



- Looks like we lost India, Russia to 'darkest' China: US President Trump
- Putin says foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before any peace deal
- Smart teachers more important than smart classrooms and blackboards: Prez
- Jarange says Marathas deserved quota since 1881



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## Prohibitory order imposed around Raj Bhavan

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: Prohibitory order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) has been imposed within a 5 km radius of the Raj Bhavan in Guwahati, banning any activity that poses potential threat to the security and safety of the zone, an officer said.

Any person contravening the order will be liable to be punished as per provisions of the law, the order issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), Amitabh Basumatary on Wednesday said. "...it has been brought to my attention that certain activities in the vicinity of Raj Bhavan, Guwahati, pose potential threats to the safety, security and sanctity of this high-security zone," Basumatary said in the order.

It said the Raj Bhavan, being the official residence of the state's governor, requires heightened security and a tranquil environment to ensure the functioning of essential government duties.

As such, under section 163 of BNSS, all public gatherings, protests, rallies or demonstrations within a radius of 5 km of the Raj Bhavan have been prohibited.

Use of loudspeakers, fireworks, crackers or (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## BJP slams Oppn for 'distorting facts' about new order on foreigners

# 'Directive carries no adverse impact on Assam's demography'

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: BJP spokesperson Devajit Mahanta on Friday accused the opposition parties of deliberately misrepresenting the Immigrant Foreigners [Relief] 2025 Proclamation for electoral gains ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference at the State Office of Assam Pradesh BJP, he said that Congress, Rajar Dal and Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) were attempting to rekindle unrest in the State by misleading people about the directive.

According to Mahanta, if the opposition tried to disturb the atmosphere of peace restored in Assam after years of agitation, they would have to answer before the people's court.

He recalled the anti-CAA movement, alleging that emotional manipulation by certain groups had led to loss of innocent lives, widespread unrest, and even damage to cultural landmarks such as Sri-



manta Sankardeva Kalakshetra.

He said that while opposition leaders had claimed during the CAA agitation that nearly two crore people from Bangladesh would enter Assam to claim citizenship, the ground reality was far removed.

"It has been five years and seven months since CAA was implemented. Against the exaggerated claims of crores, only 12 people applied for citizenship in Assam, out of which only three were granted

citizenship," Mahanta stated.

He added that the figures proved that the agitation was used merely as a political platform by certain individuals and organisations.

Citing historical precedents, Mahanta said that the Congress party itself had once endorsed citizenship for persecuted minorities from Bangladesh.

He referred to an official memorandum sent by former chief minister Tarun (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Death of minor in Ghy drain: 3 construction co people held

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: The tragic incident which has triggered widespread outrage, a three-year-old child died after falling into an open section of a footpath near an under-construction bridge in Kalapahar area of Guwahati, the police on Friday arrested three individuals linked to the project, including a director of the construction firm responsible for the site.

The arrested persons have been identified as Avinash Bhatia, Director of Bhartiya Infra Projects Ltd (BIPL), Safety Engineer Kaushik Gogoi, and Deputy Project Manager Prasannajit Pathak.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) in Guwahati, Padmanabh Baruah said the arrests followed an FIR lodged by the victim's father, who held BIPL directly responsible for negligence. The project is being executed under the supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD).

"The investigation began on the basis of the father's complaint. He blamed the construction company for the death of his child. The site was under the watch of the PWD," the DCP told reporters here.

According to officials, CCTV

footage captured the chilling moment when the toddler fell into the open drain, which had no protective cover. The footage soon went viral on social media, drawing anger and demands for strict action against those responsible.

Police also revealed that this was not the first instance of safety lapses at a BIPL site. Just a month earlier, a man died due to electrocution at another project site handled by the same company. An FIR was registered in that case as well.

"Even after a similar tragedy occurred recently, the company failed to learn any lessons. There was no sense of responsibility shown in ensuring public safety," Baruah said.

He added that investigations into both incidents are underway. While three people have been arrested, more arrests could follow. Several other employees of the company have already been detained and questioned.

The child's death has sparked sharp criticism of both the company and government authorities for ignoring basic safety norms. Locals have demanded accountability from the PWD for failing to monitor the site effectively.

## 49 candidates in fray under Kokrajhar sub-div

BTR polls: Scrutiny of nominations completed

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Sept 5: The scrutiny of nomination papers for the forthcoming BTC Elections 2025 in Kokrajhar district across all 12 constituencies was successfully completed on late Thursday.

In Kokrajhar Sadar sub-division, 49 candidates remain in the fray after scrutiny.

They include 17 candidates in 7-Fakiragram (Open), 7 in 8-Dotma (ST), 7 in 9-Banagaon (ST), 5 in 10-Debargaon (ST), 8 in 11-Baukhungri (ST), and 5 in 12-Salakati (ST).

In Parbatjhora sub-division, scrutiny was conducted for the 1-Parbatjhora (ST) constituency, where 9 candidates remain in the contest.

In Gossaigaon sub-division, 57 candidates were found valid after scrutiny. This includes 17 in 2-Guma (Open), 11 in 3-Srirampur (Open), 10 in 4-Jamduar (ST), 10 in 5-Sorabil (ST), and 9 in 6-Kachugaon (ST).

However, one nomination from the 2-Guma (Open) constituency was rejected due to defects in the electoral roll entries of the proposer. As neither the candidate nor his (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Teachers' Day celebrated in Karbi Anglong

KAAC CEM calls for respect to teachers

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 5: Teachers' Day was celebrated across schools, colleges and universities, commemorating the birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the first Vice-President of India, in Karbi Anglong on Friday.

In Diphu, the 64th Teachers' Day celebration was held at Sarsing Teron (Langkung Habe) Memorial Town Hall, Matipung.

The event was organised by the Lumbajong Education Block, Department of School Education, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC).

Participating as chief guest, KAAC Chief Executive Member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang stressed the need to give due respect to teachers, saying that without their guidance and teachings, one cannot become a respectable person.

"Teachers deserve respect as



they devote their time and sacrifice to mould a person's character. After parents, teachers are the ones guiding every child with moral discipline and care. Those who don't show respect to their teachers only half gain knowledge," the CEM said.

Addressing the teachers, Ronghang said it was a great honour to

express respect, gratitude and admiration for those who dedicate their lives to shaping young minds and guiding society toward a brighter future.

He added that without quality education, no society can produce responsible citizens, visionary leaders or compassionate human beings. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Centre to keep vigil to ensure GST benefits passed fully to consumers: Goyal

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: The Centre will keep vigil to ensure that the benefits of GST rationalisation are passed on fully to consumers, Union minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, stating that the industry has given him assurance that the entire fall in taxes on various items will be reflected in their prices.

The GST Council's decision to bring all products, except sin goods, under 5 per cent and 18 per cent slabs, while reducing it to zero on a host of essential items, will kick in from September 22, the first day of Navratri.

Addressing a BJP press conference, Goyal also rejected the contention that the US decision to impose a 50 per cent tariff on India might have prompted the Modi government to turn to reforms, as he said that the decision was an outcome of nearly a year-long consultation among secretaries and finance ministers of states and the Centre.

"This decision (GST) has no link whatsoever with any decision of any country. Such a big change cannot happen overnight," the Minister of Commerce and Industry said, noting that the US decision was made only last month.

While the Centre will maintain vigil to ensure that consumers get the full benefits of reduced taxes, states should also monitor it, he said.

With the Congress and its allies taking swipes at the government for "delayed" rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax regime, he hit back, saying they have exposed their own incompetence as they could not roll out the GST during their stint in power during 2004-14 and were only busy in "corruption".

He accused Congress governments in Karnataka and Telangana of trying to obstruct the GST Council, which is headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and includes finance ministers from all states, from approving these reforms on September 3 because it will "expose" their own party. The decision was finally taken with consensus.

Attacking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Goyal said he is like a rocket which could not take off despite numerous launch attempts. He himself does now know what he said on some issue earlier and what he is saying now, and people of the country are not affected by his comments.

Replying to a question, the minister insisted that the Union government's (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

ensuring that citizens across different income groups benefit from inclusive growth.

He noted that the raising of the income tax exemption limit to ₹12 lakh annually has brought significant relief to salaried individuals, while major reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime have simplified taxation and reduced compliance burdens for businesses.

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## Director reviews veterinary services in Karbi Anglong



HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 5: VP Singh, Director of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Statistics Division, Government of India, concluded a three-day review visit to the three Aspirational Blocks of Karbi Anglong—Samelango, Nilip, and Rongmongve—from September 2 to 4.

During the visit, the Director was accompanied by senior state officials and was received by Dr Kamal Kanti Das, District AH & Veterinary Officer; Dr Hongbari Engtipi, Sub-Divisional Veterinary Officer (SDVO); and his team.

Singh carried out detailed reviews of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in each block, including vaccination coverage, artificial insemination (AI) services, fodder development, and the functioning of Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU). He interacted directly with Block Veterinary Officers, field staff, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## No reduction in overall cargo shipments from India: Sonowal

TUTICORIN, Sept 5: Amid concerns over the impact of a 50 per cent US tariff on Indian products, Union Ports Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday claimed that there has been no reduction in overall cargo shipments from India.

Almost 90 per cent of India's foreign trade in terms of volume and 70 per cent of India's foreign trade by value is transported through sea routes.

"We have not seen a reduction in overall cargo shipments from India," Sonowal told PTI when asked to comment on the impact of a 50 per cent steep tariff imposed by Washington on Indian goods entering the US.

India and the US have been negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) since March. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed.

After a 50 per cent duty was imposed on August 27, the US team has deferred its visit to India for the next round of talks, which was scheduled from August 25.

No new dates have been finalised for the sixth round of negotiations.

Amid tensions between India and the US, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that at the end of the day, the two great countries

will get this solved. Delhi's values are much closer to ours and to China's than to Russia's.

During April-July, the country's exports to the US increased 21.64 per cent to USD 33.53 billion, while imports rose 12.33 per cent to USD 17.41 billion, according to commerce ministry data.

The US was the largest trading partner of India in the April-July 2025-26 period (USD 12.56 billion bilateral trade). India's exports to America have been recording a positive growth since April this year.

India has described the US move to levy a 25 per cent additional tariff on Indian goods as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

At VOC Port, Sonowal paid tributes to the statue of the legendary freedom fighter VO Chandra Bhanu Sarkar, commemorating his 154th birth anniversary.

At the event, the minister inaugurated the green hydrogen pilot project with a capacity of 10 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr at VOC Port, making it the first port in the country to produce green hydrogen.

Established at a cost of ₹ 3.87 crore, the project will generate green hydrogen to power street lights and an electric vehicle charging facility in the Port colony. Addressing (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Modi govt has always prioritised poor, middle class: Himanta

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday lauded the Narendra Modi-led Central government for what he described as a consistent commitment to the welfare of the poor and the middle class, highlighting a series of reforms and schemes that he said have transformed lives across the country.

In a post on X, Sarma wrote:

"The Modi Govt has always cared for the poor and middle class and over the years taken various steps for them. Income Tax exemption limit raised to 12 LPA. Major GST reforms. Unified Pension Scheme. PM Awaas Yashwan Bharat. Control on inflation. Lower interest rates."

The Chief Minister said these initiatives have provided both economic relief and social security,

ensuring that citizens across different income groups benefit from inclusive growth.

He noted that the raising of the income tax exemption limit to ₹12 lakh annually has brought significant relief to salaried individuals, while major reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime have simplified taxation and reduced compliance burdens for businesses.

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# Sensex, Nifty close unchanged after 2-day rally; auto, oil shares shine

**MUMBAI, Sept 5:** Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed unchanged after a volatile session on Friday as gains in oil & gas and auto shares were offset by losses in IT and FMCG shares.

After a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 7.25 points or 0.01 per cent at 80,710.76 with 14 of its components ending with gains and 16 with losses.

In a see-saw trade, the barometer opened higher but slipped into the red in late morning deals. It hit a low of 80,321.19 in the afternoon session before paring losses in the pre-close session. The index gyrated 715.37 points between the day's high and low.

The 50-share NSE Nifty eked out gains of 6.70 points or 0.03 per cent to close at 24,741.

Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra climbed 2.34 per cent, followed by Maruti which climbed 1.70 per cent. Power Grid, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and Eternal also were among the gainers.

However, ITC, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and Infosys were among the laggards.

"Indian equities ended flat today, but sentiment stayed mildly positive as key indices rebounded



from intra-day lows on buying at support levels. The auto sector continued to extend gains on expectations of a demand revival.

"Global cues also lent support, with US and Asian markets trading higher ahead of the US jobs report, a key trigger for Fed rate cut expectations," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

BSE smallcap gauge went up by 0.09 per cent, while midcap index dipped 0.10 per cent.

BSE Focused IT dropped the most by 1.44 per cent, followed by IT (1.25 per cent), FMCG (1.22 per cent), realty (1.07 per cent), teck (0.70 per cent) and services

(0.60 per cent).

Among BSE sectoral indices, auto jumped 1.30 per cent and telecommunication climbed 0.96 per cent. Metal (0.71 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.60 per cent) and energy (0.20 per cent) also advanced.

"Markets traded in a narrow range and ended nearly flat on Friday. After a positive start, the Nifty slipped in the first half, weighed down by weakness in IT majors; however, resilience in select heavyweights supported a recovery as the session progressed.

"Sector-wise, auto stocks outperformed, rising over 1 per cent on optimism following reduced

GST rates for vehicles," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

He further added that despite optimism around policy reforms and supportive domestic factors, markets appear to be entering a consolidation phase, given lingering tariff concerns and persistent foreign institutional outflows. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 901.11 points or 1.12 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 314.15 points or 1.28 per cent.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory.

Markets in Europe were trading on firm note. US markets ended higher on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹ 106.34 crore on Thursday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) bought stocks worth ₹ 2,233.09 crore, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.07 per cent to USD 66.93 a barrel.

On Thursday, the Sensex settled 150.30 points or 0.19 per cent higher at 80,718.01, and the Nifty ended marginally higher by 19.25 points or 0.08 per cent at 24,734.30. (PTI)

## After SBI & BoI, Bank of Baroda declares RCom, Anil Ambani as fraud

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** After State Bank of India and Bank of India, another lender Bank of Baroda has classified the loan account of insolvent Reliance Communications as fraudulent and named its former director, tycoon Anil Ambani, citing alleged misutilisation of loans granted more than a decade back, according to a regulatory filing.

RCom said it has received a letter from BoB dated September 2 conveying its decision to classify the loan account of the company and promoter Anil Ambani as "fraud".

Bank of Baroda had sanctioned ₹ 1,600 crore and another ₹ 862.50 crore in line of credit to the company. Of the total ₹ 2,462.50 crore, ₹ 1,656.07 crore remains outstanding as on August 28, according to the lenders' letter disclosed by RCom in the regulatory filing. "The account was classified as non-performing asset (NPA) with effect from June 5, 2017," the letter said.

While RCom is undergoing corporate insolvency resolution proceedings to find a suitor to take over the company and clear its liabilities, BoB in the letter said currently there is no active resolution plan that is approved by the NCLT. It went on to state that the declaration of fraud is based on findings/observations in forensic audit reports and "such classification is in line with the principles of natural justice". In a statement, a spokesperson of Ambani said the action of Bank of Baroda pertains to matters dating back more than 12 years.

"It is pertinent to note that Anil D Ambani served as a non-executive director on the board of RCom

from inception in 2006 until his resignation from the board in 2019, over six years ago," it said.

"He was never an executive director or a KMP of the company, and had no role whatsoever in the day-to-day operations or decision-making of the company," it said. Stating that RCom had a lender consortium comprising 14 banks, it said, "after an inordinate lapse of more than 10 years, select lenders have now chosen to initiate proceedings in a staggered and selective manner targeting Mr Ambani".

It went on to state that RCom is under the supervision of a committee of creditors led by SBI and overseen by a resolution professional.

"The committee of creditors led by SBI had unanimously approved the resolution plan of the successful resolution applicant in March 2020. The matter remains sub judice, pending before the NCLT and other judicial forms, including the Supreme Court, for the past six years and the lenders have not taken steps to complete the resolution process," it said.

Ambani, the statement said, "Categorically denies all allegations and charges and shall pursue remedies available to him in accordance with legal advice."

Previously, State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of India (BoI) had given similar tags to RCom and Ambani. Under banking laws, once an account is declared fraudulent, it must be referred to enforcement agencies for criminal action, and the borrower is barred from accessing fresh finance from banks and regulated institutions for five years. (PTI)

## Maruti Suzuki launches all-new SUV 'VICTORIS' in India

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has launched its latest SUV, the VICTORIS, positioning it as a new benchmark in the segment with advanced technology, versatile powertrains, and enhanced safety features.

According to an official statement, the VICTORIS will be available in petrol with strong hybrid, ALLGRIP Select (4x4), and eco-friendly S-CNG variants featuring a segment-first underbody tank design.

Bookings for the SUV opened on Thursday at ₹11,000.

Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, MSIL, said the new

model was designed to meet the aspirations of India's tech-savvy and environmentally conscious youth.

"VICTORIS with its high technology, sleek design, intelligent and connected features, 5-star level safety and multiple environment-friendly powertrains will win hearts in India," he said.

Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, MSIL, said the SUV was crafted to match the lifestyle of young buyers who view automobiles as an extension of their identity.

The VICTORIS comes equipped with a fully digital 26.03 cm instrument cluster, 25.65 cm SmartPlay Pro X infotainment sys-

tem with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, Dolby Atmos-powered premium sound, and 64-colour ambient lighting.

For safety, it offers six airbags as standard, Level-2 ADAS features, electronic stability program, tyre pressure monitoring, 360-degree camera, and all-wheel disc brakes.

Design highlights include LED projector headlamps, connected LED tail lamps, aero-cut alloy wheels, dual-tone interiors, a panoramic sunroof, and a chiselled exterior profile.

Powertrain options range from a 1.5L strong hybrid with EV mode and e-CVT, to ALLGRIP Select 4x4 with multi-terrain modes, and factory-fitted S-CNG technology.

## Vedanta beats Adani Group with ₹ 17,000 cr bid to acquire JAL

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** Mining conglomerate Vedanta on Friday beat Gautam Adani's Group to make a winning bid for the acquisition of debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates (JAL) for ₹ 17,000 crore,

according to sources.

The bid value translates into Jaiprakash Associates' net present value of ₹12,505 crore.

JAL, which has interests in real estate, cement, power, hotels and

roads, has been dragged into insolvency proceedings after it defaulted on payment of loans.

Lenders of JAL conducted a challenge process for the sale of the company under the IBC.

Multiple bidders participated in the process, but in the end, firm bids were placed by only two entities, Adani and Vedanta Group.

Vedanta eventually made a winning bid of ₹ 17,000 crore, which translated into a NPV (net present value) of ₹ 12,505 crore, beating Adani Group, sources said.

The Committee of Creditors (CoC) meeting was held on September 5 to conduct the challenge process.

Financial creditors have claimed a staggering ₹ 57,185 crore in unpaid dues.

The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) leads the list of claimants after acquiring the stressed JAL loans from a consortium of lenders headed by the State Bank of India.

In April this year, as many as 25 companies showed interest in acquiring JAL. (PTI)

### ACHIEVEMENT



Sarmen Teron of Ronghingchong, PWD Colony, Near Pirbi Market Diphu, has got his M.Sc. in Chemistry from Gauhati University, Guwahati, Department of Chemistry in 2021-2023. Earlier he got his B.Sc. degree in Chemistry from Diphu Government College, Diphu in the year 2018-2021.

He is the son of Lt. Kangbura Teron and Ba-ik Killingspi. Sarmen Teron passed his higher secondary and matriculation from JNV, Diphu in 2018 and 2016 respectively.

His professional experience: 1 year experience in teaching. He currently teaches at Sing Kiri Senior Secondary School, Diphu. Sarmen Teron also teaches Chemistry at ACE Coaching Academy.

Certifications & Achievements: Qualified GATE 2025 in Chemistry. Qualified CSIR-UGC NET 2025 in Chemical Science (JRF, Assistant Professor).

Contd. from Page 1...

## Prohibitory order imposed

any noise producing instruments, unauthorised movement of vehicles or individuals without prior approval, and construction or any potentially disruptive activities that can impede security or cause disturbances have been banned by the order.

The order would be in place for the next two months, and any person contravening it would be punishable under relevant section of the BNSS.

Any person aggrieved with the order can file their written objection before the DCP (Central) for cancellation/modification of the ex-parte order, it added. (PTI)

## 'Directive carries no

Gogoi to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 20 April 2012, requesting Indian citizenship for Hindus facing religious persecution in Bangladesh.

He also recalled that the very next day, the then Assam Pradesh Congress Committee President, late Anjan Dutta, had announced in a press conference alongside Ripun Bora that APCC would urge the AICC to support such a proposal.

Clarifying misconceptions surrounding the Immigrant Foreigners [Relief] 2025 Proclamation, Mahanta said that contrary to opposition claims, the directive had not extended the cut-off date for applications from 31 December 2014 to 31 December 2024.

Instead, the notification simply permitted, with official recognition, persons from six religions—Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian—coming from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to legally reside in India. He stressed that the directive carried no adverse impact on the demography of Assam.

Mahanta urged the people of Assam not to be misled by what he termed as "anti-national activities of Congress and opposition parties."

Instead, he appealed for public support to strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party's efforts in building a developed and progressive Assam.

## 49 candidates in fray

authorised representative was present to clarify, the nomination paper was declared invalid.

The last date for withdrawal of nominations in all constituencies is September 6. Polling will be held on September 22, and counting will take place on September 26.

## Director reviews veterinary

Pashusakhis, and farmers to assess the on-ground implementation of central schemes such as the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDGP), which covers CSF (pig), PPR (goat), FMD (cattle), and Brucella (female calves 4 and 8 months) vaccinations, and the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which promotes breed improvement through AI using conventional and sex-sorted semen.

The Director commended the efforts of the district department and offered recommendations, which include enhancing awareness and reach of MVU and AI services, ensuring complete vaccination coverage in interior villages, creating more fodder plots, and improving convergence with other block-level departments.

He also emphasized the need for media coverage to increase farmer awareness of the Aspirational Blocks Programme.

The District AH & Veterinary Department, Karbi Anglong, expressed commitment to implementing these recommendations and highlighted the need for additional infrastructure, manpower, diagnostic facilities, and training institutes to further improve veterinary services in the Aspirational Blocks.

## Centre to keep vigil

decisions are not guided by elections and recalled an incident of Prime Minister Narendra Modi pulling him up for suggesting that an investment project in a poll-bound state, which Goyal was to announce, will benefit the BJP.

Modi asked him not to make the announcement till the polls, he said, adding that the BJP anyway won and the project was announced later. He did not name the state.

The politically crucial state of Bihar is due for assembly polls in a few weeks.

Goyal praised the rationalisation as historic and extensive reforms, which will reduce the prices of almost every product used by all sections of society and benefit every sector of industry.

He said every product under the Modi government has less tax than it did during the Congress-led UPA government, when consumers and industry were burdened with a bevy of complex tax regimes and corruption allegedly flourished.

It is probably for the first time since Independence that such a sweeping reform in indirect taxation was effected, he said.

Goyal asserted that India lacked the current economic strength in 2014, the year Modi took over, ending 10 years of the UPA rule, as the preceding government took no "transformational" step and was plagued by "corruption". It was full of promises but took no action, he said.

He said finance ministers of the Congress government spoke of bringing in the GST, but states did not trust it and did not have confidence that the Centre would compensate them for any revenue loss caused by the single taxation regime.

Modi made it clear that his government will compensate them not only for any loss but also for any shortfall from 14 per cent annual growth in their revenue collection from the GST for five years, the Commerce and Industry Minister said.

He added that the government continued to simplify the tax regime to the benefit of consumers and industry since its rollout in 2017 and accused opposition parties of misleading people by levelling baseless allegations over the issue.

The latest round of reforms will have a multiplier effect on the economy as it will boost demand and spur growth, making up for the revenue shortfall expected from the rate reduction, he said. (PTI)

## Teachers' Day celebrated

The CEM stated that KAAC is committed to providing good educational infrastructure in both towns and villages, ensuring access to well-equipped schools, modern classrooms, digital tools and qualified teachers.

Calling upon students to honour their teachers, he said, "The true way to honour your teachers is not only by offering flowers or greetings, but by living the values they instill in you—discipline, honesty, and hard work. Carry forward their teachings and make them proud."

He further urged everyone to move ahead with the vision of an empowered education system, where teachers feel respected, students feel inspired, and society feels uplifted.

On the occasion, the Department of School Education, KAAC felicitated Sarthe Phangcho, Headmaster, Tari Adong English LP School; Birendra Teron, Headmaster, Lumbajong Ove Chingthar ME School; Bidya Ram Singnar, Headmaster, Howraghat Govt. ME School; and Jogat Mout, Headmaster, Sukhanjan ME School for their academic performance.

Teachers from high schools and higher secondary schools were also felicitated.

They include Kakrai Teronpi, Principal, DIET Diphu, for performance in academics; Dhan Bahadur Tamang, Headmaster, Rangsinga English Medium High School, for continuous three years of Gunotsav Grade-A and above 95% in HSLC; Phani Dhar Deka, Principal, Bokajan HS School, for outstanding performance in HS and HSLC examinations and Gunotsav; Nirmal Chetry, Principal (i/c), Diphu Govt Girls HS School, for two consecutive years of 100% results in HSLC and HS examinations and outstanding performance in Gunotsav; and Debarson Englang, Principal, Hemphu Lokhimon HS School, for 100% results in HS and HSLC examinations continuously for three years.

Seventeen LP teachers and five ME teachers under Lumbajong Education Block who retired from service were also felicitated for their contribution to education.

The programme was attended by KAAC Chairman Raju Tisso, Deputy Chairman Avijit Kro, and KAAC Executive Members Kache Rongpi, Richard Tokbi, and Mongolsing Timung.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Inspector of Schools, Karbi Anglong District Circle, Birensing Engti, who recalled the life and contributions of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

## Modi govt has always

Centre to control inflation and maintain lower interest rates have helped stabilise household budgets and spur economic activity.

"The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been to ensure that the benefits of development reach every section of society, particularly the poor and middle class. The results are visible across sectors — from healthcare and housing to tax reforms and inflation control," Sarma said in his post.

The Chief Minister has frequently echoed his support for the Modi government's welfare policies, insisting that such reforms have a direct impact on people's lives and reflect the Centre's pro-people governance model.

## No reduction in overall

the gathering, Sonowal said India's maritime sector is witnessing unprecedented progress.

Projects being launched will generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs in Tamil Nadu, boost trade, and attract global investments, positioning the state as a key contributor to India's target of a USD 5 trillion economy by 2027 and a USD 1 trillion economy from Tamil Nadu alone by 2030.

Sonowal further highlighted that the VOC Port is set to become India's Green Hydrogen and Ammonia hub with renewable energy and green bunkering.

The minister also expressed satisfaction over the capacity augmentation projects being carried out at the port. He also laid the foundation stone for the Pilot Green Methanol Bunkering and Refuelling Facility, at a total cost of Rs 35.34 crore, with a capacity of 750 m3. This project supports the use of alternative fuels and aligns with the planned Coastal Green Shipping Corridor between Kandla and Tuticorin. (PTI)

## Assamese film 'Goodbye Guruji'

Tuhin Kashyap, who is also the associate director. The film's visual aesthetic has been shaped by director of photography Asutosh Kashyap and art director Arup Dutta.

Music has been composed by Tarali Sarma, with editing by Rantu Chetia, Prithul Kumar as producer and Vivek Agarwal of Cinecraft Productions as co-producer, the statement said. (PTI)

## Assam emerges among

such as power distribution, transport, buildings, industry, and agriculture. By emerging as one of the leading states, Assam has "set a benchmark" in ensuring that economic progress goes hand in hand with responsible energy use, the government noted.

## Alia Bhatt named global brand ambassador for Levi's

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** Levi's has announced that Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt has joined the brand as its new Global Brand Ambassador. According to an official statement, the collaboration aims to mark a new era of fit and fashion, with Levi's highlighting the growing popularity of relaxed fits, wide legs and looser silhouettes in women's fashion. The brand said it seeks to strengthen its connection with a new generation of consumers while staying rooted in denim's timeless appeal.

"Alia Bhatt's influence transcends film and fashion, she shapes conversations," said Hiren Gor, managing director, South Asia-Middle East and Africa, Levi Strauss & Co.

"As we grow our women's portfolio and lead the shift towards expressive, style-led, comfort-first fits, Alia brings cultural credibility and style authority. Together, we're reinforcing Levi's® as the most relevant and desirable denim brand," he said.

Bhatt said she was excited to represent Levi's® globally, adding that denim is not only personal but also connects people across countries and generations.

The company said Levi's® will continue to innovate with new styles and fits while maintaining its legacy of timeless denim.

## realme launches 15T smartphone in India

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** Smartphone brand realme has launched its latest device, the realme 15T, in India, featuring a dual 50MP AI camera setup on both front and rear, a 7000mAh Titan Battery, and a slim 7.79mm design.

According to an official statement, the realme 15T is powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 6400 Max 5G chipset and comes with a 4000nit 4R Comfort+ AMOLED display, offering what the company claims is the brightest screen in its segment.

It also includes IP66/68/69 water resistance, a 6050mm² AirFlow VC cooling system, and pro-grade AI imaging features.

The phone will be available in three storage variants: 8GB+128GB at ₹18,999, 8GB+256GB at ₹20,999, and 12GB+256GB at ₹22,999.

Pre-bookings opened on September 2 and will continue till September 5, with sales scheduled between September 6 and 8.

The realme 15T comes in three colour options: Suit Titanium, Silk Blue, and Flowing Silver.

### NAME CHANGE

I have Changed my name from Ruksana Begum Nasir to Ruksana Begum by swearing a notarial affidavit at Srimanta Sankardevnagar Hojai (Assam)

### NAME CHANGE

I have Changed my name from Mohammad Kudarat Ullah to Kudarat Ulla Sheikh by swearing a notarial affidavit at Srimanta Sankardevnagar Hojai (Assam)



# Inmates' testimony prompts FIR on drug trafficking at Dhubri District Jail

**HT Correspondent**

**DHUBRI, Sept 5:** In a sensational revelation that has shaken the law enforcement and judicial circles of Dhubri, allegations of rampant drug trafficking inside Dhubri District Jail have surfaced in open court. The shocking disclosure prompted the filing of a formal First Information Report (FIR) by none other than Additional Public Prosecutor, Dinesh Choudhury.

A sensational revelation has come to light through an FIR filed on September 4, 2025, by Choudhury in connection with an ongoing trial at the court of the Hon'ble Special Judge (Addl.), Dhubri. According to the FIR, while proceedings in Special Case No. 337/2023 were being conducted, the accused prisoners—identified as Akkas Ali and Mohibul Ali—along with another accused, Shahjalal Sheikh (linked to Special Case No. 573/2024), made startling statements in open court.

The accused persons reportedly declared before the judge that regular drug trafficking activities are taking place inside the jail premises. Their claims, made in full view of the court, have sparked serious concerns over prison security and possible lapses in the monitoring of illegal activities within the correctional facility.

The revelation, coming directly from un-



dertrial prisoners during judicial proceedings, has raised questions on the functioning of jail administration and the alleged nexus between inmates and external handlers. Authorities are expected to initiate a detailed inquiry into the claims made, given the gravity of the allegations.

The matter has now put the spotlight on prison management in Dhubri, with calls likely to grow for an independent investigation to verify the claims and identify those

responsible if such trafficking is indeed taking place.

The accused further alleged that inmates are openly consuming drugs within the jail, and that during a recent sudden inspection, a large quantity of ganja and tablets was recovered. Startlingly, despite these recoveries, no action was reportedly taken against those responsible.

The FIR also records that empty vials and tablet strips were seized by police personnel

posted inside the jail, identified as Abdul Rauf and Nurul. However, questions have now been raised about why these serious recoveries were never followed up with proper criminal proceedings.

Even more disturbingly, the accused named in court suggested the direct involvement of alleged district jail officials in the drug supply network. Following the order dated 04/09/2025 passed by Special Judge (Addl.) Dhubri, Public Prosecutor Choudhury, in his complaint, has urged the Officer-in-Charge of Dhubri Sadar Police Station to register a case under appropriate sections of law against all those involved in the trafficking racket operating within the jail.

This development has cast a harsh spotlight on the alleged nexus between jail staff and drug peddlers, raising concerns over how narcotics could flow so freely within a high-security facility meant to reform, not corrupt, prisoners.

The FIR is expected to trigger a high-level probe and immediate action. As the revelations continue to unfold, Dhubri District Jail finds itself at the center of one of the gravest scandals in recent memory—an alleged drug trade thriving behind prison walls, under the very nose of the system sworn to uphold justice.

## Karbi Anglong Police bust Inter-State child trafficking racket

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** Karbi Anglong police achieved a major breakthrough on an enter-state child and human trafficking gang. Announcing the successful operation against child trafficking in which children were rescued and two were arrested the SP, Karbi Anglong, Sanjib Kumar Saikia said that further investigation will continue.

In a press conference here in the evening in the SP Office, the SP, Karbi Anglong, Sanjib Kumar Saikia said, "We got an information on the 17th that an enter state child trafficking gang is operating in Karbi Anglong and accordingly a team was constituted under the leadership of Dy SP, Jubin Borah. A preliminary investigation was conducted in which several involved were identified. We accordingly sent a team to Delhi."

He further said, "We were successful in rescuing a mother and her daughter from Delhi and Rajasthan. We arrested two involved in this connection. They are Meena Ingheepi alias Meena Yadav and Sanjay Lohar. On further investigation three more children were rescued. One belongs to Golaghat and the other two are from Bengaluru. One of the children was sold for Rs. 30,000/- three years back. The mother was sold for Rs. 1 lakh in Rajasthan. Further investigation will continue if any leads come in accordance with the arrest."

## Dima Hasao celebrates Teachers

**HT Correspondent**

**HAFLONG, Sept 5:** Along with the rest of the nation, the 64th Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Cultural Institute Hall, Haflong.

The programme was graced by Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC), as the Chief Guest. Nandita Gorlosa, Minister for Sports & Youth Welfare, Government of Assam, also attended as a distinguished guest.

The event witnessed the presence of several eminent dignitaries, including Donpoinon Thaoson, Executive Member, NCHAC; Rupali Langthasa MAC, NCHAC Partha Jahari, Principal Secretary NCHAC. The celebration commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and floral tributes to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, an eminent philosopher, and a revered educationist.

In his keynote address, CEM Gorlosa acknowledged the progress made in the education sector in Dima Hasao while emphasising that much work remains to be done. He lauded the teaching community for their selfless dedication tonation-building and urged their continued cooperation in delivering quality education, especially to the remotest corners of the district. "The education system has improved manifold compared to earlier years, yet we have miles to go. We must work together to ensure that every child in Dima Hasao has access to quality education," he stated. He called upon school management committees to address the issue of student dropouts with urgency and to encourage greater enrolment in government schools. He further announced that four Eklavya Model Residential Schools will soon become operational in Dima Hasao, marking a significant boost to the district's educational infrastructure.

Assam Minister Nandita Gorlosa, in her address, commended the teaching fraternity and underscored the immense contributive power of education. As part of the celebration, several teachers were honoured with the 'Best Teacher' award across categories—Lower Primary, Middle Elementary, High School, and Higher Secondary—for their exemplary service and dedication. Schools that achieved A+ and A grades with a 100% pass rate in the recent academic year were also felicitated for their outstanding performance. In addition, retired teachers from the previous year were recognised for their lifelong contribution to education and were presented with certificates of appreciation. The event concluded with Speech & cultural performances and heart felt expressions of gratitude to the teaching fraternity for their unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation.

She further informed that the Government of India is actively pursuing the bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games and urged students to seize the opportunity this presents. In this context, she observed that if young sports enthusiasts are systematically nurtured from now, Dima Hasao has strong potential to produce outstanding athletes in the years ahead. Executive Member Donpoinon Thaoson described teachers as "beacons of guidance" whose influence extends far beyond the classroom. "Students' minds are like blank pages, and it

is the teacher's role to inscribe them with the best of knowledge, values, and life skills," he remarked, underscoring the transformative power of education. As part of the celebration, several teachers were honoured with the 'Best Teacher' award across categories—Lower Primary, Middle Elementary, High School, and Higher Secondary—for their exemplary service and dedication. Schools that achieved A+ and A grades with a 100% pass rate in the recent academic year were also felicitated for their outstanding performance. In addition, retired teachers from the previous year were recognised for their lifelong contribution to education and were presented with certificates of appreciation. The event concluded with Speech & cultural performances and heart felt expressions of gratitude to the teaching fraternity for their unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation.

## Thadou Inpi condemns killing of Nehkam Jomhao, demands CBI probe

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** The Thadou Inpi Assam (TIA), along with the Thadou Women's Association, Thadou Literature Society, and Thadou Students' Association in their joint press statement have, expresses their deepest anguish over the alleged killing of Nehkam Jomhao by cadres of Kuki Suspension of Operation (SoO) militant groups (KRA, UKDA, KLA) on the night of August 30 last at Manja in Karbi Anglong.

While the mortal remains of Jomhao have been recovered, the Thadou community has resolved to

withhold acceptance and final rites as a mark of peaceful protest until justice is delivered.

A memorandum with demands has been submitted to the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma; the Chief Executive Members of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and NC Hills Autonomous Council; the Union Home Secretary, Government of India; the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Government of Assam; the Advisor (NE), Ministry of Home Affairs; and the Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police of Karbi Anglong and

Dima Hasao. The organisations demand immediate transfer of the case to the National Investigation Agency to probe systematic persecution and militant links with Manipur violence; protection of Thadou Identity – Government must safeguard Thadou rights against forced "Kuki" identity and facilitate a Kuki-Thadou Memorandum of Understanding under Assam Govt. supervision and with GoI's knowledge; to end the SoO with KRA, UKDA, KLA by the government and flush out Manipur-based militants from Karbi Anglong soil and relocate militant camps outside sensitive areas.

## Health Camp held in Karbi Anglong

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** A preparatory meeting for the upcoming Mega Health Camp (MHC) was convened today at the Conference Hall of the new Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Secretariat. Officials from various line departments took part in the discussion and finalized necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the camp.

The Mega Health Camp for Karbi Anglong is scheduled for September 18, 2025, while West Karbi Anglong will host its camp on October 7, 2025. These camps are designed to provide comprehensive healthcare services to the people, including specialist consultations, diagnostics, and treatment facilities under one roof.

Speaking at the meeting, the District Commissioner emphasized the importance of the initiative, stating, "The Mega Health Camp is a significant step to ensure that quality healthcare reaches every citizen, especially those in remote areas. Active participation from all departments is essential to make this effort a success."

## TEACHER'S DAY

### Nagaon GNDG Commerce College celebrates Sept 5

**HT Correspondent**

**NAGAON, Sept 5:** Along with the rest of the country, several educational as well as other civic bodies of Nagaon celebrated separately the teacher's day.

Nagaon GNDG Commerce College celebrated Teacher's day today to commemorate the birth anniversary of former President of India, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

The programme was organized by the College Students' Union with active participation from the students. The celebration began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp in front of Dr Radhakrishnan's portrait by the Principal, Dr Mriganka Saikia. Following the lighting of the lamp at the portrait of Dr Radhakrishnan, students fraternity felicitated all the faculty members of the college in recognition of their dedication and service.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Saikia highlighted the significance of the day and emphasized the invaluable role of teachers in shaping young minds and contribution to nation-building. The event concluded with a colourful cultural programme presented by the students.

Apart from these, the students of the M Com. and B B A departments also organized Teacher's day celebrations in their respective classrooms, where they felicitated the Principal along with their respective faculty members.

Nagaon Lions Club also celebrated Teachers' day today with great enthusiasm and respect. Jiten Agarwal, the president of Nagaon Lions Club, inaugurated the celebration by lighting a lamp and paying floral tributes to the revered image of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan at the club's auditorium.

### NTPC Bongaigaon observes Teachers' Day at Notre Dame Academy and Ankur Tiny Tots

**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, Sept 5:** NTPC Bongaigaon, Salakati 5th September 2025: Teachers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Notre Dame Academy, Salakati at the EWA Campus, and Ankur Tiny Tots. NTPC Bongaigaon with tributes paid to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the eminent philosopher, teacher, and former President of India, whose birth anniversary is observed nationwide as Teachers' Day.

At the EWA Campus, Principal of Notre Dame Academy, Sister Manju, along with the teachers, led the celebrations. Students showcased cultural performances expressing their gratitude and admiration towards their mentors. Teachers were felicitated with tokens of appreciation by Shri Anurag Gupta, General Manager (O&M), NTPC Bongaigaon, and Smt. Kasturi Maitra, President, Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Gupta emphasized the crucial role teachers play in shaping a value-based society. Earlier, Shri Amit K. Asthana, Head of HR, NTPC Bongaigaon, spoke about

inspirational teachers across India who have brought transformative change through education.

At the Ankur Tiny Tots campus, floral tributes were offered to Dr. Radhakrishnan by Smt. Kasturi Maitra and members of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club. Teachers at Ankur Tiny Tots were also felicitated with tokens of appreciation by the dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Maitra praised the dedication of the teachers and reiterated their commitment to nurturing young children into responsible citizens of society. To mark the occasion, fun games were organised for the teachers at Ankur Tiny Tots, while the students conducted a quiz for the teachers, making the celebrations lively and engaging. The programme was also attended by Shri Sushil Kumar, AGM (C&I), Shri Manish Kumar, Sr. Manager (C&I) and parent's representative, who joined in appreciating the efforts of the teachers. Children of both schools presented colourful cultural programmes, thanking their teachers for their guidance and contributions, making the day memorable for all.

## Assam Rifles observes teachers day at Assam Rifles High School

**HT Correspondent**

**BISWANATH CHARIALI, Sept 5:** Assam Rifles organized Teachers' Day at Assam Rifles High School, Lokra today. The event was conducted to honour the contribution of teachers and to strengthen the bonds between students and mentors. A total of 21 teachers, 264 students, and seven staff members participated in the programme along with Assam Rifles troops. The celebration included cultural performances, speeches by students, and a felicitation ceremony for teachers. The event concluded with refreshments, creating a joyful atmosphere and reinforcing the spirit of respect and gratitude towards teachers.

## Dibrugarh administration celebrates the 64th Teachers' Day

**HT Correspondent**

**DIBRUGARH, Sept 5:** The 64th Teachers' Day was celebrated centrally at Dibrugarh District Library Hall today on the occasion of the birth anniversary of eminent philosopher, educationist and politician Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The programme began with a lantern lighting ceremony and laying flowers at the portrait of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Dr. Bhimkanta Barua, retired professor of Assamese department, Dibrugarh University was the chief guest and keynote speaker. Speaking as the keynote speaker, he highlighted the importance of teachers in providing human resource development for the country and the changing education system. Speaking at the Teachers' Day programme, District Commissioner Bikram Kairi said that teachers have an immense responsibility in building a progressive country and society. He said educational institutions should strive to develop every student as a good citizen and human resource of the country.

## Cancer awareness programme held at Dirok Tea Estate in Margherita

**HT Correspondent**

**MARGHERITA, Sept 5:** An Oral, Breast, Cervical cancer screening and awareness programme was held on Friday at Dirok Tea Estate Hospital in Margherita.

The awareness programme was organised by Indian Red Cross Society Margherita sub district Branch in association with Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited and supported by Assam Cancer Care Foundation.

Pabitra Borgohain Secretary of Indian Red Cross Society Margherita sub district Branch explained the objectives and highlighted the reasons,



symptoms and treatment methods of the rising cases of cancer, as well as the importance of organising such awareness programs and screening camps to increase public awareness.

Assam Cancer Care Foundation actively supported the screening camp, with specialist doctors Dr. Mamata Upadhyaya of Assam Cancer Care Foundation, Dr. Rasmi Kakoty of Dirok Tea Estate Hospital, Dipom Borgohain district Coordinator, Nirmali Sanchowla COP nurse, Julee Handique Palliative nurse all three from Assam Cancer Care Foundation along with medical staffs conducting health check-ups for the tea garden workers. The camp screened approximately three hundred tea garden workers for oral, breast, and cervical cancer, and provided tests and treatment for high blood pressure and diabetes.

## Governor Acharya felicitates senior-most surviving retired primary teacher of Assam in Jorhat

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** On the occasion of teachers' day, Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya felicitated Rajat Chandra Goswami, a 94-year-old primary school teacher who is also the oldest surviving retired primary school teacher of the State, at his residence at Adhar Satra, Hatigarh in Jorhat today. He also visits Anganwadi Centre and Amrit Sarovar in the district.

Governor through an initiative namely 'Assam Governor Varishtha Shikshak Samman' has directed all DCs to make arrangements for honouring the oldest surviving retired primary school teacher in their respective districts on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

As part of the initiative, felicitating the senior most surviving retired primary teacher in Jorhat on the occasion, the Governor said, "Shri Goswami is not just a teacher, but a luminary who has immensely contributed to academic landscape of the district administration as well as the state". He said that Shri Goswami through his teaching, shaped countless students who are now serving the society in various capacities. The Governor expressed his happiness for being able to personally felicitate Shri Goswami after



visiting the latter's residence.

Reiterating the immense role played by the teachers in general, Governor Acharya remarked that the dedication and commitment of the teachers have enabled the nation witness development while preserving and carrying forward its rich intellectual legacy. He underlined that showing respect to teachers has been an integral part of India's heritage and rightfully a tra-

dition of the nation. The Governor moreover, observed that the teachers' contributions are invaluable, and it is the duty of everybody to acknowledge and recognise their role in nation-building.

It may be mentioned that the Governor felicitated the nonagenarian with a citation, angavastara, shawl, garland, Xorai and Japi, Gamosa, Fruit Basket, an umbrellla and Dakshina of ₹

51,000.

Later, the Governor visited the Ali Chuburi Model Anganwadi Centre at Kakojan in Jorhat, where he interacted with students, teachers, and parents. Reiterating the importance of a clean and green environment, he asked the stakeholders of the Anganwadi centre to plant more trees within the campus and encouraged the teachers to instill students with a spirit of green awareness among them.

Moreover, as part of his Gaon Mein Governor initiative, Acharya also visited one Amrit Sarovar at Holongparara. In his efforts of making it one of the model Amrit Sarovars he underscored the need of making an ideal centre for environment tourism. He also reiterated that such models should be replicated across the State. During his visit, he interacted with members of self-help groups, inspired them to regularly listen to the Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat programme and empower themselves using the government programmes and schemes.

The Governor inspected the facilities at the Sarovar, including the sheds built for the people around the pond. The Governor distributed radios and megaphones to members of self-help groups and also planted a sapling at the site.



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often. -Winston Churchill*

## Maratha agitation

**M**anoj Jarange Patil-led Maratha agitation demanding OBC status for the community has just reached Mumbai, which brings with it fresh political worries for the BJP led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation election is going to be held later in 2025, in which BJP has biggest stake, since Mumbai is the financial capital of India, and it can't afford to lose. Maratha community could play a big role in this election on account of their large population in the city. No wonder, BJP leader and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis has said that Jarange's agitation is being exploited for political purposes. Fadnavis has made this remark after two MPs from Shiv Sena (UBT) – Sanjay Jadhav and Nagesh Patil Ashtikar – announced their participation in the protest. The Opposition has come out in support of the agitation. Not even that, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut has emphasized that Mumbai's identity is that of a Marathi stronghold. Another INDIA bloc constituent the Congress has also supported the agitation. Maharashtra Congress president Harshvardhan Sapkal has supported the agitation and said that government should be serious about the Maratha community's demand. As for the Mahayuti, one of its constituent Shiv Sena leader and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has mysteriously said, "some matters should remain confidential." It was clear indication that Shiv Sena is not going with the BJP on this issue.

All these mean that the BJP will have to deal with the political situation arising out of the Maratha agitation on its own. CM Fadnavis has reiterated that the state government has already granted a separate 10 per cent quota for the Maratha community. He has also assured the OBC communities that their interest will be safeguarded. A huge rally was organized on August 29 in Azad Maidan in Mumbai, exactly two years after the Jarange Patil had launched his agitation on August 29, 2023. He has been demanding reservation benefits for the Maratha community from the OBC category. Though one day was allowed him to protest, he said he would not return. Maratha agitation has been continuing for the last two years and has finally reached Mumbai just before the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation election to be held soon, but the schedule of election is yet to be announced.

During the last two years of agitation, Jarange Patil has not been able to reach Mumbai. He had planned to reach Mumbai in January this year but has stopped at Vashi after the Maharashtra government had requested him to do so on assurance of considering his demand. He had undertaken over half a dozen hunger strikes in the last 15 years of his agitation demanding OBC status to Maratha communities. He demands that Marathas be given Kunbi caste certificate, because they are interlinked socially.

# SCO 2025 and India's three-pillar strategy: Security, Connectivity and Opportunity

## Assessing India's role and achievements of the Tianjin Declaration

**T**he Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which was established in 2001, originally came into being as a security-focused forum. For China, Russia and Central Asian countries, the organisation was a common platform for counter-terrorism and border stability. But over the past two decades, the organisation has gradually taken on a multi-dimensional form, with issues such as security as well as economic cooperation, connectivity, cultural exchanges and the establishment of a multipolar world order becoming prominent. India, which joined as an observer in 2005 and gained full membership in 2017, sees opportunities in the organisation on the one hand and challenges on the other. The Tianjin Summit in 2025, which also marked the organisation's 25th anniversary, was very important in this regard.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this occasion described India's relationship in terms of three pillars – security, connectivity and opportunity. This was not just rhetoric but a clear and balanced strategy through which India articulated its security concerns, sought to balance the imbalances in the organisation and establish itself as a force shaping the future. These three pillars were clearly echoed in the Tianjin Declaration, where for the first time the India-proposed vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" was formally enshrined.

The first pillar, security, is India's main concern. Modi reiterated the principle of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism, rejecting double standards. This was a clear message to Pakistan, which presents itself as a counter-terrorism power despite providing sanctuary and support to terrorist organisations. India ensured that the Tianjin Declaration made clear reference to the recent major terrorist attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, including the Pul-



DEGREE OF THOUGHT  
By: Dr Priyanka Saurabh

wama-Pahalgam attack in Kashmir. This was a diplomatic victory for India, as earlier declarations were often limited to general terms. India stressed the need for measures to strengthen the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), share intelligence, prevent terrorist financing and control digital extremism. India also warned that if Afghanistan is not addressed, the entire region will be vulnerable to insecurity.

The second pillar, connectivity, is strategically and economically important for India. Central Asia is an energy-rich and strategically important region, but India has limited direct geographical connectivity. Modi, citing projects like the Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor, said that India supports connectivity infrastructure that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity. This was an indirect criticism of China's Belt and Road Initiative, especially the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which passes through the Indian territory of Gilgit-Baltistan. India made it clear that no path for development can be created by compromising the sovereignty of any country.

The Tianjin Summit also saw partial talks on India-China relations. The brief meeting between Modi and Xi Jinping discussed border stability, visa restoration and the possibility of reopening pilgrimage sites like Kailash-Mansarovar. This shows that for India, connectivity is not limited to just physical infrastructure, but people-to-people ties, trade normalisation and cultural exchanges are equally important.

The third pillar, Opportunities, reflects India's visionary and creative approach. Modi said that the SCO should not be limited to security and geopolitics alone, but should become a platform for innovation, youth empowerment and sustainable development. India proposed strengthening the SCO Startup Forum, cooperation on inclusive digital governance and responsible use of artificial intelligence. It also advocated for environmental sustainability, green energy and joint efforts against climate change. Also, India suggested setting up a "cultural dialogue platform" in the SCO to highlight the shared cultural heritage of Asian countries. This pillar takes India beyond being a mere security-focused nation and gives it the role of a cul-

tural and moral leader.

These initiatives of India were clearly echoed in the Tianjin Declaration. For the first time, the Declaration adopted the Indian vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future". This is the same idea that India had put forward during its G20 presidency. The Declaration explicitly condemned terrorist incidents and agreed to establish an SCO Development Bank, to which China pledged to provide an initial capital of \$1.4 billion. While this raises fears of China's economic dominance, it is a step towards making the SCO a solid economic platform. The Declaration supported multipolarity, UN reform and greater participation of developing countries. It also included a resolution to promote education, culture and dialogue of civilizations, which is in line with India's initiative.

Despite these achievements of India, challenges remain. Pakistan constantly tries to raise the Kashmir issue at international forums, although it does not get the desired success. China's Belt and Road project still attracts many countries, due to which India's dissenting position creates contradictions in the

organization. There is still no coherent collective strategy on the situation in Afghanistan. Also, India will have to balance with Western forums such as the Quad and the Indo-Pacific Initiatives while maintaining its strategic autonomy.

In the global context, the SCO's relevance is growing rapidly. The organization represents nearly half of the world's population and one-fifth of the economy. At a time when the Russia-Ukraine war, the US-China competition, and instability in West Asia dominate international politics, the SCO has emerged as a symbol of multipolarity. India's active role gives the organization a democratic and develop-

ment-oriented dimension. The way forward: India will have to ensure that counter-terrorism cooperation does not remain just on paper but is translated into concrete arrangements like intelligence sharing and financial monitoring. Alternative connectivity structures like Chabahar and the North-South Transport Corridor will have to be implemented soon. India's strength in the IT and startup sectors can make the SCO globally relevant. India can further strengthen its soft power through yoga, Ayurveda, education and cultural exchanges. The most important challenge will be to maintain balanced relations with China and Russia, so that India can play an independent role while protecting its sovereignty.

Finally, the Tianjin Summit was not just an anniversary of the SCO, but also a symbol of the maturity of India's diplomacy. Security, connectivity and opportunity – these three pillars connect India's national priorities and regional aspirations. The inclusion of India's vision in the Tianjin Declaration is a testament to this. Whatever the challenges, India is now not just a participant, but a key architect of the SCO's direction.

# A new era of GST: Towards a taxation revolution

By: Lalit Garg

**T**he introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was a historic and revolutionary milestone in India's taxation system. It sought not only to simplify the complex web of indirect taxes but also to curb corruption and bureaucratic high-handedness in governance and administration. Yet, despite its intent to provide relief and convenience, the system remained riddled with complexities and burdensome tax slabs that weighed heavily on the public. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had long recognized this, and during his Independence Day address from the Red Fort this year, he announced plans to make GST simpler and more people-friendly. Acting on this vision, the government has now streamlined GST into just two slabs, while significantly reducing the rates. This step, focused especially on middle- and lower-income households, ensures families will have more disposable income to spend on other goods and services. Increased consumption, in turn, will boost economic activity and accelerate growth. These bold reforms herald the dawn of a new taxation era—one that is simpler, more transparent, and better aligned with people's needs.

Following the 56th meeting of the GST Council, the government announced that the new GST rates will take effect from September 22. The existing 12% and 28% slabs have been replaced with just 5% and 18%. Additionally, a new 40% slab has been introduced for luxury items. While the opposition has dismissed this as a delayed move, the government has projected it as a major stride in economic reform. Some economists also view it as a protective measure in the backdrop of Trump's tariff wars, aimed at boosting domestic consumption and bridging the export deficit. Others see it as a festive-season gift from the government ahead of Navratri and Diwali. Multiple tax slabs had long been a source of confusion and burden for consumers. Frequent rate revisions created uncertainty within the business community. The new two-slab system will largely eliminate such ambiguities, offering consumers a fairer and more predictable tax regime. This will stabilize prices, encourage consumption, and ease business operations, giving industry renewed momentum.

It would not be wrong to say that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, several effective measures have been taken to curb corruption. Digitization, direct benefit transfers, Aadhaar linkage, and transparent systems have built confidence in governance. GST has strengthened the concept of "One Nation, One Tax." Yet the reality is that the GST department has not entirely freed itself from the grip of corruption. Small traders and entrepreneurs still find themselves ensnared in notices, investigations, and complicated procedures. At times, corrupt practices exploit this to instill fear and extract undue benefits. This undermines the very spirit of GST reforms. If taxation is to be truly revolutionary, the GST system must be made completely corruption-free.

India's tax departments have long been regarded as hubs of corruption, sustained by complex laws and multiple tax categories. A transparent, simple structure minimizes unnecessary interaction between officials and businesses, building greater trust among citizens and small entrepreneurs. Going forward, the government must strengthen GST technologically and administratively. Artificial intelligence and digital tracking can help curb tax evasion while checking arbitrary practices and bribery. Protecting taxpayers' rights, ensuring a fear-free environment for honest businesses, and offering relief to consumers will be the real hallmarks of GST as a revolutionary reform. The new

phase of GST brings relief and signals positive change. The next step must be to rid the system of corruption entirely, thus winning the confidence of honest taxpayers. Only then can India claim to have decisively moved toward "One Nation, One Tax, and One Transparent System."

In a nation's economic journey, certain decisions are not just policy shifts but turning points in history. The latest reforms in GST are such a decisive step. Simplifying taxation and directly benefiting citizens reflect not just bureaucratic will but a vision of public welfare. Since independence, India's tax system has been mired in complexity, burdens, and corruption. Both small traders and ordinary consumers suffered in this maze of indirect levies. While the introduction of GST was already a transformative move, further reducing it to two slabs makes it truly revolutionary. This will ease the burden on consumers, enhance the ease of doing business, and energize the economy. The true engine of growth is the common citizen's wallet. When consumers save more, they spend more. Increased consumption drives industries, boosts production, and generates employment. This is the real impact of GST reform—it will give wings to economic activity and help propel India towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

In any democracy, governance is judged by how far it prioritizes the interests of its citizens. Through GST reform, the Modi government has demonstrated that its policies are not merely about numbers but about easing everyday life. The reform offers not just financial relief but psychological reassurance. Challenges, however, remain—such as compensating states for revenue losses, integrating small businesses into the new system, and ensuring transparency in tax administration. If these issues are addressed, GST reform will firmly steer India towards a stronger, more transparent, and growth-oriented economy.

It would not be wrong to call this reform a "gift" for the people. It is more than just a change in taxation—it is an attempt to improve the standard of living. It signifies that government policies are designed not merely to run the machinery of state but to provide real relief to citizens and accelerate national progress. The crucial question now is whether the benefits will truly reach the common consumer. Much depends on whether industries pass on the tax cuts to customers and whether regulators enforce compliance effectively. The new era of GST has opened a window of hope. If carried forward with integrity, it could well transform India's taxation system into one of the most transparent and people-centric models in the world.

By: Chafikhur Rahman

**T**he Goods and Services Tax, better known as GST, was introduced in India in July 2017. It replaced many indirect taxes like excise duty, VAT, and service tax. GST was called the "One Nation, One Tax" system. The aim was to make the tax system simple, transparent, and fair.

But from the beginning, GST has been a topic of debate. One of the most discussed issues is about GST rates. Many industries and common people feel that GST rates are high. Whenever the government reduces GST, it immediately affects prices, demand, and the economy. So, the question is "Does reducing GST really impact the Indian economy?"

Let us understand this with examples, real-life cases, and simple explanations.

**What Happens When GST is Reduced?** When the government reduces GST on any product or service, the immediate result is a reduction in price. Lower prices make goods and services more affordable. This creates higher demand. For example, if GST on a restaurant meal comes down from 18% to 5%, the bill becomes smaller. More people may then prefer to eat out. This benefits both customers and restaurants.

Similarly, if GST on cars is reduced, more people may think of buying a new car. This supports the automobile industry, which in turn supports many other industries like steel, rubber, glass, and electronics.

But along with benefits, there are also challenges. A cut in GST means the government collects less revenue. Since this money is used for schools, hospitals, roads, and other welfare schemes, the government has to balance carefully.

**Example 1: Restaurants and Food Industry:** In the early days of GST, restaurant bills became a big complaint for customers. Earlier, restaurants charged VAT and service tax separately, but under GST, most restaurants were placed under the 18% slab. This made eating out more expensive. After public pressure, the GST Council reduced the rate in November 2017. The new rate became 5% GST for restaurants (without input tax credit).

**Impact:** Families once again started going out to eat. Small restaurants and dhabas reported better business. Food delivery apps like Swiggy and Zomato also grew rapidly as people found them affordable again. This shows how a simple tax reduction created a direct boost in consump-

tion and jobs.

**Example 2: Automobiles Sector:** The automobile industry is one of the largest job providers in India. It includes not only car makers but also parts manufacturers, dealerships, repair shops, and transport workers. When GST was first applied, cars were put in the 28% slab, and with cess, the total tax went up to 40-50% on luxury cars. This was too high for the middle class.

In 2018 and 2019, the government gave temporary relief by reducing cess and offering incentives. This helped the industry for a short time.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, industry leaders requested a cut in GST from 28% to 18% to revive demand. Though the government did not fully agree, some states reduced road tax.

**Impact:** Whenever tax relief is given, sales immediately increase. Example: After GST compensation cess was reduced on small cars and electric vehicles, sales of EVs jumped in India. More sales mean more employment and faster industrial growth. This proves that GST reduction in automobiles has a direct impact on demand and jobs.

**Example 3: Real Estate and Housing:** Owning a house is a dream for every Indian. But high taxes make flats and houses costly. Earlier, under GST, buyers had to pay 12% GST on under-construction houses. After much criticism, the GST Council reduced it to 5% for normal housing and 1% for affordable housing in 2019.

**Impact:** Middle-class families started booking flats again. Affordable housing projects saw good demand. Builders got relief because unsold flats were finally being sold. This change also supported the government's mission of Housing for All. It showed that tax cuts can make social schemes successful.

**Positive Impacts of Reducing GST:**

1. Boost in Demand: Lower taxes make products and services cheaper, which increases demand.
2. More Business Growth: Industries get more customers, which leads to better profits.
3. Employment Generation: Higher demand means more production, which creates more jobs.
4. Lower Inflation: Reduced GST on essentials like food, medicines, and housing helps control inflation.
5. Encourages Formal Economy: Lower rates reduce tax evasion and bring small traders into

the tax system.

**Challenges of Reducing GST:**

1. Revenue Loss: The government collects less money. This may affect spending on health, education, and infrastructure.

2. Risk of Fiscal Deficit: If the government earns less and spends more, it may have to borrow more, leading to a deficit.

3. Short-Term Effect: Sometimes demand increases only for a short time and then falls again.

4. Unequal Benefits: If tax cuts are only in selected sectors, only those industries benefit while others remain under pressure.

**Real-Life Lessons from GST Reduction**

**Cinema Tickets:** Earlier taxed at 28%, later reduced to 12% and 18% in 2018. Result: ticket sales increased, especially in small towns.

**Sanitary Napkins:** GST was completely removed in 2018 after protests. Result: This helped women access hygiene products at lower prices.

**Electric Vehicles (EVs):** GST reduced from 12% to 5% in 2019. Result: EV sales surged, and India became one of the fastest-growing EV markets.

Each example shows that reducing GST can change people's behavior immediately.

**Balancing Act:** Growth vs. Revenue: For the Indian economy, the big question is "How to balance growth with revenue needs?"

If GST is too high, people avoid spending or look for ways to escape tax. If GST is too low, the government may not have enough money for welfare and infrastructure.

Therefore, the GST Council often studies each sector separately. Reductions are given only where they will boost demand and help the common people.

**Conclusion:** So, is reducing GST impacting the Indian economy? The answer is 'Yes'. In the short term, it increases demand, supports industries, and creates jobs. In the long term, the challenge is to make sure government revenue does not fall too much.

Real-life examples from restaurants, automobiles, housing, cinema, sanitary products, and electric vehicles prove that GST reduction changes consumer behavior and supports growth. At the same time, India must ensure that tax collections remain healthy for future development.

GST is like a balance scale — one side has consumer relief and growth, while the other has government revenue. Both must stay equal for India's economy to grow strongly.

Yours faithfully,  
Mowsam Hazarika

## POST BAG

# Assam should be kept outside the purview of CAA

Sir/Ma'am

**T**hrough the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to express my deep concern regarding the recent statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The Chief Minister himself admitted that since the law came into force, only 12 persons have applied for citizenship in Assam through CAA. Ironically, this law has not been in force in Assam effectively since day one. Yet, during the anti-CAA movement, five young lives were lost, whose supreme sacrifice still pains the conscience of our state. At last, the Chief Minister too has acknowledged them as martyrs, which is a welcome gesture. But acknowledgment alone is not

enough—the families of these martyrs must be given due dignity, financial assistance, and employment opportunities.

Here arises a painful question: Why were the tears of five mothers shed, why were five young lives extinguished, only to give citizenship to just 12 persons? If the law serves no real purpose in Assam, then the government must take responsibility for this loss and respect the sacrifices by keeping Assam out of the ambit of CAA altogether.

It is pertinent to mention that Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram are exempted due to Inner Line Permit (ILP). Similarly, 98% of Meghalaya and 67% of Tripura fall under the Sixth Schedule, and large parts of Assam, such as the Bodoland Territorial Region and three hill districts, are also outside the scope of the Act.

If CAA is unsuitable for these regions, how can it suddenly become suitable for the remaining 27 districts of Assam? What crime have the people of these districts committed to be burdened with an irrelevant and divisive law? The Chief Minister must answer this basic question.

It is unjust to deny the sentiments of millions of indigenous people of Assam only to grant citizenship to a handful of illegal immigrants. If the government truly values the sacrifices made during the movement, it should ensure that Assam is kept completely outside the purview of CAA.



# 10 things you should not say to your boss

By: Global Hunt

When you are interacting with the boss, the most trivial thinking-aloud moment can turn into a nightmare - who knows how your words would be interpreted. So it is absolutely necessary to ensure that your foot doesn't find a place in your mouth at the workplace, especially around the people you report to. Agreed, telling off your boss is a common fantasy and a temptation almost impossible to resist. But bear in mind, letting your guard down and telling the power-that-be exactly what you feel can have disastrous consequences.

It could be just an innocuous statement, but you may come across as lazy, careless and/or disrespectful to your boss. So, if there isn't a mental filter in place, or if the existing one has proved to be ineffective, here's a list of phrases that most employers would hate to hear. Make no mistake, this list is not exhaustive and is in no-particular order.

## 1) That's Not in My Job Description

Nowadays, companies hire those who can wear many hats. So, if a particular task doesn't come technically under your job description, try not complaining about it - unless it's completely off the track. "If your boss thinks you are unwilling or incapable of doing what you've been asked, you will be considered a weak player," says Vinay Grover, CEO of Symbiosis Management Consultants, a headhunting firm.

## 2) I Can't Do This Task

You maybe nose-deep in work but an instant refusal gives an impression that you just don't want



to carry out a particular task. "You should always give valid reasons first and then say no," says Sunil Goel, director, GlobalHunt, an executive search firm. If you happen to be one of those who find it difficult to say no, don't fall into the trap of saying an instant yes, only to go back on your word later.

## 3) I Just Never Got Around To It

It's quite simple: if your boss has entrusted you with something, you've just got to do it. "I was given an interesting assignment to work on while

I was on something else. Call it poor time-management, I was unable to work on the project. When my manager inquired, I decided to be honest," says Nishit Mishra, a marketing executive with a multinational banking giant. Mishra had to hand over the assignment to a colleague; never a pleasant thing to do, and you'd agree.

## 4) I Don't Know How To Do It

You may actually be clueless but you need not say it in as many words. Saying "I don't know"

shows a weakness and it also may be interpreted as an excuse that you just don't want to do it. "Tell your boss that you are prepared to do the task but that you may require assistance or guidance because you haven't done it before," says Grover of Symbiosis.

## 5) I Am Overqualified For This

The task at hand might appear 'lowly'. However, you are at work and instead of playing a big shot, you should just roll up your sleeves and get to work. "This is what your boss expects of you and anything less will show that you are actually not qualified to get things done," says Ronesh Puri, managing director, Executive Access, a headhunting firm. Do it yourself or delegate it to someone else - come what may, but get it done!

## 6) Sorry, I Missed That Point

You might be nursing a hangover or missing your caffeine shot while sitting in a painful early morning meeting. No matter what, be clued in to what is being discussed. Don't dream of the sundae you plan to have post-lunch when the boss is talking to you.

"This phrase can do more harm than good. If you are coming up with such excuses then it leaves an impression that you are not attentive and are losing interest in your work," says Goel of Global-Hunt.

## 7) I Need to Talk to You, It's Important

Two simple rules that will justify the presence of this statement in this list.

## Rule#1:

Your time is only half as precious (or even lesser) as your boss'.

## Rule#2:

What is important to you might not be all that important to your boss. Consider both of these unsaid rules and you will end up making some qualitative changes like saying "slightly urgent" or "somewhat important".

## 8) I Will Try

Your bosses don't want you to try doing a task, they want you to do it. Trying is not an option here. Saying "I will try" will tell your boss that they cannot depend on you. It will not give them the assurance that the task will be taken care of. You wouldn't want to hear what management trainee Swati Pillai was told when she muttered the unacceptable. "The company pays you for doing not trying." Ouch!

## 9) Don't Blame Me - It's Not My Fault

In the face of criticism or a reprimand, your defense mechanism will inevitably kick in. However, avoid dodging the responsibility or blaming someone else. Of course, you would want to clear the air, but there's a time, place and way to do it. Don't defend when the boss's voice is at a higher-than-comfortable pitch.

## 10) Why Do I Need To Do This?

This is Stupid!

You maybe on back-slapping terms with your boss, but at the end of the day, he's the senior. Anything that questions his authority and judgment is to be avoided at all costs. "If your bosses have asked you to do it, they must think it is important enough. By saying this you openly challenge their competency as a boss," warns Grover. (Courtesy: <https://www.globalhunt.in>)

## DHS Assam Recruitment 2025 – 191 Grade III (Non Technical) Posts, Online Apply

Last Date: 21/09/2025.

Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Assam has released an advertisement for the recruitment of 191 Grade III (Non Technical) Posts against existing vacant posts in different health institutions in the State under the establishment of the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Assam. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here.

### 1. Health Educator

No of posts: 78 posts  
Category-wise vacancy:  
# UR: 40  
# SC: 5  
# STP: 8  
# STH: 4  
# OBC/MOBC: 20  
# OBC/MOBC (Tea Tribes & Adivasi): 1  
Pay Scale: Pay Scale of ₹14,000/- to ₹70,000/-, Grade Pay of ₹7,600/- per month.

### 2. Junior Assistant/ Account Assistant cum LDA

No of posts: 72 posts  
Category-wise vacancy:  
# UR: 36  
# SC: 6  
# STP: 7  
# STH: 4  
# OBC/MOBC: 18  
# OBC/MOBC (Tea Tribes & Adivasi): 1  
Pay Scale: Pay Scale of ₹14,000/- to ₹70,000/-, Grade Pay of ₹6,200/- per month  
3. Basic Health Worker (BHW)  
No of posts: 41 posts  
Category-wise vacancy:  
# UR: 21  
# SC: 3  
# STP: 4  
# STH: 2  
# OBC/MOBC: 11  
# OBC/MOBC (Tea Tribes & Adivasi): 0  
Pay Scale: Pay Scale of ₹14,000/- to ₹70,000/-, Grade Pay of ₹5,600/- per month  
Age Limit: Candidates age should not be less than 18 years and not more than 40 years as on 1st January 2025.  
Age Relaxation: Category-wise upper age limit relaxation is as mentioned below

# OBC/MOBC: 3 years  
# ST/SC: 5 years  
# PwBD: 10 years  
Educational Qualification: Graduate in any discipline from Government recognized University and applicant must possess minimum 6 (six) months diploma in Computer application.  
Employment Exchange Registration: The candidates must possess valid Employment Exchange Registration Certificate of the State of Assam.  
Application Fee: No application fee is to be paid for the applicants.  
Interested and eligible candidates may apply online for these vacancy by visiting official DHS Assam Recruitment Portal. Candidates may follow below mentioned steps to apply online.

# Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.  
# Click on the "Online Application Form" and complete the registration process by clicking "New Registration".  
# In the next stage, click on "Online Application Form" Link and Login.  
# Fill your all personal and educational details and upload necessary documents.  
# At the end, submit the form.  
# Don't forget to take a print out of the application form.  
• Starting Date of online application submission: 12th September 2025  
• Last Date of online application submission: 21st September 2025

## AHIDMS Recruitment 2025 – Manager, Specialist & Other Posts

Assam Health Infrastructure Development & Management Society (AHIDMS) has released two employment notifications for the recruitment of following posts on purely contractual basis for the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under JICA funded "Assam Health System Strengthening Project" and for "Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST) Project". Interested and eligible candidates may apply here.

### 1. IPA Manager

Place of vacancy:  
# Dhubri Medical College & Hospital, and  
# Goalpara DH  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 15.09.2025  
# Time: 11.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 10.00 am  
Essential Qualification: Masters of Hospital Administration or Masters of Health Management, or MBA in Hospital Management or MBA in Health Management. Candidates with BDS degree and the above essential Qualifications will be added advantage.

Other Desirable Qualification: The candidate must have good communication skills both written and verbal in local language, English and computer literacy. Knowledge of government regulation and policies is Desirable.

Experience: New graduates and or entry-level applicants are encouraged to apply for the position. Experienced candidates will be Desirable.  
Skills and Competencies: Computer proficiency, especially in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint.

### 2. Hospital Administrator

Place of vacancy:  
# Guwahati Medical College & Hospital  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 15.09.2025  
# Time: 3.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 2.00 am  
Essential Qualification: Masters of Hospital Administration or Masters of Health Management or MBA in Hospital Management or MBA in Health Management with 10 years post Qualification experience.

Candidates with an undergraduate degree of MBBS/BDS/BHMS/BAMS and the above essential Qualifications will be added advantage.

Desirable: Candidates having the essential Qualification along with experience in hospital operations, quality management and healthcare administration will be given preference. The candidate must have good communication skills, both written and verbal in local language, English and computer proficiency, especially in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Skills: Strong leadership in hospital operations, stakeholder coordination, policy implementation and patient satisfaction management.

Age Limit: Upto 45 yrs as on 01/01/2025.

### 3. Hospital Administrator

Place of vacancy:  
# Medical Colleges & Hospitals  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 16.09.2025  
# Time: 11.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 10.00 am  
Essential Qualification: Masters of Hospital Administration or Masters of Health Management or MBA in Hospital Management or MBA in Health Management with minimum of 3 years post Qualification experience.

Candidates with an undergraduate degree of BDS/BHMS/BAMS and the above essential Qualifications will be added advantage.

Desirable: Candidates having the essential Qualification along with experience in hospital operations, quality management and healthcare administration will be given preference. The candidate must have good communication skills, both written and verbal in local language, English and computer proficiency, especially in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Skills: Strong leadership in hospital operations, stakeholder coordination, policy implementation and patient satisfaction management.

Age Limit: Upto 35 yrs as on 01/01/2025.

### 4. Finance Specialist

Place of vacancy:  
# Medical Colleges & Hospitals  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 18.09.2025  
# Time: 11.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 10.00 am  
Essential Qualification: Chartered Accountant (CA) with 3+ years of post-Qualification experience in the field of finance and accounts.

Desirable: Experience in hospital finance management, government projects, or healthcare sector financial operations.

Skills: Proficiency in budget planning, fund management, financial auditing, and compliance reporting.

Age Limit: Upto 40 yrs as on 01/01/2025.

### 5. MIS Executive

Place of vacancy:  
# PMU ASSIST  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 19.09.2025  
# Time: 11.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 10.00 am  
Essential Qualification: BCA/B.E/B.Tech in Computer Science or Information Technology from recognized university/Institution.

Experience: Minimum 5 years of post-Qualification experience in management of IT & MIS activities in any Externally Aided Project (e.g. World Bank, JICA, ADB etc.) or Public/ Private sector organization.

Experience in designing, executive at least one LAN/WAN/Data centre project is preferable.

Age Limit: Age of the Candidate should not be more than 35 years as on 1st Jan, 2025.

### 6. Procurement Executive

Place of vacancy:  
# PMU ASSIST  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 20.09.2025  
# Time: 11.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 10.00 am  
Educational Qualification: The PE must possess at least a Bachelor of Engineering / Post Graduate Diploma (minimum two years duration) in Procurement from any Govt. recognized university/institution. Candidates having IT Background, Professional Diploma in Public Procurement (PDPP) or Certificate Program in Public Procurement (CPPP) may be given preference.

Working Experience: The PE should have at least 5 (five) years of professional experience in Procurement Management function in any public/private sector agency out of which 02 (two) years in World Bank/externally aided Projects will be Desirable. Those with hands-on experience in e-procurement system & GeM of the Government may be preferred.

Computer Skills: The PE must have expertise in using Internet based applications, working with advanced word processing/spreadsheets including MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point, related applications and software & hardware computer systems.

Language: Knowledge of Assamese, English, and Hindi will be an added advantage.

Desirable Qualifications, Experience, Skills etc:

a. Experience of working in complex, multi stakeholder, fast moving environment and ability to work under pressure, strict deadlines and multitasking.  
b. Good social, analytical and planning skills; the candidate must show initiative, synthesis, organization and personal dynamism, be self-motivated and should possess ability to work independently as well as in teams.

Age Limit: Age of the candidate should not be more than 45 years as on 1st Jan 2025.

### 7. Procurement Specialist

Place of vacancy:  
# Office of the Director of Medical Education, Assam  
Date of interview & Time:  
# Date: 22.09.2025  
# Time: 11.00 am onwards  
# Reporting Time: 10.00 am  
Educational Qualification:  
# Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. Engineering, Public Procurement, Finance, Business or Commerce) from any Government recognized university/ institution.  
# Relevant training in public procurement works, Supply Chain Management, Finance, Business or Commerce will be preferred.  
# Candidates having Professional Diploma in Public Procurement (PDPP), Certificate Program in Public Procurement (CPPP), Certificate in Contract Management Program (CPCM) will be preferred.

Experience: # Must have at least 10 years' professional experience in the field of procurement and related activities in any State Government/ Central

Government / Semi Government Bodies/PSUs.

# Experience of handling GeM & e. procurement portal.

8. State Environment Management & Safeguard Specialist

Place of vacancy:

# PMU ASSIST

Date of interview & Time:

# Date: 23.09.2025

# Time: 11.00 am onwards

# Reporting Time: 10.00 am

Essential Qualification: Master's degree in Bio-medical Engineering/ Environment management from any Govt. recognized university/ institution with training in Environment safeguards. Excellent understanding of the World Bank Environment safeguards systems and procedure is desirable

Experience: # Must have at least 7 years' experience in Environment management or safeguards role. Preference will be given to the candidate with experience in Externally Aided projects. # Experience of working in the North East and in the Health Sector will be preferred.

Age Limit: Upto 50 years as on 01/01/2025

### 9. Biomedical Engineer

Date of interview & Time:

# Date: 24.09.2025

# Time: 11.00 am onwards

# Reporting Time: 10.00 am

Essential Qualification: BE/ B.Tech/ ME/ M.Tech in Bio Medical /Electronics and Communication /Electronics and Instrumentation/ Instrumentation engineering/ M.Sc. in Instrumentation from any of the recognized board or University.

Age Limit: Upto 50 years

### 10. M&E/MIS Specialist

Date of interview & Time:

# Date: 25.09.2025

# Time: 11.00 am onwards

# Reporting Time: 10.00 am

Essential Qualification: The candidate should possess atleast MCA or B.E./B.Tech in Computer Science/Information Technology from a recognized University/Institution.

Age Limit: Upto 40 years

# The candidates shall have to bring laptop, original certificates/testimonials along with a set of self-attested copies of the same, for the interview/test along with the filled in application form for the individual positions.

# Interested eligible Candidates who are citizen of India as defined under the Constitution of India and fulfill the eligibility norms of educational qualification, experience, age etc. may Walk-In with the filled in application form with all the original certificates/documents relating to qualification, experience, age, identity proof, latest salary certificate, two passport size colored photographs etc. and also a set of self-attested copies of the same.

# The candidates are requested to register their candidature through the link <https://forms.gle/LX7Ngbd7QobUvvr98>. The link will be active till 12.00 pm of 20.09.2025. The candidates who register through the link will be eligible for the interview after physical verification of their original documents and filled in application form.

The 'Assam Health Infrastructure Development & Management Society' (AHIDMS) under the Medical Education & Research Department (MERD), Govt. of Assam (GoA) has been tasked to implement the 'Assam Secondary Healthcare System Reforms Project' (ASHSRP) taken up by the GoA with proposed financing from the World Bank. The project, to be implemented over six years, inter alia aims to improve the district level healthcare services in Assam by improving quality, access and management capacity in selected district hospitals.

## PHED Recruitment 2025 – 187 Junior Engineer Posts, Apply Online

Assam Public Service Commission has released an employment notification for the recruitment of 187 Junior Engineer vacancy in Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Assam. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online here.

Name of post: Junior Engineer (Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical / Chemical)

No of posts: 187 posts

Branch-wise vacancy:

# Civil: 160 posts

# Mechanical: 10 posts

# Electrical: 7 posts

# Chemical: 10 posts

Scale of pay: Rs 14000/- to Rs 70000/-, Grade Pay Rs 8700/-

Educational Qualification: Candidates must have 3 years Diploma in respective branch of Engineering from any institute recognised by AICTE.

Age Limit: The candidates should not be less than 18 years of age and not more than 38 years of age as on 01/01/2025.

Age Relaxation: The category-wise age relaxation is as mentioned below.

# SC: 5 years

# ST: 5 years

# OBC/ MOBC: 3 years

# PwBD: 10 years

# For more details pl read the official notification/s.

Resident-ship:

(i) The candidate must be a permanent resident of Assam.

(ii) The Candidate must produce PRC issued in Assam for educational purpose as a proof of residency along with the application form Or

(iii) The candidate must produce Employment Exchange Registration certificate in the state of Assam along with the application form.

Application Fee: Category Fee (in Rs.)

General/EWS 297.20

SC/ST/OBC/MOBC 197.20

BPL/ PwBD 47.20

and eligible candidates may apply online for these posts by visiting at official recruitment portal of Assam Public Service Commission. They may follow below mentioned steps.

# Scroll down, go to Important Web-Links section.

# Click on Online Application Form link.

# A new webpage will be opened.

# Enter all your personal and educational details as required.

# Upload your passport sized photograph and signature and other required documents.

# Pay the application fee as per your category and at the end click on submit button.

# Don't forget to take a print of submitted application form.

Dates of PHED Assam Recruitment 2025

# Starting date of submission of online application: 14th August 2025

# Last date of submission of online application: 13th September 2025



# Looks like we lost India, Russia to 'darkest' China: US President Trump

*The US has also been targeting India for its energy ties with Russia*

WASHINGTON, Sept 5: It looks like the US has lost India and Russia to "darkest" China, President Donald Trump said on Friday in his latest remarks as ties between New Delhi and Washington continue to reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades.

Trump's latest post on social media came days after the bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

"Looks like we have lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" the US president said on Truth Social.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. The additional tariff has already come into effect from August 27.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" and even wondered why it has been singled out for the punitive action.

Surprisingly, the US has not im-



posed any punitive measures on China, the largest importer of Russian crude oil.

In the last few days, several Trump administration officials, including White House trade advisor Peter Navarro, have used offensive language to target India.

India's big oil lobby has turned the largest democracy in the world into a "massive refining hub and oil money laundromat for the Kremlin", Navarro said last week.

Though the focus of the SCO summit on Monday was to ensure deeper security and economic complementarities among its member nations, what drew larger attention was the public display of bonhomie among Modi, Putin and Xi, signalling a broader conver-

gence among the leading three powers.

A video of Modi and Putin holding hands and walking towards Xi, and then all three forming a close circle as good friends went viral on social media.

In his address at the summit, Xi elaborated on his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritises the Global South.

As China hosted several world leaders at the Victory Day parade in Beijing on Wednesday, Trump accused the Chinese president of conspiring against the US along with Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

"May President Xi and the wonderful people of China have a great and lasting day of celebration,"

Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States of America."

Over the last few days, India-US ties have witnessed a major downturn after over two decades of close cooperation. The tension began after the collapse of the negotiations for a trade deal, as well as Trump's repeated claims that he resolved the military conflict between India and Pakistan in May.

India has been maintaining that it ended following direct talks between the two sides.

Over the last few months, India and the US held several rounds of negotiations for a bilateral trade deal, but it could not be sealed in view of sharp divergences in certain critical areas, including agriculture and dairy.

The bilateral trade between India and the US was around USD 130 billion last year and there was a projection of upward mobility in the volume.

The US has also been targeting India for its energy ties with Russia.

Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.(PTI)

# Putin says foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before any peace deal would be 'legitimate targets'



KYIV, Sept 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that any foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before a peace agreement has been signed would be considered "legitimate targets" by Moscow's forces.

Putin's comments came hours after European leaders pledged their commitment to a potential peacekeeping force, a prospect that Moscow has repeatedly described as "unacceptable."

"If any troops appear there, especially now while fighting is ongoing, we assume that they will be legitimate targets," he said during a panel at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok.

Putin also dismissed the idea of peacekeeping forces in Ukraine after a final peace deal, saying "no one should doubt" that Moscow would comply with a treaty to halt its 3½-year full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

He said that security guarantees would be needed for both Russia and Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov later said that Moscow would need "legally binding documents" to outline such agreements.

"Of course, you can't just take anybody's word for something," he told Russian news outlet Argumenty i Fakty.

Putin's comments follow remarks from French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday that 26 of Ukraine's allies have pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for Ukraine once fighting ends.

Macron spoke after a meeting in Paris of the so-called coalition of the willing, a group of 35 countries that support Ukraine. He said that 26 of the countries had committed to deploying troops to Ukraine — or to maintaining a presence on land, at sea or in the air — to help guarantee the country's security the day after any ceasefire or peace is achieved.

Addressing the participants of the international economic conference the Ambrosetti Forum on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it was important that security guarantees "start working now, during the war, and not only after it ends."

He said he could not disclose more details as they are "sensitive and relate to the military sphere."

## Drone strikes continue

Russian troops attacked Ukraine overnight with 157 strike and decoy drones, as well as seven missiles of various types, Ukraine's air force reported Friday. Air defences shot down or jammed 121 of the drones, it said.

One attack damaged multiple residential buildings in Dnipro in central Ukraine, regional administration head Serhii Lysak wrote on social media. The regional administration also said that an unspecified "facility" had been set alight in the strike, but did not give further details.

Lysak shared photos of residential buildings with damaged roofs, glass shards lying on the ground and people carrying wooden boards to cover broken windows. "Private homes were damaged. Windows in apartment buildings were shattered," he wrote.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine's Chernihiv region north of Kyiv, Russian drones attacked infrastructure in the Novhorod-Siversk district, leaving at least 15 settlements without electricity, local authorities reported.

Elsewhere, Russian troops destroyed 92 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Defence Ministry said Friday. Local social media channels in the city of Ryazan, approximately 200 kilometres southeast of Moscow, reported that the city's Rosneft oil refinery had been targeted. They shared videos that appeared to show a fire against the night sky.

Local Gov Pavel Malkov said that drone debris had fallen on an "industrial enterprise" but did not give further details, instead warning residents not to post images of air defences on social media. (AP)

# Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul wins vote in Parliament to become next Prime Minister

BANGKOK, Sept 5: Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul won a vote in Parliament on Friday to become the country's next prime minister, according to an unofficial running tally broadcast live on television.

Anutin, leader of the Bhumjaithai party, won more than 247 votes — the required majority — from the House of Representatives' 492 active members. His total must be certified after voting is completed. He and his government are expected to take office in a few days after obtaining a formal appointment from King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Anutin succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed by court order as prime minister last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighbouring Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen.

The dispute erupted into a



deadly five-day armed conflict in July.

Anutin had served in Paetongtarn's Cabinet, but he resigned his position and withdrew his party from her coalition government after news of the leaked phone call caused a public uproar.

Only five candidates, nominated during the last general election in 2023, were eligible under Thailand's constitutional rules.

Pheu Thai, currently leading a caretaker government, attempted to dissolve Parliament on Tuesday, but the acting prime minister said their request was rejected by the king's Privy Council.

The 58-year-old Anutin had served in the Pheu Thai-led coalition government that took power in 2023 and before that in the military-backed but elected government under former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Anutin is best known for successfully lobbying for the decriminalization of cannabis, a policy that is now being more strictly regulated for medical purposes. He also played a high-profile role as health minister during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he was accused of tardiness in obtaining adequate vaccine supplies to fight the virus.

His party has promised to dissolve Parliament within four months in exchange for support from the People's Party. That party's leader, Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, said it would remain in the opposition, leaving the new government potentially a minority one.(AP)

# Israel strikes Gaza City high-rise building

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), Sept 5: Israel struck a high-rise building on Friday as the army ramped up an offensive in preparations to take over Gaza City. Defence Minister Israel Katz said the strike on the building was just the beginning, warning "when the door opens it will not close" and the army's activity will increase.

His comments come days after Israel began mobilising tens of thousands of reservists and repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City and other Hamas strongholds, which has sparked opposition domestically and abroad. Palestinians said Israel's strike Friday targeted the Mushtaha tower in Gaza City, located in the southern area of the once-upscale Rimal neighbourhood. The tower already had come under Israeli attacks and photos of the building taken before the strike showed its roof was heavily damaged.

Israel said it struck the building because it was used for Hamas surveillance. Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone. Parts of the city are already considered "red zones" where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate ahead of expected heavy fighting. That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the Israel-Hamas war. Moving costs thousands of dollars and finding space in the overcrowded south to pitch a tent feels impossible. But staying behind, they say, could be deadly. (AP)

# Angela Rayner resigns as UK Deputy PM after tax row, unleashes Cabinet reshuffle



LONDON, Sept 5: Angela Rayner on Friday resigned as UK's Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary after a speed-up independent ethics inquiry concluded that she had underpaid tax on a recently bought home.

Rayner, 45, a powerful leader within the Labour Party, handed in her resignation after the inquiry concluded that she had breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct by failing to seek out specialist tax advice to ensure she paid the correct stamp duty on the property on the south coast of England.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who is now formalising a forced Cabinet reshuffle of his top team, expressed his regret at losing his senior-most minister.

"You were right to refer yourself to the Independent Adviser on Ministerial Adviser and right to act on his conclusions," Starmer said, in a rare hand-written letter in response to Rayner's resignation.

"On a personal note, I am very sad to be losing you from the Government. You have been a trusted colleague and a true friend for many years. I have nothing but admiration for you and huge respect for your

achievements in politics," he said, adding that she will remain a "major figure" in the Labour Party as she moves to the backbenches.

Sir Laurie Magnus, Starmer's Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards, informed him that his deputy cannot be considered to have met the "highest possible standards of proper conduct" and therefore was in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Rayner, Labour's member of Parliament for Ashton-under-Lyne in northern England who also held the influential post of Secretary of State of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, said she deeply regretted her decision to "not seek additional specialist tax advice." "I would like to take this opportunity to repeat that it was never my intention to do anything other than pay the right amount. I must also consider the significant toll that the ongoing pressure of the media is taking on my family," she said in her resignation letter to the PM. The letters were released by 10 Downing Street along with the letter to Starmer from Laurie Magnus, who described his conclusion as "highly unfortunate." "She [Rayner] believed that she relied on the legal advice she had received, but unfortunately did not heed the caution contained within it, which acknowledged that it did not constitute expert tax advice and which suggested that expert advice be sought," he wrote. He added: "I believe Ms Rayner has acted with integrity and with a dedicated and exemplary commitment to public service. I consider, however, that her unfortunate failure to settle her SDLT [stamp duty] liability at the correct level, coupled with the fact that this was established only following intensive public scrutiny, leads me to advise you that, in relation to this matter, she cannot be considered to have met the 'highest possible standards of proper conduct' as envisaged by the Code.(PTI)

# Most of those killed in Lisbon streetcar derailment were foreigners, police say



LISBON, Sept 5: Police in Portugal said Friday that 11 of the 16 people killed when a streetcar derailed were foreigners, as an initial investigative report examining what caused the popular Lisbon tourist attraction to crash was expected to be released.

The dead included five Portuguese nationals, three British citizens, two Canadians, two South Koreans, one American, one French, one Swiss and one Ukrainian, police said in a statement.

A German man also thought to have died in Wednesday's crash was found to be in a Lisbon hospital, police said.

It didn't provide an explanation for the error.

The list of nationalities was published following forensic identification.

The distinctive yellow-and-white Elevador da Gloria, which is classified as a national monument, was packed with locals and international tourists Wednesday evening when it came off its rails.

Sixteen people were killed and 21 others were injured.

Multiple agencies are investigating what Prime Minister Luis Montenegro has described as "one of the biggest tragedies of our recent past."

The government's Office for Air

and Rail Accident Investigations said that it has concluded its analysis of the wreckage and would issue a preliminary technical report Friday. It wasn't clear how revealing the report would be.

Chief police investigator Nelson Oliveira said that a preliminary police report, which has a broader scope, is expected within 45 days. The streetcar's wreckage was removed from the scene overnight and placed in police custody.

A tragedy beyond Portugal's borders

A woman who was a French-Canadian dual citizen is among the dead, the French Foreign Ministry said Friday.

The transport workers' trade union SITRA said the streetcar's brakeman, Andre Marques, was among the dead. A national Portuguese charitable organisation, Santa Casa da Misericordia, whose main Lisbon headquarters are at the top of the hill where the streetcar runs, said four of its staff were killed.

Spaniards, Israelis, Portuguese, Brazilians, Italians and French people were injured, the executive director of Portugal's National Health Service, Alvaro Santos, said.

"This tragedy ... goes beyond our borders," Montenegro said in a

televised address from his official residence.

Lisbon hosted around 8.5 million tourists last year, and long lines of people typically form for the streetcar's short and picturesque trip a few hundred metres up and down a city street. Thursday was a national day of mourning.

Hundreds of people attended a sombre Mass Thursday evening at Lisbon's majestic Church of Saint Dominic.

Montenegro, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas were among the attendees, some dressed in black, in the candlelit sanctuary.

## Daily inspections

The electric streetcar, also known as a funicular, is harnessed by steel cables and can carry more than 40 people. Officials declined to comment on whether a faulty brake or a snapped cable may have prompted the descending streetcar to careen into a building where the steep downtown road bends.

"The city needs answers," the mayor said, adding that talk of possible causes is "mere speculation." Aside from investigations by police, public prosecutors and government transport experts, the company that operates Lisbon's streetcars and buses, Carris, said it has opened its own investigation.

The streetcar, which has been in service since 1914, underwent a scheduled full maintenance programme last year and the company conducted a 30-minute visual inspection of it every day, Carris CEO Pedro de Brito Bogas said Thursday.

The streetcar was last inspected nine hours before the derailment, he said during a news conference, but he didn't detail the visual inspection or specify when questioned whether all the cables were tested.(AP)



WASHINGTON, Sept 5: US employers added just 22,000 jobs last month as the labour market continued to cool under uncertainty over President Donald Trump's economic policies.

The Labour Department said Friday that hiring decelerated from 79,000 in July. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3 per cent, also worse than expected and the highest level since 2021, the Labour Department said.

When the department put out a disappointing jobs report a month ago, an enraged President Donald Trump responded by firing the economist in charge of compiling the numbers and nominating a loyalist to replace her.

Talking to reporters Thursday night at a dinner with wealthy tech executives, Trump had

seemed to shrug off whatever hiring numbers would come out Friday. "The real numbers that I'm talking about are going to be whatever it is, but will be in a year from now," the president said.

The US job market has lost momentum this year, partly because of the lingering effects of 11 interest rate hikes by the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve in 2022 and 2023 and partly because President Donald Trump's policies, including his trade wars, have created uncertainty that leaves managers reluctant to make hiring decisions.

So far in 2025, the economy has generated 85,000 new jobs a month, down from 1,68,000 last year and an average 4,00,000 a month during the hiring boom of 2021-2023 as the United States roared back from COVID-19 lockdowns.

"The labour market is showing signs of cracking," said Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union. "It's not a red siren alarm yet, but the signs keep growing that businesses are starting to cut workers."

The Labour Department re-

ported Thursday that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits — a proxy for layoffs — rose last week to the highest level since June, though the number of claims remained within a healthy range.

The outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas said Wednesday that US-based employers have announced more than 8,92,000 jobs cuts this year through August, more than the 7,61,000 reported for all 12 months of 2024.

In a sign that US hiring gains are limited and fragile, nearly 80 per cent of new private sectors jobs this year have been created in just one industry: healthcare and social assistance, a Labour Department category that spans hospitals to daycare centres.

After seeing the weak July jobs numbers, Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, baselessly claiming the hiring report had been rigged to hurt him politically.

He has nominated a partisan ideologue, E J Antoni, to replace her. But for now, pending An-

toni's confirmation by the Senate, the jobs report is in the hands of the acting BLS commissioner, William Wiatrowski, a career Labour Department official.

Economists and others familiar with how the jobs numbers are collected have expressed confidence that Labour Department procedures will keep the data safe from political interference.

What set Trump off a month ago wasn't the July hiring or unemployment figures. It was BLS revisions, which shaved a stunning 2,58,000 jobs off May and June payrolls and slashed average monthly hiring from May through July to a mere 35,000.

The revisions are standard practice, and necessary because many companies surveyed by the government submit their responses late or correct what they've already sent in.

Government economists are also contending with a big drop in the share of companies that respond to the surveys. A decade ago, about 60 per cent of companies surveyed responded. Now only about 40 per cent do.(AP)



# Teachers hailed as nation-builders; Governor stresses reforms, values and skill-based learning in education

## Governor confers State Awards on 40 teachers in Arunachal Pradesh

**HT Correspondent**  
**ITANAGAR, Sept 5:** The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt General KT Parnaik, (Retd), presented the State Awards for Teachers at a ceremony held at the Golden Jubilee Banquet Hall here on Teachers' Day.

A total of 40 educators, including Principals, a Headmistress, Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs), Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs), Physical Education Teachers (PETs), and Primary Teachers (PRTs), were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the field of education.

The awardees represented both government and government-aided private schools across the state.

According to an official statement, the Governor lauded the teaching community as "true nation-builders, shaping young minds and the very destiny of our society."

He congratulated the award winners, describing the honour as recognition of their sincere service to education as well as a source of inspiration for nurturing a generation equipped with knowledge, values, and wisdom.

He expressed confidence that through their commitment, Arunachal Pradesh would nurture enlightened intellectuals, able minds, and healthy bodies to lead

the state towards greater progress and pride.

Reflecting on the state of education, the Governor underlined the need to align curriculum, teaching methods, and assessment with the demands of the times.

"There is a compelling need to modulate the system in keeping with the times. The curriculum we choose, the teaching methods, and assessments should be aligned for developing 'capacity' and not just for clearance or qualifying in a test," he said.

The Governor stressed that students must learn to apply and reflect rather than merely retain and reproduce information.

"They must learn the context and not just the content. They should enter higher education with a structure and not just memory," he observed.

He cautioned against an overemphasis on rote learning, noting that cycles of examination preparation and memorisation could lead to performance anxiety instead of nurturing judgment, discipline, and creativity.

On examinations, he argued that assessments should test reasoning ability and creative thinking, not rely solely on single-day formats that impose artificial pressure.

"A nation cannot innovate and evolve if classrooms follow a sta-



tus quo mentality," he remarked, urging teachers to encourage inquisitiveness and teamwork among students.

In his address to the teaching community, the Governor advised them to update their knowledge beyond textbooks, to use practical examples in teaching, to encourage curiosity, and to provide care and guidance for weaker students.

He highlighted the importance of discipline, personal conduct, and value-based education, calling on teachers to instill virtues, good habits, and a spirit of cooperation in their pupils.

Lt Gen Parnaik also placed special emphasis on girls' education,

health and fitness for both students and teachers, career guidance, and instilling in youth a strong sense of duty.

He said education was the backbone of a progressive society, and stressed that digital learning, smart classrooms, and localized content could help take education to the remotest corners of the state.

He added that skill-based learning must complement academics, especially in areas such as hydropower, agriculture, tourism, information technology, and traditional crafts.

Referring to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Governor said it provided a roadmap

for flexible, multidisciplinary, and skill-oriented learning.

"If we implement it with sincerity, we can bridge gaps and prepare our students for the future," he said.

On the occasion, the Governor also released value education textbooks for Classes III, IV, and V, published by the State Council of Educational Research and Training.

He said that the commemoration of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary through the State Award for Teachers was a reminder that "the strength of tomorrow lies in today's classrooms."

Advisor to the minister (Education) Mutchu Mithi, chief secretary Manish Kumar, commissioner (education) Amjad Tak, and secretary (education) Ranphoa Ngowa also addressed the gathering, acknowledging the dedication of teachers and their central role in shaping the future of the state.

Among those honoured were Sekhum Ronrang, principal, Changlang; Yayi Pada Mize, headmistress, East Siang; Dajong Ronrang, PGT, Changlang; Bhagwan Lal Singh, PGT, East Siang; Rajen Sonar, PGT, Lower Siang; Kumud Ch Deori, PGT, Namsai; Mithlesh Kumar Pandey, PGT, Namsai; Pradip Kumar Verma, PGT, Papum Pare; Nyingak Sunya, PGT, Tirap;

Nabal Dobin, PGT, Upper Subansiri; Jamba Lobsang, PGT, West Kameng; Joje Naksang, PGT, West Kameng; Manu Degu, PGT, Lower Dibang Valley; Chaitali Bhattacharjee, TGT, Itanagar; Rakesh Kumar Thakur, TGT, East Siang; Anil Kumar, TGT, Keyi Panyor; H Nabakantha Singha, TGT, Lower Subansiri; Barun Kumar, TGT, Namsai; Rajendra Singh, TGT, Siang; Wang Thian Hakhun, TGT, Tirap; Kameshwar Dubey, TGT, West Siang; Tej Narain Prasad, TGT, West Siang; Hage Habung, TGT, Lower Dibang Valley; Shyamal Majumder, TGT (music), Lohit; Sanjay Kumar, PET, Changlang; Mrinal Kanti Tah, PET, West Kameng; Kuber Yadava, TGT, Kra Daadi; Jai Chandra Kumar, TGT, Siang; Mudang Sumpi, PRT, ICR; Tanushree Majumder, PRT, Itanagar; Nangram Kapjik, PRT, Kurung Kumey; Bhaskar Sharma, PRT, Lohit; Saroj Singh, PRT, Pakke Kesang; Mahrugh Dania Neba, PRT, Upper Subansiri; Vinod Kumar, PRT, Upper Subansiri; Moina Megu Lego, PRT, Lower Dibang Valley; Anand Mohan Mishra, PGT, VKV, Changlang; Rajib Konwar, Principal, VKV Anini, Dibang Valley; Ananjan Bose, TGT, VKV Oyan, East Siang; and Satyendra Yadav, PGT, VKV Seijosa, Pakke Kesang.

## Government Bazar Middle School celebrates Golden Jubilee

**HT Correspondent**  
**DAPORJO, Sept 5:** Government Bazar Middle School celebrated its Golden Jubilee on Friday, marking 50 years since its establishment in September 1975.

Attending the event as chief guest, local MLA of Daporijo, Taniya Soki, said the institution had produced several technocrats, bureaucrats, and political leaders over the past five decades.

He stressed the need to restore the school's past glory through renewed commitment to quality education in line with modern teaching norms and guidelines.

He added that the present government is giving priority and fullest attention to the education sector. Soki also emphasised the need to recalibrate and improve the school's infrastructure to meet present-day requirements.

Deputy commissioner Tasso Gambo, who graced the occasion as guest of honour, urged school authorities to sincerely discharge their duties and work with dedication to improve academic performance. He also called upon students to remain sincere and devoted to their studies to ensure overall excellence.

The celebration was attended by alumni of the school, DDSE Pokter Rime, teachers, students, and other members of the community.

## Special Executive Magistrate Court convened for the first time in Keyi Panyor District

**HT Correspondent**  
**YACHULI, Sept 5:** In a significant development for community-based justice and grassroots governance, the Court of the Special Executive Magistrate was convened for the first time in Keyi Panyor District under the authority of Superintendent of Police-cum-Special Executive Magistrate Angad Mehta, IPS.

According to an official statement, the court was held in exercise of powers conferred under Section 15 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

The sitting adjudicated a pending matter in the presence of the Officer-in-Charge of Yazali Police Station, Zilla Parishad Members (ZPMs), Gaon Buras representing both the complainant and the respondent, the case investigating officer, and the principal parties involved in the dispute.

Presiding in his capacity as Special Executive Magistrate, Angad Mehta emphasised that the initiative reflects the administration's commitment to maintaining public tranquility, upholding civic order, and ensuring that disputes are addressed in a fair, lawful, and timely manner.

The convening of the Special Executive Magistrate Court is being seen as a crucial step towards decentralising justice delivery mechanisms and making governance more responsive at the local level. Officials said that involving community representatives such as Gaon Buras, along with elected Zilla Parishad Members, ensured that the process remained transparent, participatory, and rooted in local traditions of dispute resolution.

The statement noted that such sittings are intended not only to settle conflicts but also to reinforce trust



between citizens and institutions of law and order.

By bringing administrative, policing, and community representatives together in one forum, the court is expected to play an important role in bridging gaps, reducing tensions, and resolving disputes before they escalate.

The establishment of the Special Executive Magistrate Court in Keyi Panyor District also reflects the broader aim of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to strengthen preventive justice and empower local authorities to act swiftly in safeguarding peace and harmony.

Officials added that the administration is committed to continuing such sittings, thereby institutionalising a framework of accessible justice that combines statutory authority with grassroots participation. This, they said, would help foster civic harmony and strengthen democratic values at the community level.

## Likha Saaya urges youth to embrace hard work, self-employment and reject drugs

**HT Correspondent**  
**ITANAGAR, Sept 5:** Former State NCP President and former MLA of Yachuli constituency, Likha Saaya, on Thursday late evening underlined the importance of sincerity, dedication, and perseverance for achieving success, while cautioning the youth against the growing menace of drugs.

Speaking as the chief guest at "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa - Papum Pare, Season I," a talent hunt show held at a city hotel, Saaya told the gathering that "failure is the pillar of success, and success cannot be achieved in a single day."

He stressed that education, training, and practice are continuous processes and that one day, through commitment and hard work, success becomes inevitable.

"It is not necessary that everyone should go in the same direction or opt for the same profession. It is also not necessary to depend only on government jobs," Saaya said.

Urging the youth to pursue self-employment, he added, "Always try to become a job giver, not a job seeker. Become self-employed and employ others in your factory, company, business, or production house. There, you can be your own boss and create opportunities for your family members, friends, relatives, and well-wishers."

He pointed out that the music industry and performing arts hold immense potential as careers.

"Music, dance, drama, and films are also big industries. But in these fields too, you need hard work, practice, and patience. There is no dearth

of talent among the youth of our state. Every parent wishes that their children grow up to be good professionals in music, dance, drama, and film. I request the State Government to extend more support to initiatives like Papum Pare Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, which provide valuable platforms to showcase our youth's talent," Saaya remarked.

Touching upon the pressing issue of drug addiction, the former MLA warned of its destructive impact.

"Drugs are deadly and they damage the precious lives of our youth. At the same time, they create untold problems for families whose members fall into addiction. I urge the youth of our state to stay away from drugs and never compromise with drug abuse or addiction. Instead, join talent shows, play games, and participate in sports to remain fit and live a healthy and long life," he said.

"My blessings are with all the youth who are dedicated, hardworking, and committed towards man-making and nation-building," Saaya added.

Guest of honour, PPA state general secretary and chairman of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Papum Pare, Tana Doll Tara, and secretary Nabam James also spoke on the occasion, appreciating the organisers for encouraging young performers through the programme.

The event was attended by social workers, youth leaders, student leaders, and other invited guests. Out of 20 contestants, five participants were eliminated in the first round, while 15 advanced to the second elimination stage of the competition.

## Khandu congratulates two national award winning teachers

**ITANAGAR, Sept 5:** Two educators from Arunachal Pradesh have been conferred with the National Teachers' Award this year, drawing praise from CM Pema Khandu for their exemplary contributions to education and society.

Dr Proshanto Kumar Saha, faculty of Psychology at Rajiv Gandhi University, was recognised for his academic excellence and social commitment. "For more than 14 years, Dr Saha has inspired students with his expertise in forensic and neuropsychology, while also building institutions like the Neuropsychology Lab and supporting child abuse victims with compassion. His recognition is truly well-deserved, reflecting both academic brilliance and a deep commitment to society," Khandu said in a post on X.

Equally inspiring is the journey of Nang Ekhani Mounglang, Headmistress of Pachin Government Secondary School, near here.

Two years ago, the school struggled with a pass percentage of just 27. Under her leadership, ICT classrooms were introduced, co-curricular activities were encouraged, and community participation was strengthened. The efforts paid off with an 81 per cent pass rate in 2024 and a landmark 100 per cent result this year, the first government school in the state capital to achieve the feat.

Congratulating her, the chief minister said, "Her extraordinary leadership has now been recognised with her being conferred the National Teachers' Award, on Teachers' Day. Congratulations, Ms Mounglang! Your work shows how one teacher's vision can transform not just a school, but an entire community." (PTI)

## TRIHMS and NERIST sign MoU to strengthen academic and research collaboration



**HT Correspondent**  
**NAHARLAGUN, Sept 5:** In a landmark step towards advancing interdisciplinary learning and research, the Tono Riba Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (TRIHMS), Naharlagun, and the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli, have formally entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in academics, innovation, research, training, and exchange programmes for students and faculty.

According to an official statement, the MoU was signed at TRIHMS by Dr Moji Jini, Director of TRIHMS, and Dr M K Camder, Registrar of NERIST, in the presence of Prof Narendranath S, Director of NERIST, as well as Deans and senior faculty members from both institutes.

The signing of the agreement marked the beginning of what both institutions described as a "new chapter" of partnership between the State's premier medical and technology institutions.

The collaboration is designed to harness the complementary strengths of the two institutions—TRIHMS as the State's first medical college and a hub for healthcare learning, and NERIST

as a nationally recognised centre of excellence in science and technology.

Together, the institutes aim to address pressing challenges in healthcare delivery, promote innovation in medical technology, and create platforms for students and researchers to contribute to socially impactful projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jini said that the partnership would serve as "a significant beginning for the first medical college and technology institute of the State to deliver solutions that are impactful and directly benefit patients and society."

He emphasised that interdisciplinary cooperation was the need of the hour, given the rapidly evolving healthcare environment, and underlined TRIHMS's commitment to fostering a culture of research-driven healthcare delivery. Prof Narendranath, while highlighting the need for active engagement, said that "the MoU should not be just on paper."

Stressing the importance of action-oriented collaboration, he called upon both institutes to "come together and accelerate research and innovation that can shape the future of healthcare delivery in Arunachal Pradesh in par-

titular and Northeast India in general."

His remarks underscored the critical role of academic institutions in contributing to regional development and building a knowledge economy.

The official statement added that the partnership would open avenues for joint research projects, student internships, training modules, and faculty development initiatives, creating opportunities for both institutes to exchange expertise across disciplines.

By integrating medical sciences with engineering and technology, the collaboration is expected to enable solutions in areas such as biomedical devices, healthcare technology, telemedicine, and innovations tailored to the unique needs of the region.

The MoU also aligns with national priorities in promoting skill development, multidisciplinary learning, and research-driven education, as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Both TRIHMS and NERIST affirmed that the collaboration would not only benefit their respective academic communities but also contribute to strengthening the overall healthcare and education ecosystem of Arunachal Pradesh.

Senior faculty members present at the signing expressed optimism that the collaboration would foster innovation-driven teaching and provide students with exposure to real-world challenges, thereby preparing them for future roles in both healthcare and technology-driven industries.

The partnership between TRIHMS and NERIST, as the statement highlighted, is an important milestone in the State's academic journey and reflects the broader vision of integrating knowledge, technology, and innovation for the greater good of society.

## KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER.(M) TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**KAAC::: DIPHU-782460**

Email ID transportdeptkaac@gmail.com

KAAC/TRN/Gen. Corress/2010-11/1417

Dtd. 04/09/2025

## NOTICE

The New KAAC (A/C) buses are ready for its operation. The buses are fully built with A/C coaches and one bus is equipped with bio-toilet facility. The new service buses will kicked off on 8th September 2025 and the ticket can be bought or booked via Red-Bus.in or by visiting KAAC counter located at ISBT, 5th Mile, Chutianala.

SL No.	Vehicle No.	Time	From	To	Contact No.
1.	AS-09BC-6238 (A/C with Bio-Toilet)	6.00 AM 1.30 PM	Guwahati	Diphu	7637049978
2.	AS-09BC-6239 (A/C)	6.00 AM 12.00 Noon	Diphu	Guwahati	8822417695
			Guwahati	Diphu	

**N.B:- Enclosed.**

**Booking Clerk Name & Contact No.**

- Sri. Prasanta Engti (Booking Clerk)  
Contact No. 9395258753
- Sri. Langtuk Tokbi (Booking Clerk)  
Contact No. 8638252773
- Sri. Moneswar Killing (Booking Clerk)  
Contact No. 9365281938

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (M)  
Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council  
DIPHU**

Memo No. KAAC/TRN/Gen. Corress/2010-11/

Dtd. 04/09/2025











# 'THE BENGAL FILES' DIRECTOR ANGUISHED AS FILM ON 1946 RIOTS NOT RELEASED IN BENGAL THEATRES



**KOLKATA, Sept 5:** Director Vivek Agnihotri on Friday expressed anguish that his latest film, 'The Bengal Files', was not being screened in theatres across West Bengal on the day of its release, alleging political pressure and intimidation behind what he called an "unofficial ban."

The film, concluding part of Agnihotri's Files Trilogy, revisits the August 1946 Calcutta killings, which were triggered by the Muslim League's call for Direct Action Day, leading to widespread communal violence, mass casualties, and eventually Mahatma Gandhi's peace fast at Belaghata.

Regretting that the film cannot be seen in theatres in city and state, Agnihotri in a post on X said, "I know that pain has touched their souls. It's your film now. #TheBengalFiles is in cinemas now. (except WEST BENGAL & Pakistan)". In another post, Agnihotri said, "There was a time when Tagore dreamt of a Bengal

without fear. In today's Bengal, the government has banned 'The Bengal Files', the boldest film ever made on Hindu genocide. Please watch 'The Bengal Files' in theaters as your protest. In cinemas tomorrow."

In an open letter addressed to President Droupadi Murmu on Friday, actor-producer Pallavi Joshi alleged that theatre owners have told the makers of the film that they were being intimidated, threatened, and are refusing to screen it fearing "violence by ruling party workers."

"The Bengal Files" unravels the long-suppressed truth of the Hindu genocide of Direct Action Day, the horrors of Noakhali, and the trauma of Partition," she said in the letter.

"There is no official ban yet an unofficial ban silences the film before people can see it," she added.

In the post accompanying the letter, Agnihotri

said that multiplex chains in the state have refused the film's release under "political pressure and threats by the ruling party."

A senior Eastern India Motion Picture Association official told PTI, "I cannot say why the film was not being slotted for screening in any theatres in West Bengal from today (September 5). It is the discretion of hall owners and multiplex owners."

Navin Chokhani, the owner of Navina in south Kolkata, told PTI that the theatre is already under an arrangement to screen 'Baaghi 4', while Bengali film 'Dhumketu' is also being shown. "For us, showing another film is not possible," he added.

A spokesperson of Menoka cinema said the theatre is screening 'The Conjuring: Last Rites' and the 2024 Bengali hit 'Bahurupi', and has no slot left for 'The Bengal Files'. (PTI)

# ANURAG KASHYAP SAYS NEW MOVIE 'NISHAANCHI' IS NOT ANOTHER 'GANGS OF WASSEYPUR'



**MUMBAI, Sept 5:** Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has said that his upcoming film "Nishaanchi" is different from his cult classic "Gangs of Wasseypur" movie as he stressed that while the 2012 crime saga was inspired by stories he heard, his latest draws directly from his own life and upbringing in Kanpur and Lucknow.

The trailer of "Nishaanchi" was unveiled earlier this week and since then, social media has been abuzz with comparisons to "Gangs of Wasseypur", which became popular for its gritty portrayal of gang rivalries spanning generations.

"Nishaanchi" follows the intertwined lives of twin brothers Babloo and Dabloo, set against the backdrop of the Hindi heartland. It stars debutant Aishwarya Thakur in a double role along with Vedika Pinto, Monika Panwar, Kumud Mishra, and Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub.

Kashyap, however, dismissed the parallels.

"Back when I made Wasseypur, I was in the storytelling zone of Mehboob Khan and K Asif. Suddenly due to word of mouth,

'Wasseypur' became a cult. Everywhere I went, people were shouting, 'Wasseypur 3, Wasseypur 3!'

"But 'Wasseypur' is not the whole of North India, and 'Nishaanchi' is as different from 'Wasseypur' as Kanpur is 840 kms apart from Lucknow," the director said in a statement.

Kashyap, also known for movies such as "Black Friday", "Dev D", "Gulaal" and "Mukkabaaz", said the story of "Nishaanchi" came from "within me".

"... From the world I grew up in: Kanpur and Lucknow. Wasseypur, by contrast, is a story I heard through someone else. 'Nishaanchi' brings to life my own memories, humour, quirks, language, and music: all inbuilt in me. It's fictional, but it's driven by the joy of language, the joy of people, and the very attitude of that place," he added.

Backed by Jar Pictures in association with Flip Films, "Nishaanchi" is written by Kashyap, Praseon Mishra and Ranjan Chandel.

Produced by Ajay Rai and Ranjan Singh, the movie is set for a nationwide release on September 19. (PTI)

## Kartik, Ananya wrap shooting for 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri'

**MUMBAI, Sept 5:** Actors Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday have completed shooting for their upcoming film "Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri".

Filmmaker Karan Johar's production banner Dharma Productions shared the news in a post on Instagram alongside a video from the film's set. "Lights. Camera. It's A WRAPPPPP! It's been a journey and more - see you in theatres soon! #TuMeriMainTeraMainTeraTuMeri," the studio wrote.

"Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri" is directed by Sameer Vidwans, who earlier helmed Aaryan's 2023 hit "Satyaprem Ki Katha".

Aaryan also announced the film's wrap in a post on Instagram, calling the experience an "unforgettable, fun-filled roller-coaster ride." "The unforgettable, fun-filled, super-fast roller-coaster ride of #TuMeriMainTeraMainTeraTuMeri comes to an end as we wrap the film on Day 57," he wrote.

He expressed gratitude to Vidwans, producers Sharen Mantri Kedia and Kishor Arora, and lauded co-star Panday for her performance.

"To my lovely @ananyapanday, thank you for being such a wonderful Costar. No one else could have brought to life what you did in TMMT with your presence. It's always pure joy working with you," Aaryan said. The actor also thanked veterans Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta, who feature in the movie in pivotal roles, for their guidance and praised the efforts of the entire crew. (PTI)

## 'Street Fighter' reboot goes on floors; Vidyut Jammwal makes Hollywood debut as Dhalsim

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** Action star Vidyut Jammwal has been officially cast in Hollywood studio Paramount Pictures' upcoming live-action reboot of "Street Fighter".

The film, slated for release on October 16, 2026, will mark the Hollywood debut of Jammwal, known for headlining action movies such as "Commando" movies, "Khuda Hafiz" and "Baadshaho".

Paramount Pictures, in collaboration with Legendary Entertainment and Capcom, revealed the full cast on the film's official Instagram handle on Friday. "Secrets don't last long in the arena—Street Fighter is now in production. In theaters October 16, 2026. Let the tournament begin!" read the post.

In the movie, Jammwal will feature alongside a star-studded cast of Andrew Koji, Noah Centineo, Jason Momoa, Callina Liang, Roman

Reigns, Orville Peck, Cody Rhodes, Andrew Schulz, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and David Dastmalchian.

He will essay the role of Dhalsim, a yogi with fire-spitting abilities, a fundamentally peaceful man who fights to support his family.

Koji will essay the role of Ryu, Centineo as Ken, Liang as Chun-Li, Dastmalchian as M. Bison, Rhodes as Guile, Momoa as Blanka, Jackson as Balrog, Peck as Vega, Schulz as Dan Hibiki, Reigns as Akuma, and Hiroaki Goto as E. Honda.

The project is being directed by filmmaker Kitao Sakurai, known for movies such as "Bad Trip" and "Aardvark".

"Street Fighter" began as an arcade game from Japanese company Capcom in 1987 and reached a pop culture high with 1991's "Street Fighter II", which revolutionised one-on-one playing. (PTI)

## Comedy feels most alive when shared with an audience: Sunil Grover ahead of Delhi show

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** "Comedy feels most alive when shared with an audience," says comedian-actor Sunil Grover, who will return to the stage in the national capital with his new live show "Comedy Overload" at Talkatora Stadium on Saturday. The event will feature two back-to-back performances at 2 pm and 7 pm, each lasting about 100 minutes.

"Comedy Overload" promises to blend his iconic personas with fresh acts, offering fans a "joyous celebration" of his comic talent. Grover, best known for his much-loved characters Gutthi, Rinku Bhabhi and Dr. Mashoor Gulati from "The Kapil Sharma Show", said his aim with "Comedy Overload" is to give Delhi audiences a "joyful evening".

"Performing live is always a special experience. Comedy feels most alive

when shared with an audience, and with Comedy Overload, my goal is to give Delhi a joyful evening where people can forget their worries and simply enjoy the magic of laughter."

"I am performing in Delhi after 2 years. My past experience with Delhi people was truly overwhelming. I am looking forward to experiencing the same once again and I hope to deliver even better this time," the 47-year-old actor-comedian said in a statement.

Having entertained audiences in India and abroad for more than two decades, Grover is known for his observational humour and ability to bring relatable characters to life.

Tickets for the show are priced between ₹ 999 and ₹ 4,999 and are available exclusively on BookMyShow. (PTI)

## I'm slightly frightened of him, was bit on edge: Jim Sarbh on working with Manoj Bajpayee in new film

**MUMBAI, Sept 5:** Actor Jim Sarbh says working alongside Manoj Bajpayee has been both intimidating and inspiring as he continues to remain in awe of the senior performer's ability to transform even the simplest of moments into something unforgettable.

The two actors share the screen space in the movie "Inspector Zende", which premieres on streaming service Netflix on Friday. It is directed by acclaimed Marathi actor-turned-filmmaker Chinmay Mandekar. The film features Bajpayee in the titular role of a sharp-witted cop locked in a tense game of cat and mouse with Sarbh's charming yet elusive Carl Bhojraj. It is loosely inspired by the real-life arrest of notorious serial killer Charles Sobhraj by Mumbai police officer Madhukar

Zende.

Sarbh says he has been a fan of Manoj Bajpayee's work for years, recalling the impact of his performance in Anurag Kashyap's crime epic "Gangs of Wasseypur".

"I'll never forget that scene in 'Gangs of Wasseypur', when he's pretending to wash the clothes. I was like, 'Oh my God, I'm going to watch everything this man has done'. It was so funny, and he did it so well. I'm still slightly frightened of him, and I'm still a bit on edge about what his character may do," the 38-year-old actor told PTI in an interview.

"I'm amazed how as an actor he is able to stay completely rooted in the character, and add these little nuances that make you suddenly love the scene and it opens up completely. He

can do anything," Sarbh said, adding that he is also looking forward to watching Bajpayee's another upcoming release "Jugnuma".

The actor, who has earned praise for his roles in "Neerja", "Padmaavat", and "Rocket Boys", said he watched old footage of Sobhraj to prepare for his character of serial killer Carl Bhojraj.

"I watched interviews of the original person that it was based on. I got the lines recorded for me by somebody who is fluent in French. From all the interviews, the one definite factor was that he had a thick French accent, he intentionally kept it because it was part of his entire persona of being this French gentleman businessman that travelled around," Sarbh said, adding that he also ob-

served his body language and mannerisms.

The actor credited the director for crafting the worlds of Inspector Zende and Carl Bhojraj in starkly contrasting ways.

"Chinmay managed to pull it off really perfectly, where one side is very serious and intense and it's slowly dragged into the other person's world, so, the person who eventually wins is the one that likes to laugh together," he said. "Inspector Zende" also features acclaimed actors from the Marathi film industry like Sachin Khedekar, Bhalchandra Kadam, Girija Oak, Onkar Raut, and Harish Dhadhade among others.

It is produced by Jay Shewakramani and "Adipurush" director Om Raut. (PTI)





# India look for all-round show against China to seal final berth



**RAJGIR (BIHAR), Sept 5:** One step away from the final, the Indian men's hockey team will look to reach its optimal level of efficiency, when the Harmanpreet Singh-led side takes on tricky China in its last Super 4 stage match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

After the disappointing 2-2 draw against five-time champions South Korea, India bounced back strongly to outplay Malaysia 4-1 in their sec-

ond Super 4 match, and the latest result will give the home team a lot of confidence heading into the contest against China.

The convincing win enabled India to jump to the top of the standings with four points from two matches, while both China and Malaysia have three points each. Korea are languishing at the bottom with just one point.

The top two teams from the Super

4s will progress to the summit clash, and a draw would be enough for India to seal their place in Sunday's final. After a subdued outing against Korea, the Indians played with more intent and tenacity against Malaysia, although the start was far from rosy. The Indians were slow off the blocks and conceded an early goal before getting their act together to stage a remarkable comeback by excelling in all departments of the

game. Speaking after the win against Malaysia, chief coach Craig Fulton said the squad is "still not there" as far as reaching peak performance was concerned, and the Indian players know that the expectations from them are high.

The question is how do they live up to the expectations. The answer is simple: just raise their game a few notches by doing the small details correctly.

So far in the tournament, the midfield has been marshalled pretty well by the likes of veteran Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad and Rajinder Singh. Their co-ordination with the forwardline was a treat to watch against Malaysia.

Hardik, in particular, has been a livewire in the midfield with his fast dribbling skills and solo runs.

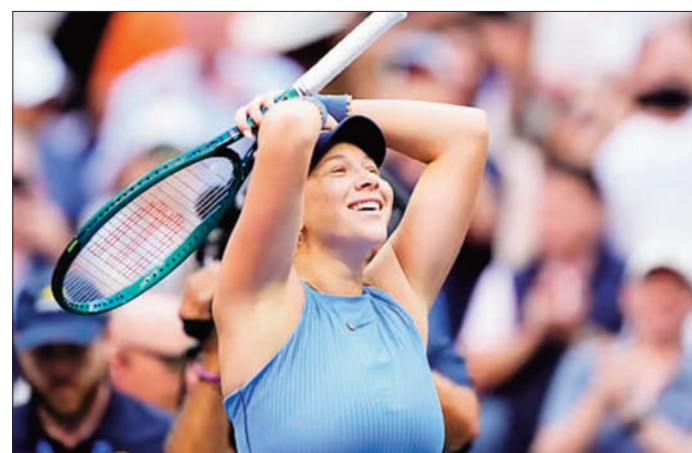
Manpreet has been a workhorse for Indian hockey for years now and his performance against Malaysia proved that he is still hungry for more. Not only did he create chances for the forwards, but he also assisted and scored a goal against Malaysia.

The trio of Abhishek, Sukhjot Singh and Mandeep Singh has been mighty impressive upfront and would look to continue the fine show in the remainder of the tournament. Young Shilanand Lakra, who is trying to cement his place in the team after returning from a two-year injury layoff, too created as well as scored for his side.

India, however, will have to utilise their chances more once inside the opposition circle and for that, they will need to remain calm and composed.

One thing that might worry Fulton a bit is the rate of penalty corner conversion. After a fine start, skipper Harmanpreet looked to have run out of ideas from set pieces, while the likes of Jugraj Singh, Sanjay and Amit Rohidas too found the going tough. (PTI)

# Amanda Anisimova defeats Naomi Osaka at the US Open to reach her 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Slam final in a row



**NEW YORK, Sept 5:** Amanda Anisimova eliminated four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in a U.S. Open semifinal that ended at nearly 1 a.m. Friday and featured two of the most powerful first-strike hitters in women's tennis.

The No. 8-seeded Anisimova, a 24-year-old who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, reached her second straight major final by coming through after 2 hours, 56 minutes.

"I wasn't sure I would make it past the finish line and I tried to dig deep," said Anisimova, who needed three match points to get the job done. "It was a huge fight out there today." When it was over, Anisimova yelled, "Let's go!" and enjoyed the moment by kneeling on the court and leaning forward.

She will face defending champion and current No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka on Saturday for the title. Sabalenka beat Jessica Pegula in three sets on Thursday. Sabalenka owns three major trophies, all on hard courts.

This is the fifth consecutive women's final at a Slam involving an American woman.

At Wimbledon in July, Anisimova had a Grand Slam breakthrough, upsetting Sabalenka in the semifinals — a result that increased the American's edge in their head-to-head series to 6-3 — and making it all the way to the title match before losing 6-0, 6-0 to Iga Swiatek. But Anisimova recovered from that quickly enough and well enough to get past Swiatek in two sets in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

Now Anisimova is the first opponent to beat Osaka — a former No.

1 player who was seeded No. 23 in New York — this late in a Grand Slam tournament. Before this loss, Osaka had been a combined 14-0 over her career in major quarterfinals, semifinals and finals, with two trophies apiece from the U.S. Open and Australian Open.

"I mean, honestly I don't feel sad. It's really weird. Well, it's not weird, because I just feel like I did the best that I could," said Osaka, who took a series of mental-health breaks starting in 2021, then was away from the tour while having a daughter. "Honestly, it's kind of inspiring for me, because it makes me just want to train and try to get better, and hopefully, just give it my very best shot again and see what happens. But I think I can't be mad or upset at myself."

Anisimova first got to the final four at a major tournament at the 2019 French Open at age 17. In 2023, she took a break from the tour, saying she had been "struggling with my mental health and burnout" for nearly a year.

At this time last season, Anisimova was ranked 50th and still working her way back. She's most certainly back — and better than ever. Asked what allowed her to win against Osaka, Anisimova replied: "Oh, my God. I don't know. I mean, Naomi is playing amazing tennis. She's back where she belongs."

Well, Anisimova did it by forgetting about the opening set, and forgetting about a 6-5 deficit in the second. She also did it by not holding anything back down the stretch, going for — and delivering — big groundstrokes that usually landed deep in the court and right where she wanted them. (AP)

# Inter Miami's Luis Suárez apologizes for on-field antics after Leagues Cup final loss to Seattle

**FORT LAUDERDALE, USA, Sept 5:** Inter Miami forward Luis Suárez apologized for his behavior following his team's defeat by the Seattle Sounders in the Leagues Cup final earlier this week, antics that became the latest entry on a long list of on-field transgressions over his lengthy career.

Suárez — a longtime teammate of Inter Miami star Lionel Messi — appeared to spit toward a member of the Sounders' staff, plus grabbed at least one Seattle player by the neck during a postgame melee Thursday. Major League Soccer and Leagues Cup officials are investigating, and

Suárez could face sanctions.

"First of all, I want to congratulate the Seattle Sounders on their Leagues Cup victory. But above all, I want to apologize for my behavior at the end of the match," Suárez wrote on Instagram in his native Spanish. "It was a very tense and frustrating moment. Things happened right after the match that shouldn't have happened, but that doesn't justify my reaction. I was wrong and I sincerely regret it."

"It's not the image I want to portray, neither to my family, who are suffering because of my mistakes, nor to my club, which doesn't de-

serve to be affected by something like this. I feel bad about what happened and didn't want to miss the opportunity to acknowledge it and apologize to everyone who felt bad about what I did."

Inter Miami issued a statement Thursday as well, without naming any players. The club said it is working with both MLS and Leagues Cup officials "to ensure the situation is addressed appropriately" and thanked fans for their continued support. "Inter Miami condemns the altercations that took place following the conclusion of the Leagues Cup Final," the club wrote.

"These actions do not reflect the values of our sport, and we remain committed to upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship both on and off the pitch."

Suárez's history is both highly colorful and highly successful.

With Suárez, Uruguay ended 20 years of World Cup underachievement by reaching the semifinals in 2010. He helped deliver Uruguay's first Copa America title in 16 years in 2011. He was instrumental in Atletico Madrid's first Spanish title in seven years in 2021.

He also is known for an infamous intentional handball in the 2010

World Cup quarterfinals to take a semifinal spot from Ghana and served bans on three occasions for biting opponents — the most recent of those in 2014, after he chomped down on the shoulder of Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini following a tussle in the penalty area during a World Cup match.

Suárez has been involved in 16 Inter Miami goals — scoring six and assisting on 10 others — during MLS play this season, second-most on the team behind only Messi. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner has 19 goals and 10 assists in MLS matches this year. (AP)

# Sabalenka beats Jessica Pegula in the US Open semifinals

**NEW YORK, Sept 5:** On Aryna Sabalenka's first chance to end her U.S. Open semifinal against Jessica Pegula for the chance to play for a second consecutive trophy, the defending champion dumped what should have been an easy overhead into the net, then stared at the ground.

On Sabalenka's second chance, she missed a clumsy volley — and maybe shouldn't have even ventured forward, because she went just 15 for 27 when up at the net. Uh, oh. So good at important moments in the high-stakes, high-tension final set, Sabalenka held it together there and held on, converting her third match point Thursday night to finish off a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Pegula in a rematch of last year's final.

"I was super emotional. I was just like, Oh, my gosh, no way it's happening. Please, just close this match," Sabalenka explained afterward. "The whole match, I just keep telling myself: (Onto) the next one, just one step at a time, don't worry about the past. Just try better in the next point."

When it was over, Sabalenka rocked back on her heels, spread her arms and screamed.

On Saturday, when she faces No. 8 Amanda Anisimova or No. 23 Naomi Osaka, the No. 1-seeded Sabalenka will be trying to become the first woman to claim consecutive championships at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams got three in a row from 2012 to 2014.

"I had to work really hard to get this win," Sabalenka said after improving to 8-2 against Pegula over their careers. "Hopefully I can go all the way again."

Thursday's first semifinal was quite close, far closer than the straight-set triumph for Sabalenka over Pegula 12 months ago that gave the 27-year-old from Belarus her third Grand Slam title, all on hard courts.

Since then, Sabalenka was the runner-up to Madison Keys at the

Australian Open in January and to Coco Gauff at the French Open in June, then was eliminated in the Wimbledon semifinals by Anisimova in July.

Arthur Ashe Stadium's retractable roof was shut before the semifinals began, which prevented disruption from the wind outside gusting at up to 30 mph and the rain that arrived during play. In the good, indoor conditions, No. 4 Pegula played about as cleanly as possible in the first set and the third, making just three unforced errors in each. But in the second, that count was nine. By the end, Sabalenka had accumulated more than twice as many winners as Pegula, 43-21.

"We were pushing each other," Pegula said, "every single game."

All evening, Pegula went after her returns, taking big cuts and not playing it safe, by any means. This, then, was the key: Sabalenka was able to save all four break points she faced in the last set. "It was really high-level. I don't really know what else to say," said Pegula, who was wearing a white New York Yankees jacket and enjoying a root beer lollipop at her news conference. "I don't know how I didn't break back in the third."

Asked how she managed to handle those moments, Sabalenka replied with a laugh: "Just praying inside and hoping for the best." Neither she nor Pegula had lost a set in the tournament before Thursday, although Sabalenka only needed to go through four matches, instead of five, to reach the semifinals, because her quarterfinal opponent, Marketa Vondrousova, withdrew with an injured knee.

That meant Sabalenka hadn't competed since Sunday.

Might she be rusty? Sure didn't look that way at the outset, and Sabalenka used a nifty drop-shot-volley-winner combination to help go up a break and grab a 4-2 lead. (AP)

# Monza gearing up for Hamilton in Ferrari red at the Italian GP

**MONZA, Sept 5:** There's an added air of excitement among the passionate, red-clad tifosi at the Italian Grand Prix: Lewis Hamilton is preparing to make his Monza debut in a Ferrari.

It will be Hamilton's 19th race at the high-speed Italian track, but his first in red.

The seven-time world champion has stood on the iconic Monza podium eight times, five of those after winning the Italian Grand Prix.

But Hamilton — who hasn't finished higher than fourth in a difficult first year with the Italian Scuderia — is not thinking about what it would be like to do so clad in Ferrari red.

"I haven't (thought about it), simply because I've been on the podium plenty of times here, so I

know what it's like to be up there," Hamilton said. "I've seen how it's been for other Ferrari drivers, and anything I try to imagine will be far from what that feeling could be."

Hamilton will have to serve a five-place grid penalty at Sunday's race as Ferrari looks to rebound from a disastrous Dutch Grand Prix that saw both the British driver and teammate Charles Leclerc crash out in separate incidents.

"I'm still obviously in my first year with the team, and so every weekend is the first time driving this car at that track," Hamilton said. "I think Ferrari's journey has gone pretty well in the past years. Obviously, they won here last year with a great strategy and a great drive from Charles."

"I'm really keen to see how the car works here. We're definitely learning from weekend to weekend, loads of positives to take from the last, so I think we just have to keep building on that."

Title fight While the red of Ferrari will dominate the grandstands, two papaya-colored cars will take center stage in the title fight.

McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri are battling each other for what would be a first Formula 1 title for either.

Norris saw his title chances diminish dramatically at last weekend's Dutch Grand Prix as his McLaren broke down while he was chasing Piastri, who went on to win the race and extend his lead in the drivers' championship to 34 points.

"I don't think much will change," Piastri said. "He's certainly not out of the fight. Yes, it's a bit more difficult now, but I don't expect much to change. I think we'll race each other the same way, I think the amount of risks we're taking will be the same."

"We're both trying to drive as fast as we can, it's not like we've been holding anything back from that side of things."

Radical changes F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali recently suggested radical changes could be made to race weekends to attract younger audiences.

The most drastic of those could be the shortening of the actual races.

"I will be on the other side, I will be in front of the TV when

that happens," 44-year-old Fernando Alonso said. "I don't think it's a problem with the sport. Also, football matches are a little bit long ... and no one is talking about having 60-minute football matches or something like that."

"So it's a problem of society and the kids, but not the sport. So probably it's not needed, the change."

Domenicali said that packing the calendar with more sprint races could also be an option and claimed that most drivers are in favor with even four-time champion Max Verstappen, who has been among the most volubly critical of the sprint format, coming round to the idea.

However, Verstappen said on Thursday that his mindset hadn't really changed. (AP)

# Deepika chases elusive medal, teen Gatha to lead India's next gen at World Championship

**GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA), Sept 5:** In the twilight of her career, seasoned Deepika Kumari will yet again chase an elusive World Championship medal as India are set to showcase their next generation, led by 15-year-old Gatha Khadake, at the prestigious tournament beginning here Saturday.

Pune's Gatha has been the breakout star of Indian archery this year after shining in the national trials in June with a record 686 points — the highest recurve qualification score across genders — and sealed her place in the senior team. Her presence alongside the seasoned Deepika and Ankita Bhakat has set the stage for the past and future competing shoulder to shoulder.

Gatha and 16-year-old Sharvari Shende, who recently became the U-18 world champion, had impressed at the trials but only the top three earned berths for Gwangju.

Deepika, who topped the trials, was joined by Ankita and Gatha to



form India's three-member recurve women's squad.

For Sharvari, who had made her senior debut at the Madrid World Cup in July, the cut proved too steep, though she remains one of India's brightest prospects.

Gatha, too, debuted in Madrid in July, making the pre-quarterfinals after upsetting Chinese Taipei Olympian and World Cup medalist Chiu Yi-Ching.

Her last-16 finish was the best among Indian women in that event, even ahead of Deepika and Ankita.

Sharvari, meanwhile, claimed the Under-18 world title in Winnipeg, defeating two Koreans en route to gold, and joined Deepika and Komalika Bari as India's only junior world champions.

For 31-year-old Deepika, post motherhood, the World Championship offers another shot at the

one medal missing from her cabinet along with the Olympic prize.

Since her first appearance in 2011, the most decorated Indian archer has only managed team silvers (2011, 2015) but no individual medal.

This will be her sixth world outing — her first since 2019 — and she knows time is running out. Deepika and Gatha have already developed a budding rivalry in this short span.

At the National Games in Uttarakhnd earlier this year, a shoot-off semi-final clash between the two sparked some heated exchanges, with Deepika edging out the teenager 10-8 in shootout.

Gatha later outscored her in the qualification round at the June trials before Deepika recovered to win in eliminations.

"Gatha has been playing well, and I wish her all the best for the future as we look forward to the World Championships," Deepika had said, brushing aside sugges-

tions of rivalry.

They teamed up in Madrid, though India exited in the second round. Individually, Gatha went further than her star India teammate showing signs of her rapid rise.

Ankita is the third member of the women's side and competed at the Berlin World Championships two years ago only to make first round exit.

The challenge for the Indians, however, will be enormous with their nemesis South Korea, led by Tokyo Olympic champion An San and reigning Olympic champion and world number one Lim Si-hyeon.

Koreans are overwhelming favourites in the women's recurve and it remains to be seen if the Indians overcome the Korean hurdle this time if they cross paths. In the men's recurve, Army man Dhiraj Bommadevara will spearhead India's charge alongside Neeraj Chauhan and Rahul. (PTI)



# India thrash Thailand 11-0 in women's Asia Cup hockey campaign-opener



**HANGZHOU (CHINA), Sept 5 :** Uditu Duhan and Beauty Dung Dung scored a brace each as India began their campaign in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 11-0 thrashing of Thailand here on Friday.

Uditu scored in the 30th and 52nd minutes from penalty corners while Dung Dung

struck in the 45th and 54th minutes.

India's other goal-scorers were Mumtaz Khan (7th minute), Sangita Kumari (10th), Navneet Kaur (16th), Lalremsiami (18th), Thoudam Suman Devi (49th), Sharmila Devi (57th) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (60th).

India, currently ranked ninth in the world, led 5-0 at half time in the Pool B match

against the 30th-ranked Thais.

India got a total of nine penalty corners, out of which they converted five, while Thailand did not earn any PC.

India asserted their dominance early on with two field goals from Mumtaz and Sangita in the first quarter. The second quarter saw India being more menacing in attacks

and the team added three more goals to extend its advantage.

Experienced forward Navneet and mid-fielder Lalremsiami scored a field goal each in quick succession, followed by a penalty corner conversion from Uditu just before the half time break.

The second half followed a similar trend as India continued their constant attacks inside Thailand's circle.

India won four penalty corners in the third quarter, and Dung Dung converted one PC in the 45th minute.

India shifted gears in the final quarter, pumping in five more goals to seal a big win. Mumtaz, Uditu and Sharmila scored through penalty corners while Dung Dung and Rutuja struck field goals.

The tournament features eight teams and the top two from each of the two pools will qualify for the Super 4s stage. The top two teams in Super 4s will play in the final scheduled for September 14.

India have come into the tournament without the injured duo of veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia and ace drag-flicker Deepika.

The Asia Cup winners will qualify for the 2026 Women's World Cup to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands. After Thailand, India will take on Japan on Saturday, followed by the final pool match against Singapore on September 8. (PTI)

## South Africa clinches ODI series against England with exciting 5-run win at Lord's



**LONDON, Sept 5:** South Africa clinched the ODI series against England with a game to spare after a five-run win in the second match that was set up by a record-breaking 85 by Matt Breetzke at Lord's.

Brought in to the Proteas lineup to replace the ill Waan Mulder, Breetzke became the first player in ODI history to score at least a half-century in his first five matches, according to the ESPNcricinfo website.

The 26-year-old middle-order batter's 77-ball knock added to a 49 from opener Aiden Markram and 58 from Tristan Stubbs as South Africa, which was put into bat, made 330-8 from its 50 overs on Thursday.

"It was a more than competitive score. I definitely would have taken that when we were three wickets down," Proteas captain Temba Bavuma said.

England was skittled for 131 on the way to losing the first match by seven wickets at Headingley on Tuesday but competed much better two days later, despite losing Jamie Smith to the first over of the reply.

It went down to the last over, off which England needed 16 with one

wicket remaining, but some inspired hitting by tailender Jofra Archer (27 off 14 balls) couldn't prevent the hosts falling just short on 325-9.

Before that, Jacob Bethell illuminated the home of cricket with a 58-ball 40, including hitting four consecutive boundaries, and put on 77 runs for the third wicket with Joe Root (61 off 72 balls) to give England a chance.

Jos Buttler then smashed 61 off 51 balls before being deceived by a slower ball from Lungi Ngidi and getting bowled.

Will Jacks kept alive English hopes with two sixes but was one of two wickets to fall in the 47th over, bowled by Nandre Burger (3-63). Archer hit two fours and two sixes but ran out of balls as the South Africans — back at Lord's 1/2 months after beating Australia there to win the World Test Championship — prevailed again.

"They probably got 10, 15 too many, but to get within one bow of their score, I thought was a good effort," England captain Harry Brook said.

The third ODI is at Southampton on Sunday. (AP)

## Lionel Messi scores twice in an emotional home farewell for Argentina

**BUENOS AIRES, Sept 5 :** Lionel Messi made sure he had good memories of playing a home qualifier with Argentina's national team for the last time in his illustrious career.

Messi scored twice Thursday in Argentina's 3-0 victory over Venezuela in front of a raucous sellout crowd that had gathered at estadio Monumental to bid him farewell.

"Being able to finish this way here is what I've always dreamed of," Messi said.

"I've experienced a lot of things on this pitch, both good and not so good, but it's always a joy to play in Argentina, in front of our fans."

Messi is yet to give any clues about when he will retire from the top level of the sport. But the qualifiers for the 2030 World Cup will begin in 2027, when he's 40.

The Argentina captain scored in the 39th and 80th minutes, and Lautaro Martinez added a goal in the 76th.

Messi now has 36 goals in South American World Cup qualifiers and remains as the all-time scoring leader. His Inter Miami teammate Luis Suarez has 29 goals in continental qualifying, but he has retired from Uruguay's national team. Bolivia's Marcelo Moreno Martins is third with 22.

Looking ahead, Messi clarified that he will only compete in next year's World Cup if he feels physically fit.

"I'm excited, eager. It's day by day, feeling the sensations. If I feel good, I enjoy it; if not, I'd rather not be there," he said, adding that the nine months until the tournament kicks off "is a long time." (AP)

## Leg-spinner Ahmed baffles UAE and takes Pakistan to tri-series final

**SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, Sept 5 :** Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed mystified United Arab Emirates batters with a career-best return of 4-9 as Pakistan sealed its place in the final of the T20 tri-series with a 31-run victory.

Fakhar Zaman tuned up for next week's Asia Cup with an unbeaten 77 off 44 balls — the left-hander's first T20 half-century after 15 games — and propelled Pakistan to 171-5 against some sloppy UAE fielding after captain Salman Ali Agha won the toss and elected to field Thursday.

Ahmed, playing his first game of the series, then baffled UAE top-order batters with his carrom balls and googlies before restricting them to 140-7 and the trend of

teams successfully defending the totals continued for fifth successive game.

Afghanistan, which already has four points, will take on UAE in the last league game Friday before meeting Pakistan in the final Sunday.

UAE top-order batters couldn't decode Ahmed's mystery spin once he came onto bowl inside the batting powerplay. Captain Mohammad Waseem (19) failed to read the carrom ball and sliced an easy catch at point in Ahmed's second over.

Alishan Sharafu, who was scrappy in the field earlier on, and Ethan D'Souza struggled to set up the momentum before D'Souza holed out at deep square leg in the 11th over after scoring 9 off 14

balls.

Ahmed then returned for another two brilliant overs and picked up the wickets of Asif Khan and Rahul Chopra in space of three balls before wrapping up a brilliant spell with the wicket of Harshit Kaushik off his final ball as UAE slipped to 102-5 in 15 overs.

Opening batter Sharafu's countercharge came a bit too late for UAE as he made 68 off 51 balls before Agha grabbed a catch over his head at mid-off of Shaheen Shah Afridi's off-cutter.

Earlier, Zaman and Mohammad Nawaz (37 not out) revived Pakistan with its highest-ever sixth wicket stand in T20 international and added 91 runs off the final 51 balls.

But both batters survived

chances against an unlucky left-arm spinner Haider Ali (2-17) when they were dropped in the outfield off successive balls before cutting loose in the final two overs which fetched Pakistan 42 runs.

Nawaz smacked fast bowler Junaid Siddique (1-52) for three successive fours in the penultimate over before lofting the pacer for a six over cover boundary in a 20-run 19th over.

Zaman was dropped by Sharafu on 39 at mid-off before another misfield by him brought 50 for the batter. Zaman capped Pakistan's perfect recovery with five consecutive fours in Mohammad Jawadullah's last over that included two lap shots over the head of wicketkeeper and two edges flying to third boundary. (AP)

## Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay qualify for the 2026 WC

**MONTEVIDEO, Sept 5 :** Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay secured places at the 2026 World Cup in the next-to-last round of South American qualifiers.

The Uruguayans and Colombians had 3-0 wins Thursday, and the Paraguayans had a scoreless draw to advance to the global tournament along with already qualified Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador.

"It's a good way to qualify. The team's offensive play was strong, there were also many highlights in individual performances," Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa said.

Peru, which needed wins in the last two rounds to advance, is now out of contention following the loss to Uruguay.

"It hurts to lose, it hurts because of the effort the players put in, but today the opponent outclassed us," Peru coach Oscar Ibanez said.

James Rodriguez opened the scoring for Colombia in the 31st minute while John Cordoba and Juan Fernando Quintero added second-half goals to secure the win over Bolivia.

The Colombians return to the World

Cup after missing the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

It will be the Colombian team's seventh appearance in the World Cup. After a debut in Chile in 1962, Colombia made three consecutive appearances between 1990 and 1998, and repeated in 2014 and 2018.

"This jersey has given me so much. I'm grateful for everything I'm doing," said James, who is aiming to play in his third World Cup.

"I've always given everything and I'll keep the good things for myself."

World Cup champion Argentina defeated Venezuela 3-0 with two goals by Lionel Messi and remained well clear at the top of the South American standings.

Also on Thursday, Estêvão, Lucas Paquetá and Bruno Guimarães scored as Brazil got a 3-0 win over Chile to ascend to second place in the standings.

The 18-year old Estêvão, who plays for Chelsea, scored his first goal with the national team in the 38th. Paquetá followed with a strike in the 72nd and Guimarães added one on the 76th. (AP)

## Malewar, Shubham Sharma make fifties as East Zone reply strongly to West Zone



**BENGALURU, Sept 5 :** Central Zone top-order batters, led by Danish Malewar, carried the team to 229 for two, giving a solid reply to West Zone on the second day of the Duleep Trophy semifinal here on Friday.

Shubham Sharma (60) and skipper Rajat Patidar (47) were batting at stumps after Central bagged four quick wickets to end West's first innings at 438. Central need a further 209 runs to take an innings lead.

Malewar, who made a double hundred in the quarterfinal against North-East Zone, took his time to settle down before making 76, as his opening partner Ayush Pandey (40 off 59 balls) went off the blocks briskly.

The left-hander made 32 runs in boundaries, but his cavalier stay ended when Pandey's drive on the up off pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla ended with Aarya Desai in the covers.

But Malewar and Shubham stitched together a 93-run alliance for the second wicket to ensure that they did not waste a firm beginning.

Malewar was confidence personified during his 136-ball innings, seldom giving any chance to the bowlers with precise footwork.

A backfoot punch, which was executed standing tall on his feet, off pacer Tushar Deshpande was an absolute treat to watch. It fetched him four runs in a blink.

But at the other end, Shubham, a veteran of 67 first-class matches, was not really comfortable especially against off-spinner Tanush Kotian and left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja.

The West Zone spinners often beat his outside edge and pinned him on the backfoot, but close margins kept saving the 31-year-old.

There was some help for the spinners as West Zone skipper Shardul Thakur often employed a slip and short leg fielder around an hour into the second session.

Malewar, who completed his fifty in 94 balls, looked good to carry on for more, but a rather loose drive outside the off-stump off Jadeja resulted in a caught behind catch to Harvik Desai.

However, Shubham found another able ally in skipper Patidar, making 69 runs for the ongoing third wicket alliance, to keep Central close on the heels of West Zone.

Eventually, Shubham reached his fifty in 118 balls with a single off Jadeja, and continued to offer a broad bat to the West bowlers.

Unlike other batters, Patidar was more aggressive in his ways, often unfurling those strong drives using supple wrists through the covers to get boundaries as he reached his fifty.

In the morning session, West, starting from overnight 363 for six, motored on to 411 for six as skipper Shardul Thakur, overnight 24, duly completed his fifty off 83 balls with a boundary off pacer Yash Thakur.

The seventh wicket partnership also touched 84, but the run out of Thakur, who attempted a tight run and ended up on the same end as Kotian, turned the tide in favour of Central.

They plucked the next three wickets of Kotian, Jadeja and Arzan Nagwaswalla for 27 runs to prevent West from posting a much bigger total.

Kotian, overnight 65, could not progress beyond 76 as left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey beat him with a quick one that also carried a hint of turn.

The first session of the day was marked by a fine show by Central spinners, finding much better lengths. (PTI)

## BCCI raises Indian team's jersey sponsorship rates

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5 :** Sponsorship of the Indian cricket team is set to get costlier with the BCCI raising the amount to ₹ 3.5 crore per match for a bilateral series and ₹ 1.5 crore for a game in a multilateral event.

According to a report in Cricbuzz, these figures will apply in competitions sanctioned and organised by the ICC and Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Citing industry sources, the report added that these figures are slightly higher than the current rates of ₹ 3.17 crore for bilateral games and ₹ 1.12 crore for multilateral matches.

The development comes in the wake of Dream11's exit as jersey sponsor, which was triggered by the government's Online Gaming Act, 2025. Following the government's recent Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, the BCCI promptly cancelled the contract of the Indian team's lead sponsor, Dream11.

With this revision, which will come into effect only after the end of the upcoming Asia Cup, the BCCI could potentially earn over 400 crore rupees, though the final figure may be higher depending on the bidding outcome.

The BCCI on Tuesday invited bids for the Indian team's title sponsorship rights after fantasy sports giants Dream11's pullout and barred companies dealing in real money gaming and crypto currency from the process due to a government ban on such entities.

The Indian team will be without a title sponsor in the Asia Cup starting September 9 in the UAE as the Board has set September 16 as the last date to submit bids. (PTI)

## New Zealand cricket great Ross Taylor to come out of retirement to play for Samoa

**WELLINGTON, Sept 5 :** New Zealand cricket great Ross Taylor will come out of retirement to play for Samoa at the Twenty20 World Cup qualifying tournament in Oman next month. Taylor retired from international cricket in 2022 after playing more matches for New Zealand than any other player: 112 tests, 236 one-day internationals and 102 T20 internationals. He remains second behind Kane Williamson on New Zealand's all-time test scoring list with 7,683 runs and second, also behind Williamson, with 19 test centuries. (AP)

## Molineux, Wareham return as Australia name 15-member squad for Women's World Cup

**MELBOURNE, Sept 5 :** Left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux returned after a long injury layoff as Australia Friday announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup in which Alyssa Healy will be leading the seven-time champions' title defence.

Australia won the last edition of the tournament and will look to extend their dominance in the upcoming event which will be held across India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2.

Victorian spinner Molineux, who has been recovering from a knee injury since January, will, however, miss the preceding three-match ODI series against India from September 14 to 20, which will be the final tune-up for both teams.

Darcie Brown (quad) and Georgia Wareham (groin) also recovered from their recent injuries to bolster the squad which does not hold any surprises.

With the tournament being played in the Indian sub-continent, the spin duo of Molineux and leg-spinner Wareham will be vital to Australia's prospects as they look to defend the title won in New Zealand in 2022.

Skipper Healy, too, made a return to the Australia A side last month after a 2024-25 summer disrupted by injuries.

"Sophie Molineux is progressing well in her return from a knee injury, and we anticipate she'll be available for the World Cup," Australia team physio Kate Beerworth was quoted as saying in Cricket Australia's official website.



"Alyssa Healy made a strong return in the recent 'A' series, and we're pleased with where she's at, with Georgia Wareham also back to full training following her adductor injury during the Hundred," Molineux is among five Australians who will feature in a 50-over World Cup for the first time.

Ten of the 15 members named featured in the previous edition of the tournament in 2022, with skipper Healy taking charge of the squad in her third World Cup.

The line-up also features seasoned campaigners like Ellyse Perry, Beth Mooney, Annabel Sutherland, Tahlia McGrath and Ashleigh Gardner.

Star wicketkeeper-batter Healy has been leading the Australian team across the three formats since the retirement of Meg Lanning in 2023.

"A World Cup in India is one of cricket's biggest assignments, but we believe this group is up for the challenge," national selector Shawn Flegler said in a

statement issued by the country's cricket board.

"The valuable experience the squad has gained from several subcontinent tours in recent years, as well as exposure through the Women's Premier League will be beneficial in tackling the unique demands of Indian conditions."

"Across the winter we've seen some terrific performances right through the group — whether that be through the Australia A series, the Hundred or domestic cricket in England — with players personalising their preparations which looks to have put them in good stead."

Australia begin their campaign against New Zealand in Indore on October 1.

**Australia squad:** Alyssa Healy (c), Darcie Brown, Ash Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham. (PTI)