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Vol .No. XXVII

Issue No. 233

RNI-ASSENG/2000/12862

DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

PAGES 8

PRICE ₹ 8

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## Around 330 held in crackdown against frauds

**Assam DGP: Operation to continue against fraudulent activities** ● Suspects from Hyderabad and Bengaluru to be brought under police net

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: Around 330 people, accused of being involved in various fraudulent activities, including impersonating police personnel, have been arrested in a special operation since early Saturday in Assam, DGP Harneet Singh said.

He said the crackdown was underway and the number of arrests would increase.

Some of the suspects have been traced outside Assam, including cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru, and they will also be brought under the police net soon.

Addressing a press conference here, the director general of police said, "Around 330 people, accused of being involved in various fraudulent activities, have been arrested in a crackdown since 3

am on Saturday."

Singh said those arrested were involved in various frauds, like luring people with the promise of settling police cases or impersonating police officials, and threatening people over the phone and extracting money.

"Many of them used to loiter near police stations and trapped people coming for registration of their complaints with the assurance of fast-tracking it and getting their work done without any hassle," he said. Some of the accused were also dealing in stolen goods, the DGP added.

Most arrests were made in Cachar district, and barring a few districts like Sadiya and Majuli, apprehensions were made (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)



## Nov 27 declared as International Day against Child Marriage UN announcement affirms Assam's steps, says CM

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday welcomed the United Nations for designating November 27 as International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage, maintaining it was an affirmation of this northeastern state's firm steps against underage weddings.

He also said that the designation of the date coincides with the Assam government announcing an "unapologetic campaign" against child and forced marriages, continuing its



crackdown against it. "Even the UN now agrees to what we in Assam have been saying and

professing since our last term -- child or forced marriage has no place in our society and needs to be cracked down upon," Sarma said in a post on X.

He maintained that the declaration of November 27 as International Day for Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage will act as a global support for eliminating the vice, he said and shared a copy of the UN announcement with his post.

The chief minister said the state government's efforts against the vice in the past (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## 58 cattle rescued from Dhubri: Himanta

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said 58 bovine animals have been rescued from smugglers from various parts of Dhubri district. He, however, did not mention if any smuggler was arrested in the operation.

"How dare anyone smuggle cows in the sacred month of Bhadra? It won't be tolerated," Sarma said in a post on X. The chief minister also lauded the efforts of the police in the operation. (PTI)

## Himanta underscores role of teachers for strong society

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday underlined the role of teachers in forming a strong society as he lauded their contribution on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

He also affirmed his government's commitment for the welfare of the educators. "Teachers lay the foundation of a strong society and I have always been (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Assam govt signs MoUs with 6 organisations for introducing AI in school education



GUWAHATI, Sept 5: The Assam government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with six organisations to collaborate on the introduction and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the state's school education system, a minister said.

The tie-ups will help create an inclusive and learner-centric education ecosystem, Assam Education minister Ranaj Pegu said.

"A significant step towards future-ready education in Assam! Attended the MoU signing ceremony between @Samagra\_Assam and six leading organisations to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence, technology and innovation to strengthen school education across the State," Pegu said in a post on X on

Friday. Through these collaborations, each organisation will contribute towards a specific area of school education, he added.

Sharing details, the minister said the MoU with Google AI will focus on empowering teachers with AI-powered educational tools, digital skills and professional development. The IIT Madras and Bodhan AI partnership will be for building AI proficiency among teachers, with around 1 lakh teachers of Grades 6-12 proposed to be trained by May 2027.

The LEHS - Wadhvani AI collaboration will strengthen foundational literacy through AI-enabled assessment of students' reading fluency, while the partnership with Educate Girls will support the identification, enrolment and retention of out-of-school adolescents, particularly girls.

The collaboration with EkStep - AXL will promote personalised, AI-assisted learning in foundational literacy and numeracy, and the one with Canva Education will foster digital literacy, creativity, design thinking and innovation among teachers and students, the minister said.

"These collaborations mark an important step towards creating a technology-enabled, inclusive and learner-centric education ecosystem, while empowering our teachers and expanding learning opportunities for every child," Pegu added. (PTI)

## Surrendered militants call off stir on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of 72-hour rail, road blockade in Tripura

AGARTALA, Sept 5: A forum of surrendered militants called off their 72-hour rail-road blockade in Tripura on the second day of the stir on Saturday evening following the state government's assurance that their demands would be met in a time-bound manner, an official said.

The blockade had badly affected rail and vehicular traffic in parts of Tripura.

Protesters under the banner of All Returnees' Rehabilitation Committee had blocked roads at Hataikotor, Brigudasbari and Khawai Chowmuhani in West Tripura district since Friday. They had also squatted on railway tracks at Brigudasbari, prompting the Northeast Frontier Railway to short-terminate, cancel and reschedule several trains.

Vehicular movement on the Assam-Agartala national highway, considered a lifeline in Tripura, was severely affected due to the blockade at Hataikotor, leaving the northeastern state cut off from the rest of the country.

The forum, representing seven sur-



rendered militant groups, started the 72-hour blockade on Friday on an 11-point charter of demands, including implementation of the peace accord signed in 2024, under which they laid down arms before Chief Minister Manik Saha.

Their demands also include land rights for the indigenous people and

withdrawal of all pending cases against the surrendered militants.

The blockade was lifted following Chief Minister Manik Saha's return to the state after attending a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Tipra Motha Party (TMP) supremo Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma in New Delhi. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Vice President Radhakrishnan to visit 4 northeastern states from today

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan will visit four northeastern states from Sunday, where he will be participating in a series of cultural and academic engagements, according to an official statement.

Radhakrishnan will visit Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh from September 6 to 9, his office said on Saturday.

During his visit, the vice president will participate in a series of academic, cultural and public engagements, besides visiting institutions of historical, social and national significance, it said.

On September 6, Radhakrishnan will ar-

rive in Guwahati to attend the golden jubilee celebrations of Geetanagar College, formerly known as Kanya Mahavidyalaya. He will later attend the convocation ceremony of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences.

On September 7, the vice president will attend a foundation stone laying programme at Gauhati University, followed by an interaction with students, faculty members and leading citizens at the university's convention centre.

He will thereafter proceed to Shillong, where he will attend a public reception and cultural programme at Soso Tham Auditorium. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Nepal floods: Death toll surges to 1,344 as rescue efforts continue; around 5,000 still missing

KATHMANDU, Sept 5: The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal surged to 1,344 on Saturday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, according to Nepal Police. Rescue teams continued to search for around 5,000 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing, while more than 13,100 people have been rescued, officials said.

Among those rescued on Saturday was a 60-year-old woman who was pulled out alive from the top floor of a four-storey house, where she was trapped for 10 days, buried under mud

and debris after the floods, in Bidur town in Nepal's Nuwakot district.

Her family had performed symbolic last rites assuming she was dead, after they could not find her for several days following the disaster.

The woman, Chandika Shrestha, was found unconscious by an Armed Police Force (APF) team, and flown to the Nepali Army's Maithili Barracks in Trishuli for treatment. She will be flown to Kathmandu for further medical treatment, said APF deputy spokesperson Shailendra Thapa.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-

rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal.

The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

The disaster also killed at least 21 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according to Chinese media reports. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Ahom dynasty capital ensemble submitted for UNESCO heritage tag: CM

GUWAHATI, Sept 5: The Rangpur-Sivasagar Ensemble, the capital of the Ahom dynasty that ruled significant parts of present-day Assam for six centuries, has been nominated by India for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The nomination comes after the UNESCO recognition for Charaideo Moirams, another heritage site of the Ahom era.

Sarma, in a social media post late on Friday, said India "formally submitted Rangpur-Sivasagar Ensemble- the capital of the Ahom dynasty that ruled the Brahmaputra Valley (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## 'School education forms the foundation of the education system' Childhood best time to instil good conduct: President Murmu at National Teachers Awards

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: School education forms the foundation of the education system, as knowledge and skills can be acquired at any time, but teaching good conduct during childhood is far more effective, President Droupadi Murmu said on Saturday.

The president made the comments in her address at the National Teachers' Award ceremony on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

"By diligently focusing on the intellectual, physical, and moral development of children in the early grades, our teachers can prepare future generations of excellent students and dutiful citizens.

"School education forms the foundation of the education system. While knowledge and skills can be acquired at any time, imparting lessons in good conduct during child-



hood proves far more effective," she said.

President Murmu highlighted that

education is the most effective means of realising the ideal of equality of opportunity enshrined in our

Constitution. She praised teachers for achieving a negligible primary school dropout rate.

The president acknowledged that many students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with some being first-generation learners. Others transition from small village schools to large urban institutions, while some may be shy or very talented but lacking in self-confidence. Additionally, there are children with special needs.

"It is the special responsibility of teachers to instil confidence in them and uplift all such students who, for any reason, feel a sense of inadequacy. Our teachers breathe life into the education system. We must strive to ensure that not even a single student in our country is deprived of opportunities for quality education," she said. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## KAAC observes 65<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Day, felicitates 130 retired teachers



DIPHU, Sept 5: The Education Department of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) observed the 65th Teachers' Day at the Sarsing Teron Memorial Town Hall here on Saturday, commemorating the 138th birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

The occasion was marked by paying tribute to Dr. Radhakrishnan, a

distinguished teacher, philosopher, statesman and former President of India, while acknowledging the invaluable contribution of teachers in imparting education, nurturing character and shaping the future of students.

As part of the programme, the Education Department felicitated 124 teachers from the Lower Primary (LP) section who retired during the

2025-26 academic session, one teacher from the Middle English (ME) section, and five teachers from the high school and higher secondary sections for their dedicated service and contribution to the development of education in Karbi Anglong.

Attending the programme as chief guest, KAAC chief executive member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang extended his warm greetings to the teaching community and expressed appreciation for their dedicated service. He congratulated Dhan Bahadur Pradhan, principal of Adarsha Vidyalaya, Rongkhang, on receiving the Best Adarsha Teacher Award-2026 and Kamsing Hanse, Headmaster of Bakaliaghat Government M E School, on being selected for the State Teachers' Award-2026.

Addressing the gathering, Ronghang said Teachers' Day provides an opportunity to recognise teaching as one of the (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

## Tata Motors launches all-cash offer for Iveco

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** Tata Motors launched an all-cash voluntary tender offer to acquire all common shares of Iveco Group for 14.10 euros per share, valuing the Italian commercial vehicle maker at approximately 3.82 billion euros.

The offer is being made through TML CV Holdings B.V., and the acceptance period will run from September 7 to October 26, 2026, according to a joint announcement by Tata Motors and Iveco Group on Friday.

The offer price of 14.10 euros per common share is on a cum-dividend basis.

The transaction is the latest step in Tata Motors' proposed acquisition of Iveco, with the offer document having received approval from Italy's market regulator Consob. The approval cleared the way for the shareholder acceptance process.

Iveco Group's Board of Directors has unanimously supported the transaction and recommended that shareholders accept the offer. It has also recommended that shareholders vote in favour of the resolutions relating to the offer at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) scheduled for October 16, 2026. Iveco's largest shareholder Exor N.V. has irrevocably committed to support the offer and tender its shareholding representing approximately 27.06 per cent of the common shares and 43.19 per cent of all voting rights.

The offer is subject to certain customary conditions, including a minimum acceptance level of 95 per cent of the common shares, which will be automatically reduced to 80 per cent if shareholders adopt the Back-End Resolution



at the EGM.

If the offer obtains 95 per cent or more of the common shares, it will commence the Dutch Legal Squeeze-Out, provided that such procedure may be preceded, at the offeror's election, by the implementation of the demerger and the share sale.

If the offer obtains between 80 per cent and 95 per cent of the common shares, it intends to implement the post-offer demerger and liquidation, if approved at the EGM. All the required competition clearances, FDI clearances, FSR clearance and prior authorisations have been obtained, the companies said.

Tata Motors Managing Director and CEO Girish Wagh said: "By combining our respective strengths, capabilities and market presence, we have the opportunity to build a stronger, more globally competitive commercial vehicle business that is better positioned to serve customers, invest in future technologies and create sustainable

value for all stakeholders." He further stated, "We believe the tender offer presents a compelling value proposition for Iveco Group shareholders and look forward to its successful completion." Iveco Group CEO Olof Persson said: "By creating a major new force in global commercial vehicles, we will unlock the significant advantages of increased scale and reach, accelerate innovation and bring even more industry-leading products to customers worldwide."

"The complementary nature of our two businesses further enhances the rationale of the transaction, supporting long-term opportunities for our employees, strengthening prospects for our suppliers and partners, and reinforcing the foundations for continued growth. Given these strategic benefits, together with the attractive value offered to shareholders, our Board unanimously supports and recommends the tender offer." The proposed combination brings together Iveco and the commercial

vehicle business of Tata Motors, with the combined entity expected to have sales of over 5,90,000 units annually and revenues of about 21 billion euros (₹2,28,000 crore-plus).

The combined revenues are expected to come from Europe (about 46 per cent), India (about 32 per cent), South America (about 8 per cent) and the rest of the world (about 14 per cent), the companies said.

The businesses have substantially no overlap in their industrial and geographic footprints, with complementary product portfolios and capabilities.

The companies said the combined group would be better positioned to invest in and deliver innovative and sustainable mobility solutions by leveraging both supplier networks to serve customers globally.

The combination is also expected to enable the group to drive better operating leverage by spreading capital investments over larger volumes, generate operating efficiencies and reduce cash flow volatility inherent in the commercial vehicle sector. It would also enable the capabilities of Iveco Group's powertrain business, FPT, to be further enhanced.

The offer values Iveco Group at approximately 3.82 billion euros. The offeror has committed financing in place for the entire offer Price, providing certainty of funds for completion of the transaction.

The Iveco Board has concluded that the offer is in the long-term interests of Iveco Group, the sustainable success of its business and its employees, customers, shareholders and other stakeholders. (PTI)

## Levi's 'Behind Every Original' returns with Alia Bhatt

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** Levi's has unveiled the second chapter of its global Behind Every Original campaign in India, with Global Brand Ambassador Alia Bhatt returning as the face of the latest chapter, titled Many Ways, One Original.

Building on the first chapter of the campaign, the new edition celebrates the multiple influences, experiences and perspectives that shape an individual's identity.

"The campaign highlights the idea that originality does not have a single definition, but evolves with people, their experiences and the way they choose to express themselves," said an official statement on Saturday. With a legacy spanning more than 150 years, Levi's has long been associated with individuality and self-expression, drawing influences from music, fashion, art and everyday culture. The latest campaign continues this legacy by exploring how personal style can change with different moods, moments and facets of one's personality.

At the centre of the campaign is a new brand film inspired by the concept of a mixtape. The film follows Alia Bhatt through a subway corridor, a busy street corner and a neighbourhood pub, bringing together different sounds, memories, moods and influences. The narrative reflects the many elements that contribute to shaping an individual's sense of self and style.

The campaign also places emphasis on the versatility of Levi's apparel, showcasing a range of fits, silhouettes and wardrobe pieces that can be styled in different ways. The message is that originality is not necessarily about maintaining one signature look, but about having the freedom to experiment and express different sides of oneself.

"Originality has never been about fitting into one version of yourself, and Behind Every Original has always celebrated the mindset that shapes individuality," said Hiren Gor, managing director, South Asia, Middle East and Africa, Levi Strauss & Co.

"With Many Ways, One Original, we wanted to celebrate the many influences and expressions that come together to shape who we are."

## TCS subsidiary HyperVault to invest ₹ 70,000 cr to develop Hyderabad AI data centre



**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** HyperVault, a subsidiary of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), on Saturday announced that it has secured 264 acres of land in Hyderabad to develop a large-scale artificial intelligence data centre campus with a total investment outlay of up to ₹70,000 crore.

The purpose-built facility, which will have a capacity of up to 1 Gigawatt (GW), is designed to support frontier AI companies and hyperscalers with high-density, liquid-cooled compute infrastructure on a global scale, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"HyperVault, a subsidiary of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has secured 264 acres of land to

develop a large-scale AI data centre campus of up to 1GW capacity in Hyderabad.

"The project will generate several thousand direct and indirect jobs in the region. HyperVault and its partners are expected to invest up to ₹70,000 crore to build and manage this infrastructure," it said. The project will be executed in a phased manner in line with customer demands and technology requirements.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy termed the project "historic" for the state and country. "This establishes that Hyderabad is now at the forefront of the global AI revolution with a strong focus on infrastructure. This

decade is one of Artificial Intelligence. Access to AI models and compute is fast-becoming public infrastructure, and having this compute reside in Telangana gives us an advantage," he said.

The campus will leverage green energy and water-neutral design principles as part of its build-out, the company added.

TCS CEO and Managing Director K Krithivasan said the initiative advances the firm's "Infrastructure-to-Intelligence" strategy by integrating AI-ready infrastructure with the company's cloud, AI, and enterprise capabilities. "Hyderabad offers the scale, talent and ecosystem to serve global customers," Krithivasan said. (PTI)

## Jawa, Yezdi and BSA motorcycles celebrates India's next youth subculture at Indian Super Gaming League 2026

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** Classic Legends has announced its participation in the Indian Super Gaming League (ISGL) 2026, bringing Jawa, Yezdi and BSA motorcycles to a platform where competition, culture and community come together, said an official statement on Saturday.

As per the statement, the engagement begins in Chennai, one of the cities on the ISGL calendar, before extending across the national footprint.

"Through the league, Jawa, Yezdi and BSA motorcycles will be showcased across ISGL venues and experience zones, creating an opportunity for audiences to engage with the brands beyond the world of motorcycling," the statement added.

Launched by LetsGameNow, ISGL is India's first franchise-based national esports league.

Built around a city-backed format, the league brings together teams, gamers, creators and fan communities through a national championship pathway. ISGL's city-based format and growing creator ecosystem provide Classic Legends an opportunity to engage with a new generation of enthusiasts across both physical and digital touchpoints.

For Classic Legends, this platform creates a natural meeting point between two thriving youth sub-cultures. While riding and gaming may look different on the surface, both are built around skill, self-express-

sion, mastery and the communities that form around them.

Anupam Thareja, co-founder, Classic Legends said that motorcycling and gaming may appear to belong to different worlds, but both are built around the same fundamentals: skill, self-expression and a strong sense of community.

"What makes them truly special is the culture that grows around them. Jawa, Yezdi and BSA have always been driven by passionate communities brought together by shared experiences and individuality. Through ISGL, we look forward to engaging with a new generation that seamlessly moves across riding, gaming and creator communities, while staying true to the values of authenticity, mastery and belonging," he added.

The statement further said that this association forms part of Classic Legend's broader effort to engage with culture-led spaces where communities come together around shared passions. As riding continues to evolve as an expression of individuality, lifestyle and belonging, the company remains focused on creating new opportunities for enthusiasts to discover, experience and connect with Jawa, Yezdi and BSA.

"Through associations such as ISGL, Classic Legends is extending the reach of its brands into emerging sub-cultures where passion, self-expression and community intersect," the statement concluded.

## Maruti Suzuki: Premium hatchback segment to keep growing

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** The premium hatchback segment is anticipated to grow in the Indian passenger vehicle market, even as SUVs remain the dominant choice among customers, a senior executive of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd said on Saturday.

The company, which has introduced the new version of its premium hatchback Baleno with special festive prices starting at Rs 6.09 lakh (ex-showroom Bengaluru), believes that when the overall passenger vehicles (PV) sales is expected to reach the size of 63 lakh units annually, the segment will have a play in the 35 per cent of the market, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Partho Banerjee told PTI. When GST 2.0 came, many in the industry said it is the SUV which is going to be

the major beneficiary, but right now the company's hatchbacks are doing very well, he said, adding that "there is a market for SUV also, but there is also a market for premium hatchbacks". In the last five months, the premium hatchback segment has clocked 2.5 lakh units out of a total PV industry sales of close to 4.4 lakh units at a monthly run rate of around 50,000 units. Compared to the pre-GST 2.0 period, premium hatchback sales have grown by 17 per cent, and MSIL witnessed a 28 per cent growth in the segment, Banerjee noted. "Every third vehicle in the premium hatchback segment that is being sold today happens to be the Baleno. It has got a very high brand consideration, and in the last five months of this financial year, we have sold close to 8,31,77 units, at over 16,500 units per month," he added. (PTI)

Contd. from Page 1...

## Around 330 held in crackdown

in all other places in the crackdown, Singh said. "The police have been working against these frauds. This special crackdown is being carried out as per the instructions of the chief minister," he added. The special directives from the CM, who also holds the home department, are believed to have been issued during the recently concluded two-day conference of top police officers.

Singh said most of these people were using "cyber medium" to carry out the fraudulent activities, and the police are tracing the digital imprint left by them. "After technical analysis of the information against the accused is acquired, ground verification is needed to ensure that the frauds are nabbed. There are instances where phone numbers, registered in other names, are used by them," the DGP said. "Our aim is to ensure that the general public is not harassed by such frauds. Investigations into all cases are going on, and legal procedure will follow," Singh said. (PTI)

## UN announcement affirms

few years have led to over 12,000 cases being registered, more than 11,000 arrests and an 81 per cent drop in child marriages across 20 districts, along with drastic reductions in teenage pregnancies and increases in female higher education enrollment. "Coincidentally, we had already announced that in the month of November, we will be taking up an unapologetic campaign against child and forced marriage and bring all the perpetrators to justice, securing the future of our daughters," he said.

Sarma said the UN declaration shows that Assam's efforts were never in isolation; it was about eliminating a crime which is a global problem. "Assam's fight against child marriage ignited a national narrative, and now carries the weight of global recognition. Our commitment remains unchanged -- a society free of child marriage," he added.

The Assam government had launched its intensified crackdown against child marriage in 2023, during the first term of Sarma as chief minister. (PTI)

## Surrendered militants call off

West Tripura's district magistrate Vishal Kumar said, "After an intense discussion with the leaders of the surrendered militant groups over their demands, they agreed to withdraw the blockade. The government will meet all demands raised by the surrendered militants in a time-bound manner."

Earlier in the day, the opposition parties urged the BJP government in the state to talk to the surrendered militants to end their protest, highlighting that the common people of the state were the worst sufferers of the agitation.

Left Front Convener Manik Dey said the government must fulfil the commitments it had made to the surrendered militants during the signing of the peace agreement. He said the government should sit with the surrendered militants to end the blockades, keeping in mind the elections to Village Committees of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) scheduled on September 28. Congress leader Sudip Roy Barman also strongly advocated for fulfilment of promises given in the peace accord.

"We want the government to implement promises made to the surrendered militants at the time of signing the peace accord. The party also favours the TTAADC getting direct funding and a share of central tax directly," he told reporters. Expressing strong reservations over the frequent disruption of the state's connectivity, he urged the surrendered militants to go for fast unto death instead of a "routine" blockade to compel the government to fulfil its promises. "The common people are the worst sufferers of such agitation," he said. (PTI)

## Vice President Radhakrishnan

On September 8, Radhakrishnan will head to Imphal to visit the INA Museum and War Memorial at Moirang, and Sainik School. He will thereafter proceed to Itanagar on September 9 to attend a special session of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly and visit the Assembly Gallery-cum-Museum, the statement said. He will also visit Nyedra Namlo, Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum in Itanagar and the Donyi Polo Mission School for the hearing and visually impaired. (PTI)

## Himanta underscores role of

a vocal supporter of their welfare and growth, despite facing many difficulties," Sarma said in a social media post. "Today, on #TeachersDay, we reiterate our commitment towards their welfare and empowering them to teach better," he added, as the country marked the birth anniversary of former President and eminent educationist Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. (PTI)

## Nepal floods: Death toll surges

Of the total bodies recovered in Nepal so far, 85 were children, while 501 were found with body parts missing, officials said, attributing the condition of the bodies to prolonged exposure to water and the weight of debris.

As many as 360 bodies were recovered in Chitwan alone, the highest among all districts. The rest were from Nawalparasi East, Nawalparasi West, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Dhading and Tanahun districts, according to Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

Only 98 bodies have been handed over to families so far after identification, according to NDRRMA.

Identifying the dead has emerged as a major challenge. Bodies recovered after being swept downstream have often been severely damaged, decomposed or recovered only in parts, making identification by face, clothing or personal belongings difficult, officials said.

Prolonged immersion in water and exposure to mud and debris can destroy identifiable features, while some remains have been fragmented or mixed with other remains. Forensic experts say DNA testing has therefore become crucial, but it is a time-consuming process requiring samples from the remains and biological relatives for comparison. Fingerprints and dental records can also establish identities, but their usefulness depends on the condition of the remains and the availability of matching records, said officials.

As many as 1,030 bodies were temporarily buried after required procedures, including DNA collection, were completed, Nepal Police said.

Nepal's hospitals struggled to cope with the growing number of unidentified bodies. Large crowds continued to gather at medical facilities, carrying photographs of missing relatives and scrutinising images of the dead displayed on the walls. Authorities continue to monitor water levels in several rivers, including the Koshi, Narayani, Bagmati, Kamali, Mahakali, Kankai, Kamal, Kamala, Babai, Eastern Rapti and Western Rapti.

Major rescue operations are underway at hydropower projects in flood-affected districts, where hundreds of men are believed to be trapped in tunnels. Teams of experts from India and China are assisting their Nepali counterparts in these operations. (PTI)

## Ahom dynasty capital ensemble

unbroken for six centuries - for UNESCO World Heritage status under criteria (iii) & (iv)".

According to criterion (iii), the site has to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared, while criterion (iv) suggests that it has to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history.

Sarma mentioned that the complex nominated by India houses Assam's "finest Ahom temples, palaces, water tanks and engineering marvels - including Rang Ghar, Asia's oldest surviving amphitheatre". "This builds on the landmark 2024 UNESCO recognition of the Charaideo Moidams - together, the two sites complete the Ahom story: where the dynasty rests, and where it ruled," he added, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "this unprecedented push to give Assam's heritage the global recognition it deserves". The Ahom dynasty was founded by Swargadeo Chaolung Sukapha in 1228, with its rule coming to an end in 1826. (PTI)

## Childhood best time to instil

President Murmu emphasised that teachers should instil knowledge, inspiration, morality, and sensitivity in all students through their affection and dedication. She also noted that academic excellence, skill development, and entrepreneurship hold immense importance in the country's development.

"Establishing India as the skill capital of the world, and transforming it into a knowledge superpower, is among our national priorities. We are moving towards the goal of building a Viksit Bharat, and this goal can be achieved only through a world-class education system," she said.

On Saturday, President Murmu felicitated 82 teachers and educators selected from three departments. These include 48 teachers from the Department of School Education and Literacy, 21 teachers or faculty members from higher educational institutions and polytechnics, and 13 skill trainers from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. (PTI)

## KAAC observes 65<sup>th</sup> Teachers'

most important professions in society. "A school may have beautiful buildings, modern classrooms, laboratories, libraries and technology, but the heart of every educational institution is its teachers," he said.

He observed that a good teacher does not merely complete the syllabus but awakens curiosity, builds confidence, identifies talent and helps young people understand their potential. Ronghang said education continues to be one of the highest priorities of the KAAC. He said the Council has undertaken various measures over the years to improve school infrastructure, strengthen residential education, expand opportunities for higher and technical education and provide better facilities to students in rural and remote areas. He, however, stressed that improving educational infrastructure must go hand in hand with strengthening the quality of teaching and learning.

Referring to the growing influence of technology and artificial intelligence (AI), the CEM said the role of teachers has become more challenging and important than ever.

"Technology should become a tool in the hands of teachers, not a replacement for teachers. A computer can provide information. Artificial Intelligence can provide answers. But a teacher provides wisdom, judgement, encouragement and human values. That role will remain indispensable," he said. He also emphasised the importance of character-building, saying academic achievement and marks alone cannot determine the success of an individual. He also urged teachers and parents to instil discipline, integrity, compassion, responsibility and respect for others among students.

Ronghang called upon students to respect their parents and elders, appreciate the dignity of labour, care for the environment and understand their responsibilities towards society. He also urged parents and teachers to guide children away from drugs, violence and other destructive habits.

He stressed the need for students to acquire proficiency in English, science, mathematics, technology and other modern skills so that they can compete confidently across India and the world, while also remaining connected to their mother tongue, history and cultural heritage. Advising students to listen, ask questions and work hard, the CEM said, "Your teachers can show you the road, but you must walk it yourself."

He urged students from Diphu, Hamren, Bokajan, Howraghat and remote areas of the hills not to allow geographical or other circumstances to limit their ambitions.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address, KAAC executive member in-charge of Education, Richard Tokbi, said teaching is not merely a profession but a noble responsibility, with teachers playing the role of nation-builders.

He said teachers prepare young people for their careers, guide them towards becoming responsible human beings and serve as guiding lights for society. "Teachers today still walk miles in remote areas like Borpuing, Tarapung and Singhaon to light the lamp of education," Tokbi said.

He highlighted various reformative measures undertaken by the KAAC under the leadership of CEM, including teacher recruitment, development of educational infrastructure and introduction of digital learning platforms.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Sehhaio Thangew, S/o Helkholal Thangew, a resident of Phaibung, Phaibung, Hidipi, Po:-Hidipi, Ps:-Dillai, district Karbi Anglong, Assam, 782480, solemnly affirm and declare that in my Voter EPIC Card No-KZG0476259 my name has been written as Sehhaio Thangew and in my AAD-HAAR Card No-7090 0860 6364 was written as Hemingthang Gange. The two names Sehhaio Thangew and Hemingthang Gange are the same and single person that is me. I swear this affidavit at SDM Court, Bokajan on 16th July, 2026.

*Acharya highlighted the role of teachers in shaping generations*

## Assam Governor felicitates 95-year-old senior-most retired primary teacher

**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Friday felicitated 95-year-old Prafulla Kumar Borthakur, the senior-most retired primary school teacher of the state, at his residence in Jamugurihat on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

The felicitation was organised under the 'Governor Assam Varishtha Shikshak Samman' initiative, under which the Governor had directed all District Commissioners to honour the oldest retired primary school teacher in their respective districts in recognition of their lifelong contribution to education.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Acharya highlighted the role of teachers in shaping generations and strengthening the intellectual and social fabric of the country.

"Respecting and honouring teachers has always been an integral part of India's rich heritage and tradition," an official statement quoted Governor as saying.

Commenting on the Borthakur's long career as an educator, Acharya said the retired teacher had witnessed the transformation of several generations and that the values, knowledge and confidence he imparted had left a lasting impression on his



students. "This is the greatest legacy of a teacher," the Governor remarked.

Acharya said teachers would have an important role in nurturing knowledgeable, responsible, compassionate and socially conscious citizens as Assam and the country work towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

"Quality education and the holistic development of students must remain the

foremost priority of the teaching community," he added.

The Governor also appreciated teachers for their contribution to various public initiatives and responsibilities while continuing with their primary duty of educating and shaping future generations.

"The knowledge, values and aspirations nurtured in classrooms today would lay the foundation for a developed, empowered and self-reliant Assam of tomorrow," Acharya said.

Borthakur was felicitated with a citation, phulam gamosa, shawl, xori, xori, fruit basket, umbrella and a cheque of ₹ 51,000.

Sonitpur MP Ranjit Dutta, Naduar MLA Padma Hazarika, Borcholla MLA Ritu Barman Sharma and Sonitpur Deputy Commissioner Ananda Das, besides other prominent citizens, attended the programme.

Similar felicitation programmes were organised simultaneously across Assam at the district and Elementary Education Block levels.

According to Lok Bhavan, 35 senior-most retired primary teachers were felicitated at the district level, while 113 retired teachers were honoured at the Elementary Education Block level by the respective Block Elementary Education Officers (BEEOs).

The retired teachers were presented with a gamosa, fruit basket and citation from the Governor.

Senior government representatives personally visited the homes of the teachers during the field-level programmes, highlighting the state's recognition of their contribution to the teaching community.

## Assam to hold district-level closing ceremonies of Bhupen Hazarika birth centenary

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** The Assam government has issued guidelines for district-level closing ceremonies of the birth centenary celebrations of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, to be observed across the state on September 8.



As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the District Administration, West Karbi Anglong, will organise a floral tribute to the legendary singer and cultural icon at the district headquarters or another suitable location identified by the District Commissioner.

Similar floral tributes may also be organised at district offices, government institutions, registered clubs and associations, self-help groups and other organisations.

A short cultural programme and reminiscence session may be organised, featuring eminent personalities and individuals associated with Dr Hazarika. A collective rendition of Bhupendra Sangeet may also be held, along with a human chain symbolising unity and collective participation.

Performances by noted cultural personalities may also form part of the programme.

Government educational institutions have been advised to observe the centenary appropriately. Floral tributes will be organised at all government educational institutions on the morning of September 8.

Schools, colleges and universities may also organise seminars, lectures, quizzes and art competitions for students.

Students of government educational institutions may collectively sing a common song of Dr Hazarika during the morning assembly as a musical tribute to the legendary cultural figure.

## DDMA Baksa reviews storm, flood preparedness amid erosion concerns



**HT Correspondent**

**KOKRAJHAR, Sept 5:** The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Baksa, on Friday reviewed the district's preparedness to deal with storms and floods and assessed damage-related measures for 2026-27.

The meeting, chaired by Baksa Deputy Commissioner Kinnei Chansan, IAS, was attended by MLA Thaneswar Basumatary, MLA Maneswar Brahma, ADC-cum-CEO, DDMA Mustafa Salim Ahmed, DDMA DPO Kakul Krishna Sharma, heads of departments, circle officers and

field-level officials.

Ahmed briefed the meeting on the prevailing situation in the district and said water levels were being monitored regularly. Fire and Emergency Services personnel, Civil Defence volunteers and the District Disaster Response Force (DDRF) were kept on standby for emergency response.

Coordination was also being maintained with Bhutanese authorities regarding discharge data from the Kurichhu Dam.

Officials said there was no severe situation in the district at present, while all concerned

departments remained prepared to respond to any emergency.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed works and schemes submitted by various departments, including PWD (Roads), Irrigation, APDCL, Soil Conservation and PHE, and assessed their preparedness to deal with possible storm and flood situations.

The meeting also reviewed Circle-level Task Force meetings, departmental proposals, risk and vulnerability assessment reports, proposed project sites and the preparedness of Model Relief Camps.

MLA Thaneswar Basumatary stressed the need for regular field visits and assessment of affected areas, particularly those vulnerable to erosion, while MLA Maneswar Brahma called for closer coordination among departments to ensure timely response during emergencies.

The meeting directed all concerned departments to remain vigilant and maintain close coordination to ensure effective disaster preparedness and response across the district.

## Tea workers' body seeks 20% bonus 20 days before Durga Puja

**HT Correspondent**

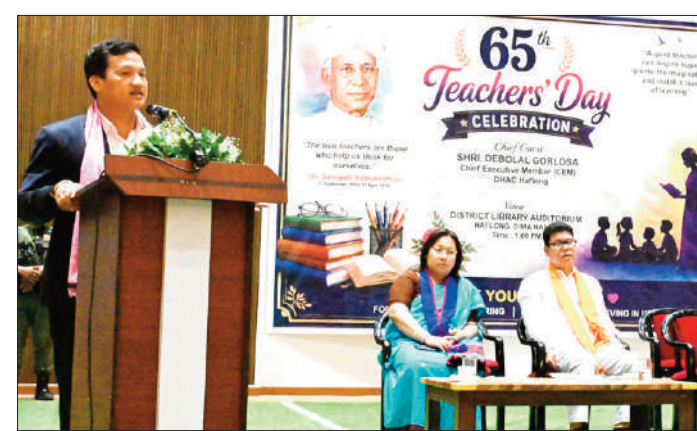
**TEZPUR, Sept 5:** The Akhil Bharatiya Chah Mazdoor Sangha has demanded that tea garden workers in Assam be paid a 20 per cent bonus at least 20 days ahead of Durga Puja this year. The organisation said nearly seven lakh tea workers in the state were facing various difficulties amid rising prices and alleged denial of several facilities and benefits they had received earlier.

The workers' body claimed that daily wages had not been increased adequately and that workers were also being deprived of facilities related to medical treatment, grazing land and repair of house roofs.

"With prices of essential commodities rising, tea workers are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet on their meagre wages. The Puja bonus is the only major relief available to them at this time," the organisation said.

Akhil Bharatiya Chah Mazdoor Sangha president Royal Soren urged the state government and tea garden authorities to ensure payment of the 20 per cent bonus without fail and at least 20 days before the Durga Puja festival.

## Dima Hasao celebrates Teachers' Day, honours best-performing educators



**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** The 65th National Teachers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and reverence at the District Library Auditorium Hall in Haflong on Friday, honouring the contribution of teachers to education, society and nation-building.

The programme was attended by Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC) Chief Executive Member (CEM) Deboli Gorlosa as the chief guest. DHAC Chairman Mohet Hojai, Executive Member Doinpaon Thaoson, Principal Secretary Partha Sarathi Jahari, Joint Secretaries Rebecca Chansan and Amit Porbosa, and Deputy Director-cum-District Information and Public Relations Of-

ficer Purabi Phonglo were among those present.

The celebrations began with the ceremonial lighting of a lamp, followed by a floral tribute and garlanding of the portrait of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President and noted philosopher-educator whose birth anniversary is observed as Teachers' Day.

Addressing the gathering, Gorlosa highlighted the progress made in the education sector in Dima Hasao, particularly in infrastructure and academics. He said while several milestones had been achieved, more work remained to be done to ensure quality education for children across the district. He commended the teaching

community for its dedication and urged teachers to make collective efforts to reach students living in remote and difficult-to-access areas of Dima Hasao.

DHAC Chairman Mohet Hojai also lauded the contribution of teachers to the lives of students, saying educators not only impart knowledge but also shape minds, build character and inspire young people to strive for excellence.

As part of the celebrations, teachers serving during the 2025-26 academic session were honoured with citations and certificates under the Best Teacher awards in the Lower Primary, Middle Elementary, High School and Higher Secondary categories.

Teachers who retired during the previous year were also felicitated with certificates of appreciation in recognition of their long service and contribution to the education sector.

Amit Porbosa, ACS, delivered the welcome address, while Manoj Nabensa of the District Academic Council also addressed the gathering.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Deputy Inspector of Schools Ezra Ralsuna Lal-sim. Cultural performances and tributes to senior educators were also organised as part of the celebrations.

## Two minor brothers go missing

**KHERONI, Sept 5:** Two minor brothers have gone missing from Kolonga Rongpangbong Timung village in West Karbi Anglong, causing concern among their family members and local residents.

The missing children have been identified as 14-year-old Mindar Bey and his eight-year-old brother, Longri Bey. The two have been unaccounted for since Thursday.

According to family members, the parents received a phone call on Thursday night informing them that the boys had reached Diphu safely and were staying at the home of an acquaintance.

Following the information, their father, Joying Bey, and mother, Lakhimi Inghipi, travelled to Diphu on Friday to bring their sons home. However, before the parents could reach the residence, the two boys reportedly went missing again.

## PWD Building Division contributes ₹ 39,000 to support TB patient

**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** Officials and staff of the PWD Building Division, Diphu, have contributed ₹ 39,000 towards food and nutritional support for a tuberculosis (TB) patient under the Government of India's Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA).

The contribution was collected voluntarily from officials of the division and businessmen in Diphu town under the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, which seeks to encourage community participation in supporting TB patients during their treatment and recovery.

The amount was handed over by Executive Engineer, PWD Building Division, Susong Pratap Sing Terang, to District TB Officer Dr Sanjit Sarangfing and District TB Centre Coordinator Croswell Killing at Terang's official chamber here on Saturday.

Terang said the contribution was a humble effort by the officials and staff of the division to help a TB patient access nutritious food during treatment.

Killing said around 700 TB patients are currently

being monitored by the District TB Centre in Karbi Anglong. He said patients are provided regular medicines and advised to maintain cleanliness and hygiene, consume nutritious food and undergo regular medical check-ups.

The PMTBMBA is supported through the Ni-kshay Mitra programme, a nationwide initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aimed at mobilising community support for TB patients.

Under the initiative, elected representatives, government officials, citizens, NGOs and corporate donors can become Ni-kshay Mitras by adopting one or more TB patients and providing nutritional or other support.

The support may include monthly food baskets containing cereals, pulses, milk powder, cooking oil and protein-rich items such as eggs or roasted chickpea flour. The initiative also encourages support for the households of TB patients to strengthen community support and reduce the risk of transmission.

## KAAC to issue trade licences to ST(H) women married to non-ST(H) traders

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has decided to issue Trade Licences or Temporary Trading Permits to Scheduled Tribe (Hills) [ST(H)] women entrepreneurs married to non-ST(H) traders, replacing the earlier system of issuing non-objection certificates (NOCs). The order, issued on September 2 and effective immediately, implements Resolution No. 25 adopted at the 28th KAAC Executive Committee meeting held on August 6, 2026.

Under the new directive, existing Trade NOC holders falling under the category have been asked to submit their documents to the Superintendent of Taxes, KAAC, for conversion within 14 working days.

The directive states that all existing Trade NOCs issued to ST(H) women married to non-ST(H) businessmen must be submitted for conversion into Trade Licences or Temporary Trading Permits.

Failure to complete the conversion within the stipulated 14-day period will render the existing NOCs invalid and make the holders liable for penalties under the relevant laws and rules.

The KAAC has also directed Municipal Boards and Town Committees to create awareness about the provision within their respective jurisdictions. The move is aimed at providing legal clarity and ensuring regulatory compliance for business activities undertaken by ST(H) women in the autonomous district.

## BPF youth wing distributes financial aid in Gossaigaon

**HT Correspondent**

**GOSSAIGAON, Sept 5:** The Central Youth Committee of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) on Friday distributed financial assistance among needy students and people suffering from serious illnesses in different parts of Gossaigaon subdivision.

The initiative was undertaken following an appeal by BPF president and BTC Chief Hagrama Mohilary. According to BPF sources, similar assistance programmes are being conducted in different areas across the five districts under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

In Gossaigaon town, the BPF youth wing provided ₹ 3 lakh each to Pratik Saha, a B.Tech student at IIT Kharagpur, and Suheyel Khan, who is pursuing his studies at NIT Silchar.

The team also provided ₹ 1.5 lakh to Albert Narzary, a PhD scholar at Bodoland University, and ₹ 50,000 to another student from Gossaigaon. An additional ₹ 2 lakh was provided to Anex Narzary of Raimona village, who is pursuing B.Tech studies.

Later, the team visited villages adjoining Raimona National Park and provided ₹ 2.5 lakh each to Gita Narzary of Ballamjhora, who is undergoing treatment for cancer, and 16-year-old Class X student Joshua Basumatary of Jiaguri village, who is also reportedly undergoing cancer treatment. The beneficiaries thanked Mohilary and the BPF Central Youth Committee, saying the financial assistance would help meet educational and medical expenses.

## NFR unloads 1,021 freight rakes across zone in August



**HT Bureau**

**GUWAHATI, Sept 5:** The North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) maintained its freight performance in August 2026, unloading a total of 1,021 freight rakes across its jurisdiction during the month, an official statement said on Saturday.

The freight traffic included food grains, food-grade commodities, fertilisers, sugar, coal, salt, tank wagons and other goods, which were handled at various goods sheds across the zone.

"Assam accounted for the highest share of unloading, with 560 rakes handled during the month. The freight comprised both essential and non-essential commodities and supported public distribution, industrial activities and consumer requirements in the state," the statement added.

Among other northeastern states, 69 rakes were unloaded in Tripura, 15 in Nagaland, 19 in Manipur, eight in Arunachal Pradesh and six in Mizoram.

West Bengal recorded the unloading of 193 rakes, while 151 rakes were unloaded in Bihar, comprising essential and non-essential commodities.

The NFR said the continuous movement of freight was important for meeting daily requirements and supporting economic activities across the region. Effective monitoring at various levels also helped reduce turnaround time and improve unloading efficiency.

*An emergency animal health camp was organised to protect livestock in flood-affected areas*

## KVK distributes paddy seedlings, conducts animal health camp in Bokolia

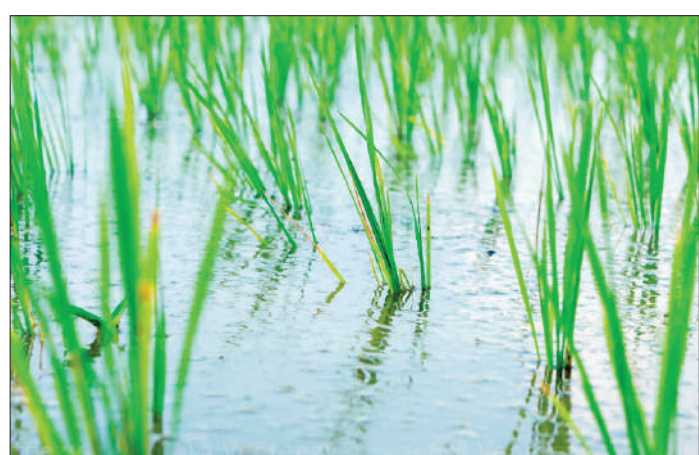
**HT Bureau**

**DIPHU, Sept 5:** In an effort to support agricultural recovery following recent floods, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Karbi Anglong, on Saturday organised a paddy seedling distribution programme and animal health camp at the Tarabasa Seed Farm in Bokolia.

The programme was organised in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, KAAC, Diphu.

To assist farmers affected by monsoon inundation in the Dokmoka, Samelangso and Howraghat areas, the KVK had established a community nursery in August featuring Dishang paddy, a short-duration variety that matures in 90 to 95 days.

On Saturday, 21-day-old



seedlings were distributed to cover a total cultivated area of three hectares, enabling affected farmers to replant their fields and recover lost yields.

The distribution programme was led by Dr Monuj Kumar Doley, senior scientist and head of KVK Karbi Anglong, along with agriculture development officers Midim

Sorongsa of Dokmoka, Augustin Bey of Samelangso and Olivina Katharpi of Howraghat, besides Prakshiya Boruah, subject matter specialist (Agronomy), KVK Karbi Anglong.

Following the distribution, an emergency animal health camp was organised to protect livestock in flood-affected areas. Vaccination of cattle, goats and pigs was carried out by Dr Doley in coordination with veterinary officials, including Dr Keleson Basumatary, Veterinary Officer, SVD, Bakalia, and Dr Racy Rongpi, Mobile Veterinary Officer, SVD, Bakalia.

Around 50 local farmers participated in the programme and received agricultural inputs and veterinary services aimed at supporting the recovery of their livelihoods following the floods.

# Phobia of earthquake in Assam & its probability: An Analysis

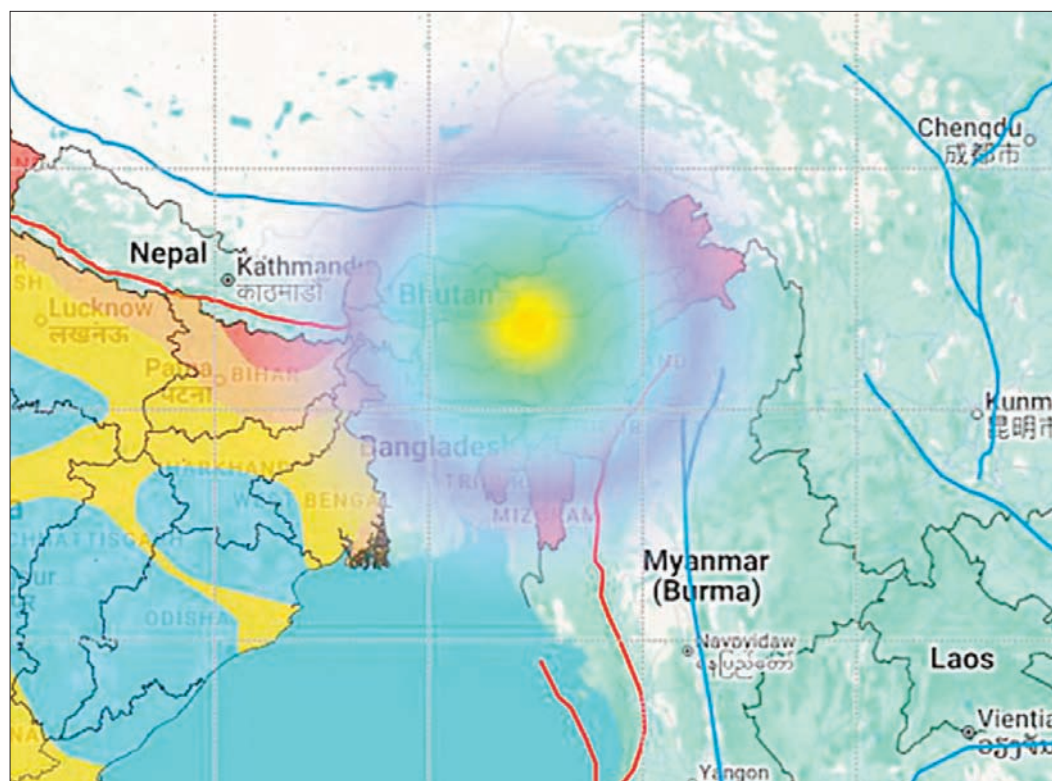
Assam and the whole of the North-Eastern region is one of the most earthquake prone regions of India. The earthquake risk in this region is not due to any specific fault or single geological structure., instead, the region is highly seismic due to its complex tectonic position and the interaction of several geological processes. The main reason is the northward movement of the Indian Plate. The Indian Plate has long been moving northward and colliding with the Eurasian Plate. This collision led to the formation of the Himalayas and their continued geological development. However, the motion of the Indian plate has not yet stopped completely. As a result, tectonic stress and deformation or distortion continue to accumulate in different parts of the crust. The Myanmar microplate and the Indo-Burma tectonic system are influential in Assam. The Indian Plate interacts complexly with other geological units in the region as it advances northeastward. As a result, pressure within the crust is not confined to one place, but is distributed along various active faults and plate boundaries. When this accumulated pressure exceeds the bearing capacity of the rock layer in a weak part of the crust, the accumulated energy can be suddenly released. This energy spreads around as seismic waves and we experience it as an earthquake. In addition, the Himalayas, Eastern Himalayas, Indo-Burma Range and various active landslide zones near Assam further complicate this entire geological system.

Therefore, it is not scientifically authentic to link seismic hazard in Assam to just one fault alone. Assam is seismic as the Indian Plate moved northward to collide with the Eurasian plate. This geological process is still active billions of years after the collision began. This constant movement of the plates causes huge pressures to accumulate inside the Earth's crust. At some point, when that pressure exceeds the tolerance limit of the bedrock, the sudden movement of faults or geologic cracks occurs and as a result earthquakes occur. The complex interaction of the Burma Microplate with the Indian Plate - in the east and southeast of Assam - has further added to the geological instability of the region. Therefore, Assam and the entire North-East region is one of the most active geological regions of the Indian subcontinent. As mentioned above, the earthquake risk and the probability of its occurrence in Assam is not associated with any single fault. There are several important active geological formations around our region. The Main Himalayan Thrust (MHT) is located at the foot of the Himalayas which is a

large plate boundary. This structure is capable of producing very strong earthquakes. The collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates in the eastern Himalayas has resulted in the formation of quite active thrusts and faults. The Indo-Burmese Arc region is located in the eastern and south-eastern parts of Assam and is subject to significant geological distortion and seismic activity due to the interaction of the Indian Plate and the Burmese Microplate. The Naga-Patkai and the associated faults play an important role in the geological changes along the eastern and south-eastern borders of Assam. Several active geological formations can be seen around the Shillong Plateau also. The famous earthquake of 1897 is a major earthquake in the history of Assam and the North-Eastern region of India. This points to the fact that Assam is located in the middle of a very complex geological region, around which active faults and plate boundaries are scattered under some parts of the crust. The history of earthquakes in Assam clearly shows that the possibility of large earthquakes is not just a theoretical mat-

ter. The earthquake of June 12, 1897 measured about 8.0 to 8.3 on the Richter Scale. The 1897 earthquake also caused widespread destruction in Assam and nearby areas. Geological studies have linked the earthquake to the movement of the Oldham Fault near the Shillong Plateau. The devastating Assam-Tibet earthquake at about 7.39 pm on 15th August 1950 had a magnitude of 8.6 (or 8.7) on the Richter Scale. The elderly people of Assam clearly remember the devastating earthquake of 1950 in our state Assam. The 1950 Assam-Tibet earthquake was one of the largest earthquakes recorded on land. This caused massive landslides, land surface changes and changes in the course of rivers. Both these historical earthquakes of 1897 and 1950 in Assam established an important fact that there is a geological possibility of a very strong earthquakes of such magnitude or greater in Assam and the entire North-Eastern region in recent future as it seems. The Importance of Seismic Zone V in Assam:

Everybody wants to know the importance of Seismic Zone V in Assam and the role it plays. Most of Assam falls under Seismic Zone V on the seismic hazard map of India. Zone V is the highest seismic hazard U category in India. This does not mean that there will be earthquakes of magnitude 8 or more in Assam right now or soon. Rather, it means that Assam is likely to experience strong earthquakes in the long run due to its geographical location, active faults, dynamics of tectonic



plates and past seismic history. This means that Zone V is a map of potential hazards and it's not a prediction of the date of future occurrence of earthquakes in Assam. In the case of earthquakes, scientists are not yet in a position to accurately predict a specific date, time, location and magnitude in advance. Therefore, it is not appropriate to accept the statement which is going around the media that '8 or 8.5 magnitude earthquake will occur in Assam in a few days' as a scientifically established fact.

However experts opine that the opposite is equally important which is "Assam should not be considered immune from earthquakes as the exact timing of earthquakes cannot be predicted by anyone except the Almighty Lord or the Creator." The geographical location of Assam and the history of major earthquakes in the past warn us that the possibility of strong earthquakes in the future must be taken seriously. Therefore, our main lesson from the complexity of Zone V should be preparation for safety in advance and not fear. The most reasonable and scientific steps would be to build earthquake-resistant construction, comply with the Building Code, inspect old and vulnerable buildings, strengthen emergency rescue systems and raise awareness among the public about what to do during earthquakes. If we want to simply put it in words Zone V is not an earthquake calendar rather it is an earthquake warning signal zone. The purpose of Seismic Zone V is not to create panic, but to make everyone aware of building such constructions ahead of potential danger and making the whole system more secure for the masses. The

Reason that scientists cannot predict an 8.5 magnitude earthquake in the coming days: Scientists can study active faults, plate motion, past earthquake data, crustal deformation, seismic activity and past geological evidence to assess the likelihood of occurrence of earthquake in a specific area.

However, with current seismological knowledge, the following four things cannot be reliably predicted together which are: # which fault will cause an earthquake, # exactly where it will occur, # how intense it will be and # on what day or at what time it will occur. Therefore the

claims on social media platforms that "8 to 8.5 magnitude earthquake will occur in Assam in the coming days" should never ever be accepted as a scientifically proven prediction. It's not at all humanly possible to predict the exact time and occurrence of earthquake except the Almighty Lord or the Creator of this universe. There is possibility of occurrence but it is not guaranteed. The collision and motion of the Indian Plate and its surrounding plates continues still today. Therefore, the geological processes that can cause large earthquakes have not yet stopped. Magnitude and intensity are

not the same thing: Another important distinction which needs to be understood about earthquakes is that Intensity is a measure of the amount of energy generated by an earthquake source. Intensity is a measure of how strongly an earthquake is felt or affected at a particular location. The intensity depends on the distance from the source of the earthquake, the depth of the earthquake, the local geological structure, the nature of the soil, the quality of the building and the direction or propagation of the seismic waves. Therefore, the same earthquake in two places may not do the same damage because of this fact. The soft loamy soil of Assam increases the vibration of earthquakes. This issue is especially important for the Brahmaputra Valley. Many areas of the Brahmaputra Valley are composed of relatively soft and thick alluvial soils deposited by major rivers over the centuries. Such sedimentary columns can amplify the vibration of some seismic waves. Therefore, earthquake damage depends not only on the intensity of the earthquake, but also on the local soil, topography and geological structure. For this reason, the amount of damage in two areas at approximately the same distance from the epicenter of the same earthquake can differ significantly. Precedence of a foreshock before an earthquake:

Sometimes smaller earthquakes precede a major one. These are called foreshocks. But the problem is that which small earthquake was a foreshock is usually known for sure only after the larger earthquake has occurred. That is, a small earthquake may precede a big earthquake. Such events can happen sometimes, but not every small earthquake is guar-

anteed to be followed by a large earthquake. Most small earthquakes do not develop into earthquakes of magnitude 8 or higher. Therefore, claims such as "the recent earthquakes have proved that a major earthquake is coming soon" should not be taken for sure rather it should be considered with a caution. Assam and the entire North East is one of the most seismic prone regions in India. The continued collision of the Indian Plate with the Eurasian Plate, the complex interaction with the Burma Microplate to the east, as well as numerous active faults and geological formations make this region particularly seismic. Historical earthquakes such as the Great Assam Earthquake of 1897 and the Assam-Tibet Earthquake of 1950 have proved that there is a real geological potential for the occurrence of a very strong earthquake to the magnitude of 8 in the Richter Scale in this region. The scattering value is an exponential sum that determines the release of energy of an earthquake. The seismic measurement is named after the American seismologist Charles Richter. The key is to be alert and prepared rather than scared which is the scientific and intelligent way. Conclusion: To sum it up we cannot say reliably when an earthquake will strike, but we can do much to minimize the damage to lives and property in the event of an earthquake by building earthquake-resistant houses, retrofitting old buildings, edge emergency preparedness, improving rescue systems and raising public awareness. Emphasis should be placed on it. The real challenge for Assam is not to predict when an earthquake will strike – the real thing is to be prepared today to deal with it whenever it strikes.



## India's calculated abstention on the UNGA's ICJ climate resolution

By: Jyoti Singh, Sraddha Kedia

On 20 May 2026, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) did something unusual with a court opinion it had itself commissioned: it held a recorded vote on whether to take it seriously. The ICJ's July 2025 advisory opinion on the obligations of states in respect of climate change was welcomed through the UN's Resolution A/RES/80/263, which also established a follow-up process for its consideration. The resolution passed easily, by a vote of 141 in favour to 8 against, with 28 abstentions. But among those that abstained was India, a country that has spent three decades casting itself as a custodian of climate justice for the Global South. Why a long-standing champion of climate justice would decline to say either "yes" or "no" is the puzzle worth unpacking.

This "climate justice" journey did not begin in a courtroom. It began in 2019 with a campaign in the Pacific Islands, carried out by 27 law students, later taken up diplomatically by Vanuatu, a small island

state. In March 2023, the UNGA adopted a resolution by consensus, asking the ICJ two questions: what obligations international law imposes on states to protect the climate system, and what legal consequences follow when states cause significant harm to it. On 23 July 2025, the ICJ responded unanimously and issued its 140-page landmark advisory opinion, which took a more expansive view of the climate obligations of states compared to what major emitting states had advocated during the proceedings.

### Not Just a Non-Binding Opinion

The ICJ's advisory opinions are not binding, unlike its judgments in contentious cases. They nevertheless carry persuasive weight, as domestic courts, international tribunals, and multilateral organisations often draw on their reasoning. Their significance lies not in any binding force, but in their capacity to shape the development of international law. In its advisory opinion on climate change, the ICJ held that protecting the climate system is an obligation owed by states to the international community as a whole (erga omnes). It also stated that states must pursue

climate action with the highest possible ambition consistent with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal. More significantly, the Court found that a failure to comply with these obligations may amount to an internationally wrongful act, requiring the responsible state to stop the wrongful conduct, repair the harm caused, and prevent its recurrence. The Court further linked climate obligations with human rights law and signalled that the climate impact of fossil fuel projects should form part of environmental impact assessments. In substance, the ICJ largely rejected the arguments of historical and current major emitters of greenhouse gases.

### From Opinion to Practice

The resolution adopted by the UN in May 2026 does more than just welcome the advisory opinion of the Court. It moves the opinion from merely a declaratory statement into action by requiring follow-up reporting on the matter by the Secretary-General, as well as keeping it on the agenda of the General Assembly. The resolution was supported by an overwhelming majority of states: only eight, including the United States, the Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia, voted against it, while 28 states, including India, abstained. Before the vote, the United States urged Vanuatu to withdraw the draft resolution, warning that it could encourage climate litigation and promote "novel" legal interpretations. It is in this context that the importance of the Indian abstention becomes more apparent. India neither joined the states opposing the resolution nor supported it — instead, its abstention reflected concern about the implications of the resolution.

### India's Calculus: A Climate Justice Champion Hedges

India's explanation of its abstention was candid. Its representative argued that the resolution failed to reflect the "advisory and non-binding" character of the opinion and warned that the draft "undermines" the "sacrosanct architecture" of the UNFCCC by elevating an advisory opinion towards binding or quasi-binding status. The deeper worry, as India set it out, was that the text prescribes specific mitigation pathways, imports external benchmarks for ambition, and invites judicial or quasi-judicial scrutiny of nationally determined contributions — commitments that, by design, are meant to be self-set. Whether that concern is legally well-founded is, however, open to debate. The resolutions passed by the UNGA do not have the power to transform an advisory opinion into binding international law. Instead, the resolution can give the opinion greater practical influence by encouraging states, courts, and international organisations to consider and rely on its reasoning when developing climate policies, interpreting legal obligations, or deciding climate-related disputes.

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India's fear of judicial scrutiny is not hypothetical, and the most telling precedent is its own. In March 2024, in M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India, the Supreme Court read a "right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change" into Articles 21 and 14 of the Constitution, and nudged the government towards a dedicated climate law. The ICJ advisory opinion now lands on ready ground. A public interest petition that pairs a home-grown constitutional right with an authoritative reading of India's international obligations is no longer a stretch. Although India did not expressly identify domestic climate litigation as a reason for its abstention, the possibility of such litigation may partly explain its caution. Following the Supreme Court's decision in M.K. Ranjitsinh, the ICJ advisory opinion could be used in future cases to challenge the government's climate policies on the basis of both constitutional rights and India's international obligations.

The numbers explain the caution. India is the third-largest emitter in absolute terms but among the lowest per head in the G20, at roughly two tonnes a person. Coal still does most of the work in its power sector, and the government plans to keep building it even as renewables expand fast. With clean-energy investment needing to rise sharply and promised finance from richer countries still thin, India treats its development space as something to defend, not to bargain away under legal pressure.

Here lies the irony of India's abstention. India has long been the most vocal defender of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) — the principle that historical emitters should lead on cuts and finance. The ICJ's reasoning, with its emphasis on differentiated duties and reparation by those who caused the harm, arguably vindicates exactly that worldview. So why abstain on a resolution that operationalises it? Because India is defending two things at once: its climate-justice credentials, and the negotiating autonomy that the consensus-based, nationally determined UNFCCC system preserves for a developing economy still expanding its energy base. A justiciable opinion that can be wielded against any state, including India, in future litigation is a double-edged sword. New Delhi chose to keep the blade sheathed.

Read offensively, then, the ICJ advisory opinion strengthens the Global South's long-standing case for climate finance and loss-and-damage payments. India's caution is therefore selective: wary of the ICJ advisory opinion as a shield others might raise against it, yet ready to wield it as a sword alongside the rest of the vulnerable Global South.

Yet the blade has two edges, and one of them could cut in India's favour. The same reasoning on

reparation and historical responsibility can be aimed outward, at the countries responsible for most of the emissions — and India, for all its own emissions, remains among the countries absorbing a heavy share of the damage. Read offensively, then, the ICJ advisory opinion strengthens the Global South's long-standing case for climate finance and loss-and-damage payments. India's caution is therefore selective: wary of the ICJ advisory opinion as a shield others might raise against it, yet ready to wield it as a sword alongside the rest of the vulnerable Global South.

### Prognosis: What to Watch Next

The opinion is already moving from The Hague into national courtrooms, and the resolution ensures that it remains on the UN's agenda. For India, three developments bear watching. First, litigation exposure: as domestic and cross-border climate claims cite the opinion, India's own coal-and-development trajectory could become the subject of greater legal scrutiny. Second, NDC scrutiny: the resolution's logic could see nationally determined contributions assessed against broader legal expectations, rather than negotiated ambition alone. Third, COP leverage: the opinion could become a useful bargaining tool in finance and just-transition debates, where India can deploy its CBDR-friendly reasoning while resisting any drift toward enforceable obligations.

Hedging, however, is not India's only option. India could work with other developing countries to help shape the Secretary-General's follow-up process, rather than stand outside it. It could push for the ICJ advisory opinion to take into account differences in countries' levels of development and their contributions to climate change, rather than imposing the same obligations on all states.

Hedging, however, is not India's only option. India could work with other developing countries to help shape the Secretary-General's follow-up process, rather than stand outside it. It could push for the ICJ advisory opinion to take into account differences in countries' levels of development and their contributions to climate change, rather than imposing the same obligations on all states. India could also use the opinion to strengthen its case for greater climate finance and greater responsibility on the part of developed countries in future climate negotiations. The question is therefore not only whether to comply with the advisory opinion, but whether to help shape how it is applied.

In this context, India's abstention appears to reflect prudence rather than outright opposition. India believes in the overall idea of climate justice but is wary of embracing a process that might subject its own climate policies to further legal scrutiny. The sustainability of this position will depend on how the advisory opinion is used in the years ahead by courts, international institutions, and climate negotiators alike. (Courtesy: ORF)



# Akash Saha's 'Prachyaprabha'

*The most fascinating and thought-provoking chapter of the book is its impartial and research-oriented exploration of the true identity of God in the Srimad Bhagavad Gita. According to the belief generally prevalent in society, Sri Krishna himself is regarded as the complete God of the Gita. However, citing the research of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Lokmanya Tilak and Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Rajiv Gupta, the author examines this belief from an entirely new perspective. The book logically presents the view that the God of the Gita is not actually an embodied individual but an formless, unmanifest and supreme conscious existence known as the Supreme Soul, while Sri Krishna is merely a pure and divine medium of that supreme consciousness. By deeply analysing the meanings of the verses mentioned in the Gita, the author demonstrates that a person bound by the cycle of birth and death can never describe himself as unborn and imperishable; therefore, the teachings of the Gita are actually expressions of the formless God*

By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyain

A deep observation of the present social system and intellectual environment reveals that human thought is gradually being overwhelmed by an intense materialistic tendency, as a result of which the inherent spiritual essence of human beings is slowly moving towards decline. In the pursuit of external happiness and comfort, people have forgotten their true identity. At such an important juncture, the book Prachyaprabha, written by Akash Saha and published by Rupjyoti Debnath on behalf of Jagaran Sahitya Prakashan, has succeeded in bringing before readers a profound, thoughtful and timely message. In the book, the author presents a long and intellectually rich journey, beginning with the ancient foundation of Vedic knowledge and extending through the teachings of Buddha and Mahavira, the true nature of God in the Gita, an analysis of the three principles, the contribution of the Bhakti movement to social transformation, and finally the age of artificial intelligence in the present time. A section of society wants to confine ancient scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads and the Gita within a merely religious framework and holds the mistaken belief that they have no connection with modern science. However, the author strongly refutes this idea and, through a highly logical approach, demonstrates that these ancient streams of knowledge actually contain scientific ways of thinking, reasoning and profound psychological meanings, which remain equally relevant and guiding for human society in the modern age. The book points out that these ancient scriptures, going

beyond religious narrowness, offer a broad and practical perspective on human life, morality, society, culture and intellectual thought. Priced at only two hundred rupees, the book not only presents diverse ideas relating to the political, social, economic, medical, technical and astrological aspects of ancient India, but also makes an appreciable attempt to establish a strong intellectual connection between modern science and ancient knowledge. Drawing upon various materials produced by modern historians and researchers after extensive study, the author attempts to provide readers with a clear understanding of the continuity of Indian thought and its transformation according to the demands of time. Although bringing the vast treasure of ancient Indian philosophy within a single ordinary book is a challenging task, the author has skillfully concentrated his discussion only on selected and important subjects. As mentioned in the preface of the book, the primary objective of this effort is to move human society away from dependence on machines and once again introduce it to morality and self-awareness. This effort not only enriches readers intellectually but also inspires them to reconnect with their roots.

While analysing the historical timeline of Indian philosophy and civilisation, the book adopts a distinctive and scientific perspective, in which the social changes from the ancient Vedic period onwards have been examined with great subtlety. Based on the research of Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Rajiv Gupta, the book presents the concept of a five-thousand-year cycle of creation in human history, which considerably helps readers understand the similar-

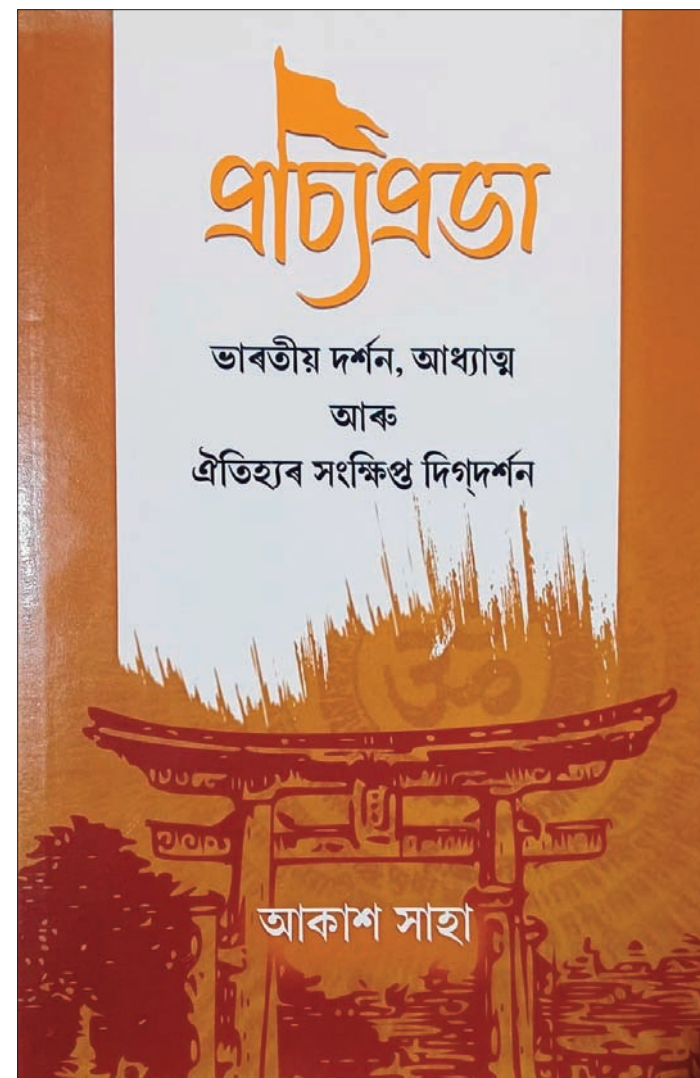
ities between the subject matter and the flow of time. Along with the four Vedas—Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda—the book discusses in a lucid manner the deep philosophical aspects of the Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads. It offers a beautiful description of how the hymns of the Rigveda guided the human mind from the worship of the forces of nature towards the knowledge of Brahman in the Upanishads. Subsequently, towards the end of the Vedic period, the rigid rules and regulations of Brahmanism, sacrificial practices and social inequality created a kind of stagnation in society, resulting in an intense spiritual crisis among the people. It was at such a complex turning point that epoch-making personalities such as Gautama Buddha and Vardhamana Mahavira appeared, showing society a new and simple path of non-violence, compassion, equality and self-purification instead of sacrifices and rigid ritualistic chanting. The book does not merely present historical descriptions; it also offers a comparative and profound discussion of the six major orthodox schools of Indian philosophy—Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Purva Mimamsa and Uttara Mimamsa or Vedanta—as well as heterodox schools such as Charvaka, Buddhism and Jainism. The arguments presented by these different schools concerning the origin of creation, the existence of God and the nature of the soul are extremely enlightening for readers. The author expresses through powerful sentence structures how ancient Indian thinkers placed emphasis on deep self-inquiry instead of external rituals and ceremonies. Through these subjects, readers can easily un-

derstand that Indian philosophy was never static; rather, it successfully renewed itself according to the needs of time and provided proper guidance to human society. The book clearly states that these ancient streams of thought and contemplation played a powerful catalytic role in removing superstitions deeply rooted at different levels of society and spreading the light of true spiritual knowledge. Through this, a living form of history is reflected.

The most fascinating and thought-provoking chapter of the book is its impartial and research-oriented exploration of the true identity of God in the Srimad Bhagavad Gita. According to the belief generally prevalent in society, Sri Krishna himself is regarded as the complete God of the Gita. However, citing the research of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Lokmanya Tilak and Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Rajiv Gupta, the author examines this belief from an entirely new perspective. The book logically presents the view that the God of the Gita is not actually an embodied individual but an formless, unmanifest and supreme conscious existence known as the Supreme Soul, while Sri Krishna is merely a pure and divine medium of that supreme consciousness. By deeply analysing the meanings of the verses mentioned in the Gita, the author demonstrates that a person bound by the cycle of birth and death can never describe himself as unborn and imperishable; therefore, the teachings of the Gita are actually expressions of the formless God. Alongside this theoretical analysis, the book also presents an extensive and authentic picture of the Bhakti movement of the medieval period. It describes how this movement, beginning with the Al-

vars and Nayanars of South India and spreading throughout the Indian subcontinent, brought religion closer to ordinary people in society. Along with the philosophies of Ramanujacharya, Madhvacharya and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the book contains a beautiful sociological analysis of how Srīmananta Sankaradeva and Madhavdeva's Ekasrāna Nama Dharma in Assam sowed the fruitful seeds of equality and fraternity by removing caste discrimination and religious rigidity from society. This tradition of worshipping God through love and devotion as a beloved presence of the heart rather than as a distant entity created an unprecedented awakening in the social and cultural context of medieval India. The book expresses the view that the contribution of the Bhakti movement was not limited to providing religious freedom; it also played an important role in the development of regional languages and the rise of literature and the arts, which, from the perspective of social science, can truly be regarded as an undeniable fact. The author firmly states that the relevance of the great ideals of religious tolerance and mutual respect established by the Bhakti movement remains equally significant in today's fragmented social system. Such a simple and universal form of spirituality breathed new life into society.

Connecting this long journey of ancient Indian philosophy with the age of artificial intelligence, one of the greatest discoveries of modern science, is one of the major features of the book. In the present mechanical age, the more human beings have advanced in their conquest of the external world, the farther they have gradually moved away from their



spiritual and moral values, which indicates a frightening future. The book realistically points out that as the modern education system places emphasis only on mechanical success, the true seriousness of education and human values are gradually disappearing from human society. In contrast, the ancient Vedic education system, through the Gurukul tradition, not only provided students with bookish knowledge but also deeply introduced them to the ideals of Brahmacharya, morality and a high standard of living. The author deeply believes that although advanced technology such as artificial intelligence can skillfully imitate human intellectual abilities, it can never replace human consciousness, moral judgement and spiritual realisation. Therefore, instead of becoming excessively dependent on machines, it has become extremely important in the present time for human beings to maintain the continuity of inner

strength and spiritual contemplation. External power alone may take a society forward temporarily, but morality and self-awareness have no alternative if a society is to achieve long-term stability and genuine success. Overall, Akash Saha's Prachyaprabha is a powerful and invaluable book capable of showing a proper and luminous path to today's directionless human society. Written in simple and lucid language, this book will certainly guide readers towards a profound intellectual and spiritual exploration while enabling them to experience the diverse spirit of ancient India. Each chapter of the book creates a new curiosity in the minds of readers and compels them to reconsider their preconceived notions about our traditional reservoir of knowledge. There is certainly reason to believe that this book will succeed in creating a new wave of thought among future researchers as well as the general reading public.

## Short Story

# The Young Nanny

By: Meenakshi Gogoi

It was when Megha stayed at home on weekends and holidays, a break from her teaching job, that she saw her little daughter's growing bond with her nanny. It made her reminisce about her bond with Kalyani, her young nanny at home when Megha was a little girl herself. Sipping her coffee on a Sunday morning and watching her daughter play with her nanny, Megha recalled how very small she was when Kalyani came to her house. Though she did not remember much about the days she spent with Kalyani during her first three years, Megha could remember the fun times she had with Kalyani from her fourth year onwards.

Kalyani was the fresh air, her warm caregiver, new friend, and partner in crime while stealing flowers and guavas from her neighbour's garden. She was brought to Megha's house by her maternal uncle, Shubham. Kalyani's mother, Komola, used to work for his family. Kalyani, a college dropout, had to look after her family, as her mother, the sole bread earner after her father's death, was often falling ill. She wanted to stand on her feet and earn a living as soon as she bagged any opportunity. Megha's working mother wanted someone loyal and dependable to look after her when she was away at work. She had met Kalyani's mother before and knew about her.

Shubham spoke to Komola and asked her if Kalyani could take care of Megha. Komola agreed, and Kalyani, without giving a second thought, was ready to be Megha's nanny in her mother's absence during the daytime. As Megha's father stayed outside Guwahati due to his professional commitment as an ACS officer in Silchar, Kalyani's help was a great relief and source of satisfaction for Megha's mother. Megha stayed with her mother and would meet her father during holidays and vacations, and whenever he felt the need to see them. Kalyani had stayed with Megha and her mother in their own flat in Guwahati. She was just like her mother's younger sister. Megha remembered that her mother truly cared for her in every way possible by providing her with good clothes, delicious meals, and all her basic needs, and

by checking up on her old mother and helping her financially when she needed it. But the only thing Megha's mother wanted in return from Kalyani was her dedication and affection towards little Megha. Her mother hired a maid to cook meals for them and do the cleaning and dusting. So, Kalyani only had to look after Megha. Megha's mother would cook dinner after coming home from work, and sometimes Kalyani would help her. She was good at kitchen work as well.

Megha recalled Kalyani's energetic dance moves to Bollywood songs, and entertaining her and singing rhymes to her when her mother was not around. Megha had not missed her mother so much while she was away at work.

One day, Kalyani's mother came to Megha's house and spoke to her mother about her marriage, as she was getting a good proposal. Megha's mother knew that if Kalyani were gone, Megha would be left without a loyal nanny, and it would be hard to find another one. She got worried about Megha. But deep down in her heart, Megha's mother felt she would not make Kalyani's mother wait too long for her daughter's marriage.

On a cold winter evening, Megha was indoors, drawing a scenery picture, and Kalyani was peeling green peas. Megha's mother brought them two cups of tea and a glass of hot almond milk for her. Megha recalled that she was small but could understand her mother's words. Her mother asked, "Kalyani, have you decided to get married?" Kalyani, sipping her tea, paused for a second and replied, "Didi, I can't wait for long. My mother has been insisting on me. I am the eldest daughter, and she wants me to get married soon. The boy is good, and he has promised to take care of my family. He will allow me to work after marriage in my hometown." Holding and sipping her glass of milk, Megha's eyes were glued to their conversation, and she was trying to understand what they were saying.

It broke Megha's heart when she learned that Kalyani would leave her and go home very soon. She could see that her mother looked a little sad. She had to find someone new to take care of her. That night in bed, Megha asked

her mother, "Why would Kalyani Didi go? Can't she stay back?" Megha's mother softly replied, "Dear, she is getting married. So, she has to be with her new family. Alright." Megha remained silent and nodded. But her mother knew Megha was sad at heart. The next morning, her mother politely asked her maid to work at home for the whole day and said she would be paid a good salary. Her maid agreed, and the matter was sorted.

Weeks later, the day arrived when Kalyani had to go home. She exchanged warm embraces with Megha and made her promise to eat, sleep, play, and read on time, and to meet her occasionally. After Kalyani left, Megha's maid took charge of being her nanny. Her maid would be at home all day, doing household chores and looking after her in her mother's absence. She would go home in the late afternoon when Megha's mother arrived from work.

Days passed, and her bond with her maid grew, but it wasn't like her bond with Kalyani, her young nanny, who was more like a sister and a good friend to her. Megha's maid would always be juggling with other household work and was not very trying to show affection to her. She would strictly ask her to eat, sleep, and read without pampering her, as she was always short on time and had to rush to complete household chores before Megha's mother arrived home from work. In contrast, Kalyani would pamper Megha with love and care and make her do the things necessary for her. But Megha did understand her maid's juggling with her work and would not tell her mother how restless she would be when she was at home in the daytime.

One day, Megha's father arrived and began staying with them in Guwahati due to his transfer to the Kamrup Metropolitan area.



Megha's happiness had no bounds once her father came home—a sudden relief to her mundane days after Kalyani left her. After a few months, Megha met Kalyani at her place, accompanied by her husband. They visited the Maa Kamakhya temple. Kalyani offered Megha the sweet yellow pedas from the temple as prasad, which she had always loved to eat. Kalyani brought a soft toy and chocolates for her. Kalyani asked, "Megha, did you miss me? I always did while playing with my young cousin. She's talkative and fun-loving, just like you." "Yes, I missed you. But your cousin cannot be like me. No, no... I am Megha, not she," replied Megha confidently, eating her chocolate. Kalyani smiled, took her in her arms, and kissed her forehead. The day was well spent amidst good food, talks and laughter. Kalyani asked her to travel to her hometown to meet her someday. Kalyani left the house with love and warmth.

Days later, Megha's mother received a phone call from Shubham. He informed about the sudden untimely demise of Kalyani in a bus accident while coming from work in her hometown. She was already cremated. It was shocking news. Megha's mother sat in the chair, holding her phone, and could not move for a few seconds. She cried and let Megha know about her death. Megha was too young to understand the harsh meaning of death and losing a dear one. But her mother made her understand that Kalyani was gone forever and she would not come again to meet her. She was lost in the sky amidst the clouds. That Sunday, Megha was forced out of her memory lane when her little daughter came running to her and hugged her with fun. Megha tried to feel Kalyani's warmth in her daughter's little arms at that very moment.

## Social Media code of conduct for government officials

By: Dr Priyanka Saurabh

The growing influence of social media has transformed the way people communicate, access information, and present themselves to the world. And government officials are no exception. Social media, whether it's Reels, short videos, personal posts, stories, or thoughts, has become an integral part of government employees' daily routines. Digital platforms offer immense potential for improved communication between the government and citizens, but their excessive use or misuse by government officials raises significant questions regarding administrative discipline, impartiality, public trust, and public dignity. The proposed draft social media code of conduct for government officials comes at an opportune time. The question isn't "Should officials be allowed to use social media?" They should be. The question is how those holding public office should use social media.

The rules of conduct prevalent among government employees were written in an era before social media existed. Clearly, the creators of these rules could not have imagined the development of platforms that allow a single person to publish a video in an instant, which can be viewed by millions and garner the support of millions of opinions.

The use of social media while on duty is one of the biggest concerns. Public servants are responsible for carrying out public functions, serving public businesses, implementing public policies, and managing administrative efficiency. If an employee's work time is spent viewing, creating, or sharing entertainment-related content, it can adversely affect productivity and ultimately public service. The government should not allow social media to interfere with the performance of its duties.

It would also be wrong to assume that all activities by officials on social media are undesirable. Social media has now become an important tool of governance. Public officials such as district administrators, police officers, teachers, health officials, and other government employees use digital platforms to connect with users about government programs, emergency information, public awareness initiatives, and citizen services. Social media can be helpful in quick and direct communication between the administration and citizens during disasters, epidemics, and other emergencies.

The proposed Code needs to maintain a balance between responsible of-

ficial correspondence and legitimate use and misuse (where it does not undermine the dignity or impartiality of the public sphere).

Personal publicity is also a concern. Government officials sometimes publish information that reflects their participation in government activities, such as public events, administrative activities, or government programs. There is a clear distinction between educating citizens about government functions and promoting oneself as a representative of the government. Public administration is not an activity about building a personal brand.

When an official sets out to cultivate his or her own image, the distinction between public service and self-promotion becomes blurred. Government officials are empowered by the government and citizens. Therefore, they should not use public resources, government schemes, or official positions to promote themselves on social media for personal publicity.

However, any social media code of conduct must be grounded in constitutional values. Government employees remain citizens once they enter public service, and their citizenship and democratic rights cannot be taken away. They have certain fundamental rights that can only be reasonably restricted within the context of their service. Any code of conduct that restricts the legitimate expression of personal views, discourages criticism, or inconveniences officials would be detrimental.

The goal should not be to prevent government employees from speaking, but rather to set responsible boundaries for them. Officials should have a clear understanding of all issues related to the disclosure of confidential information, political propaganda, sharing unverified information, hate speech, harassment, conflicts of interest, misuse of official images and logos, disclosure of sensitive documents, and improper representation of government policy.

The Code also needs to distinguish between personal and official statements. If a citizen makes a personal statement posing as a government official, it could be considered the official voice of the government, even if the official did not intend to represent the government. Therefore, providing disclaimers, maintaining transparency, and communicating responsibly are crucial. Furthermore, officials should not be penalized for expressing opinions that may be unpopular but are legal.

Training will be just as important as regulation. A simple set of conduct rules alone will not solve the problem. Digital ethics training is needed in

government departments, especially for young government employees entering public service in the age of smartphones and short video platforms. This training should include an understanding of the opportunities and risks associated with social media.

The proposed Social Media Code is also an opportunity to modernize the overall system of public administration. Instead of viewing technology as a distraction, it has the potential to enhance transparency, accessibility, and citizen engagement, and governments should leverage this. Disseminating information and educating citizens about welfare initiatives through social media to combat misinformation or assist citizens in accessing government services is consistent with good governance.

Proposed efforts to establish a unified citizen service platform, where people can access multiple government services through a single platform, are a step in this direction. Citizens want the same ease and convenience in government services as they do in digital services. They shouldn't be forced to log in to multiple websites, remember numerous passwords, or repeatedly enter the same information. Digital governance should be less burdensome for citizens than physical governance.

Ultimately, a social media code of conduct is about more than just Reels, videos, or screen time. It's about the evolving relationship between the public and digital presence. In today's fast-paced environment, where an official's post can reach thousands of people within minutes, responsible digital behavior has become an integral part of responsible administrative behavior.

Therefore, the government should establish a fair, balanced, and transparent social media code of conduct. It should respect the privacy of officials, prevent potential for official abuse, ensure discipline among government employees during office hours, and promote personal expression within legal limits. These rules should apply equally to all and include clear procedures to address arbitrary actions.

Government employees must understand that social media is private, but public office is not. At the same time, the government must recognize that responsible digital engagement can strengthen good governance rather than undermine it. The right approach is not digital independence or excessive bureaucracy. India needs a culture of responsible digital citizenship in public service. (Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

# Putin orders 72-hour pause in strikes on Kyiv as US envoys visit Russia, Ukraine

‘The decision was tied to preparations for Witkoff and Kushner’s planned visit’

**MOSCOW, Sept 5:** Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a 72-hour pause in strikes on Kyiv, the Kremlin said Saturday, as US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner arrived in Moscow to try to revive a stalled push to end Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

“Putin has ordered that no strikes be carried out against Kyiv for three days, starting at midnight today,” presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russia’s Tass news agency. He said the decision was tied to preparations for Witkoff and Kushner’s planned visit to the Ukrainian capital, which Kyiv has said will take place on Sunday.

The envoys’ trip comes as both sides escalate aerial attacks, some 4.5-years after the Kremlin’s invasion of its neighbour. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that Ukraine would halt airstrikes during the envoys’ visit and

urged Moscow to do the same.

Washington’s push to end the fighting, now in its fifth year, has lost momentum as US attention has been focused for the last six months on its war with Iran. The last known visit to Moscow by Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law, was in January, when they met Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. They have never previously visited Kyiv.

The envoys were met at the airport by Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev, Tass reported. Dmitriev shared photos of him meeting the US delegation as they disembarked, alongside the caption, “Welcome to Moscow Peacemakers.”

With peace efforts stalled, Russia has intensified its attacks on Kyiv and other cities with relentless bombardments recently stretching into daylight hours, taking advantage of Ukraine’s shortage of air



defensive systems.

On Friday, a Russian drone hit one of the most important government buildings in Kyiv – the headquarters of Ukraine’s Security Service, known as the SBU, which is one of the agencies involved in carrying out deep-strike operations inside Russia.

The long-range strikes by Ukraine have hit Russian military facilities, oil refineries and e-commerce hubs, seeking to undermine the Kremlin’s war effort and economy, as well as make ordinary citizens feel the consequences of the war.

The air war between Russia and

Ukraine has intensified as troops have struggled to make progress along the 1,250-kilometre front line. Russia has recently been using fast-flying, jet-powered drones, and the recurring wail of air-raid sirens has become part of daily life in Kyiv.

In a social media post on Saturday, Zelenskyy said that Russia had carried out overnight strikes on Kyiv and Boryspil international airports, and linked the attack to the planned US visit.

“Clearly, these Russian strikes on the airports are a reaction to the discussions and preparations for the possibility of the US side using an aircraft to travel to Ukraine,” he said.

“We have taken note of this Russian move, and next week we will adjust our operation accordingly regarding Russian airspace, which has become dangerous because of our drones and missiles in the sky. Of course, there are and will be no threats to diplomacy from our side.”

Russian attacks killed five people and wounded five more at an industrial facility in Ukraine’s southern Dnipropetrovsk re-

gion, local military administration head Oleksandr Hanzha said. He described those killed as employees at the site. “A locksmith, an electrician, a plumber and a machinist. People of peaceful professions. They were simply working their shift. They were doing their job when enemy missiles cut off their lives,” he said.

A 62-year-old man was wounded and several homes and an apartment building were damaged in a separate attack on the region’s Nikopol district, Hanzha said.

In a statement Saturday, Russia’s Ministry of Defence said it had carried out strikes on two metallurgical plants in the region, describing them as “major suppliers of metal products for Ukraine’s military production.”

A further two people were wounded in an overnight Russian attack on Ukraine’s Kyiv region, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of the regional military administration. In the Boryspil district, a fire sparked by a strike partially destroyed a nine-story residential building.

Russian forces also repeatedly struck a

shopping centre in the southern Mykolaiv region with drones overnight, damaging retail premises and sparking fires, Ukraine’s state emergency services said. A 72-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl were hurt.

Emergency crews responding to the incident were repeatedly forced to withdraw to safety because of the threat of further strikes, returning whenever conditions allowed, the emergency services said.

Russia launched ballistic missiles from its Rostov and Voronezh regions and deployed 167 attack drones overnight, Ukraine’s air force said. The drones included Shahed-type aircraft – around half of them jet-powered – as well as Geran and decoy drones. Ukrainian air defences shot down or suppressed 128 drones, according to the air force.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian attacks wounded three people, including a 14-year-old girl, in Russia’s border region of Belgorod, local officials said.

In a statement, Russia’s Ministry of Defence said that its forces had shot down 53 Ukrainian drones overnight. (AP)

## Jaishankar pays tribute to Indian rulers who sheltered Polish refugees during WWII

**WARSAW, Sept 5:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday visited two memorials in Warsaw that commemorate India’s humanitarian role in providing shelter to Polish refugees during World War II, recalling a little-known chapter that continues to shape the close ties between the two countries.

Jaishankar’s visit to the memorials came a day after he held wide-ranging talks with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski on Friday, covering trade and investment, defence, space, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, energy and supply-chain resilience.

Jaishankar is on a two-nation visit to Ukraine and Poland from September 3-5. He visited Kyiv on Thursday, where he held talks with top Ukrainian leadership.

At the memorial of Maharaja Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja of Nawanagar, Jaishankar recalled the words with which the Indian ruler welcomed Polish children who had fled the devastation of the war: “I am Babu, the father of all Nawanagaris, including yourselves.”

In a post on X, Jaishankar on Saturday said Jadeja was “fondly remembered for looking after 1,000 Polish children during World War II” and that his “warmth & compassion remain an abiding bridge” between



India and Poland.

Jadeja, the ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar, now part of Gujarat’s Jamnagar, provided shelter and care to the children at a settlement in Balachadi. The children were provided accommodation, food, education and medical care, and came to remember him as their “Babu”, or father.

Jadeja, also referred to as Jam Saheb, is popularly remembered in Poland as the “Dobry Maharaja (Good King)”. His memorial is situated in Warsaw’s Ochota district and is known as the Square of the Good Maharaja.

Jaishankar visited the memorial on Saturday along with Polish MP Kinga Gajewska and Ochota Mayor Piotr Krasnodębski. The external affairs minister later paid his respects at the Kolhapur Memorial in Warsaw, which commemorates another chapter of India’s wartime assistance to Poland.

The memorial recalls the refuge provided by the princely state of Kolhapur to around 5,000 Polish refugees, including women and children, who were sheltered at Valivade near Kolhapur in Maharashtra during World War II.

“This act of generosity is still fresh in the

memory of the Polish people,” Jaishankar said in another post on X, recalling the refuge provided to the Polish refugees.

The two memorials are part of a wider historical connection that has gained renewed attention in India-Poland relations in recent years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited both memorials during his Poland visit in August 2024, highlighting the wartime stories as an important link between the two countries.

During his current visit, Jaishankar announced that the second edition of the Jam Saheb Memorial Youth Exchange Programme would take place in October.

The programme was launched after Modi’s 2024 visit and is aimed at bringing Polish youth to India to learn about the history of the Polish refugee settlements in Balachadi and Valivade.

The two sides on Friday discussed the war in Ukraine, the situation in West Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Jaishankar said India and Poland, as political democracies and open market economies, could cooperate on major global issues.

He said the two countries were also working on agreements in areas including cybersecurity, space, clean coal, classified information and critical minerals. (PTI)

## UN nuclear agency members draft resolution reporting Iran to UN Security Council

**VIENNA, Sept 5:** The United States, Britain, France and Germany have drafted a resolution for possible consideration by the Board of Governors of the UN nuclear watchdog that seeks to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for failure to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations, diplomats say.

Under those obligations, which are part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran is legally bound to declare all nuclear material and activities and allow inspectors of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency to verify that none of it is being diverted from peaceful uses.

The diplomatic move has been under consideration since June 2025 when the IAEA board found Iran officially in noncompliance with its nonproliferation obligations for the first time in 20 years — one day before the US and Israel launched attacks against Iran’s nuclear sites.

The possible referral of Iran to the UN Security Council shifts the responsibility to a higher authority that is able to enact further legally binding measures, including sanctions or asset freezes.

But specific punitive measures by the UN are unlikely in this case since Iran’s allies Russia and China hold a veto power on the UN Security Council.

The draft resolution, which was seen by The Associated Press and reported earlier by Reuters, requests the IAEA director general Rafael Grossi “to transmit this resolution and the previously adopted resolutions ... to all Members of the Agency and to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the IAEA Statute.”

The resolution also “stresses its support for a diplomatic solution to the challenges posed by the Iranian nuclear programme and its implications for regional peace and stability leading to an agreement that addresses all international concerns related to Iran’s nuclear activities, and encourages all parties to constructively engage in diplomacy.”

Diplomats say that the resolution is still under negotiation and has not yet been formally submitted to the board. The text of the draft resolution may therefore still change, as board members still have the opportunity to suggest amendments.

Once formally submitted, it will be put to a vote during next week’s IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna.

Referring Iran to the UN Security Council had been stalled to allow a final push for diplomacy, according to a senior Western diplomat, who wasn’t authorised to comment about the sensitive matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The IAEA board now has to follow its mandate and act because not only has Iran not cooperated, but even communication is no longer happening, the official said.

Since Israel and the US struck Iran’s nuclear sites during the 12-day war in June 2025, Iran hasn’t given IAEA inspectors access to nuclear sites that were affected by the strikes — even though Tehran is legally obliged to cooperate with the watchdog under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The agency also has been unable to verify the status of the stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium since the June bombing. Of course, that has been made much more difficult by more than six months of war that the US and Israel launched against Iran on February 28, including strikes that have been carried out by both Washington and Tehran this week.

The IAEA warned in Tuesday’s confidential report, seen by the AP, that continued denial by Iran to allow IAEA inspectors access to its nuclear sites and to verify the nuclear material constitutes a “proliferation risk” that needed to be “addressed with the utmost urgency.”

According to the IAEA, Iran maintains a stockpile of 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60 per cent purity — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

That stockpile could allow Iran to build as many as 10 nuclear bombs, should it decide to weaponise its programme, IAEA chief Grossi warned in an interview last year with the AP. He said that it doesn’t mean that Iran has such a weapon. (AP)

### Greek air force jet crashes at annual aerial show



**ATHENS, Sept 5:** A Greek air force jet crashed at an aerial show north of Athens, sending plumes of black smoke into the air before several thousand spectators on Saturday.

There were no immediate reports of injuries among the attendees following the crash of the twin-seat Phantom F4 jet. Air force officials said it was not immediately clear whether pilots had managed to eject before the crash.

A water-dropping helicopter hovered over the crash site to contain the fire on the ground.

The incident occurred at Athens Flying Week, an annual air show, at Tanagra air force base. (AP)

## Masked men block traffic to UK’s port of Dover in apparent anti-immigrant protest

**LONDON, Sept 5:** A group of masked men blocked roads leading to Britain’s busiest ferry port on Saturday in what officials said appeared to be an anti-immigration protest.

The Port of Dover said all traffic in and out was “stopped due to an ongoing public order incident,” and police said they were “engaging with the protesters.”

Video posted on social media showed several dozen men in black, their faces covered, standing across a major road near the port. One clip showed demonstrators linking arms across a main road and shouting “stop the boats.”

Chris Vinson, a Conservative Party local councillor, said the protest appeared to be “illegal migration-related.”

“I’m not aware that there’s been any violence, although clearly, having the path of your vehicle blocked by men wearing black paramilitary gear and balaclavas is extremely in-



timidating,” he said.

The National Highways agency said the protest blocked routes to the port and caused a 6.4-kilometre traffic jam on Saturday morning. The Port of Dover said one road to the port had reopened by late morning.

P&O Ferries, which runs services between Dover and Calais in France, said passengers who missed their ferry would be offered the next available crossing.

Dover, about 110 kilometres southeast of London, dealt with more than 9 million passengers and 2 million freight vehicles in 2025, according to the port’s website.

The town has been the site of

previous anti-immigrant protests focused on migrants who cross the Channel from France in small boats. Some politicians, including Nigel Farage of hard-right party Reform UK, have seized on the issue. He branded the asylum seekers “an invasion” in a Friday speech.

The Labour Party government says stepped-up law enforcement cooperation between Britain and France has helped reduce the number of people making the crossing this year by more than 40 per cent compared to 2025.

Mike Tapp, a Labour lawmaker who represents Dover in Parliament, criticised “idiots coming to Dover to cause disruption.”

“I bet if you asked any one of those protesters’ they wouldn’t know small boat crossing are down by 40 per cent and we are working hard to fix the mess,” he wrote on Facebook on Saturday. “Go home, enjoy your weekend/get a job.” (AP)

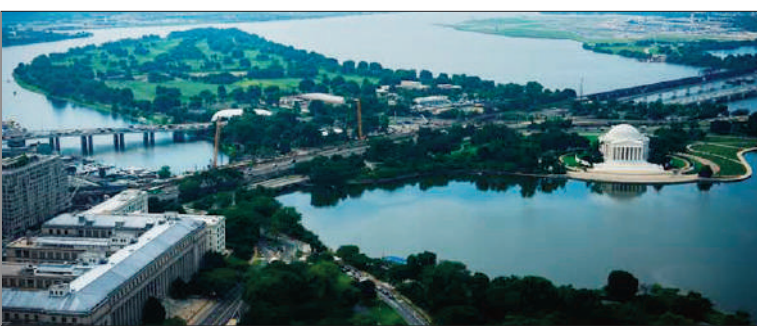
### Nepal flood survivors join rescue and relief operations as they grieve, search for their loved ones

**NUWAKOT (NEPAL), Sept 5:** Even as they grieve the loss of loved ones and search for missing family members, several survivors of Nepal’s devastating floods have returned to the front lines to help others affected by the disaster.

Sudip Kumar Neupane, 31, survived the August 26 flood that swept away his younger brother and a close colleague. After spending two days grieving, he joined the relief efforts, helping with the distribution of food and other assistance to displaced people in Rasuwa, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported on Saturday. Flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal, killing more than 1,300, while around 5,000 remain missing. Neupane had been helping warn villagers about the approaching flood when he was caught in the torrent along with his 27-year-old brother Pradip and an acquaintance, Janak. (PTI)

## A golf course for ‘the people’ faces a presidential makeover

The scene highlighted what residents say are the park’s best features



**WASHINGTON, Sept 5:** A pack of cyclists whisked by along the circuit at East Potomac Park while the golf course parking lot filled with luxury SUVs parked next to older, inexpensive economy cars, all with the Washington Monument in the background.

The scene highlighted what residents say are the park’s best features: its accessibility and affordability right in the nation’s capital.

The historic park, especially the golf course, has caught the eye of President Donald Trump, who wants to turn it into a world-class golf venue. It’s part of his grand vision for Washington, DC, where he has torn down storied

structures, remade or renamed others and deployed the National Guard for more than a year.

But some residents fear the planned changes to the golf course — where Trump has visited with a cabinet member, a well-known golf course architect and blueprints — risk altering the character of a place that has served Washingtonians of many stripes for more than a century. Turning the park into an upscale golf course will mean costlier fees and a loss of public space, residents worry.

“It takes away the history of the links here as well as deprives people of having a reasonably inexpensive

place to play that is readily accessible to everyone,” said Joe Foley, who said he was in his 70s and had just finished nine holes of golf for \$36, including a cart.

East Potomac Park, including the East Potomac Golf Links, was created by a congressional act in 1897, which established the park for the “recreation and the pleasure of the people.” The course opened in 1919.

Trump, who has multiple projects underway in Washington, including a USD 400 million White House ballroom and the soon-to-begin construction of his triumphal arch, began talking about the city’s public courses in late 2025.

Two months earlier, debris from the demolished East Wing of the White House was dumped at East Potomac, forming a three-storey mound near one of its three golf courses, which remains there. The National Park Service has said that the debris tested positive for lead, chromium and other toxic metals.

“When completed, this Course will have the ability to host Major Golf Tournaments, including The US Open,

The Ryder Cup, The PGA Championship, and other top PGA Tour events,” Trump posted on social media in June. He said then that work was meant to begin on September 1, but there were no signs of activity on the grounds this week.

An image unveiled in May by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum showed an 18-hole course that he said would deliver “championship-quality golf at affordable, highly discounted rates.”

A lawsuit challenging the golf course renovation argues that the Trump administration’s redevelopment would violate the congressional act that created the park. The government is challenging the standing of the plaintiffs to sue.

At the park, people who spoke to The Associated Press noted that in some of Trump’s other Washington projects, the administration has moved to make irrevocable changes and act faster than courts can respond.

“The government currently is either playing by a different set of rules or just not playing by any rules at all,” said Jason Levitt, 54, ending an hour of high-speed laps on his bike. (AP)

## British pharmacist can be extradited to India on murder charges, UK court rules

**LONDON, Sept 5:** A UK-based pharmacist wanted in India to stand trial on charges of murder for targeting his ex-wife’s family in Hyderabad can be extradited to India, a London court ruled on Friday.

Ajith Kumar Mupparapu, 46, appeared before Westminster Magistrates Court in London as the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) laid out the case on behalf of the Indian authorities.

District Judge John Zani ruled Mupparapu has a case to answer and can be extradited based on assurances about his treatment while in judicial custody in India.

The Indian-origin British citizen is wanted to stand trial in relation to separate allegations of murder, attempted murder, and or conspiracy to murder, the court was told.

The four separate incidents, all in 2023, involved the accused’s targeting of the family of Sirisha Muttavaram after she filed for divorce.

“The primary incident is a conspiracy to murder his wife and her family in India by arsenic poisoning. The second incident is a conspiracy to murder his father-in-law, by co-conspirators using succinylcholine injections. (PTI)

NO. KDB/BTC/15<sup>th</sup> FC (T)/NIT/2026-27/1450

### PRESS NOTICE

Tender No.KDB/BTC/NIT/2026

The BDO, Kokrajhar Development Block invites Bids from registered contractors with PWD (Roads/Building) or Registered contractor with BTC in the category of class II and above for the works against 1. “Const. of Solar Powered Standalone DW facility with Odex System at Ultapani F.V. Unit III” (Activity Code-128502690) for an amount of Rs. 26,50,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Fifty Thousand) only. 2. “Const. of Solar Powered Standalone DW facility with Odex System at Ultapani F.V. Unit II” (Activity Code-128502682) under the award of 15<sup>th</sup> FC (Tied Grant) for the financial year 2025-26 during 2026-27 for an amount of Rs. 26,50,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Fifty Thousand) only.

The detail may be seen at the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

N. B. The bill of the contractor will be paid only after receiving the fund from BTC. Sd/- Block Development Officer, Kokrajhar Dev. Block, Titaguri

IPR(BTC)/C/2026-27/1539

Date 02/09/2026

## The outfit has been demanding legislation for Ladakh at the Union Territory level

# Ladakh Apex Body warns of bigger agitation ahead of talks with MHA on September 9

**LEH, Sept 5:** Ahead of a sub-committee's meeting on September 9 with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Delhi on September 9, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) warned of an intensified agitation if the government fails to make "concrete" progress on its key demands.

The outfit has been demanding legislation for Ladakh at the Union Territory level, safeguards under Article 371, withdrawal of cases filed after the September 24 violence last year, compensation for victims, and publication of the inquiry commission report. LAB and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) are jointly spearheading the agitation with the demands since the granting of UT status to Ladakh in August 2019 and have held several rounds of talks with the Centre since 2021.

LAB chairman Chering Dorje Lakruk said that though the group welcomes the meeting with MHA, it would assess the talks on the basis of their outcome.

"If the meeting produces a positive outcome... and if there is constructive and result-oriented dialogue on these issues, we will welcome it. Otherwise, we will intensify our agitation very strongly," he said.



Lakruk also expressed disappointment over the delay in the report of the inquiry commission constituted to investigate the September 24 incidents of last year that claimed four lives.

He also questioned the pendency of cases against people booked in connection with the September 24 violence. Even as he welcomed the reported move to withdraw cases related to the July 20 Jantar Mantar incident in Delhi, he accused the Centre of "double standard" in the case of Ladakh.

According to Lakruk, only 25 cases of the 80 related to last year's violence have so far been withdrawn.

"We are all Indians, and every-

one should be treated equally. The lives of the people of Ladakh are not so cheap," he said, demanding compensation for the kin of the dead and wounded in the agitation.

Meanwhile, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk said the LAB is observing September as a "Martyrs' Month" in memory of those killed, injured and jailed last year.

Wangchuk said several programmes had been planned, but the proposed padyatra from Kargil to Leh, which was scheduled to begin on September 10, had been postponed in view of the MHA talks a day earlier.

"We have collectively decided to postpone the padyatra for the time being," Wangchuk said.

The march could be revived if the September 9 talks fail to produce a satisfactory outcome, he said. The march would be organised around five days before September 24, if things to come such a pass.

"We will once again appeal to people from across India to come forward in support of Ladakh, in support of the environment, and in support of the people of Ladakh who remain steadfast on the country's borders," Wangchuk said.

He said the Apex Body expects the government to bring a detailed draft on the proposed Ladakh Assembly, including its powers and rights, to the September 9 meeting.

"If there is progress on these issues, we will consider the talks successful," he said.

Wangchuk said the circumstances surrounding September 24 were "not normal" and indicated that the LAB could disclose what it knows about the violence and incidents of arson if necessary.

"If Ladakh is not treated in the same manner... and a stepmotherly treatment is meted out to Ladakh and the people living along the borders, then we will be compelled to launch a very large-scale agitation after September 9," the activist said. (PTI)

## BJP rattled by prospect of defeat in civic polls: Rajasthan LoP Jyoti

'People would use the power of their vote to remove the arrogant government'



**JAIPUR, Sept 5:** Rajasthan Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jyoti on Saturday accused the BJP of "political hooliganism" and misuse of power after a video purportedly showed a saffron party leader threatening voters during an election meeting in Bamanwas of Sawai Madhopur district.

Jyoti alleged that Bamanwas panchayat samiti pradhan Shashikala Meena, in the presence of BJP MLA Jitendra Gouthwal, party candidate Rajendra Meena and Khandar pradhan Narendra Chaudhary, threatened

people that they would have to make rounds of police stations if they did not vote for the BJP.

He termed the alleged remarks "not democracy but open political hooliganism under the protection of the government."

In a post on X, Jyoti alleged that BJP leaders, "intoxicated with power", had started considering democracy as their fief and the government machinery as a weapon of the party.

He also accused the Election Commission of acting as a "puppet" of the BJP by being a mute spectator.

"Mukhya Mantri ji, this is not just arrogance, it is the BJP's frustration over the crushing defeat it can see coming in the municipal elections," Jyoti said.

He claimed that people would use the power of their vote to remove the "arrogant government" from power.

"Rajasthan's people are not going to be afraid. In this election, BJP's threats, dictatorship and misuse of power will be accounted for, with interest," he said.

The BJP and the Election Commission have not yet reacted to the allegations.

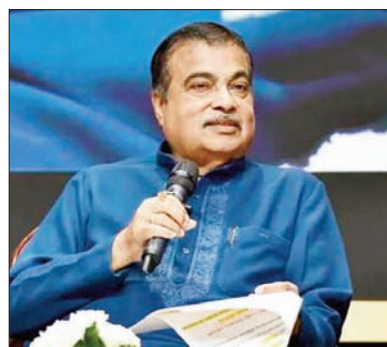
Polling for the 309 urban local bodies will be held on September 9 and 11.

The elections are being held for 10,245 councillor posts across 10 municipal corporations, 51 municipal councils and 248 municipalities.

Counting of votes for councillor's posts will be held on September 14.

The heads of the urban local bodies will be elected on September 21, followed by elections for deputy mayors, deputy chairpersons and municipal vice-presidents on September 22. (PTI)

## Crisis of credibility biggest problem in media sector, says Gadkari



**NAGPUR, Sept 5:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday stressed the importance of independent judiciary and media for the progress of a democracy, and said that among all institutions, the media suffered the biggest problem of crisis of credibility.

The Road Transport and Highways Minister was addressing a gathering at IIM Nagpur Media Conclave 2026 on the theme of 'Media, Leadership and the New World Order'.

Chief Executive Officer and Editor-in-Chief of the Press Trust of India (PTI) Vijay Joshi, Editorial Director at Business Standard A K Bhattacharya, and Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Blitz India Media Group Deepak Dwivedi were among those present at the event.

"India is the mother of democracy and it is the largest democracy in the world," Gadkari said.

Seeking a qualitative transformation in democracy, he said, "The Constitution has very clearly specified the responsibilities of the four pillars of democracy, that is legislature, executive, judiciary and media. Independent, impartial and fair judiciary and media are very important for the progress and development of a democracy."

Politics and political parties are the biggest strength of a democracy, he said.

"There can be differences of opinion or ideological differences, but there should be commitment towards one's ideology," the veteran politician said.

He also made a pitch for raising public awareness on social, economic, educational issues in order to strengthen

democracy.

"Awareness among people about democracy and democratic values, and commitment of people with democratic values and ideology are very important," he said.

Credibility, goodwill and honesty are the biggest capitals of the 21st century for all sectors, Gadkari noted.

"Credibility has deteriorated in all sectors, but credibility in media has gone down very badly," he said, while also noting that not all media houses have lost their credibility.

Sharing his experiences, he said, "Newspapers and media houses used to say that they will decide who will win the elections, but now social media has changed that trajectory."

"Crisis of credibility is there in all sectors, including politics, but crisis of credibility is the biggest problem in the media sector," he said, and urged media to think about restoring credibility.

Gadkari said those who have credibility do not need to market themselves.

The minister advised journalists to write in the interest of people, society and country, and said they should reach out to the common man with qualitative transformation.

Like any good work, good journalism is also recognised, he said.

In the coming times, those who safeguard their credibility as well as basic values of the profession will survive, according to him.

He urged the media to work towards strengthening democracy, protecting social and national interests and transforming knowledge, and said these things will also help in making India a "vishwaguru" (world leader).

Speaking on the occasion, Director of IIM Nagpur, Dr Bhimaraya Metri, said today's youth will play an important role in the development of the nation.

Managing Director of Lloyds Metals & Energy Metals, B Prabhakaran, said the world was looking at India as a nation of young population, start-ups and largest market.

He also highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship and self-reliance. (PTI)

## We hope promise of statehood made to people of J-K will be fulfilled: Dy CM



**JAMMU, Sept 5:** Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday expressed hope that the Centre would fulfil its commitments on restoration of statehood and said the chief minister had raised this and several other

issues during his recent meeting with the Union home minister.

"Whenever Omar (Abdullah) Sahib goes to Delhi, whether he meets the home minister, the prime minister or any other Union minister, he discusses all the development-related issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir," Choudhary said, talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

The deputy chief minister said that during the chief minister's meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, issues, including restoration of statehood, rationalisation of reservations, finalisation of business rules and the upcoming first international filmfare festival in Srinagar, were discussed.

"We hope that following Omar's meeting, the home minister will fulfil the promise he has made in Parliament, the

promise made before the Supreme Court and the promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, referring to the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"By not fulfilling this promise, the BJP is not merely betraying the people of Jammu and Kashmir; it is also betraying Parliament and the judiciary," he said.

On the strike by MBBS interns protesting over the alleged disparity in their monthly stipend since August 31, Choudhary said the government was considering the matter comprehensively.

"If it were just one issue, we would have announced it here and moved on. But we are looking at the matter in its entirety because these are our doctors, and they are treating our people. After God, if anyone is given the second-highest place, it is doctors," he said. (PTI)

## CM Shivakumar launches 'Prajaseva Abhiyana' citizen-connect campaign in Karnataka

**VIJAYANAGAR, Sept 5:** Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday launched 'Prajaseva Abhiyana', a citizen-connect campaign, from Kudligi hobli in this district, aiming to take governance to people's doorsteps.

'Prajaseva Abhiyana' is an integrated system aimed at hearing citizens' grievances directly and providing solutions either on the spot or within a stipulated timeframe, officials said.

The campaign follows the creation of the Prajaseva Department, which aims to take administration to people's doorsteps, they said.

Speaking after launching the campaign, Shivakumar said that the success of a government is not reflected in advertisements but in the smiles on people's faces.

"We have been given the opportunity to serve you... This is not merely a government pro-

gramme. The time when people had to approach the government is gone. Now, the government is coming to the people. This programme has been launched to take governance to people's doorsteps," he said.

Shivakumar said officials should not merely sit in the Vidhana Soudha, district or taluk offices and work, but should go to the people, listen to their problems and resolve them.

Referring to MP G C Chandrashekhara addressing him as the "ruler of the state", Shivakumar said, "I am not the ruler of the state. I should be called a 'Praja Sevaka' (servant of the people). There is no greater happiness for me than that."

"The era of kings is over and democracy has arrived. This department has been created to bring changes in the lives of people. It is not merely a department; we have taken this decision to listen to people's

problems, respond to them and provide solutions," he said.

The CM said everyone cannot visit the DC (Deputy Commissioner) office, minister's office or Vidhana Soudha to get their problems resolved.

"During our tenure, this situation should change. Officials should go looking for people and remain among them," he said.

Shivakumar said he had visited the place in Kudligi where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes are kept and paid his respects. He said Gandhi's message was that administration should reach the last person in society.

He added that he was working on the land of Basavanna (12th-century social reformer) and had visited Basavanna's resting place the previous day before coming to Kudligi after seeing the problems faced by farmers in drought-hit areas. (PTI)

## Karnataka teachers can now use 'Tr' prefix, says CM Shivakumar

**BENGALURU, Sept 5:** Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said teachers in the state can use the prefix 'Tr' before their names as a mark of respect for their contribution to society.

The announcement was made on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

The prefix is akin to professional titles such as 'Dr' for medical doctors, 'Er' for engineers and 'Prof' for professors.

"A teacher builds every person who goes on to build the nation. India's more than one crore teachers, including nearly 4.5 lakh teachers in Karnataka, are shaping the minds, character and future of our children every single day," Shivakumar said in a post on X.

He said every doctor, engineer, farmer, officer, entrepreneur and leader had a teacher behind them who first recognised their potential and showed them what was possible.

"On this Teachers' Day, the Government of Karnataka has decided

to honour this invaluable contribution with a distinct mark of respect. From today, teachers of Karnataka can proudly use the prefix 'Tr' before their names," he said.

Calling the two-letter prefix a symbol of a lifetime of service, Shivakumar said 'Tr' was more than a title -- it represented society's recognition of teachers who had dedicated their lives to shaping others.

"A society that honours its teachers honours its own future," he said, thanking teachers for guiding, correcting and encouraging students to believe in themselves.

He said the 'Tr' prefix was a recognition teachers had truly earned.

Speaking after launching the "Praja Seva Abhiyana" in Kudligi in Vijayanagara district, the CM said the state government has decided to allow school teachers to use the prefix "Tr" before their names as a mark of respect to the profession, after discussing it in the cabinet meeting. (PTI)

## Delhi govt honours 118 teachers, principals on Teachers' Day

### The government aims to take education to great heights: Gupta

**NEW DELHI, Sept 5:** The Delhi government on Saturday felicitated 118 teachers and principals with state awards on Teachers' Day, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta saying the government is working to improve education by addressing gaps in school infrastructure as well as curriculum.

Addressing the Shikshak Mahakumbh - State Teachers Awards 2026 at Thyagaraj Stadium, Gupta said the government aims to take education to "great heights" and make significant progress, but the process had to begin by addressing basic facilities in schools.

"We want to take education to great heights and make a lot of progress, but the previous governments did not do anything in 12 years. So, after coming to power, we have had to start working from a very low level," she said.

Gupta said the government was working on repairing toilets, ensuring water facilities, maintenance, whitewashing and other repair works in schools.

"Many schools had very poor toilet facilities. Once, I went for an inspection to a very good and reputed school, which the previous government

used to boast about. When I saw it, there was no gate in the toilet. How would our girl students have been using it?" she said.

Apart from infrastructure, the government is also working on courses and curriculum, Gupta said, adding that the Education Department and Education Minister Ashish Sood were continuously working on these issues and progress was being made.

The chief minister said teachers were the strong foundation of society and did not merely impart textbook knowledge, but also instilled values, skills, confidence, a sense of duty and the right direction in students.

She said the Delhi government was committed to ensuring quality education for every child and had allocated Rs 19,148 crore for education in the 2026-27 financial year.

Gupta said 170 modern language labs were being established in schools to strengthen students' language and communication skills. Of these, 70 would be in CM Shri Schools and 100 in other government schools.

Initiatives such as Neev, Rashtraneeti and NIPUN Sankalp were also being used to strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation, problem-solving, democratic values and foundational literacy and numeracy among students, she said.

The chief minister said lasting solutions to



Delhi's problems required collective efforts and called upon teachers to instil values such as cleanliness, environmental protection, discipline, sensitivity, compliance with rules and helping those in need.

She also highlighted the importance of awareness about "good touch and bad touch" to ensure children's safety, saying students were the heritage of society and their safety, education and future were a shared responsibility.

Referring to the government's resolve to make

Delhi free of begging, Gupta said the first step was to ensure that no child was deprived of education.

She appealed to teachers, institutions and citizens to help bring children found out of school back into the education system.

Gupta said the country's youth would play an important role in realising the resolve of "Viksit Bharat 2047" and that the process of making young people capable, skilled and responsible begins in schools and with teachers.

She expressed confidence that with the support of teachers and continued government efforts, the resolve of "Viksit Delhi", along with "Viksit Bharat", would gain further strength.

Education Minister Ashish Sood said the tireless efforts and dedication of thousands of teachers had played an important role in strengthening Delhi's education system.

The objective of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was not merely to bring children to school but to prepare them with better learning, understanding and capabilities, he said, adding that the Delhi government had taken significant steps towards implementing the policy.

Sood said the recruitment process for 10,417 teachers had been initiated to address the shortage of teachers. Provisions had also been made for the recruitment of 613 special teachers to provide better educational support to students with special

needs.

The minister said the government was working not only on the academic needs of teachers but also on administrative, HR and personal development issues.

Necessary directions had been issued to resolve duty-related and other service-related issues concerning guest teachers.

He expressed confidence that under the leadership of the chief minister, the government would make concrete progress towards resolving most HR-related issues concerning teachers by next year.

A total of 118 teachers were honoured in different categories, including 20 heads of schools, 69 teachers from Directorate of Education and MCD schools, and teachers from three CM Shri Schools. Librarians, special educators and sports teachers, among others, were also recognised for their contributions, according to a statement.

NCC cadets presented a guard of honour to the chief minister at the programme, followed by a welcome song by music teachers. Children dressed in traditional attire also welcomed the guests, it said.

Gupta said the awards were not merely recognition of teachers' achievements but also of their dedication, patience and faith through which they shape the future of children every day. (PTI)

# ‘I think that is one of the basics of the game’ Improving defence and attacking units can make big difference in Asian Games: Marijne

**BENGALURU, Sept 5:** India women's hockey team coach Sjoerd Marijne believes that an improved defence and the continuing work on sharpening goal-scoring skills can do wonders for his side in the upcoming Asian Games.

The women's side had bagged a bronze in the 2022 Asian Games, and it's eager to clinch a medal of a brighter hue in this edition in Japan.

"I think one of the most important things we have shown is to be a unit and we defended really well. I think that is one of the basics of the game," Marijne told PTI in an interview facilitated by SAI.

"Defending well is always possible. And the next step is to create more opportunities. But, yes, that is something that we are working on," he added.

Marijne then dwelled upon some details of the route map that he had set for the team.

"Yes, this (improving defence) is something that has to happen daily. Working on defence but also on attack. Defence is something you do as a unit. Everybody needs to be involved.

"And you need to have a lot of discipline in this. And that is something that we have worked really hard on. What are the key points we have to do really well? For instance, the left hand on the ground and those small things can make a big difference," he said.

India finished fifth in the recent Hockey World Cup held across Belgium and the Netherlands.

But it has not left the team dispirited and, for Marijne the World Cup offered an important learning point.

"I can tell them many times we are really good and we can do it. But you have to experience it yourself (playing well) and that is what happened now. They played against the best teams in the world.

"They have seen, okay, this is necessary on the highest level to do well. But they also can see that they can compete with all."

But has the team picked up its intensity after a draining World Cup?



"Yes, after the World Cup, the first week is about recovery. It has been a very heavy period for the girls. We will leave for Japan on Monday and we have a camp there outside the location.

"So, we will work there more on the intensity and the last week will be the high intensity training to be ready for the Asian Games," he noted.

Skipper Salima Tete agreed with Marijne that the team's attitude has changed.

"Everyone has a mindset that we have to win every match. So, it is a benefit for us. After Marijne has come, our team culture has changed a lot. How we have to show our body language to the other team...we have learned all these little things," Tete told PTI.

But does she feel extra heat being the leader of the side?

"Definitely, there is pressure and it happens to every player, not just to the captain. It happens to every senior player. It happens to every junior player. But I take it with positivity. I will support my team as much as I can."

Senior player and goalkeeper Savita Punia echoed similar views as Marijne that the team's defence has improved a lot of late.

"We are doing well in attacking. We are working on penalty corner taking and defence. As a team, we did very well in defence through the World Cup. So, we are continuing that now," she said. She cited the World Cup match against Germany, which India won 3-1, to underline her argument.

"When our match with Australia was drawn our team was disappointed. I think this is a good sign that today our team is upset even after playing a draw with Australia. It worked as a motivation in the last match we played with Germany.

"We played a very good attacking game. If we are winning a match against a tightly defending team like Germany then it is a good boost for the whole team for the Asian Games," she said.

So, as a senior player with over 300 caps, what is her tip to young team members to tackle the pressure during a prestigious event like the Asian Games?

"We always have to keep a match by match focus. For gold, the journey is still very far. We have league matches and after that, the semis and then the final. Definitely, it's our dream. So, it's very important to stay focused.

"Secondly, being a senior player. I know that there is pressure before every big tournament. It is normal to have pressure. But we have to learn how to handle it. We tell the young players not to deny that there is pressure. But how to work on it. That's more important. For that, we need to stay in the present moment."

Forwards Lahremisami and Navneet Kaur too said the World Cup helped them identify some mistakes and now they have been working on it.

"After the World Cup, we came back and had a one-week training session. We are focussing on small things like working on our end phase. So, definitely, we are ready for the Asian Games. (PTI)

Valverde headlines Uruguay  
squad for India friendly,  
Forlan to begin coaching stint

**KOLKATA, Sept 5:** Real Madrid star Federico Valverde will headline a star-studded Uruguay squad named for next month's international friendly against India, with the two-time world champions, led by head coach Diego Forlan, bringing a formidable mix of established internationals and emerging talents.

India will take on Uruguay at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on October 6, as part of a high-profile series of international friendlies. The Blue Tigers will also face Panama on September 25 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru and five-time world champions Brazil on October 3 here.

Valverde is among several marquee names in the Uruguay squad, which also includes Rodrigo Bentancur, Lucas Torreira, Giorgian de Arrascaeta, Facundo Pellistri, Maximiliano Araújo and Brian Rodríguez.

The defence boasts plenty of international experience, with Ronald Araújo, José María Giménez, Nahitan Nández, Guillermo Varela, Mathías Olivera and Sebastián Cáceres named in the squad.

Santiago Mele, Cristopher Fiermarín and Ignacio de Arruabarrena are the three goalkeeping options, while the attack features Liverpool star Darwin Núñez, along with Miguel Merentiel, Rodrigo Aguirre, Federico Viñas, Martín Satriano and Álvaro Rodríguez.

The match in Kolkata will also mark Forlan's first assignment at the helm of Uruguay, with the former World Cup star taking charge of the national side as coach.

"The announcement comes at the beginning of a new chapter for Uruguay following Marcelo Bielsa's departure, with legendary former striker Diego Forlan taking charge of the senior national team and the Under-20 side," said All India Football Federation in a statement.

A 2010 FIFA World Cup Golden Ball winner and 2011 Copa América champion, Forlan scored 36 goals in 112 appearances for Uruguay. He enjoyed a distinguished club career with Manchester United, Villarreal, Atlético Madrid and Inter Milan, and also had a stint in the Indian Super League with Mumbai City FC.

"Now, as Uruguay's head coach, Forlan faces a new challenge as he prepares his side for the upcoming clash against India. With established stars such as Valverde, Núñez, Araújo and Giménez featuring alongside a new generation of talent, Uruguay's September-October window promises to offer an early glimpse into Forlan's vision for the next chapter of La Celeste," the statement added.

India, under coach Khalid Jamil, will be determined to put up a strong fight and deliver a memorable contest. (PTI)

## Now, I have fitness level of 2022, can repeat my performance in Japan Asian Games: Sable



**BENGALURU, Sept 5:** Since July 2025, Avinash Sable and his dream to retain the Asian Games 3000m steeplechase gold were living in different houses.

Delicate fitness following a surgery to repair Sable's torn ACL and meniscus was the biggest impediment in their reunion, forcing him to even skip the recent Commonwealth Games.

Instead, he trained at a high-altitude facility in Ooty, then went to Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) in Bellary, Karnataka, before turning up at Sports Authority of India (Southern Centre) here for sessions in the Smart Track.

The sum total of that nearly eight months of intense training is the belief in Sable's mind: "I went to the Asian Games in 2022. I have the same level of fitness now. I can repeat my performance in this Asian Games (2026 in Japan)," he told PTI in an interview facilitated by SAI.

"There are 24 days left for my event in the Asian Games. My preparation is very good. I had a lot of ups and downs in my preparation after that injury (during the Monaco Diamond League in 2025).

"After that, I have done continuous training and it's a good preparation. I am confident that I can do well in the upcoming Asian Games. I feel that my old fitness has come back," he added.

But since recovering from that debilitating injury, Sable has participated in only one competition — the IFAM outdoor World Athletics Continental Tour in Oordegem, Belgium.

There is a caveat too. He did not compete in his pet 3000m steeplechase event but took part in the 5000m race, in which his participation in this edition of the continental event is still doubtful.

Sable did not view it as a deterrent.

"I had an injury when the competition season started. I had planned to participate in the competition in May but could not recover in time. Training and competition are two different things.

"I feel that it is very important to participate in the competition. I felt bad that I could not participate in the CWG (2026) because of that injury. My fitness was not good at that time. But I wanted to participate in the Asian Games."

Now, Sable is looking forward to the Indian Athletics Series Final in New Delhi on

September 10.

"It will be my first steeplechase competition in a year. You need competition for any good preparation. But I could not do it because of my (lack of) fitness."

"I used to train with 1500m athletes and other distance runners. But now I am confident that I will be able to participate in the Asian Games and do well there," he said.

The 30-year-old said training on the Smart Track at the SAI Centre here helped him recover in time for the Asian Games.

"I think this is the best facility in the world. I have trained in the US and Europe. But here, we have so many facilities in one campus. If you are a distance runner, you need to train on a soft surface. You can get a track of 500 metres here, and it helps in avoiding injuries."

"I had an ACL surgery. So, I could not run on a hard surface. I used to train on this track because it is very soft. It gives me a lot of confidence to train after surgery," he detailed.

But before that Sable went through a little personal hell, battling inner demons of fear and doubts.

He was riven by the thoughts that his career had come to an end.

Sable detailed those dark days.

"I was afraid that I would not be able to participate in the Asian Games. I had no idea how serious the injury was. So, after the surgery, I had doubts in my mind. I was not confident that I would be able to jump (over the hurdle).

"It was a very important year — Asian and Commonwealth Games. I could not participate in the CWG due to the injury. It filled my heart with a lot of doubts. What would happen to my career? How long would I need to recover from the injury? Will I be able to come back to the field again?"

The self-doubts continued to nag Sable even after he resumed training.

"I had started training after the surgery. But I was in a lot of pain. Then I was afraid that I would not be able to come back. When I used to practice, I had a lot of problems. I did not feel anything (on his leg). It was a very tough time for me. Many times, I thought that I would not be able to do it (regain fitness)."

"But here, I would like to thank the Athletic Federation of India and SAI and all the players who helped me in training," he added. (PTI)

## Challenging to join India T20 squad after 5 days of Duleep: Tilak, Kishan



**CHENNAI, Sept 5:** Tilak Varma and Ishan Kishan admitted that it is "tough" to join India's T20I squad for the three-match series against Afghanistan right after the Duleep Trophy final, but understood the need to adapt to the situation and as professional cricketers they can't offer "excuses."

The five-day domestic fixture, which starts here on Sunday, is scheduled for a September 10 finish, and India will face Afghanistan in the first of the three T20Is in New Delhi on September 13.

"It is just about knowing what format you are playing. I know it gets difficult when you are playing Test match and suddenly you have to go and start hitting from ball one (in white ball format) and then suddenly you have to go back to your domestic team and you have to play a whole different role," Kishan, who is leading East Zone, said in the pre-match press conference.

Kishan, who is a part of India's T20I squad, found a supporting voice in Tilak Varma, South Zone captain and India's T20I vice-captain.

"Yes, it will be slightly challenging...playing five days here (Duleep Trophy) and again joining the (India) team. From here we are going to Delhi, so, there will be like a two day break. We can practise there. It will be slightly challenging," he said.

So, how to mitigate the situation? Kishan and Tilak banked on their ability to adapt.

"We have played enough domestic games, we have played in every condition, so we can adjust. We know how to change our mindsets and maintain our body with good fluids and everything."

"We have played before in domestic as well as international back-to-back games, so we are quite used to it," he said.

It may be recalled that Tilak had openly manifested his desire to play in the Duleep Trophy final after winning the semifinal in Bengaluru. (PTI)

## Age is just a number, I see hunger in Shami bhai to make a India comeback: Ishan Kishan

**CHENNAI, Sept 5:** The fire burns inside Mohammad Shami over after tallying 903 wickets in 100 first-class games, leaving East Zone skipper Ishan Kishan convinced about the pacer's "hunger and motivation" to make an India comeback.

Shami played a big role in East Zone's march to the Duleep Trophy final after 13 years, taking five wickets against Central Zone in the semifinal at Bengaluru.

"I think he is just one of the best. He has been a legend of this game. He has been doing so well since he started playing for Bengal. He has been picking wickets, giving all his energy and he has done so well for the Indian cricket team also," Kishan told reporters in the pre-match press conference.

"It's hard to say when it comes to age, I feel age is just a number."



If he is working hard it doesn't matter. I see that hunger in Shami bhai because who better than me to judge about hunger right now (hinting at Kishan's time away from Indian cricket team for various reasons).

"He has been doing so well, especially having him in our team...it gives us a bit of more confidence," Kishan added.

At 36, Shami is closer to the end of his career but Kishan said it has

not prevented the Bengal man from asking for a few extra overs.

"Looking at his efforts as a captain, I felt very nice, because Shami bhai came in, asking me for those extra overs to get the wickets, this is something which always gives confidence to skippers. When you have bowlers who are willing to get you wickets. So, it's always good to have him in the team."

"He also finished with two boundaries, so he is an allrounder I feel nowadays. So I am very happy to have him in my team," he added.

So what sets apart Shami?

"Looking at Shami bhai this season, I feel he has been very different, how I have seen him in past, but his approach towards the game, his intensity, his energy has been very different." (PTI)

## Shreeniti completes golden double, Fazal wins boys' title

**BENGALURU, Sept 5:** Local favourite Shreeniti Chowdhury capped a remarkable week at the KSLTA World Tennis Junior J30 Bengaluru by winning both the girls' singles and doubles titles here Saturday.

The 15-year-old fourth seed first overcame fellow city mate Aahida Singh 6-4 6-2 in the singles final and then returned to partner Riddhi Shinde to bag the doubles trophy, beating Zoha Qureshi and Deepthi Venkatesan 4-6, 6-2, 13-11.

In the boys' singles final, sixth seed Fazal Ali Meer defeated third seed Niyanth Badrinarayanan of the USA 6-4, 4-6, 2-0 (retired).

The pair of Chukka Lakshya Vardhan and Parthiv Nallagundla captured the doubles title after defeating Nithinbarath KS and Abhivadya Misra 6-7 (3), 7-6 (3), 10-4 in another closely fought final. (PTI)

## It'll be tough but I don't take pressure, trust training: Parul Chaudhary on competing in 3 events

**BENGALURU, Sept 5:** Asian Games double gold medalist Parul Chaudhary said the addition of 1500m race to the competition list has not burdened her, and is trusting the intense pre-event training process to do an encore in the upcoming edition. Chaudhary had won gold in 3000m steeple chase and 5000m in the previous edition of the continental showpiece held in Hangzhou, China.

Additionally, she will take part in the 1500m event in this Games to be held in Japan.

"There will be good and tough competition. There are strong athletes from across Asia, particularly from Japan and Bahrain. But I am confident of doing well. I had won gold

medals last time and I want to bring those medals back to the country," Chaudhary told PTI in an interview facilitated by SAI.

Chaudhary admitted that competing in three different events in as many days can be tough, but exuded confidence that adaptive training at SAI Centre of Excellence can stand her in good stead.

"It is difficult (competing in three events). But I am training accordingly. I have to compete for three days in a row."

"So, I will have to train accordingly. But I don't take pressure at all, as I just think about giving my best. I am sure a medal will follow." (PTI)

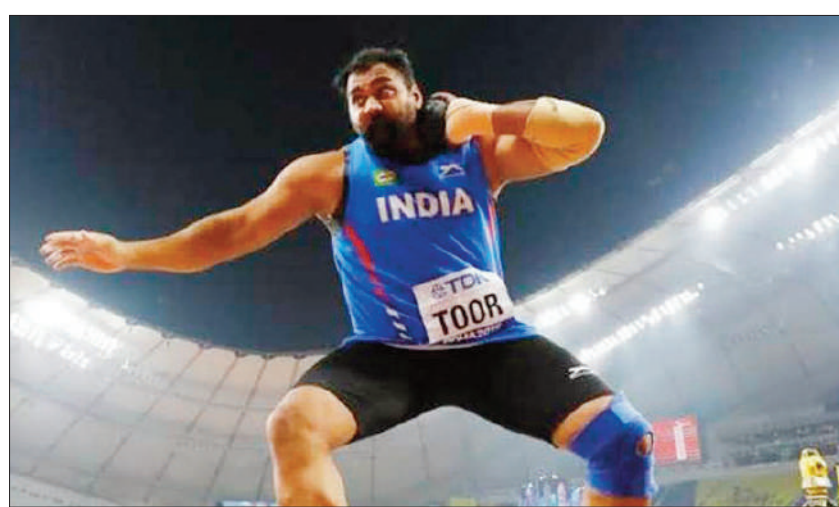
## ‘Like Neeraj has thrown 90m, so 80m-82m is considered nothing’ Shot putter Toor targets 22m throw, wants to raise bar like Neeraj did in javelin

**PATIALA, Sept 5:** India's most accomplished shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor wants to breach the long-awaited 22m barrier and set a benchmark for the next generation much like Neeraj Chopra has raised the bar for the country's javelin throwers.

The 31-year-old national record holder, who has a personal best of 21.77m, wants Indian shot putters to reach a stage where 20m and 21m are no longer considered exceptional distances.

"It's my aim and dream to throw 22m and create a national record, so that the younger generation of Indian shot putters think 21m is nothing," Toor told PTI in an interaction facilitated by SAI.

Chopra's rise has had a similar impact on Indian javelin, with his Olympic gold and 90.23m national record pushing the benchmark higher. The likes of Rohit Yadav (87.68m), Kishore Jena (87.54m), Sachin Yadav (86.54m) and Yashvir Singh (85.41m) have all breached the 85m mark.



"Like Neeraj has thrown 90m, so 80m-82m is considered nothing. Rohit has thrown 87.68m, Sachin has thrown 86m-plus and Yashvir did a personal best at

CWG. If we see, India has some of the most javelin throwers in the world who have thrown above 85m," Toor said.

However, Toor feels injuries have re-

peatedly prevented him from performing to his full potential.

"Injuries have always been there with me. A lot of people say he doesn't perform outside (India). But when the person is not fit, how will he perform? From the very first day, injuries have been there with me," he said.

In fact, Toor competed at the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow with a Grade 1 calf muscle tear sustained just 12 days before the event.

"12 days before the CWG, I sustained a Grade 1 tear in the calf. Because of that I was not able to perform well."

"I had to stop my throw and stop all the activities that require the calf. But I managed 20m despite windy conditions there," he said.

Toor finished fifth at the CWG with a best throw of 20.27m, missing out on a medal despite believing the podium was within his reach.

"But I missed the medal. The medal was

in range. I was fighting and hoping that one throw clicks," he recalled.

The injury was diagnosed only after he returned from Glasgow.

"They had asked me not to do an MRI, and it was a good thing I didn't do it, otherwise it would have been in my mind. When I returned and found out it was a Grade 1 tear," he said.

The calf injury was the latest setback for Toor, who had also suffered an ankle injury in 2024 and had a fracture in his hand in 2021.

"In 2024 I had an ankle injury. The doctor said to either get surgery or take six months' rest. I took rest after the Olympics. But because of the rest, my 2025 didn't go well," he said.

Having won the gold in 2018 and 2022, the two-time Olympian is now fit and targeting a hat-trick of golds medal at the continental event which starts in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19. "Right now the fitness is great," he said. (PTI)