignment of Yaba tablets at Gen A. Mungiakami.

Acting on specific intelligence, security personnel intercepted a TATA truck bearing registration number AS-01T-C7674. A detailed search of the vehicle led to the recovery of nearly 4.5 lakh Yaba tablets. Officials estimate the value of the seized drugs at around 45 crore in the illegal market.

One person, identified as Hafijul Hoque, 42, from Udalguri district of Assam, was arrested in connection with the case.

Authorities said the seized contraband along with the accused has been handed over to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence for further investigation and legal action.

Officials noted that the operation reflects continued joint efforts by enforcement agencies to tackle the growing threat of narcotics in the region.

"Very immature statement": BJP's Dilip Saikia slams Gaurav Gogoi over remarks on Assam's Emergency Landing Facility

DIBRUGARH

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Dilip Saikia on Sunday criticised Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi over his recent statement on the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in Assam, terming his remark "very immature" and asserting the strategic importance of the aviation infrastructure in the state.

Speaking to the media, Saikia said, "Gaurav Gogoi has given a very immature statement. He has tried to belittle the matter concerning national security."

Praising the newly developed facility at Moran, he said, "Moran bypass ELF, an emergency landing facility, is made possible today," further claiming that during the Congress tenure, "it was impossible to



even drive through that area." Saikia's remarks came after Gogoi, on Saturday, commented on the ELF and raised concerns over the current

state of civil aviation infrastructure. The Congress leader alleged that air travel has become increasingly expensive for the common people and claimed that airport conditions were deteriorating.

"For common people, travelling in an aeroplane has become extremely expensive. Flights get cancelled at any moment. Airports are getting worse than Railway stations. People are fighting each other," he claimed.

The Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) is the first of its kind in Northeast India. It has been specially designed and constructed in coordination with the Indian Air Force to support the landing and take-off of military and civil aircraft during emergencies. It will serve as a critical asset for emergency response, enabling

quick deployment of rescue and relief operations during natural disasters or strategic requirements in the Northeast. Envisioned as dual-use infrastructure, the ELF is capable of handling fighter aircraft up to 40 tonnes and transport aircraft up to 74 tonnes maximum take-off weight.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said it is a matter of immense pride that the Northeastern region has an Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) and that the facility is of great importance from a strategic point of view.

"It is a matter of immense pride that the Northeast gets an Emergency Landing Facility. From a strategic point of view and during times of natural disasters, this facility is of great importance." PM Modi said in a post on X.

Pradyot Manikya Targets BJP Over ADC 'Neglect', Urges Tribal Voters to Withhold Support in Polls

AGARTALA

Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of failing to ensure development in areas under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD) and appealing to tribal voters not to cast "a single vote" in the party's favour in the upcoming elections.

Addressing a joining programme at South Hadrai in West District, the founder of the Tipra Motha Party said the future of tribal youth and the next generation was at stake, urging unity among indigenous communities.

The event saw 150 voters from 30 families, previously affiliated with different political parties, join the Tipra Motha Party.

Alleging that the BJP-led government had neglected the ADC areas, Pradyot said development had bypassed the tribal belt despite claims of progress under a "double-engine" government. He claimed that basic infrastructure such as roads, mobile towers and drinking water facilities remained inadequate in villages under the council.

"Gas and oil come from the district council areas, but the money flows to Agartala. There is no visible development in our villages," he said, alleging that resources generated in tribal areas were not being equitably reinvested there.

Stressing the need for unity among indigenous communities, Pradyot said tribals were the "sons of the soil" and blamed political divisions for weakening collective strength. "If we are poor in our own land today, it means

we lack unity. Politics has divided us and broken our thansa (unity). We must stay united for the future of our children," he said.

In remarks critical of what he described as attempts to divide tribal communities, he alleged that certain political forces sought to create internal rifts to consolidate their hold over the state. Without naming specific leaders, he said those in power were focused on retaining control of the district council in 2026 but asserted that his party would aim to capture the Tripura Assembly in 2028.

"They say they will capture the district council in 2026. I want to tell them that in 2028 we will capture the Assembly," he said, adding that electoral success would depend on grassroots mobilisation and unity.

Pradyot also criticised what

he described as the BJP's delayed outreach in tribal areas, claiming that its leaders had remained largely confined to Agartala and intensified campaigning only as elections approached. He urged voters to send a strong message in the polls, framing the contest as a decisive moment for safeguarding the interests of tribal youth.

"All votes are equal, but we must remain united. This concerns our youth and the next generation. They should not get a single vote," he said.

The BJP has not yet responded to the allegations.

The TTAACD, which administers tribal-majority areas covering nearly two-thirds of Tripura's geographical area, remains a key political battleground in the state, with regional identity and development issues continuing to dominate the discourse

Six Women Held in Manipur Crackdown on Insurgent Links, Extortion and Cyber Fraud



IMPHAL

Six women allegedly linked to banned insurgent outfits and involved in extortion and cyber fraud were arrested in a series of coordinated operations carried out by central security forces and the Manipur Police, officials said on Monday.

In one operation on Sunday, a joint team apprehended an active woman cadre of the proscribed United National Liberation Front-Koireng (UNLFF-Koireng) from Nongpok Inkhol in New Checkon under Porompat Police Station in Imphal East district.

The arrested woman was identified as Salam Ningol Sanasam, alias Santikumari Devi (29), a resident of Upokpi Mamang Leikai in Bishnupur district. Police sources said she was allegedly involved in activities linked to the outfit, which remains banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

In a separate operation the same day, security personnel arrested Mutum Joshika Chanu (19), alias Maikheingakpi, from her residence at Lamdeng Thongkhong under Lamsang Police Station in Imphal West district. Officials said she was associated with the banned Kangleipak Communist Party-Apunba (KCP-Apunba).

Meanwhile, two female cadres of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA) were apprehended in the general area along the Indo-Myanmar border between Sunrise Ground and Gate No. 2 at Moreh in Tengnoupal district. The two were identified as Akojiam Sakhenbi (23) of Khoijuman Mayai Leikai in Bishnupur district and Chongtham Hembaby (19) of Yumnam Huidrom, Wangoi, in Imphal West district.

Officials said further investigation is underway to ascertain their alleged roles within the banned organisations and any involvement in extortion or related unlawful activities. In another operation, police arrested two women allegedly involved in a series of mobile phone thefts and cyber fraud cases reported from Senapati, Imphal and adjoining areas. The accused were identified as Linat Mercy (19) of Thingba Khumou village and Sipiifine (18) of Phuba Khuman village. They were apprehended under Senapati Police Station limits.

According to officials, six mobile phones and several incriminating documents were seized from their possession. Investigators are examining the recovered materials to determine the extent of the alleged cyber fraud network and possible links to other suspects.

Uripok Hindu Sammelan in Imphal Inspires Call for Unity and Cultural Resurgence

BISWADEEP GUPTA

IMPHAL: Uripok Hindu Sammelan Samiti organized a spiritually uplifting Hindu Sammelan at Uripok Achom Leikai, Imphal West, on 15th February, drawing participation from distinguished scholars, social leaders, and members of the public.

The Sammelan was presided over by Prof. Naorem Joykumar Singh, Vice Chancellor of Khongnangthaba University and Retired Head of the Department of History, Manipur University. His presence lent academic depth and philosophical insight to the gathering.

The Praesidium comprised of Khwairakpam Raghunani Singh, MLA, Uripok Assembly Constituency, Taorem Dineshwar Singh, Manipur Prant Sah Karyavah, Dr. Binota Meinam, Former Chairperson, Manipur State Commission for Women, Ramanuja Das, Vice President, ISKON Manipur

In his Welcome and Keynote Address, Phurailatpam Nilachandra Sharma, Convener of the Samiti, passionately emphasised the pressing need for unity, collective responsibility, and moral awakening among society to usher in positive and transformative change. He called upon the public to strengthen cultural roots while embracing constructive progress.



Captivating cultural presentations enriched the Sammelan. A soulful Pena recital by Laiphrakpam Andrew and Laishram Niketan evoked the deep spiritual traditions of the land. This was followed by an enchanting Nat Sankirtan on Basanta Ritu

performed by the members of Guru Ibemphak Devi Cultural Academy, which filled the atmosphere with devotional vibrancy and cultural pride.

Thought-provoking deliberations marked the intellectual session. Dr. Bino-

ta Meinam spoke on Panch Parivartan, highlighting pathways for social transformation rooted in values and discipline.

Ramanuja Das delivered an insightful discourse on Hindu thought, the Bhagwat Gita, and its relevance to Gen Z, bridging timeless wisdom with contemporary challenges.

Taorem Dineshwar Singh eloquently traced the inspiring hundred-year journey of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), underscoring its contributions to national service and character building.

In his Presidential Address, Prof. Naorem Joykumar Singh expounded on the philosophical foundations of Hindu thought, articulating its universal outlook, inclusivity, and enduring relevance in shaping ethical and harmonious societies.

Lourembam Promila Devi, who delivered the vote thanks, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, performers, organisers, and attendees for making the Sammelan a meaningful and memorable event.

The programme was gracefully and seamlessly anchored by Maimom Prakash Singh, Prant Sah Sampark Pramukh, who conducted the proceedings with remarkable poise, like a unifying thread binding together the flowers of a garland.

The Sammelan concluded with a renewed collective resolve to uphold unity, preserve cultural heritage, and work tirelessly towards social harmony and national upliftment.

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TMC flags safety concerns in BJP-ruled states after Bengali migrant woman's death in Gujarat



KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has alleged that the death of a Bengali migrant woman in Gujarat points to a "deepening crisis of safety" for workers from West Bengal in BJP-ruled states, calling it a "grim reminder of systemic law and order failures".

In a statement posted on X on Sunday, the ruling party in West Bengal said the body of 38-year-old Sonamoni Bairagya, a resident of Purba Bardhaman district working as a hotel attendant in Gujarat, was found in her room in the western state.

Without directly attributing any motive, the TMC claimed the incident was reported amid a "disturbing pattern" of crimes against Bengali migrant workers in states governed by the BJP.

The TMC also referred to

the recent murder of a migrant from West Bengal, Sukhen Mahato, in Maharashtra and alleged that the BJP had attempted to "downplay the gravity" of that case.

It said that while investigations were underway and the exact motive behind Bairagya's death was yet to be established, the recurrence of such incidents in BJP-ruled states raises "serious concerns about the safety and dignity of Bengali workers".

The TMC further claimed that Bairagya had migrated to Gujarat in search of livelihood after her family was affected by the suspension of work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in West Bengal, which it described as an "economic blockade" imposed by the Centre. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

whose home state is Gujarat, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the party termed the incident a "scathing indictment" of governance in BJP-ruled states.

There was no immediate response from the BJP to the allegations.

According to family members in the Nandanghat area of Purba Bardhaman district, the hotel authorities in Gujarat claimed she died by suicide in her room, but they suspect foul play.

Her sister, Shefali Karmakar, lodged a complaint at Nandanghat police station on Saturday, alleging that Bairagya could not have taken her own life.

A senior police officer of Purba Bardhaman district said a complaint was filed at Nandanghat police station, and an inquiry was initiated from their end.

I4C alerts employees against the Eighth Pay Commission app scam

NEW DELHI

Online scammers have allegedly devised a new method to target government employees by circulating a fake mobile application linked to the proposed 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), according to an alert issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

It said fraudsters have launched a fraudulent WhatsApp campaign that claims to offer a salary calculator for revised pay under the anticipated salary award by the pay commission.

The advisory, released by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a wing of the MHA, cautions that cybercriminals are sharing deceptive messages encouraging employees to download an APK file to calculate their revised salaries.

The file is falsely presented as an official "8th CPC Salary Calculator" or "Salary Revision Tool," crafted to appear authentic and trustworthy.

According to officials, once the malicious APK file is downloaded and installed, fraudsters can gain unauthorised access to the victim's mobile phone.

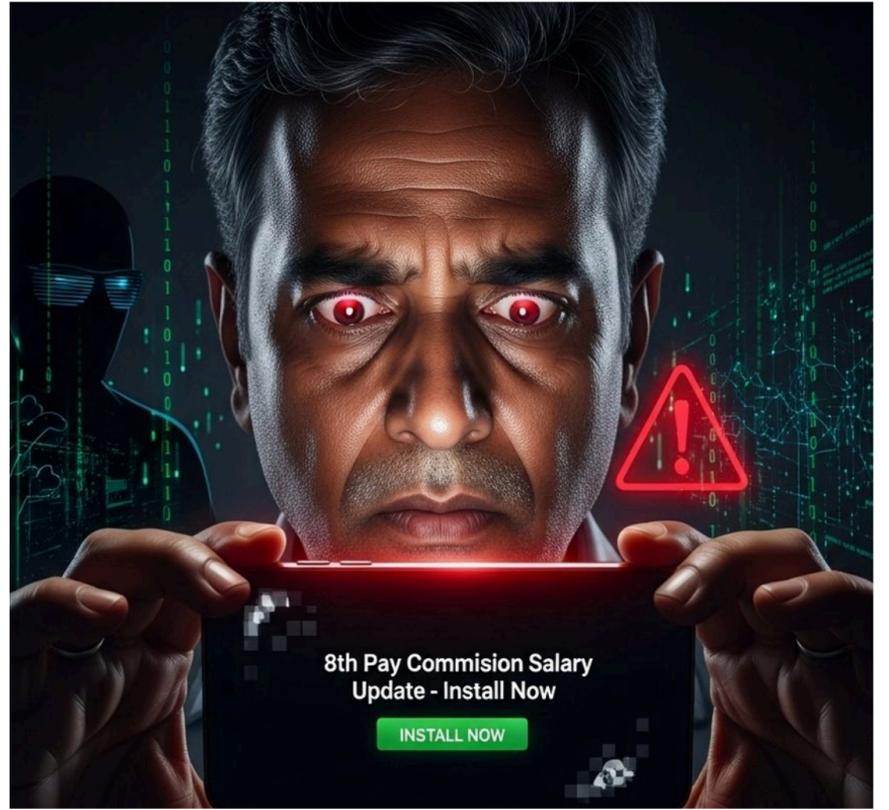
This access may enable them to extract sensitive personal and financial information, including banking details, SMS messages, and one-time passwords (OTPs).

In some cases, scammers may even carry out unauthorised financial transactions without the victim's knowledge, potentially leading to significant monetary losses.

The advisory makes it clear that the government does not distribute APK files through WhatsApp or any other messaging platform.

Users have been strongly advised not to download applications from unverified or unknown sources, as installing such files can expose devices to malware, resulting in data theft and financial fraud.

Authorities have also urged government employees and pensioners to rely solely on official government websites and verified portals for updates regarding salary revisions, pensions, or devel-



opments related to the 8th Pay Commission.

They have also emphasised the importance of exercising caution when receiving unsolicited messages, particularly those containing suspicious links or attachments. Officials believe the scam is strategically timed, as millions of central government employees and pensioners eagerly await clarity on potential pay revisions, cybercriminals are exploiting the uncertainty and heightened interest surrounding the 8th Pay Commission.

By leveraging anticipation and

curiosity, fraudsters are attempting to lure unsuspecting victims into downloading the malicious application. Investigators note that the scam follows a deliberate pattern. Victims typically receive a WhatsApp message claiming they can instantly check their revised salary. The message includes an attached APK file, often named in a way that suggests official endorsement.

Once installed, the application may secretly deploy additional malware, granting remote control to scammers who can monitor activity, intercept sensitive infor-

mation, and manipulate financial accounts.

Cybersecurity experts point out that such scams frequently spike during major government announcements, policy changes, or financial reforms. Public interest and urgency create opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit trust and spread misinformation.

As investigations continue, authorities have reiterated the need for vigilance and digital awareness, urging employees to remain cautious and report suspicious messages to the appropriate cybercrime authorities.

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh seeks to reset India ties; onus on New Delhi to recognise changed reality: Tarique's advisor



DHAKA

Bangladesh wants to reset ties with India on a fresh footing now that ousted premier Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League party no longer hold power, Humayun Kabir, adviser to BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman, has said, asserting that the two nations should work together for "mutual benefit".

Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Friday secured a sweeping victory with more than

two-thirds majority in the landmark parliamentary elections held on Thursday.

In an interview Kabir stressed that the onus lies on India to recognise the changed political reality in Bangladesh after the BNP's resounding electoral mandate.

"The change has to come from the mindset in India. Sheikh Hasina and Awami League don't exist in today's Bangladesh anymore. The people have given a clear verdict in favour of BNP," Kabir said.

Kabir described Hasina, who fled to India after 2024's August uprising, as a "terrorist" responsible for the deaths of over 1,500 people.

Kabir urged the Indian government to ensure that its territory is not used by Hasina or other Awami League figures in ways that could affect stability in Bangladesh.

"India must not be seen as complicit in any activities that undermine Bangladesh's sovereignty.

Once that is addressed, normal diplomatic cooperation can resume.

We are neighbours and should work together for mutual benefit," he added.

India on November 26, 2025, said it is examining a request by Bangladesh's interim government to extradite Hasina and asserted that it is committed to ensure the best interests of the people of that country.

"We remain committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country and will continue to engage constructively in this regard with all stakeholders," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. Kabir highlighted the recent cordial phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahman, where Modi extended an invitation for Rahman to visit India at a convenient time. On the timing of such a visit, Kabir said domestic priorities come first.

"Tarique Rahman will focus on settling the country on a path of prosperity and economic security.

Once things stabilise here, he will take up international engagements, including the visit to India."

On Bangladesh's approach to the growing competition among India, China and the US in South Asia, Kabir said the new government will pursue balanced relations.

"We will negotiate from a position of strength with a strong mandate from the people.

National interest and the well-being of our territory will remain at the centre of our foreign policy," he said.

"What we want is balanced relations. We're not going to have relations with one country specific, and we're not going to have any disclosures on any agreements," he added.

On minority safety, particularly Hindus, Kabir dismissed concerns of communal violence in Bangladesh.

"Even during the five days without a government after the August uprising, an unprecedented situation, no one attacked minorities.

That shows communal harmony here. The problem doesn't exist in the way it's sometimes projected."

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.

The community has faced a series of attacks, some fatal, after the killing of radical youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi in December.

Kabir also called for stronger regional cooperation on counter-terrorism, including in intelligence sharing. "Isolation hinders progress. Elected governments must exchange information and work together to track extremists, terrorists and build confidence."

Kabir reiterated that a BNP-led government would prioritise peace, prosperity and integrated economic and security cooperation in the region and beyond, positioning Bangladesh as a strategic conduit for broader ties. Bangladesh has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other regional leaders to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the country's next prime minister, Tarique Rahman, on February 17, according to a BNP statement on Saturday.

Obama deplores lack of shame after Trump racist monkey clip



WASHINGTON

Former US president Barack Obama criticised a lack of shame and decorum in the country's political discourse, responding Saturday for the first time to a post on Donald Trump's social media account that depicted him and first lady Michelle as monkeys.

In a wide-ranging podcast interview with left-wing political commentator Brian Tyler Cohen released Saturday, Obama also compared the actions of agents enforcing the president's immigration crackdown in Minnesota to dictatorships.

The video, shared on Trump's Truth Social account on February 5, sparked censure across the US political spectrum, with the White House initially rejecting "fake outrage" only to then blame the post on an error by a staff member and taking it down.

Near the end of a one-minute-long video promoting conspiracies about Trump's 2020 election loss to Joe Biden, the Obamas - the first Black president and first lady in US history - were shown with their faces on the bodies of monkeys for about one sec-

ond.

"The discourse has devolved into a level of cruelty that we haven't seen before... Just days ago, Donald Trump put a picture of you, your face on an ape's body," Cohen said in the interview.

"And so again, we've seen the devolution of the discourse. How do we come back from a place that we have fallen into?"

Without naming Trump, Obama responded by saying the majority of Americans "find this behavior deeply troubling."

"There's this sort of clown show that's happening in social media and on television, and what is true is that there doesn't seem to be any shame about this among people who used to feel like you had to have some sort of decorum and a sense of propriety and respect for the office, right? That's been lost."

Obama predicted such messaging will hurt Trump's Republicans in midterm elections, that "ultimately, the answer is going to come from the American people."

Trump has told reporters he stood by the thrust of the video's claims about election fraud, but that he had not seen the offensive clip at

the end.

Turning to Trump's policies, Obama criticized his immigration crackdown in Minnesota and blasted the conduct of agents during the controversial weeks-long operation that was brought to an end this week.

Obama called the behavior of federal officers, which included two fatal shootings that sparked mounting pressure on Trump's mass crackdown, as the sort that "in the past we've seen in authoritarian countries and we've seen in dictatorships."

Thousands of federal agents - including those with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - carried out weeks of sweeping raids and arrests in what the Trump administration claims were targeted missions against criminals.

"The rogue behavior of agents of the federal government is deeply concerning and dangerous," Obama said.

But he added he had found hope in communities pushing back against the operations.

"Not just randomly, but in a systematic, organized way, citizens saying, 'this is not the America we believe in,' and we're going to fight back, and we're going to push back with the truth and with cameras and with peaceful protests," he said.

"That kind of heroic, sustained behavior in subzero weather by ordinary people is what should give us hope."

"As long as we have folks doing that, I feel like we're going to get through this."

The aggressive immigration operation in Minnesota had triggered large protests and nationwide outrage.

The Department of Homeland Security was subject to a partial government shutdown Saturday as US lawmakers fought over funding the agency overseeing much of Trump's immigration crackdown.

Democrats are opposing any new DHS funding until major changes are implemented over how ICE conducts its operations.

The Quiet Powerhouses: Famous Educational Institutions of Northeast India



The story of education in Northeast India is not loud. It does not shout like Delhi or Bangalore. It grows slowly. Like bamboo after rain. For years, the region was seen as far away from India's academic centres. Today that idea feels outdated. From old missionary colleges to world ranked institutes, the Northeast has built its own learning map. Let us walk through some of the places that shaped minds and futures here.

Gauhati University: The First Torch
Founded in 1948, Gauhati University was the first university of the region. It began with just 18 colleges. Today it connects more than 300 affiliated institutions across Assam. It helped build the intellectual base of modern Northeast India. Many writers, scientists, teachers and civil servants came from its classrooms. Even now it stands as the academic backbone of Assam and beyond.

Cotton College Legacy
Older than most institutions in the region, Cotton University began life in 1901 as Cotton College. For decades, it was the intellectual heart of Assam. Many freedom fighters, poets and administrators studied here. Even today, it carries a rare mix of history and academic strength.

North Eastern Hill University: A Regional Bridge
Set in Shillong's hills, North-Eastern Hill University was built to serve all Northeastern states. It became a meeting point of cultures. Students from Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal, Manipur and beyond studied here together. In recent national rankings, NEHU has continued to perform strongly in research and outreach.

IIT Guwahati: The Global Face
When Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati opened in 1994, it changed how India looked at the Northeast.



The past is behind, learn from it. The future is ahead, prepare for it. The present is here, live it.

in the country. Its research in technology, climate science and design has global links. For many young students here, IIT Guwahati became proof that world class education need not mean leaving home.

NIT Silchar: Engineering in the Barak Valley
National Institute of Technology Silchar grew from a regional engineering college into a national institute. It now ranks among India's respected technical schools. In research rankings it placed 40th nationally. The institute helped turn Silchar into an education town.

Dibrugarh University: The Eastern Knowledge Hub
Established in 1965, Dibrugarh University became the second major university of Assam. It was designed as a science and technology centre. Today it connects more than 170 colleges across ten districts. Its influence reaches deep into Upper Assam's social and academic life.

Tezpur University: A Modern Performer
Tezpur University is one of the region's strongest modern institutions. It has been ranked among India's top universities due to its research and graduate outcomes. The campus is known for mixing science, humanities and social science in one academic space.

St. Edmund's College: Shillong's Academic Heritage
Founded in 1924, St. Edmund's College is the oldest college in Meghalaya. Run by the Christian Brothers, it shaped generations of leaders in politics, education and culture. Its motto says it best. Deeds, not words.

Assam Don Bosco University: A New Catholic Voice
Founded in 2008, Assam Don Bosco University represents a newer wave of institutions. It blends professional education with social mission. In a short time, it has grown into a respected research university.

Assam University: The Barak Valley's Central Pillar
Established in 1994, Assam University brought central university status to the Barak Valley for the first time. Located at Silchar, with a second campus in Diphu, the university was created to expand higher education access in southern Assam and nearby hill districts. Over the years, it has grown into a mul-



tidisciplinary institution offering programmes in humanities, social sciences, science, management, law and technology. What makes Assam University important is not only its academic work, but its role in widening opportunity. For many first generation students from Barak Valley, Tripura, Mizoram and parts of Manipur, it became a gateway to postgraduate and research education close to home. Its Department of Mass Communication, Life Sciences and Social Sciences in particular have built strong regional influence. The university has also played a quiet role in producing teachers, administrators and researchers who now serve across Northeast India.

If IIT Guwahati changed perception and NIT Silchar strengthened technical learning, Assam University helped deepen the intellectual base of the southern Northeast. In many ways, it stands as the academic anchor of the Barak Valley. USTM: Private Education's Rise University of Science and Technology Meghalaya became the first private university in the region. Located in Ri Bhoi, it serves thousands of students across disciplines. It marks a shift towards diversified higher education in the Northeast. IIM Shillong: Management in the Clouds Indian Institute of Management Shillong has placed the region on India's business education

map. It ranked 24th in management in NIRF 2024. From these hills now come future CEOs and policy thinkers. A Changing Academic Map Institutions across Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal are growing fast. Universities like Rajiv Gandhi University and Mizoram University continue to improve in national rankings. Private universities are rising too. For example, Martin Luther Christian University in Shillong has recently ranked among the top private universities in the country. Beyond Buildings Education in the Northeast is not only about ranks. It is about access. It is about giving first generation learners a chance. It is about young people studying without leaving their land. From colonial era classrooms to modern research labs, the region has built its own academic story. Quietly. Patiently. And now the rest of India is beginning to notice.

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