

6

NATION



● Economy in tight spot, but govt painting its beautiful picture: Pawar

● India can become developed nation only by reconnecting with its heritage: UP CM

7

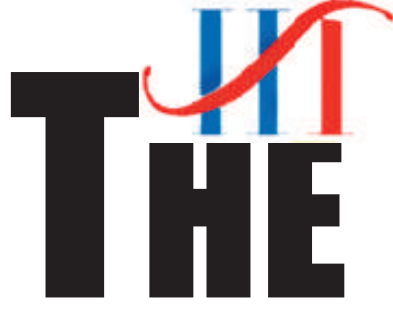
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● Nagaland assembly passes unanimous resolution urging Centre to withdraw PAP regime

● Will make every effort to strengthen police: Manipur CM Khemchand

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Cong-Rajior Dal honeymoon finally ends

Breach of alliance ethics cited as reason



GUWAHATI, Sept 3: The opposition Congress on Thursday announced the termination of all ties with Akhilesh Gogoi-led Rajior Dal in Assam, citing "breach of alliance ethics".

The decision, taken on the direction of state Congress president Gau-

rav Gogoi, came into immediate effect, the party said in a statement.

A circular to this effect, signed by APCC General Secretary (Organisation) Ramanna Baruah, was issued on Wednesday, it said.

The Congress said it had forged an electoral alliance with pan-India

Assam to set up 'Anti Narcotics Task Force' to deal with drug menace: CM

DERGAON, Sept 3: A new unit, 'Anti Narcotics Task Force', will be raised within Assam Police to deal with the drug menace, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday.

Addressing a press meet after the conclusion of the two-day SSP conference here, he also said that Assam aims to achieve a conviction rate of 35 per cent within this year in chargesheet cases, up from the current 29.3 per cent.

"We will have a new unit called Anti Narcotics Task Force to deal with the drug menace. The Centre had also suggested it," Sarma said.

There will be several verticals within this force, like legal and financial, and it will look into matters such as ensuring that accused persons do not get bail easily and breaking down the financial network of drug cartels, he added.

"This force will work on strongly implementing the NDPS Act. We hope to raise this unit within Assam Police in the next one month,"



Sarma said.

The CM also said that the conviction rate of FIRs in which chargesheets are filed has gone up to 29.3 per cent at present from around seven per cent in 2020.

"We are now targeting to achieve a 35 per cent conviction rate within this year. Currently, we are able to submit chargesheets in 80 per cent of registered cases within the stipulated time," he added.

The CM said that the two-day conference had a detailed discussion on the drugs issue and deliberated on

the transit route of narcotics products.

"The SSPs said that we have to work in coordination with Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh to block this transit route. Otherwise, it will be difficult to stop the transportation of drugs," he added.

Sarma said that the SSP conference decided that two new battalions will be raised within Assam Police in the coming days.

"The promotion in Assam Police was due for some time, and we have decided to go ahead with it now. This will create more posts for hiring. We will recruit 5,000 people in Assam Police next year," he added.

In the last five years, 21,000 youths were recruited in Assam Police and are looking to hire 15,000-20,000 people in the current term of the government, Sarma said.

Talking about the conference, he said that maintenance of law and order was given top priority and that it should not be compromised at any cost. (PTI)

2 police personnel shot dead by colleague in Kamrup

RANGIA, Sept 3: Two policemen were shot dead allegedly by a colleague at a newly set up inter-state border outpost in Assam's Kamrup district on Thursday, officials said.

The incident took place at Gameraimura border outpost in the Boko police station area along the Assam-Meghalaya border in the early morning, they said.

The accused constable Chiranjiv Choudhury allegedly opened fire from his AK-47 rifle, killing two colleagues on the spot, a senior officer said.

The deceased have been identified as Indrajit Bora, who was the in-charge of Gameraimura outpost, and constable Fajrul Ali, he added.

On receiving information, Boko police station Officer-in-Charge Munna Pachani rushed to the spot with a team.

"The accused has been detained and interrogation is underway. The motive behind the incident is yet to be ascertained," Pachani said. (PTI)

Nepal families hold symbolic funerals as death toll hits 1,252

KATHMANDU, Sept 3: With over 4,000 still missing due to devastating flash floods in Nepal, families perform symbolic funeral rites for their relatives after receiving no information about them for eight days, even as the death toll surges to 1,252 on Thursday.

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, leaving a trail of destruction.

According to the data released by Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the death toll from the Bhotekoshi River floods surged to 1,252 on Thursday, with 4,216 still missing.

In Paharebesi village of Rasuwa district, residents have begun preparing to perform funeral rites for missing relatives after receiving no information about their whereabouts for eight days, Onlinekhabar news portal reported on Thursday.

In flood-hit areas, families have begun using effigies made of kusha grass to perform the final rites of relatives who remain untraced, amid diminishing hopes of finding them alive, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

Families said they were turning to symbolic funerals because there was little hope of recovering all the missing and because identifying bodies had become increas-



ingly difficult, it said.

According to NDRRMA, 355 bodies have been recovered from Chitawan district, 218 from Nawalparasi East, 208 from Nawalparasi West, including 18 recovered from India and handed over to Nawalparasi West, and 177 from Nuwakot.

Similarly, 127 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa district, 69 from Gorkha, 60 from Dhading and 38 from Tahanu. On the Chinese side, the death toll in the flash flood that struck Gyirong county in Tibet near the Nepal border has increased to 21, (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Nagaland Assembly: MLA flags oil survey, DyCM says border situation under control

KOHEMA, Sept 3: Nagaland MLA Achumbemo Kikon on Thursday raised concerns in the Assembly over alleged oil survey and drilling activities in the Disputed Area Belt (DAB) along the Nagaland-Assam border.

Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton said the situation along the Disputed Area Belt (DAB) is now under control.

Raising the issue under Rule 54, Kikon said he had received a representation from Yammhon Area Public Organisation dated August 31 objecting to alleged oil drilling works by ONGC near Lio Woka Oil, close to Haiyian village under Bhandari subdivision in Wokha district.

Kikon said the site falls within his constituency and urged the government to ascertain whether the activity had obtained approval from the Nagaland government.

If not, he sought verification of the site by the competent authority



and keeping the ongoing work in abeyance until the matter was resolved under the tripartite MoU between Nagaland, Assam and the Centre on survey, exploitation and extraction of crude oil and other minerals in the disputed belt.

He said the site was about half a kilometre from Lio Woka village and alleged that ONGC and other oil companies had started surveys and

were looking for drilling points in the disputed area.

Kikon expressed concern that continued activity could result in oil deposits claimed to fall within Nagaland's jurisdiction being extracted from the area. He also raised the August 25 incident at Mekirang/Negheribil, where villagers from Longayim travelling with rubber saplings supplied by the Rubber Board of India were allegedly stopped at a barricade erected by the Assam Forest Department.

Kikon said the incident highlighted the difficulties faced by villagers in accessing the area and alleged that movement and right of way along the border were being hindered. He also questioned the deployment of security and forest personnel in the DAB and sought to know whether Nagaland's Forest Department was taking steps to deploy its personnel in the area. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Mina Chauhan's body buried at husband's home amid tension in West Karbi Anglong

HT Correspondent

KHERONI, Sept 3: The body of a woman, Mina Kumari Chauhan, whose family has alleged that she was murdered by her in-laws, was buried in the courtyard of her marital home on Thursday.

The decision to bury the body at her husband's residence was taken after a consensus was reached during a meeting between local villagers and the victim's family.

Tension remains high in the No. 2 Nawaibil area of West Karbi Anglong following the alleged murder of the young woman. The situation had earlier escalated, prompting police to fire warning shots into the air to restore order. It later culminated in the victim's family and local villagers burying her body in the courtyard of her husband's home.

Mina was missing since the early hours of Sunday. Her body was recovered from the banks of the Doyang River on Monday. Her family has alleged that her husband and in-

laws subjected her to severe physical torture before killing her and dumping her body in the river.

Based on these allegations, the victim's family filed a formal complaint naming seven individuals: her husband, Rabindra Chauhan; Lal Chand Chauhan; Balin Chauhan; Satyanarayan Chauhan; Bigan Chauhan; Digiri Chauhan; and Lilawati Devi.

Following the complaint, police detained Rabindra Chauhan and launched an investigation into the case.

Mina, daughter of Ramashankar Chauhan and a resident of No. 2 Cera Pathar in Kheroni, married Rabindra Chauhan, son of Lal Chand Chauhan, according to religious rites on April 20, 2026. Her family alleged that although the marriage was normal initially, her in-laws soon began subjecting her to continuous physical and mental abuse, which they believe ultimately led to her death.

Police investigations are ongoing.

36,000 IDPs resettled, 24,000 still living in various relief camps across state: Manipur CM

IMPHAL, Sept 3: Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh on Thursday informed the Assembly that 36,000 out of around 60,000 IDPs have been resettled.

Replying to a discussion moved by Congress MLA Th. Lokeshwar Singh, the chief minister said around 24,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were still living in relief camps across the state. He attributed the progress in resettlement to the collective support and efforts of MLAs.

Singh said IDPs from both the hills and the valley had the same desire to return to their homes.

Expressing concern over the issue, Singh said he had last month called representatives of six to seven joint associations of IDPs for discussions on ways to provide assistance and fa-



cilitate their resettlement.

Despite the resettlement of 36,000 IDPs, the government was still providing financial assistance to around 59,000 of the total 60,000 displaced people, he said.

Singh said even those who had returned home continued to face difficulties due to a lack of livelihood and

earning opportunities, and therefore the government was continuing to provide monthly financial assistance to them.

The chief minister said financial assistance alone could not address the impact of a conflict that had continued for three years and that the prolonged crisis had also caused mental trauma among affected people.

The health department was taking steps to help reduce the trauma faced by them, he said.

Singh said he was also discussing the matter with the Planning Department to explore further measures and initiatives for the rehabilitation and livelihood support of affected people.

He said the government welcomed suggestions from all quarters and stressed that (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Govt mulls social media code of conduct for officials

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: The government is likely to issue a social media code of conduct for its officers and employees, amid the growing trend of staff posting reels, videos and personal opinions on platforms like X, Facebook and Instagram, official sources said.

The issue was deliberated on at the highest levels of the government, which is now considering the code of conduct to prevent officials from posting videos or opinions on undesirable subjects across social media platforms. Once the code of conduct is formulated, it will be issued and applicable to all officers and employees, irrespective of their ranks, the sources said.

However, it was not immediately known when the social media code would be issued and what the possible guidelines could be. The move comes amidst growing incidents of officers posting content on social media, glorifying their work and position, which is not expected from government servants.

According to the sources, the need for a social media code of conduct was felt by the government as currently no such rules exist.

Last month, the government had slashed the online content takedown time for sensitive matters to two hours from the earlier 24 hours given to social media platforms. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

31-member parliamentary panel set up to examine FCRA Amendment Bill

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: A 31-member joint committee of the two Houses of Parliament was constituted on Thursday to examine the contentious Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, with BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal named as its chairperson.

The panel, which was constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, has 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

It comprises 14 members of BJP and five of Congress. It also has two members each from JD(U), TMC and DMK, and one member each from SP, IUML, Shiv Sena, NCP (SP), NCP and TDP.

On August 12, Parliament had sent the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill to a joint committee amid protests by opposition parties, which alleged that the proposed law targeted minorities and NGOs, and demanded its withdrawal.

The government rejected the charge and challenged the opposition parties to identify even one provision that discriminated against minorities.

While BJP's Jaiswal is the chairperson, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Tejasvi Surya, Kamlesh Jangde, Mukesh Kumar Chandrakant Dalal, Nishikant Dubey, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Ananta Nayak and Arvind Dharnapuri are the members from (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Infrastructure development at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy is being undertaken in phases

Himanta reviews infrastructure development of Lachit Borphukan Police Academy

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 3: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday reviewed the ongoing infrastructure development works at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, said an official statement.

Sarma also reviewed the progress of projects for construction of residential quarters at police stations and battalions across the state, besides the development of Model Police Lines in four districts.

The statement further said that prior to the review meeting, the chief minister took an overview of the functioning of the Smart Response Unit, a rapid response team of the Assam Police established to ensure swift and effective response to crisis situations.

As per the statement, infrastructure development at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy is being undertaken in phases.

"The first phase, which included the construction of the academic building and the police museum, has already been



completed, while work on the second phase is currently underway. With an estimated cost of over Rs 200 crore, the second phase includes construction of barracks with a capacity to accommodate

1,500 personnel undergoing training, hostels for officers attending training programmes, and residential quarters for officers, trainers and other staff of the Academy," it added. The statement

claimed that the planning for the third phase has also been initiated.

During the review, Sarma reiterated the need to develop the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy as a world-class police training institution, equipped with modern infrastructure and facilities conforming to the highest national standards. He directed that the portion of the Academy campus adjoining the National Highway should be kept completely open so that the institution has a visible presence from the highway.

Later, the chief minister also stressed the need for the police museum to be developed in an aesthetically appealing and professionally curated manner, with the assistance of an experienced curator.

Speaking on the importance of providing high-quality training infrastructure and adequate accommodation for police personnel, the chief minister suggested that an additional barrack with a capacity to accommodate 1,000 personnel be constructed as part of the third phase.

He also directed that the third phase

should include, in addition to the remaining barracks, hostels and residential quarters, modern facilities such as an open-air stadium, swimming pool and horse-riding training centre.

"He called for a study of the training infrastructure and facilities available at the Assam Regimental Centre in Shillong and other training establishments of the Indian Army, with a view to adopting suitable best practices at the Police Academy in Dergaon," the statement added.

Reviewing the projects for construction of residential quarters at police stations and battalions across the state, as well as the development of Model Police Lines, Sarma advocated for the construction of residential accommodation in close proximity to police stations for officers-in-charge, sub-inspectors and constables.

He directed that such quarters should be adequately spacious, scientifically planned and designed to provide a conducive living environment for police personnel and their families. (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

Adani expands footprint across non-BJP states with ₹ 5 lakh cr investment pipeline

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: The Adani Group is expanding its presence across Congress-led and other non-Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states, with the conglomerate pursuing or executing projects spanning roads, ports, power, renewable energy, cement and data centres totalling about ₹ 5 lakh crore as state governments seek private capital for economic development, infrastructure and job creation.

The ports-to-energy and airports group, WHICH was once considered close to the BJP, now has a project pipeline that increasingly cuts across political lines, with governments from Karnataka and Telangana to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh seeking investments from the conglomerate, sources said.

In Karnataka, Adani Enterprises emerged as the lowest bidder for both packages of the proposed 16.75-kilometre north-south tunnel road connecting Hebbal and Central Silk Board in Bengaluru. The company bid ₹ 22,267 crore for the project, ₹ 3,500 crore lower than the second-lowest bidder, according to sources.

The contract has not yet been finalised.

The project, designed to tackle Bengaluru's chronic traffic congestion, has become a politically sensitive test of the Karnataka government's willingness to proceed with a large private-sector infrastructure concession despite the bid exceeding its own estimate.

Group chairman Gautam Adani had met Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in Bengaluru last month, shortly after the bid became public.

Adani already has a substantial presence in Karnataka, including the 1,200-megawatt Udupi power plant and Mangaluru International Airport.

In Kerala, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone developed Vizhinjam International Seaport, a deep-water container transhipment



facility that was initiated under the state's previous Left Democratic Front government and continued under the current Congress-led administration.

The group has committed further capital to Vizhinjam. In January 2026, it launched the second phase of the port's development, with an additional ₹ 16,000 crore investment that would take cumulative investment in the project to about ₹ 30,000 crore.

Adani also operates Thiruvananthapuram International Airport and broke ground in 2025 on a more than ₹ 600 crore logistics park at Kalamassery in Kochi. The 70-acre project is expected to create more than 1,500 jobs, according to sources.

In Telangana, the Congress government signed four memoranda of understanding with Adani Group companies in January 2024 for investments totalling ₹ 12,400 crore. The proposed projects cover data centres, energy storage, defence manufacturing and other businesses.

Tamil Nadu, previously governed by the DMK and now by TVK - both politically aligned with the Congress - has also attracted a significant Adani investment pipeline. The group announced MoUs worth more than

₹ 42,700 crore in 2024, including Rs 24,500 crore for three pumped-storage projects, ₹ 13,200 crore for a hyperscale data centre and ₹ 3,500 crore for cement grinding units.

Adani Enterprises has separately secured the Chennai Outer Ring Road operation, maintenance and tolling concession with a ₹ 2,511 crore financial bid.

In Himachal Pradesh, Adani is helping the local farmers, especially apple growers, to develop the supply chain for the fruits in the region, sources said, adding that it also operates a cement business in Himachal across many assets.

In Jharkhand, the group operates the 1,600-MW Godda ultra-supercritical power plant, built at an investment of more than ₹ 16,000 crore. Gautam Adani reviewed projects in Jharkhand and Bihar in February as the group assessed investments exceeding ₹ 40,000 crore across the two states, sources said.

In Bihar, Adani announced in May that the group planned to invest ₹ 50,000 crore to ₹ 60,000 crore over the next three to four years across power, roads, gas distribution, cement and infrastructure. The plans include a ₹ 27,000 crore, 2,400-MW ultra-supercritical

thermal power project at Pimpri in Bhagalpur district.

Andhra Pradesh represents an even larger opportunity, although the headline investment figure needs to be attributed carefully.

Google has committed about USD 15 billion over five years from 2026 to 2030 to build an AI hub in Visakhapatnam. The project involves gigawatt-scale data-centre capacity, energy infrastructure and subsea connectivity, with AdaniConneX and Airtel as infrastructure partners. Google broke ground on the project in April 2026.

Adani also has a broader presence in Andhra Pradesh, including Krishnapatnam Port and renewable-energy and transmission projects.

Additionally, the group is also investing over ₹ 20,000 crore in developing renewable capacity (two pump storage projects) and transmission lines. It is already operating Krishnapatnam Port, which is the largest port on the east coast of India.

Over the years, Adani's track record and ability to execute large-scale complex infra projects at speed have allowed the group to become fundamental to the development agenda of such states, where no other large organisations have paid much attention, sources added.

Sources said the pattern is clear - Adani's infrastructure ambitions are no longer confined to BJP-governed states. Congress-led governments and other opposition administrations are increasingly willing to engage the conglomerate when seeking large-scale investment, infrastructure development and employment.

For Adani, that creates a business footprint that increasingly transcends India's political fault lines. For state governments, it reflects a pragmatic search for companies capable of financing and executing projects that can reshape their economies. (PTI)

HYBE India expands audition search to eight more cities

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 3: HYBE India has announced the next phase of its talent hunt, HYBE India Audition: Final Call, expanding its search for aspiring artists to eight additional cities across the country following a strong response to the initial round of auditions.

The audition has received applications from across 28 states and six Union Territories, as well as from the global Indian diaspora.

Applications have reportedly come from more than 1,650 cities across 116 countries, reflecting widespread interest among aspiring artists seeking

an opportunity to enter HYBE's global artist development ecosystem.

Under the Final Call phase, the on-ground search will expand to Lucknow, Dimapur, Kohima, Shillong, Jaipur, Indore, Goa and Kochi, providing aspiring performers from diverse regions and backgrounds with additional opportunities to showcase their talent.

Online applications for the Final Call phase opened on September 2 and will remain open until October 31.

Applicants seeking an on-ground audition must first submit their applications through HYBE India's official

audition website and select their relevant city.

Shortlisted applicants will receive details of the audition location directly from the casting partners through their registered contact information.

The audition is open to female participants born between 2005 and 2011. Applicants can participate in categories including vocals, rap, dance, acting and modelling.

Damien Woochang Lee, CEO, HYBE India, said the response to the audition demonstrated the depth of talent and ambition across the country.

Contd. from Page 1...

Cong-Raijor Dal honeymoon

The Congress and Raijor Dal were part of a six-party opposition alliance during the last assembly elections and won 19 and two seats, respectively, in the 126-member House. (PTI)

Nepal families hold symbolic

with 541 others still missing as of Wednesday. As the upstream areas of the Bhotekoshi River are continuously receiving rainfall on Thursday, there is the possibility of rising water levels in the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers as well as small rivers and rivulets flowing through Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, said Saraswati Bishta, a technician at the Flood Forecasting Division of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology.

The people residing in the surrounding areas and downstream of the river are urged to remain vigilant, she said. There is a middle-level risk associated with flash floods in rivers situated in various districts, mainly those in the hilly region, including Taplejung, Panchthar, Terhathum, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasabha, Okhaldhunga, Udayapur, Chitwan, Gorkha, Tanahu, Lamjung, Manang, Mustang, Myagdi, Kaski, Syangja, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, she said.

Similarly, rivers situated in mountain regions including Kalikot, Humla, Jumla, Dailekh, Darchula, Baitadi and Kalikot districts are also swelling, resulting in some risks associated to flash floods, she added.

Meanwhile, Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal on Thursday called the massive floods that caused widespread devastation in the country a "Himalayan Tsunami" and thanked neighbouring countries and the international community for their support and solidarity during this difficult period.

Khanal's comments came days after an interview with a private television channel, in which he identified China, the US, and India as the world's three largest greenhouse gas emitters and said they have a "historical responsibility to compensate vulnerable nations like Nepal".

Expressing gratitude to neighbour countries, friendly nations and the international community for their support and solidarity, Khanal said on Thursday that "Nepal will continue close cooperation and collaboration with the international community in this regard." Even as international and domestic assistance continues to pour in, schoolchildren in Nepal are doing their bit by donating part of their pocket money to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Children from various schools across Nepal are voluntarily donating their snack money or pocket money for the welfare of those affected by the floods.

Meanwhile, the joint rescue teams led by the Nepal Army have continued their search and rescue efforts on the ninth day on Thursday. The floods have changed the landscape of the valleys of Rasuwa and Nuwakot, with helicopter pilots relying on their own discipline and judgement to navigate the steep terrain because riverbanks and familiar landmarks have disappeared, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

Meanwhile, around 100 Nepalese nationals have been missing in Tibet following the devastating flash floods, Nepal's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lok Bahadur Chhetri has said. Around 3,000 Nepalese nationals who entered Tibet for pilgrimage and business purposes were stranded in Tibet. More than 2,500 of them have safely returned to Nepal through Hilsa and Tatopani border points, said Chhetri, adding that some of them also returned by air.

There are still around 1,500 Nepalese nationals stranded at the Kerung border point of Tibet. Officials of the two countries are holding consultations regarding ways to evacuate them safely to Nepal, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

In a related development, a senior Chinese climate official has warned that Glaciers on the Tibetan Plateau are likely to become more unstable, which may lead to more collapses and collateral disasters similar to last week's deadly flash flood at the Tibet-Nepal border. "Over the past 60 years, the glacier area on the Tibetan Plateau has shrunk by around 24 per cent, with around 7,000 small glaciers disappearing completely," said Gao Rong, deputy director of China's National Climate Centre, an official body of the Chinese government.

"Looking ahead, the structural stability of glaciers across the Tibetan Plateau will decline further. Glacial disasters are likely to become more frequent and could amplify in destruction and reach through cascading effects," Gao was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. (PTI)

Nagaland Assembly: MLA flags

Responding to the border incidents, Patton informed the House that a vehicle carrying rubber saplings to Longayim was stopped at the Assam Forest Department barricade on August 25. A scuffle broke out after people from the Assam side gathered at the spot, he said.

Border Magistrates from Nagaland and Assam subsequently reached the area and allowed the vehicle to pass after verifying that the saplings were intended for plantation at Longayim village and not at the evicted site, the DyCM said.

Patton said another confrontation occurred on August 26 when people residing near the evicted site gathered at the barricade. He said two Naga village leaders were allegedly attacked after being accused of responsibility for the previous day's confrontation, while an office bearer of the Lotha Lower Range Public Organisation was also allegedly assaulted.

The alleged victims were advised to file an FIR, and the case was subsequently registered at Bhandari Police Station on August 27, Patton said.

The DyCM said the Wokha and Golaghat deputy commissioners later held a joint meeting, during which Nagaland conveyed that the movement of Naga villagers and the general public should not be obstructed as the road serves as a lifeline for border villages. The two administrations agreed to activate the Border Level Peace Committee to improve coordination, maintain peace and prevent further incidents, he said.

"The situation is now under control," Patton told the House.

Giving the background to the dispute, Patton said a joint eviction drive was conducted at Nagheribil/Mekirang on August 8, 2025, during which 205 households were served eviction notices and 146 were evicted. Eviction of the remaining 59 households was kept on hold following a court order.

He said the Golaghat district administration and Assam Forest Department subsequently issued fresh eviction notices to the 59 households, but the Gauhati High Court, through an order dated August 18, 2026, granted a further 60-day extension.

Patton said the Nagaland government was closely monitoring developments in the disputed belt and coordinating with Assam authorities to prevent further confrontations. He said mechanisms were also in place to ensure that any future eviction or plantation activity in the disputed area would not be undertaken unilaterally but through coordination between officials of Nagaland and Assam. (PTI)

36,000 IDPs resettled

the issue should be viewed without any political considerations. The ethnic conflict that erupted in May 2023 between the valley-based Meitei and the hill-based Kuki communities has so far claimed at least 306 lives, with 49 people still missing and thousands rendered homeless. (PTI)

Himanta reviews infrastructure

The review meeting was attended by chief secretary Dr Ravi Kota, director general of Police Harmeet Singh, additional chief secretary, Home Department, Ajay Tiwari, senior police officers, senior officers of the Public Works Department and representatives of the agencies engaged in the execution of the projects.

31-member parliamentary panel

the ruling party in the Lok Sabha. Congress' Lok Sabha members who are part of the panel are Anto Antony, Captain Viriato Fernandes, Muhammad Hamdullah Sayeed and Kali Charan Munda.

Zia Ur Rehman (SP), Kalyan Banerjee (TMC), A Raja (DMK), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), Naresh Ganpat Mhaske (Shiv Sena), Kaushalendra Kumar (JD-U), Supriya Sule (NCP-SP) and E T Mohammed Basheer (IUML) are other members of the panel from the Rajya Sabha. From the Rajya Sabha, the BJP's C Sadanandan Master, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Ujjwal Deoraor Nikam, Alka Gurjar and Sat Paul Sharma are members of the panel.

Pratul Patel (NCP), Sanjay Kumar Jha (JD-U), Christopher Manickam (Congress), Menaka Guruswamy (TMC) and P Wilson (DMK) are the other members of the panel from the Rajya Sabha.

The committee has been asked to submit its report to the Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the Winter session of Parliament. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25 and proposes tighter government oversight over non-governmental organisations and foreign funding in the country.

It seeks to create a designated authority to manage and dispose of assets if an organisation loses its FCRA licence. Opposition parties have alleged that certain provisions of the Bill could affect legitimate foreign funding for Christian NGOs and minority-run social welfare and educational institutions. The government has maintained that the proposed legislation is not religion-specific and is aimed at regulating foreign contributions.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhuma had earlier urged the Centre to refer the Bill to a joint committee for detailed examination, while Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma had also raised concerns over its provisions with the Centre. (PTI)

Govt mulls social media code

The amendments were made on February 10 this year to the IT Rules 2021 to strengthen the regulatory framework to address harms arising from synthetically generated information (SGI), including deepfakes and AI-generated content.

"Strengthening of timelines for compliance, including reduced timelines for removal of unlawful information upon actual knowledge upon valid reasoned intimation from the appropriate government or court orders (timeline reduced from 36 hours to 3 hours) and for grievance redressal (including special categories such as nudity/impersonation etc) (timeline reduced from 72 hours to 36 hours and 24 hours to 2 hours for sensitive matters, respectively)," an official statement issued on August 6 said. (PTI)

slice expands physical footprint with new bank branch on Zoo Road

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 3: slice, India's digital and AI-native bank, has launched a new bank branch on Zoo Road in Guwahati, marking an expansion of its physical presence in the Northeast.

The branch was formally inaugurated by Samir Sawhney, who was recently appointed Executive Director of the bank.

The Zoo Road branch is designed as a technology-led banking facility, combining

slice's AI-native infrastructure with in-person services.

Customers will be able to access digital banking services as well as human assistance at the branch.

The launch is part of slice's strategy to strengthen its presence in Northeast India, which the bank has identified as a priority growth market.

The new branch is intended to complement its mobile-first banking proposition by bringing technology-enabled banking services closer to customers while retaining the accessibility of a physical branch.

The branch will offer a range of banking services, including savings and current accounts, secured and unsecured lending products, and slice's AI-powered financial tools. These services are backed by the bank's proprietary core banking infrastructure.

With the new facility, customers in and around Zoo Road will have access to slice's expanding branch network alongside its digital banking platform.

CA K P Sarda elected Tax Bar Association Guwahati president

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 3: Chartered Accountant K P Sarda has been elected president of the Tax Bar Association, Guwahati, for the 2026-27 term, coinciding with the association's 50th year of establishment.

The election was finalised at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Tax Bar Association, Guwahati, held on September 2 at Hotel Nandan in Paltan Bazar.

The newly elected office-bearers include advocate Dharmendra Kumar Jain as first vice-president, CS Chandra Shekhar Sharma as second vice-president, CA Akash Jain as secretary, CS Sudha Sarma as joint secretary and CA Rakesh Kumar Agarwala as treasurer.

Immediate past president CA Pankaj Khandelwal felicitated Sarda and formally handed over charge to the new president, marking the beginning of the new leadership's tenure.

The Tax Bar Association represents professionals involved in taxation matters, including Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries, Cost Accountants, advocates and tax consultants, primarily



from the Northeast.

The association provides a platform for knowledge sharing and professional development and works towards safeguarding the interests of taxpayers and tax professionals.

Five members have also been co-opted for the new term. They are CA Purshotam Garggar, CS Narayan Sharma, CA Amit Kumar Agarwala, CA Dhanraj Kankani and advocate Mahipal Singh.

Members of the association conveyed their best wishes to Sarda and the newly elected team and expressed confidence that the new leadership would carry forward the association's traditions while contributing to its continued professional growth and development.

Haier India launches Mini LED M70 Series TVs

HT Bureau
GUWAHATI, Sept 3: Haier Appliances India has expanded its Mini LED television portfolio with the launch of the M70 Series, offering advanced picture, audio, gaming and smart-TV features for the Indian market.

The new series combines Mini LED technology with intelligent Micro Dimming and Haier's AI Picture Quality engine, which optimises brightness, contrast, colour, motion and detail in real time across different types of content.

The range also supports Dolby Vision and HDR10+ for enhanced contrast, dynamic range and picture detail.

The M70 Series is available in 43-inch, 55-inch, 65-inch, 75-inch and 85-inch screen sizes, with prices start-

ing at ₹39,190. The models are available through leading retail outlets across India. Haier is offering a three-year warranty on the range.

The televisions offer up to 93% DCI-P3 colour gamut coverage, while a 50W 2.1-channel speaker system with an integrated subwoofer is designed to deliver deeper bass and clearer vocals.

Dolby Atmos and Total Sonics technologies further enhance the audio experience.

For fast-moving content, the M70 Series incorporates MEMC technology.

Gaming-focused features include Gaming 120Hz, Variable Refresh Rate (VRR), Auto Low Latency Mode (ALLM), MEMC and a dedicated Gaming Bar.

The Gaming Bar provides access to refresh-rate information, gaming modes and display settings, along with features such as Shadow Enhancement and Crosshair Assist.

The range runs on Google TV and integrates Google Gemini for voice-assisted interactions.

It also supports hands-free voice control, HiCast screen mirroring and Bluetooth Speaker Mode, allowing users to stream music through the television even when the display is switched off.

Powered by 2GB RAM and 32GB storage, the M70 Series is designed for responsive navigation and multitasking.

The televisions also feature TÜV Rheinland-certified Low Blue Light technology and a premium unibody design with slim bezels.

Commenting on the launch, NS Satish, CEO, Haier Appliances India, said the television category was entering a new phase driven by consumers seeking immersive and intelligently connected entertainment experiences.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Miss Hunali Englengpi, D/o-Kamalsing Engleng, aged about 36 years, resident of Rongchitum, P.O. & P.S. Diphu, district Karbi Anglong, Assam, solemnly affirm and declare that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Sonali Englengpi" in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5139 9387 2674 and Voter Identity Card bearing No. HYG1497183. Whereas my correct and actual name is Hunali Englengpi.

Therefore both the names Sonali Englengpi and Hunali Englengpi refer to one and the same person, i.e. myself.

I swear this affidavit before the Notary Public, District Judiciary Court, Diphu on 2nd September, 2026.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri. Satjang Doungel, S/o Thongpao Doungel, a resident of Naga Chang, P.O. Dhanisripur, P.S. Diphu, district Karbi Anglong, Assam, solemnly affirm and declare that my actual name is Satjang Doungel, but in my AADHAAR CARD, bearing No. 7412 7564 7665 it has been inadvertently recorded as Lamakholet instead of my actual name Satjang Doungel.

Both the names Satjang Doungel and Lamakholet are not of different identical, but the names of same and single person i.e. myself.

I swear this affidavit before the Notary Public Diphu Court, Diphu on 02nd September, 2025.

NO. KDB/BTC/15th FC (T)/NIT/2026-27/1348
Date 31/08/2026
PRESS NOTICE
Tender No.KDB/BTC/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 Ode System at Bashbari FB Unit III (Activity Code-128501768) 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 Ode System at Bashbari FB Unit-III." (Activity Code-128501759) under the award of 15th 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.

IPR(BTC)/C/2026-27/1517

Sd/- Block Development Officer,
Kokrajhar Dev. Block, Titaguri

Leaders recall 1986 Bokajan police firing, demand early resumption of tripartite talks on Autonomous State

ASDC observes Anti-State Terrorism Day in Diphu

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 3: The Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC), along with its frontal organisations Karbi Students' Association (KSA), Karbi Nimso Chingthur Asong (KNCA) and ASDC Youth Front, observed Anti-State Terrorism Day here on Thursday to commemorate the police firing on protesters at Bokajan on September 3, 1986, during the Autonomous State movement.

Party workers and supporters, including members of the KSA and KNCA from different parts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong, participated in the programme held below the flyover near the main entrance of the Karbi Anglong Sports Association (KASA) stadium.

Participants raised slogans such as "No Autonomous State, No Rest", "Long Live ASDC", "Long Live KSA" and "Long Live KNCA", while reiterating their opposition to what they described as government delaying tactics in implementing Article 244(A) of the Constitution for granting an Autonomous State.

Former ASDC presidents and former Assam minister Holiram Terang



and Chandra Kanta Terang attended the programme.

Floral tributes were paid to those who died and those who sustained bullet injuries in the Bokajan police firing.

A banner at the venue carried the message, "We will not allow the blood shed by our brothers and sisters to go in vain."

A memorial board displayed the names and details of those who died or sustained bullet injuries during the movement, besides those of victims

of custodial deaths.

Addressing the gathering, former ASDC president Holiram Terang, who was among the frontline leaders of the movement, said the day was observed annually to remember those who had sacrificed their lives for the cause of an Autonomous State.

Terang alleged that Karbi Anglong's rich natural resources had drawn the government's interest in their exploitation rather than in addressing the long-standing demand for an Autonomous State.

Recalling the 1986 movement, he appealed to the people to revive its spirit and continue the struggle under the leadership of the ASDC, KSA and KNCA.

ASDC president Sonasing Terang said the organisation was formed on May 17, 1986, and subsequently organised a massive rally on June 26 that year, attended by around 20,000 people from Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, to chalk out the future course of the agitation.

He said the ASDC, KSA and KNCA had called a 36-hour bandh in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao on September 3 and 4, 1986, demanding that the state and central governments grant an Autonomous State.

According to Sonasing Terang, on the first day of the bandh, hundreds of peaceful protesters marched towards the then Cement Corporation of India (CCI) factory at Bokajan to close its gate.

A confrontation subsequently broke out between police and protesters, leading to police firing in which several protesters, including movement leaders, sustained bullet injuries.

He said several people, including Sing Killing, died from injuries sustained in the firing.

"The Anti-State Terrorism Day is observed to remember those leaders who sacrificed their lives for the cause of an Autonomous State and to renew our pledge to carry forward the movement until the demand is fulfilled," Sonasing Terang said.

On the delay in resuming official talks on the Autonomous State demand, Sonasing Terang alleged that the state government was adopting delaying tactics.

He said the government had assured the ASDC that it would arrange a tripartite dialogue involving the Centre, state government and ASDC representatives, but the proposed talks had yet to materialise.

"The State government should keep its promise and arrange the tripartite talks at the earliest to resolve the long-standing demand of the people of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao for an Autonomous State," he said. Former ASDC president Chandra Kanta Terang, general secretary Jotson Bey and other leaders also addressed the gathering.

4th Mithun Day celebrated in Haflong with national seminar

Experts deliberate on integrated mithun farming and strategies to strengthen the sector across Northeast

HT Correspondent

HAFLONG, Sept 3: The fourth Mithun Day, themed "Celebrating the Pride of the Hills", was observed at the District Library Auditorium in Haflong, Dima Hasao, on Thursday with a national seminar on "Integrated Mithun Farming in Dima Hasao" and a roundtable meeting on the "Development of Mithun Sector in the North Eastern Region (NER)".

The programme brought together policymakers, scientists, researchers, government officials, livestock experts and other stakeholders to deliberate on the sustainable development of mithun farming and ways to strengthen the sector across the Northeast.

Assam minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary and Fisheries, Nilima Devi, attended the programme as the chief guest.

Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC), and Gabriel D Wangsu, minister in the Arunachal Pradesh government, were the guests of honour.

Haflong MLA Rupali Langthasa was also present.

Nilima Devi said mithun was a rare treasure and an important part of the identity, biodiversity and traditions of the hill region.

She expressed happiness at gaining greater knowledge about the animal during the programme.

DHAC CEM Debolal Gorlosa said the council was committed to promoting research, conservation and support for farmers to make mithun rearing sustainable and economically viable.

He urged farmers from Laisong and neighbouring villages, where mithun is commonly reared, to make full use of the expertise of scientists and resource persons attending the seminar.

Gabriel D Wangsu stressed the need to protect and promote mithun rearing, highlighting its deep cultural and traditional significance among tribal communities.

Describing mithun as a "gentle giant" and a symbol of environmental health, he said its presence was closely linked to a healthy natural ecosystem.

He also expressed happiness that

the programme was being held in Haflong.

Among those who addressed the gathering were Manjit Langthasa, Executive Member, DHAC, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary; Dr Girish Patel S, Director, ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun; Dr N Kalita, Vice-Chancellor, Assam Veterinary and Fisheries University, Khanapara; Dr KM Bujarbaruah, former Deputy Director General (Agricultural Sciences), ICAR, and former Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University; and Dr Raghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi.

The speakers emphasised that mithun is not merely livestock but also an important part of tribal identity, heritage and social prestige, and stressed the need for its preservation.

During the inaugural session, the dignitaries formally inaugurated an exhibition and interacted with participating departments and stakeholders. The exhibition showcased various activities, initiatives and developments relating to mithun husbandry and allied sectors.

The national seminar focused on the potential of integrated mithun farming in Dima Hasao, with discussions covering improved production systems, scientific management, livelihood opportunities and value addition.

The roundtable meeting provided a platform for experts and representatives from across the region to discuss strategies for the development and promotion of the mithun sector in the Northeast.

The technical session resumed after lunch at 2 pm and focused on strategies for developing the mithun sector in the Northeast.

The discussions included shifting mithun production from free-range to semi-intensive systems, promoting commercial mithun production, and strengthening vaccination and insurance coverage.

The programme was organised by ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema, Nagaland, in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research and the Dima Hasao Veterinary Department.

Bodo Sahitya Sabha mourns former Karbi Anglong district president Shantiram Basumatary



HT Correspondent

HOWRAGHAT, Sept 3: A pall of gloom descended over the Langhin area following the death of Shantiram Basumatary, former president of the Karbi Anglong District Bodo Sahitya Sabha and a resident of Langhin Sonarjan village.

Basumatary breathed his last at 7 am on Wednesday after battling a prolonged illness.

A prominent community leader and retired teacher, Basumatary had also served as secretary of the Karbi Anglong District Bodo Students' Union.

At the central level, he was a member of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha's central committee and served on the jury board for the Bodo-language section of the Sahitya Akademi.

An accomplished author and playwright, Basumatary made significant contributions to Bodo literature through his short stories and plays.

He was also actively associated with theatre and various socio-cultural organisations.

Following news of his demise, the Bodo Sahitya Sabha flew its flag at half-mast at its Karbi Anglong district headquarters and several primary branch offices as a mark of respect.

His mortal remains were draped in the official Bodo Sahitya Sabha flag and taken out in a solemn funeral procession.

Leaders of prominent Bodo organisations from across Karbi Anglong had visited his residence to pay their final respects and convey condolences to the bereaved family.

Cachar set for first ASUSE survey, 48 villages and urban blocks selected

HT Correspondent

SILCHAR, Sept 3: Cachar district is set to witness the first Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) in Assam, with 48 villages and urban blocks selected for the field exercise.

The survey is being conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), Government of Assam, through its district and sub-divisional offices under the guidance of the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India.

The exercise will generate data on unincorporated non-agricultural establishments and their contribution to Assam's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The information collected will also be used for various statistical and economic purposes.

In Cachar, 48 sample locations

comprising rural villages and urban blocks have been selected.

These include parts of wards under the Silchar Municipal Corporation as well as other municipal areas. Enumerators and supervisors from the Office of the Deputy Director of Economics and Statistics, Cachar, Silchar, will visit the selected locations to collect information from establishments covered under the survey.

The field personnel will interact with respondents and collect the required details in accordance with the prescribed survey methodology.

Officials said cooperation from respondents and local communities would be crucial for ensuring accurate data collection and completing the exercise within the stipulated period.

The Economics and Statistics department has appealed to residents, business establishments and other

stakeholders in the selected areas to extend all possible cooperation to the enumerators and supervisors during their field visits.

People have also been requested to help create awareness about the survey and facilitate the field teams in the data collection process.

Officials said the data generated through the survey would provide a clearer picture of economic activities undertaken by unincorporated establishments in the non-agricultural sector.

It would also help assess the sector's contribution to the state's economy and provide inputs for economic analysis and planning.

The Deputy Director of Economics and Statistics, Cachar, Silchar, has appealed to all concerned to cooperate with the field teams and help ensure the smooth and successful completion of the survey.

NFR completes restoration of Line Nos 2 and 3 at New Harangajao

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 3: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has completed restoration work on Line Nos 2 and 3 at New Harangajao station following the settlement of railway tracks, allowing train operations to be progressively normalised through the section.

According to NFR, train movement through Line Nos 2 and 3 is being restored with enhanced safety measures to facilitate smoother operations.

Restoration work on Line No 1 near New Harangajao station is also progressing on a priority basis.

In view of the ongoing restoration activities, NFR has announced additional changes to train services.

Train 15615 Guwahati-Silchar Express, scheduled to commence its journey on September 4, has been cancelled.

Train 15650 Narangi-Agartala Express, scheduled to commence its journey on September 4, has been rescheduled to depart from Narangi at 6.30 pm.

Train 20507 Sairang-Anand Vihar Terminal Express, scheduled to commence its journey on September 4, has been rescheduled to depart from Sairang at 8.10 pm.

Integrated outreach programme held in Diphu on drug abuse, child marriage

HT Bureau

DIPHU, Sept 3: An Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme focusing on the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (Substance Abuse Free India) and Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat (Child Marriage Free India) campaigns was held at the auditorium of Klirpad Sankardev Sishu Niketan in Diphu on Thursday.

The programme was organised by the Diphu Field Office of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with Klirpad Sankardev Sishu Niketan.

Bikash Rajbongshi, officer-in-charge of the CBC Field Office, Diphu, anchored the proceedings.

Dr Kadambini Terangpi, head of the Department of History at Diphu Government College, attended the programme as the chief guest and spoke about the social and health implications of substance abuse and child marriage.

Terangpi said drug addiction undermined the foundation of a healthy society, while child marriage remained a deep-rooted social



problem that curtailed individual growth and legal rights. She urged students, teachers and parents to take an active role in spreading awareness across the district.

She stressed that the two national campaigns could become a reality only through the participation and cooperation of households and communities.

Students of the host institution presented poetry recitations, thematic songs and a dramatic play highlighting the destructive impact of drug addiction on individuals and

families.

The performances received appreciation from the audience for conveying the message of the campaigns.

The programme concluded with the distribution of prizes and certificates to students who participated in various awareness activities and cultural performances.

Acharjya Shrawan Teron, other faculty members of the institution, local residents and a large number of students attended the programme.

Loan broker racket active in Nagaon; customers allegedly duped of lakhs

HT Correspondent

NAGAON, Sept 3: A suspected racket involving loan brokers is allegedly operating in parts of Nagaon district, with several people claiming to have been duped in the name of arranging bank loans.

According to information received, a number of bank customers have allegedly been left in financial distress after falling prey to such brokers.

Victims claimed that after loans worth lakhs of rupees were sanctioned and disbursed through the brokers, the intermediaries fled with the money before the customers could access it. The victims alleged that the brokers lure customers with assurances of quick loan processing, allegedly with the connivance of some bank officials and employees.

They claimed that while ordinary people often struggle to obtain bank loans, the brokers promise to facilitate the process for a fee.

In a recent case under Nagaon Sadar Police Station, a man from the Gadaria Karayani area on the outskirts of Nagaon town has been accused of allegedly defrauding several

people in the name of arranging bank loans. The accused, locally known as Bubuli Bora, has been identified as Bhaskar Bora.

Victims alleged that even after loans were disbursed, Bora would retain customers' ATM cards and subsequently withdraw the loan amounts deposited in their accounts.

Some victims were reportedly forced to sell land and other property to repay the loans.

It has also been alleged that the accused took away gold ornaments from several loan seekers on the pretext of depositing them with banks for availing loans. Several victims have reportedly lodged FIRs at the Nagaon Town Itachali Police Outpost in connection with the alleged fraud.

However, the accused is currently absconding and police have so far been unable to arrest him.

The victims have demanded his immediate arrest and a thorough investigation into the alleged racket.

They have also sought an inquiry into the possible involvement of bank officials and employees in the alleged activities.

West Karbi Anglong woman joins police service as DSP

HT Correspondent

BAITHALANGSO, Sept 3: A proud moment unfolded in West Karbi Anglong as Kajeso Terangpi of Baithalangsang joined the Assam Police as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), marking a significant milestone in her career.

Terangpi, daughter of Dhansing Terang and Kare Rongpippi, successfully completed 18 months of rigorous training and discipline before taking up her new responsibility.

A passing-out parade for newly trained police personnel, including Deputy Superintendents of Police and Communication Branch constables, was held on September 2 at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon.

Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended the ceremony, reviewed the parade and extended his best wishes to the newly trained personnel.

Terangpi's achievement has brought immense joy and pride to her family, relatives and well-wishers across West Karbi Anglong.

Her success after months of dedicated preparation has also emerged as an example of determination and perseverance for young people in the hill district.

Liver transplant needed to save Howraghat man, family seeks financial aid

HT Correspondent

HOWRAGHAT, Sept 3: Chandan Chauhan, a resident of Rongkrut Chauhan village near Howraghat, is battling for his life after a prolonged struggle with liver cirrhosis, with doctors advising an urgent liver transplant.

Chauhan has undergone treatment in Nagaon, Guwahati and Hyderabad, but his condition has reportedly not improved significantly.

Medical specialists have estimated that the liver transplant and associated procedures could cost around ₹35-40 lakh.

For Chauhan's financially distressed family, arranging the amount has become a major challenge.

The family has already sold its remaining land and property to meet the expenses of his earlier treatment and is now struggling to raise funds for the transplant.

Seeking assistance, the family has submitted appeals for financial aid to Howraghat MLA Lunsing Teron and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Chief Executive Member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang.

The family has also appealed directly to Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, urging the state government to intervene on compassionate grounds and provide the necessary medical and financial assistance.

With the transplant considered urgent, the family has appealed to philanthropic organisations, community groups and individuals to extend financial support to help save Chauhan's life.

Those willing to assist the family may contact them at 96781 01127 or 86383 97028.

Contributions can be made to Manisha Chauhan, Chauhan's wife, through her State Bank of India account: 40216417987, IFSC SBIN0003050.

Eviction drive against forest land encroachment in Baksa

HT Correspondent

KOKRAJHAR, Sept 3: A joint eviction drive by the police and Forest Department was conducted at Karaibari village under the Salbari Range in Baksa district on Thursday to clear alleged encroachment on forest land.

During the operation, the joint team evicted a tea plantation that had reportedly been established on Forest Department land.

According to reports, some people had been cultivating tea on the encroached land for a considerable period. Tea plants had been planted across around 10 bighas of forest land as part of the alleged encroachment.

The situation turned tense when a group of alleged encroachers reportedly resisted the eviction team and obstructed police personnel from carrying out their duties.

Arguments broke out between the group and police and Forest Department officials.

In view of the tense situation, the eviction operation was suspended midway.

Two-day programme focuses on advanced diagnostics, updated treatment protocols, community care and public-private collaboration

Assam TB officials undergo state-level training to accelerate elimination drive

HT Bureau

GUWAHATI, Sept 3: The State TB Cell, Assam, organised a two-day state-level training programme for district tuberculosis officials to strengthen field operations and accelerate the state's efforts towards tuberculosis elimination.

Held on September 2 and 3 at Hotel Grand Bhabendra Alay in Guwahati, the training was organised under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) and brought together District TB Officers (DTOs) and Public-Private Mix (PPM) Coordinators from all districts.

Officials from the State TB Cell, State NTEP, World Health Organization (WHO) consultants and development partners also participated.

The programme focused on four key areas—advanced diagnostics, updated treatment protocols, grass-



roots community care and public-private collaboration.

The sessions covered updated screening and rapid molecular testing strategies for early detection of TB cases at the district level.

Officials were also oriented on

updated, evidence-based clinical workflows aimed at improving treatment adherence and recovery rates.

The training also emphasised strengthening local healthcare delivery systems to ensure continuous

nutritional and medical support for TB patients, besides improving collaboration with private healthcare providers for case notification, treatment tracking and monitoring.

Dr Pradip Kr Das, Director of Health Services (in-charge), Assam, attended the technical sessions and stressed the importance of proactive leadership at the district level in removing barriers to TB care.

Das urged the officials to ensure effective implementation of the updated protocols to help eliminate the disease across communities.

The State TB Cell said that equipping field-level officials with updated clinical information and harmonised monitoring tools would strengthen Assam's efforts under the national TB elimination programme and support progress towards the country's elimination targets.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Self-love is the source of all our other loves
- Pierre Corneille

Education and aspirations

Nearly 8.7 crore Indians between the ages of 15 and 29 are neither studying, working, nor undergoing any form of training. That figure, roughly equal to the population of Germany, comes from a recent NITI Aayog assessment of the country's NEET population, those not in education, employment or training. For a nation that repeatedly describes its young population as a demographic dividend, the number is a serious warning. Close to one crore young Indians enter the workforce every year. The challenge is not a shortage of people. It is a shortage of productive work that matches their education and aspirations. The education-to-employment pipeline has become an obstacle course. Barely 8 per cent of graduates find jobs that actually correspond to their degrees. For many from low-income families the costs are especially harsh. Families already stretch to pay for college, private tuition, books, transport and accommodation. They are then told to enrol in skill courses that require still more money. The person who least can afford unemployment is asked to pay extra simply to become employable. Three traditional pathways are narrowing. Government jobs remain highly prized, yet paper leaks, repeated postponements of examinations and limited vacancies have jammed that door. Private sector entry-level hiring, particularly in information technology, has contracted sharply, by nearly 80 per cent in some recent years, as companies increasingly rely on automation and artificial intelligence.

The foundations of the problem begin in the classroom. Earlier NITI Aayog findings recorded more than one lakh schools without electricity, a similar number without functioning toilets for girls, and large numbers of single teacher schools where one person handles every subject and every grade. India has never approached the long-promised target of spending 6 per cent of GDP on education. Many college curricula continue to prepare students for an economy that no longer exists. When the base is weak, higher education and job readiness suffer. Economists who examine the data carefully reject the claim that no jobs are being created. Growth in cement and steel volumes, construction activity, real-estate sales and automobile demand demonstrates that economic activity is generating employment.

In addition to the one crore new entrants each year, there is substantial hidden unemployment in agriculture, under-employment among those already working, and a rising number of women who now have the time, mobility and desire to work but cannot find suitable opportunities. Creating enough productive work for every new entrant plus those already waiting would require sustained real growth closer to 9.5-10 per cent, an extremely high bar for an economy of India's size and for an economy of India's size and complexity.

The Janmashtami of Lord Shri Krishna

The birth of Lord Shri Krishna in the ancient Sanatana traditions, history and philosophy of India represents a fundamental symbol of social and political transformation. Towards the end of the Dvapara Yuga, the conflicts among the Yadava groups centred around Mathura, the internal power struggles among the Bhojas and Andhakas, and the rise of the authoritarian rule of Kansa under the instigation of Jarasandha, the expansionist ruler of Magadha, had brought intense political instability throughout northern India. Kansa's imprisonment of his father Ugrasena and seizure of the throne had destroyed the established principles and norms of monarchy. In such an extremely critical environment, Shri Krishna appeared as the eighth child of Vasudeva and Devaki on the eighth lunar day of the dark fortnight of the month of Bhadra, in conjunction with the Rohini Nakshatra. This particular sacred occasion later came to be revered as Janmashtami or Krishna Janmashtami. According to the Puranic narrative, the prophecy that the destroyer of Kansa would emerge from Devaki's womb created fear in the mind of the authoritarian ruler. To prevent this, a cruel system of killing newborn children had been established. The journey of Vasudeva, who carried the newborn Krishna to the village of cowherds, Gokul, through the turbulent waters of the Yamuna amid a violent midnight storm, clearly reflects the process through which the protective shield of power shifted from the centre of authority to the ordinary producing classes.



DEGREE OF THOUGHT
By: Himangshu Ranjan Bhuyan

A deep analysis of the historical background of Shri Krishna's birth and childhood reveals the story of the institutional protection of an agricultural and pastoral economy against feudal oppression. Vrindavan and Gokul, where Shri Krishna was raised in the house of Nanda and Yashoda, were primarily societies centred on dairy production and animal husbandry. During that period, Kansa's royal court imposed excessive taxes on dairy products and livestock. In his childhood, Shri Krishna organised the

cowherds and milkmaids of Gokul and taught them to stop sending milk and butter to Kansa and instead provide nourishment to the local children. The decision to stop the worship of Indra and introduce the worship of Govardhan Hill was a revolutionary practical step in favour of the natural ecosystem and the hardworking farming community. The message of respecting the mountain that represented agricultural fields and grazing grounds for cattle, while preventing waste in the name of Vedic rituals and ceremonies, strengthened productive forces.

The suppression of Putana, Bakasura, Aghasura and Keshi, the spies and assassins sent by Kansa, was a strategy of defence. These struggles were not isolated incidents; rather, they represented local resistance aimed at liberating the rural economy from centralised exploitation. Finally, when Kansa conspired to kill Krishna and Balarama by inviting them to Mathura under the pretext of a Dhanuryajna, Krishna overthrew the conspiracy and killed Kansa in the royal court, bringing an end to the tyrannical rule. After killing Kansa, Krishna did not occupy the throne himself but restored the imprisoned elderly Ugrasena as king, which clearly demonstrates that his objective was not to seize the state but to restore a democratic and just system of governance.

After the political transformation of Mathura, repeated attacks by Jarasandha disrupted the security of the Yadavas. At such a time, Krishna strategically left Mathura and established a new city, Dwarka, on the western coast. The system of governance in Dwarka was one of the finest examples of the ancient Indian republican or confederate form of governance. Against the backdrop of the political developments of the Mahabharata, Krishna played a central role as a key actor. In the face of the authoritarian conspiracy of the contemporary Kuru dynasty, represented by the blind Dhritrashtra, the arrogant Duryodhana and the unscrupulous Shakuni, the Pandavas stood as symbols of justice. From the heinous crime of the

disrobing of Draupadi in the Kaurava court to all the injustices associated with the game of dice, Krishna stood on the side of Dharma. Before war between the Kauravas and Pandavas became inevitable, Krishna himself went to Hastinapura as a peace envoy and employed the highest level of political diplomacy by asking for five villages in an effort to avoid a bloody war. Only after Duryodhana rejected that final attempt at a ceasefire did Krishna prepare the Pandavas for the great war of Kurukshetra. On the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Krishna became Arjuna's charioteer and guide after promising not to take up any weapon. His act of sitting in the seat of a charioteer clearly demonstrates that he was not merely a warrior but the intellectual and strategic driver of the entire course of events.

The teachings on duty and philosophy that Shri Krishna imparted to the grief-stricken Arjuna, who wished to abandon his weapons after seeing relatives, elders and teachers standing before him on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, constitute the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. The confluence of Jnana, Karma and Bhakti Yoga reflected in the Gita provided ancient Indian thought with a strong theoretical foundation. Shri Krishna explained to Arjuna that performing one's own duty and responsibility while renouncing attachment to the expectation of results is the highest responsibility of an individual. The concept of Nishkama Karma does not advocate blind religious orthodoxy; rather, it argues in favour of reason and social responsibility. By describing the soul as imperishable and the body as mortal, he explained that a war fought against injustice was not personal violence but an unavoidable historical obligation to preserve morality and social order. He declared the Varma-Ashrama system to be a classification based not on birth but on qualities and actions, which was a revolutionary reform against social stagnation. In the Gita, Shri Krishna established himself as the Supreme Being of the universe and revealed the universal form, presenting the profound truth of the unity of existence and equal vision. This philosophical doctrine showed human beings the path to spiritual liberation through an active life of action rather than passive renunciation.



The role of Shri Krishna and Janmashtami in the social and cultural history of Assam is extremely far-reaching. The principal deity worshipped in the Ekasharana Namaharma of Neo-Vaishnavism, initiated by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva and Madhavdeva in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, is Shri Krishna. The Satras and Namghars spread across Assam became centres for the singing and glorification of Shri Krishna. Sankardeva translated the Bhagavata Purana into Assamese verse and brought the stories of Krishna to ordinary people. His Ankiya Nats, such as 'Cihna Yatra', 'Kaliya Daman', 'Patni Prasad', 'Rukmini Haran' and 'Parijata Haran', enriched Assamese literature and theatrical art immensely. On Janmashtami, the sounds of Borgeet, Bhaona and Naam-Prasanga in Satras and village Namghars create a profound spiritual atmosphere. The tradition of presenting scenes from Devaki's childbirth to Nandotsava through Bhaona has become an inseparable part of Assamese folk culture. The Krishna-centred Vaishnavite movement played a major role in bringing people of all social groups together on the platform of the Namghar and freeing Assamese national life from caste discrimination, untouchability and sacrificial practices.

Within the geographical boundaries of India, the celebration of Janmashtami has taken diverse regional cultural forms. In Mathura and Vrindavan in northern India, special worship, Jhula Mahotsav and Raslila are organised in temples on this occasion. In western India, particularly in Maharashtra, the Dahi Handi festival is celebrated on a large scale in memory of Krishna's childhood butter stealing and his participation with his compan-

ions in breaking the hanging pot. The traditional competition of forming human pyramids to break a butter pot suspended at a considerable height represents an example of collective solidarity and physical exercise. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala in southern India, small footprints of a newborn child are drawn with rice flour from the entrance of a house to the place of worship, symbolising the welcoming of Krishna's arrival into the home. At the Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, the birth narrative of Krishna is enacted through special rituals and ceremonies on this sacred occasion. In Manipur, Raslila and the worship of Krishna are performed through Manipuri classical dance. Thus, despite differences in local customs, folk arts and rituals, Janmashtami has continued to function as a common medium that binds the entire country through a shared cultural bond.

From a historical and philosophical perspective, Shri Krishna was a complete personality who worked tirelessly to purify the social order while remaining within all the complexities of worldly life. His life was a long sequence of conflicts, challenges and crises, in which he placed justice, duty and moral consciousness above personal relationships at every step. The significance of Janmashtami is not confined merely to fasting or celebration; rather, its underlying meaning is the eternal resolve to overcome all forms of injustice, authoritarianism and stagnation within oneself and society and to establish truth and Dharma. The ideals of equal vision, non-violence and social equality embodied in the character of Shri Krishna remain an enduring intellectual heritage of ancient Indian thought and continue to be discussed in intellectual circles even today.

Janmashtami: From celebration to transformation

By: MR Lahu

Lord Krishna, I have always believed, represents one of the most complete expressions of divinity in the Hindu pantheon, exemplifying multiple human characteristics such as childhood innocence, friendship, love, statesmanship, diplomacy, courage, strategy, detachment, duty and spiritual wisdom. He is, at the same time, Balgopal, Madhusudana, Govardhan-dhari, Parthasarathi and Jagadguru for a devotee. As yet another Janmashtami approaches, there is, as usual, spiritual jubilation across India. This is how celebrations run deep into our socio-spiritual system year after year. Our cultural diversity brings these festivities alive, offering numerous opportunities for Indians, irrespective of their socio-political differences, to participate in them. With these spiritually awakening festivities, we once again receive Lord Krishna, not merely into temples and other centers of worship, but into the main place which, as I conceive it, is the trust of all—our hearts. It is there that we need to prepare for His holistic reception with spiritual generosity and understanding.

We live in an era in which spiritual aspirations seem to be fading, paving the way for material comforts. Prayers, music and other rituals are often seen as means of fulfilling material aspirations making their impact momentary. There is rarely an attempt to invoke the Divine in a manner that actually helps us free ourselves from the prison of greed, ego and endless desires. Krishna comes to us through the Bhagavad Gita with profound doctrines that can liberate us from the complex mechanism called the world. Life, He tells us, should be lived with the understanding that hope can emerge even from the most difficult circumstances.

Krishna, born in the darkness of a prison, grew into a transformative presence in the civilizational history of India, reminding us that light does not always arrive when circumstances are favorable. From his very childhood, Krishna's life is portrayed as a continuing effort to uphold Dharma and overcome forces of evil. When it comes to the delivery of the Bhagavad Gita, He unequivocally declares this doctrine in a verse in which He says that He is born again and again for the re-establishment of Dharma. Dharma, He teaches, requires active restoration. Tracing His life from infancy to His role on the battlefield, we encounter innumerable instances through which Krishna shows us how divinity can become a way of life.

Despite His royal stature, He remained a devoted friend of Sudama and interacted with equal warmth with kings, warriors, cowherds, sages, women, ordinary villagers, friends and even opponents. He managed to live and interact with a world of extraordinary diversity. When He chose to participate in the Kurukshetra war as Arjuna's charioteer, His humility was on full display. Unmindful of His royal status, He remained a humble supporter of the Pandavas and helped them through some of their most difficult moments, with His extraordinary strategies working in their favor.

All He sought was the victory of Dharma. He dealt with the highly volatile situation between the Kauravas and Pandavas with a profound un-

derstanding of human psychology, diplomacy, timing, alliances, negotiation, warfare and strategy. He represents peace backed by moral courage and preparedness. While He aspired for peace, He was firm that peace could not be achieved by surrendering justice.

The life of Krishna is also a demonstration of the importance of time, particularly His understanding of when to act, when to wait, when to negotiate and when to confront. Throughout the Gita, Krishna made Arjuna realize that life was not simple. He took Arjuna through the realities of an imperfect world, which would inevitably make everyone pass through the realms of suffering, conflict, death, moral dilemmas and uncertainty.

Krishna is divine wisdom personified, and his life is its practical explanation. Life, in modern times, has become a deeply distracted exercise. People of all ages often miss the opportunity to extract the best from the incarnation of the Lord by delving into the divine sea of wisdom He has left for us.

Janmashtami is not, and should not be, a mere celebration for the sake of celebrating an event. Krishna brings us a golden opportunity to celebrate and imbibe the abundant spiritual wisdom contained in his divine discourses. To see life through the prism of modernity may, at times, give us comfort. But ultimate solace and fulfillment can be achieved through profound spiritual wisdom, and Krishna pours it out abundantly for us, both now and for generations to come. All that is conflicting and distracting in our lives in today's world—consumerism, instant gratification, social-media addiction, envy, comparison and status anxiety—finds an answer in Krishna's teachings. The Lord explains how uncontrolled desire can develop into anger and ultimately lead to the complete collapse of human life. Janmashtami should therefore also bring a moment of deep recognition of the paths of knowledge, devotion and selfless action. This trilogy, taken in its entirety, offers us a comprehensive philosophy of life—a complete package of solace. Krishna's relationship with the women in the Mahabharata and his intervention in moments of profound injustice also invite us to reflect on dignity, honour and their protection. His personality transcends conventional categories of human identity. His life and legacy are intertwined with the profound roles played by Devaki, Yashoda, Radha, Draupadi, Rukmini, Satyabhama and Kunti.

Essentially, Krishna's life and the sacred recital of the Bhagavad Gita hold immense relevance even today. From Arjuna's dilemma on the battlefield to the complexities of modern life; family problems, moral disruptions, fear of the future and struggles with identity—Krishna offers a key to each one of us. We only need to know how to use it, and we may find ourselves standing on a landscape of solutions.

Every Janmashtami should be a milestone—a reminder, a pause to reflect, and an occasion to prepare ourselves for the better. It should be a time for self-examination, self-discipline, service, compassion, devotion and inner transformation. Janmashtami should ultimately be a moment of rebirth: a rebirth from what I have been into what I truly ought to be.

The Midnight Miracle: The untold story of Janmashtami

The story of Janmashtami begins on a dark, stormy night in a dungeon in Mathura. The air inside the prison cell was cold and heavy with fear. Outside, thunder roared across the black sky, and the Yamuna River overflowed its banks in fury. Inside, a mother named Devaki held her breath. She had already lost seven newborn children to the cruel hands of her brother, King Kansa. Kansa was a tyrant driven mad by a prophecy. The prophecy had warned him that the eighth child of Devaki would bring his ultimate downfall. To protect his own power, Kansa had thrown his sister and her husband Vasudeva into chains. He watched them like a hawk, waiting to destroy every single baby born to them.



DEGREE OF THOUGHT
By: Satyabrata Borah

When the midnight hour arrived, the gloom of the prison vanished. A soft light filled the room, and Krishna was born. His skin had the rich hue of dark storm clouds, and his eyes held the quiet calm of the cosmos. Vasudeva knew he had to save this child. Miraculously, the heavy iron chains fell away from his wrists. The massive prison doors swung open, and the guards fell into a deep sleep. Vasudeva placed the tiny infant into a woven wicker basket and lifted it onto his head. He stepped out into the pouring rain and walked toward the churning river. The river rose high, its waters threatening to drown them both. Vasudeva kept walking with steady steps. A massive multi-headed serpent named Shesha emerged from the shadows, spreading its wide hood over the baby to shield him from the pouring rain. When Vasudeva touched the water, the river parted to give them a safe path. He crossed over to the peaceful village of Gokul. There, he reached the home of his friend Nanda and his wife Yashoda. Yashoda had just given birth to a baby girl and was fast asleep. Quietly, Vasudeva swapped the infants. He left his baby boy in Yashoda's warm arms and brought the baby girl back to the dungeon in Mathura.

When Kansa heard the newborn cry, he rushed into the cell to destroy the child. He grabbed the baby girl, but she slipped out of his hands and flew up into the sky. She transformed into a divine goddess and warned Kansa that his killer was already safe elsewhere. Kansa stood paralyzed with fear. The boy who would change the world was alive, growing up in a quiet village of cowherds.

Janmashtami is the celebration of this miraculous night. It marks the arrival of Krishna on Earth. People across the globe look forward to this day every year. The atmosphere becomes electric with joy and devotion. The preparation begins days before the actual festival. People scrub their homes clean and wash every corner. They paint colorful patterns on their doorsteps using rice flour. They

hang garlands of fresh mango leaves and bright marigolds across their entrances. These green leaves bring good energy and welcome the divine into the home.

On the day of the festival, people wake up before the sun rises. They take a bath and wear fresh, bright clothes. Many believers observe a fast for the entire day. Some do not eat anything at all. Others consume only water, fresh fruits, and simple milk dishes. Fasting is not just about skipping food. It is a way to clean the body and calm the mind. It helps people focus their thoughts on love, kindness, and devotion.

In every house, a small shrine is decorated with immense love. A tiny idol of baby Krishna, often called Laddu Gopal, is placed in a beautiful cradle. People dress the small idol in rich silk clothes decorated with tiny mirrors and gold threads. They place a delicate peacock feather in his crown and put a tiny wooden flute in his hand. The peacock feather is special because it represents purity and the beauty of nature. The flute represents the human heart, which becomes sweet when it is empty of ego.

Throughout the day, families gather to sing songs and chant holy verses. The sound of bells, cymbals, and drums fills the neighborhood. People talk about Krishna's childhood pranks and his sweet nature. As a child in Gokul, Krishna was full of energy and mischief. He loved fresh butter more than anything else in the world. His mother Yashoda would churn fresh milk into soft white butter every morning. She would hang the butter pots high up near the ceiling to keep them out of Krishna's reach.

Krishna was clever and resourceful. He would call his friends and build human pyramids to reach the high pots. One boy would stand on another's shoulders until the tallest child reached the top. They would break the clay pot and share the delicious butter among themselves. They even fed the extra butter to the neighborhood monkeys. When the village women came to complain to Yashoda, Krishna would look up at his mother with big innocent eyes. He would wipe the butter from his chin and claim he was completely innocent. His sweet smile made it impossible for anyone to stay angry with him for long.

Because of these childhood memories, the festival has a dynamic tradition called Dahi Handi. This event takes place on the day after Janmashtami, especially in places like Maharashtra. Young people gather in open street corners in large groups. They call themselves Govindas. A clay pot filled with curd, butter, fruits, and money is hung high above the ground between two buildings. Thousands of spectators line the streets to watch the grand event. Bands play fast drum beats that make everyone want to dance. The Govindas hold hands and form a wide

human circle at the base. Another group climbs onto their shoulders to form a second layer. They build higher and higher, layer by layer, while the crowd cheers. People standing on balconies splash buckets of cold water on the climbers to make the task harder.

The human pyramid sways and shakes. Sometimes it collapses into a big pile of laughter and arms, but the young people do not give up. They dust themselves off and try again. Finally, a small child climbs all the way to the very top. The child breaks the clay pot with a small coconut or a stick. The curd and butter shower down on everyone below. The crowd goes wild with cheers and clapping. This tradition teaches people about teamwork, trust, and resilience. No single person can reach the pot alone. Everyone must support each other from the bottom to the top.

As the evening approaches on Janmashtami, the energy inside homes and temples rises. Temples are decorated with glowing lights, colorful flowers, and rich fabrics. Beautiful setups depict scenes from Krishna's life. You can see models of cows, green pastures, rivers, and small clay figures of village people. Long lines of devotees stand outside temples for hours, waiting patiently for a brief glimpse of the deity.

In many homes, parents dress up their little children as Krishna and his companion Radha. Little boys wear bright yellow dhotis, peacock feathers in their hair, and carry tiny flutes. Little girls wear colorful skirts and shiny jewelry. Parents paint tiny footprints on the floor using a mix of rice paste and water. The footprints start from the outer entrance of the house and lead all the way to the prayer room. It looks as if baby Krishna himself has walked into the home, leaving his wet footprints behind. It fills the house with warmth and excitement.

Food plays a major role in the celebration. Since Krishna loved milk products, people prepare a variety of sweet dishes using milk, butter, and ghee. They make a special dish called Makhan Mishri, which is fresh unsalted butter mixed with rock sugar. They offer this simple mix to the deity first. They also make Panchamrit, a holy drink made from five ingredients: milk, yogurt, honey, sugar, and ghee. Other popular sweets include coarinder pinni, milk pedas, and kheer. All the food prepared on this day is vegetarian and cooked with pure thoughts.

The main worship happens at midnight. This is the precise time when Krishna was born. As twelve o'clock approaches, people gather around the decorated cradle. The room becomes quiet with anticipation. When the clock strikes midnight, a conch shell blows loudly to announce the birth. Bells ring continuously, and people break into joyful song.

The small idol of baby Krishna is taken out of the cradle. Devotees wash the idol lovingly with milk, honey, yogurt, rose water, and pure water. This ritual bath is

a symbol of love and respect. After the bath, the idol is dried with a soft towel and dressed in brand new clothes. Devotees place fresh flower garlands around his neck and apply sandalwood paste to his forehead.

Then comes the most gentle part of the night. The baby idol is placed back into the small wooden swing. Every person in the room gets a turn to pull the ribbon attached to the swing. They rock the tiny cradle back and forth softly, singing lullabies. People look at the small idol with deep affection, feeling as though a real baby has entered their lives. After the prayers and songs, the fast is broken. The holy food offered to the deity, called Prasad, is distributed to everyone present. Family members, neighbors, and strangers share the food together. All differences of age, wealth, and status disappear. Everyone sits on the same floor and eats the same food.

The teachings of Krishna add deep meaning to this festival. When Krishna grew up, he became a wise guide and a true friend. His conversations with his warrior friend Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra were written down in the Bhagavad Gita. This ancient text offers practical wisdom for daily human life. Krishna spoke about duty and action. He told Arjuna to focus on doing the right thing without constantly worrying about the outcome. Many people stress themselves out by thinking about success or failure. Krishna taught that a person should put honest effort into their work and leave the results to time. This simple lesson helps people reduce anxiety and live in the present moment.

He also spoke about love and devotion. Krishna accepted everyone who came to him with an open heart. He did not judge people by their wealth, education, or social position. He loved the rich prince and the poor cowherd equally. He even accepted simple dry flattened rice from his poor childhood friend Sudama with tears of joy. This story reminds us that true friendship and love do not depend on money or material things.

Janmashtami brings people together in a unique way. It breaks the monotony of daily routine and brings color to life. The festival carries a message of hope. It reminds us that truth and good principles eventually win over cruelty and evil. Kansa had immense physical power, soldiers, and weapons. Krishna was just a child born in a dark cell. The quiet power of love and righteousness proved stronger than all the weapons in the world.

When the festival ends, the lights slowly turn off, and people return to their daily routines. The sweet taste of the butter stays on their tongues, and the rhythmic sound of the bells continues to echo in their minds. People carry the spirit of the day into their regular lives. They try to be a little kinder, a little more patient, and a little more joyful. The story of the child born on a stormy night continues to warm hearts, year after year, century after century.

Bhagwat's USA message: Hindutva, harmony, diversity and one human family

By: Lalit Garg

To view Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat's visit to the United States in August 2026 merely as an outreach programme for the Indian diaspora would be to underestimate its wider significance. His address at the "One World, One Humanity" programme in New York on August 29 came at a time when the RSS has been the subject of diverse perceptions, allegations and ideological debates, not only in India but also abroad. Against this backdrop, the manner in which Bhagwat placed diversity, dialogue, service, coexistence and human unity at the centre of his message offered an opportunity to present the Sangh's worldview to global audiences from a different perspective. The significance of the visit is further enhanced by the fact that the RSS is observing its centenary year. Its ideas and its role in Indian public life are increasingly being discussed beyond India's borders. Bhagwat's visit to America therefore became an opportunity to explain the Sangh's thought through direct engagement and dialogue.

For decades, two sharply contrasting perceptions of the RSS have existed in India. One section regards it as a powerful embodiment of Indian culture, national consciousness, social service and organisation, while another associates its ideology with narrow religious politics. The Congress and various opposition parties have, from time to time, raised serious political questions about the RSS and its worldview. In the United States too, before Bhagwat's pro-

gramme, certain organisations and political personalities expressed objections to his visit and to the ideology associated with the Sangh. Yet the image of any institution cannot be shaped permanently through allegations and counter-allegations. It is ultimately dialogue that enables society to understand competing perspectives. This is perhaps the greatest significance of Bhagwat's American visit. He chose not to respond to his critics through confrontation; instead, he sought to explain the Indian civilisational perspective. In doing so, he opened a new space for debate about the RSS—one in which its ideas could be examined through the words and interpretation of its own highest leadership.

One of the most widely discussed aspects of Bhagwat's New York address was his unequivocal statement on Hindu-Muslim relations. He said that if a Hindu believes that there should be no place for Muslims in India, then such a person cannot be regarded as a Hindu. This statement is significant not merely as a political observation but because it connects his interpretation of Hindutva with the principle of social inclusiveness. He also emphasised the idea that truth is one, while the paths through which people understand and express it may be different. This has been a distinctive feature of the Indian intellectual tradition: differences in belief need not be treated as a threat to existence; they can instead be understood as diverse expressions of humanity's search for truth.

This raises an important question: if Hindutva is understood as the cultural consciousness of India, can it

exclude any community from the Indian nation? Bhagwat's answer appears to be an emphatic no. His interpretation presents Hindutva not as the monopoly of any one form of worship, but as an expression of a shared civilisational heritage. In this understanding, Indian identity is broader than religious identity and embraces the plural cultural traditions that have evolved on Indian soil. Bhagwat also described India's diversity not as a weakness but as a source of strength. Diversity and unity, in his view, are intrinsic to the Indian way of life. India has innumerable languages, communities, castes, faiths, traditions, customs and forms of worship, yet a shared civilisational consciousness has historically provided a deeper bond among them.

This message carries enormous relevance for the contemporary world. In several countries, religious identities, racial divisions, cultural disagreements and political polarisation are generating social tensions. India's civilisational experience suggests that unity does not necessarily require the elimination of differences. Different identities can coexist when diversity is respected rather than suppressed. This is what lifts Bhagwat's message beyond the conventional framework of a political speech. His emphasis was not merely on accepting diversity but on respecting and protecting it. He sought to place before the world the Sanatan perspective that regards the entire creation as interconnected and aspires towards the welfare of all humanity.

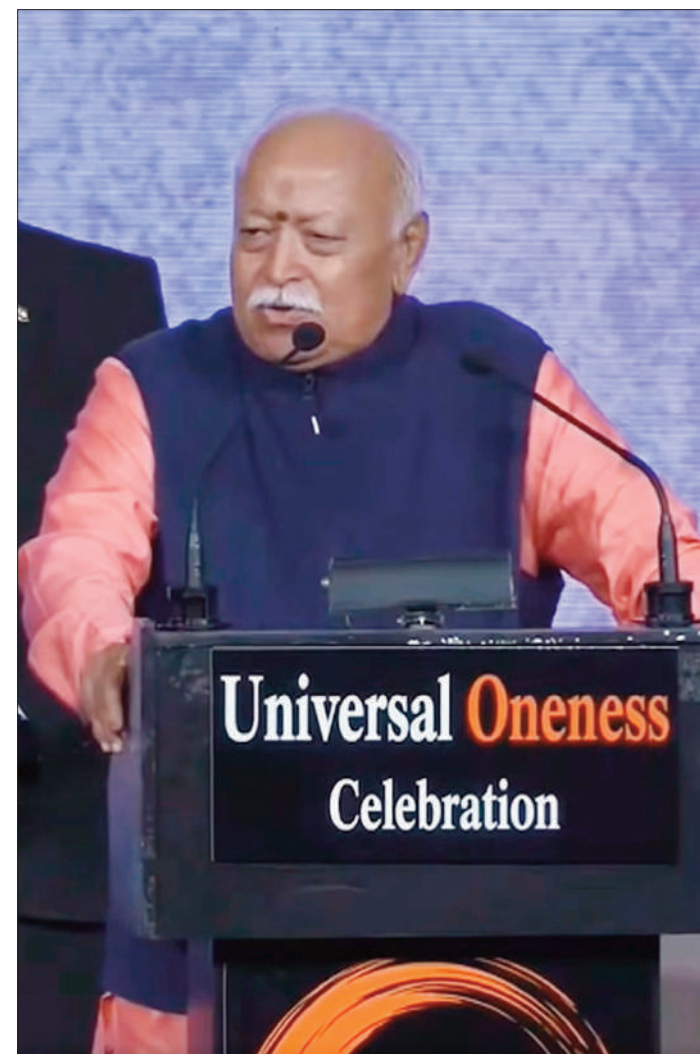
The essence of this worldview can be found in the timeless Indian ex-

pressions—"Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti" (Truth is one, though the wise describe it in different ways), "Atmavat Sarvabhuteshu" (regard all beings as you would regard yourself), "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" (may all be happy). Hindutva, in this broader civilisational sense, is not a narrow or exclusionary doctrine. It represents a way of life that recognises unity amid diversity and seeks the welfare of the entire world. Bhagwat's formulation that "seeing the world as one is our vision" captures the essence of this approach. Diversity is natural, while unity is the deeper truth. Therefore, celebrating diversity, respecting it and preserving it are integral to Indian culture. At the same time, preserving a sense of inner unity remains a collective responsibility. Human beings may differ in physical appearance, language, dress, customs, traditions and ways of life, yet there is something fundamental within us that connects us all. It is this civilisational message that Bhagwat attempted to articulate before an international audience with remarkable simplicity and clarity. In the tradition of Swami Vivekananda's historic presentation of Indian philosophy to the West, Bhagwat's address sought to communicate an expansive understanding of Indian thought and Hindutva in the contemporary global context.

His message to Indians living in America was equally balanced. He emphasised that the country in which they live is their karmabhoomi—their land of action and responsibility—and that their loyalty

and duties towards that country must remain paramount. At the same time, India is their janmabhoomi, their ancestral homeland, from which they have inherited cultural values and civilisational traditions. This approach offers the Indian diaspora a path of harmony rather than a conflict of identities. Staying connected with one's cultural roots and remaining completely committed to the society and nation in which one lives are not contradictory. Both can coexist. Indeed, this ability to accommodate multiple dimensions of identity is itself an expression of India's cultural openness.

There was opposition to Bhagwat's programme in America, and sharp criticism of the RSS and its ideology was also voiced. But in a democratic society, ideas are best answered not by suppressing them but by engaging with them. Critics may continue to question the gap, if any, between the RSS's stated ideals and its conduct on the ground, while supporters may regard Bhagwat's words as a clear articulation of the Sangh's foundational philosophy. The final judgment on this debate will ultimately depend on time and conduct. What is undeniable, however, is that the debate has now acquired a more direct and global dimension. The visit appeared significant because it relied less on defensive argument and more on confidence in its own civilisational narrative. The message was essentially that Indian identity does not become stronger by excluding anyone; it becomes stronger by respecting everyone. Hindutva does not derive its meaning from the exclusion of a community but from a deeper vision of human unity. India's



strength does not lie in making everyone identical but in sustaining cultural unity amid extraordinary diversity.

The contemporary world needs more than economic power, military strength and technological advancement. It also needs a philosophy of life capable of connecting human beings with one another. Bhagwat's American address presented a vision of India that can potentially contribute to this global search—a nation drawing upon its civilisational heritage to offer the world a pathway of coexistence, dialogue and unity.

For this reason, Mohan Bhagwat's visit to America may prove memorable. Ultimately, the greatest strength of any ideology is not its publicity but its practice. The message Bhagwat conveyed from American soil will find its true test on Indian soil—in the form of social harmony, service, dialogue, mutual respect and coexistence. If these ideals translate into sustained action, the impact will extend beyond the image of the RSS. It could also contribute to giving India's civilisational and cultural standing in the world a new depth and a new height.

Developed India: How will we reach the Goal? From reflection to reflexivity: Rethinking teacher development in India

By: Prof Mahesh Chand Gupta

When we talk about the future of a country, it is easy to set a big goal. But it is much harder to understand how prepared the country is to achieve that goal and whether the path it is following will actually take it there. India has set a goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. In other words, by the time the country completes 100 years of independence, India should reach a stage where its economy is large and strong, people's lives are better, and the country has a decisive place among the world's leading economies.

As a teacher of economics, I feel that the goal of a developed India is as serious as it sounds attractive. After all, becoming a developed nation does not simply mean that the size of the GDP increases or that India enters the world's five largest economies. The bigger question is: if such economic expansion takes place, how much will it actually improve the lives of ordinary citizens? This is why the idea of a developed India needs to be looked at separately from political slogans or a list of government achievements.

Over the past ten to twelve years, several meaningful changes have taken place in the country. The expansion of digital technology is the most visible example. There was a time when having a bank account, an identity document or access to government services itself was a major challenge. Today, digital payments and digital public infrastructure have changed the everyday lives of millions of people. We have also seen faster development of roads, railways, ports and airports. Efforts have been made to increase domestic capacity in defence production. New options are being explored in the energy sector.

But perhaps the most important change is the thinking that India should not be seen only as a large market, but also developed as a major centre of production. This is not a small change. For a long time after independence, India's economic debate focused first on the problems of agriculture and later on the success of the services sector. The manufacturing sector could not develop with the strength that was expected.

China's economic success shows us that for a country with a huge population, it is difficult to turn itself into a high-income society without creating large-scale employment and industrial capacity. Therefore, investment in areas such as semiconductors, electronics, defence equipment, nuclear energy and other basic industrial capabilities should not be seen simply as the setting up of a few new factories.

What is needed is a much bigger economic change. India must develop the capacity to produce the things it needs, become part of global production chains and build an industrial system that can create opportunities for millions of people in the coming decades. This is essential for achieving the goal of a developed India.

When we talk about a developed India, we also need to give proper importance to energy. Clearly, industrialisation will require more energy. Growing cities will need more electricity. As the transport system changes, for example with more railways running on electricity, the demand for energy will increase. Therefore, we will have to think

about nuclear energy, solar energy and other sources together. Increasing the capacity to produce basic metals such as aluminium and steel, as well as other industrial raw materials, is equally important.

There is no doubt that a lot of work needs to be done to make India a developed country. India's per capita income is still quite low. The gap becomes clear when we compare India with China and other developed Asian economies. This difference in per capita income is at the root of many problems.

It is right that we should work together towards the goal of making India developed by 2047. But at the same time, we must also think about how the benefits of economic growth can reach those parts of society that are still not benefiting from it fully.

There is no doubt that poverty has declined, people's purchasing power has increased and the consumer market has expanded. These are real changes. But there are other areas such as education, health-care, employment and sanitation where a lot still needs to be done.

If a family's income increases but its child does not get a good education, or if a person has a mobile phone and internet access but has to sell land to pay for treatment of a serious illness, can we really call that a developed society? Therefore, the question of a developed India is not only an economic question. It is also a question about the quality of social life.

In our country, when we talk about unemployment, the question of jobs is one of the most difficult issues. India has one of the world's largest young populations. If we want to turn this young population into a source of strength, we need education, skills and jobs that allow people to improve their lives.

If industries grow but employment does not grow enough, the picture of development remains incomplete. When it comes to promoting infrastructure, serious work is needed. It is important to know how many large factories have been established in the country. But it is even more important to know how many small industries have come up around them, how many people have received permanent jobs, how many towns have become new centres of economic activity and how many rural families have benefited.

The 'seven streams' that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about from the Red Fort should be seen in this larger context. Limiting them to a speech or a list of government achievements would make the idea much smaller than it actually is.

A developed India is essentially a long national journey in which the government, industry, farmers, workers, scientists, entrepreneurs and ordinary citizens all have a role to play. The goal of 2047 is not the goal of any one government or any one five-year term.

Over the next twenty years, governments will change, economic conditions will change, and the political and trade map of the world will also change. Therefore, the idea of a developed India must rise above party politics and be treated as a long-term national project.

India's past provides examples of what is possible. There was a time when the country depended on other nations for food and

faced a shortage of milk. The Green Revolution, the White Revolution and the space programme show that even with limited resources, a country can change its position through sustained efforts and strong institutions.

But today's challenge is much bigger. We do not only have to come out of scarcity; we have to move towards a high-income and more just society.

For this, the economy will have to grow rapidly for a long period. Exports will have to increase, domestic industries will have to become more competitive, investment will have to speed up, and at the same time the income and purchasing power of ordinary citizens will also have to rise.

The government alone cannot do this. The government can make policies, build infrastructure and create an environment that encourages investment. Industry will have to invest, entrepreneurs will have to take risks, scientists will have to develop new technologies and universities will have to prepare better human resources.

The responsibility for a developed India belongs to society as much as it belongs to the government.

We should be proud of our achievements, but we should not become self-satisfied because of them. It would be wrong to underestimate what has been achieved, but it would also be wrong to hide what has not been achieved. Big goals cannot be achieved through enthusiasm alone. They require honesty about the numbers, continuity in policies and the ability to accept mistakes and correct them.

We must decide what kind of developed India we want to see in 2047. The year 2047 may seem far away, but for a nation, twenty years is not a very long time.

The school built today, the industry established today, the technology developed today and the child studying in school today will together shape the India of 2047.

Therefore, India needs fast development that is sustainable, creates jobs and reduces regional inequalities. We need modern industries, but we also need a strong agricultural sector. We need new technology, but we also need an education system that prepares citizens who can understand and create that technology.

We need a large economy, but we also need an economy in which the income and security of ordinary people increase.

The real test of a developed India will not be how much its economic power has increased, but how much that economic power has changed the lives of its citizens.

2047 is not a magical date when the country will suddenly become developed. It will be the result of the decisions and priorities we make today.

That is why the goal must be big, but we must not turn away from the questions about the path to reach it. Achievements should be highlighted, but shortcomings should not be hidden. Development should be fast, but its benefits should reach a wide section of society.

Only then can the dream of a developed India in 2047 rise above being a political commitment and become a real experience in the lives of millions of Indians. (The author is a well-known educationist, thinker and speaker. He was a professor at the University of Delhi for 44 years.)

By: Arpan Tulsyan

A school curriculum is not confined to what is officially prescribed in textbooks or lesson plans. Educational thinkers have argued for a broader view, where curriculum also includes how knowledge is interpreted, mediated, and experienced in the classroom. For example, classroom interactions carry a range of tacit, indirect, and often unintended messages about ability, behaviour, gender, or authority, which can significantly shape students' self-perceptions and understanding of the world around them. These everyday signals in the classroom are an important part of the hidden curriculum: the unspoken norms, expectations, and values that students encounter alongside formal teaching, often without teachers or students consciously recognising them.

The 'hidden curriculum' has usually been examined within the sociology of education, particularly in relation to gender, class, caste, and other forms of inequality; however, its everyday transmission also makes it a teacher-development issue.

The 'hidden curriculum' has usually been examined within the sociology of education, particularly in relation to gender, class, caste, and other forms of inequality; however, its everyday transmission also makes it a teacher-development issue. If teachers can unintentionally reproduce such assumptions, professional preparation must give them not only better pedagogical tools, but also the ability to recognise and question the assumptions shaping their classroom practice.

The Hidden Curriculum in Classroom Practice

Research shows how such messages can enter ordinary classroom practice. For example, classroom observations in Delhi found that a teacher treated 'girl' and 'boy' as opposites during a ling badlo (masculine-feminine) exercise, accompanying this with an explanation that portrayed boys and girls as fundamentally different; while the formal lesson prescribed was grammatical, the unintended message became social.

Similarly, analysis of mixed classes found that teachers (both male and female) engaged boys twice as often as girls—calling on boys for harder questions, nodding to them, or pausing for boys' answers—while girls (unless star students) were largely sidelined. Conversely, girls attracted almost twice as many admonishments or discipline interventions. Such concerns have also been noted in the case of caste and class. Geetha Nambissan's work on educational deprivation described how Dalit and tribal children could encounter 'messages of inferiority' through the hidden curriculum, including through the marginalisation of their languages and cultures. More recently, a 2026 study in government schools in Bihar found that forward-caste teachers systematically underestimated the performance of backward-caste students, relative to forward-caste peers taught in the same classrooms.

Studies also note that much of this may be unintentional, but has notable implications, as teachers continuously make pedagogic choices, such as examples, explanations, questioning patterns, feedback, and reinforcement. These choices

also shape judgements about which child needs help, who deserves an opportunity, which peer disputes need what kind of intervention, and how much autonomy students can handle, among other things. The hidden curriculum therefore needs to be understood not only as a sociology of education issue, but as a key aspect of teacher preparation and professional development.

From Reflection to Reflexivity

Reflection often begins by asking what happened in a lesson, what worked, and what should change. Reflexivity takes this further by making the teacher's own assumptions and position part of the inquiry. It asks: Why did the teacher interpret the situation that way? What assumptions about ability, behaviour, gender, language, or background informed that judgement? Would the same behaviour have been interpreted differently in another child? What classroom evidence supports the conclusion? The distinction is one of depth, with reflexivity explicitly bringing the assumptions through which practice is understood into the examination.

This examination of teachers' professional choices and judgement is particularly important for evidence-informed teaching. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) 2025 review of high-quality teaching argues that teachers need to 'unlearn and relearn' deeply embedded habits and beliefs, through continuous self-inquiry and interrogation of their own practice.

The more demanding idea of reflexive practice remains underdeveloped: encouraging teachers to examine the assumptions, social positioning, beliefs, and implicit norms that shape how they interpret their classrooms.

India does not need to invent an entirely new teacher-development architecture, as the policy foundation already exists. The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (2009) explicitly makes preparing a 'reflective practitioner' a central aim of teacher education. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 sets out teacher-development provisions, including continuous professional development (CPD), professional autonomy, and the sharing of best practices. National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) CPD Guidelines (2022) also ask teachers to undertake classroom inquiry, critical observation, and reflective analysis of their teaching practices. The National Professional Standards for Teachers—a guiding document published in 2023—includes 'Reflective Practice' as a distinct domain, Domain 12. However, despite the aspirational label of 'reflective teacher', the tools, routines, and institutional conditions through which reflection becomes genuinely reflexive remain less well defined.

The more demanding idea of reflexive practice remains underdeveloped: encouraging teachers to examine the assumptions, social positioning, beliefs, and implicit norms that shape how they interpret their classrooms.

Embedding Reflexivity in Teacher Development

Several practical steps can help India use its existing policy architecture to embed reflexivity in teacher development. First, reflexivity should be built into teacher preparation through school-based

practice, classroom demonstrations, and internships. Understanding of the hidden curriculum should not remain confined to modules on sociology, gender, or inclusion. Student teachers can be trained to conduct simple but structured audits of their own and their peers' lessons, to make implicit classroom patterns visible.

Video-assisted self-observation can strengthen this process. Short recordings of classroom teaching can help student teachers revisit interactions that are difficult to notice while teaching. Research comparing structured video feedback with journal writing found that video-based approaches could support deeper analysis of some teaching events, particularly when combined with peer and expert feedback. Recorded role-play and simulated teaching can provide additional opportunities to practise, review, and reconsider difficult classroom interactions.

Further, part of the annual 50-hour CPD requirement should include school-based inquiry, in which teachers identify a recurring pattern, collect limited classroom evidence, examine relevant research, test a change, and discuss the results with a peer or mentor. State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) can develop simple observation protocols and case material, while Block and Cluster Resource Centres, school leaders, and mentors can support follow-up. Student feedback on participation, fairness, belonging, and teacher support can add perspectives that adult observation may miss. The National Professional Standards for Teachers offer another route. Reflexive practice is already recognised within the standards; this could be strengthened by asking teachers to demonstrate how evidence from classroom observation, student work, peer feedback, or research has informed changes in practice.

These processes should remain developmental, with videos, journals and observation records used primarily to support professional learning rather than inspection or surveillance.

Reflexive practice can help teachers recognise how these forces enter everyday classroom interaction, and question them, but it cannot substitute for the structural reforms needed to address the conditions that produce them.

Making the Hidden Curriculum Visible

We must also recognise that teachers do not create the hidden curriculum in isolation. They are themselves situated within wider social and institutional systems, shaped by social hierarchies, prevailing attitudes and beliefs, examination pressures, language policies, and broader inequalities. These influences inevitably enter classroom practice. Reflexive practice can help teachers recognise how these forces enter everyday classroom interaction, and question them, but it cannot substitute for the structural reforms needed to address the conditions that produce them.

India already asks teachers to be reflective. The next step is to give them practical ways to examine assumptions, test them against evidence, and revise practice where needed. It is impossible to eliminate the hidden curriculum, but we must try to ensure that less of it remains hidden from those who help transmit it. (Courtesy: ORF)

'Today the condition of the economy of the state and the country is difficult'

Economy in tight spot, but govt painting its beautiful picture: Pawar

BARAMATI, Sept 3: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday alleged that while inflation was rising and the country's economic condition looked difficult, the central government was painting a "very beautiful picture" of the economy by ignoring the real problem.

Talking to reporters in his hometown Baramati in Pune district, the veteran leader also claimed that in order to divert people's attention from core matters, some issues were being raked up with the consent of the government.

"Today the condition of the economy of the state and the country is difficult. Inflation is rising, and it is becoming difficult for the head of the family to meet daily needs. To divert the attention from all these things, with the consent of the government, some issues including education are being raked up so that the core issues are conveniently ignored. We see that this is being done deliberately," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday applauded the country's people for the 7.8 per cent GDP growth rate, calling the feat particularly impressive, coming against the backdrop of global turmoil, geopolitical conflicts, and supply chain disruptions.



Referring to it, Pawar said, "The country's Finance Minister and Prime Minister are trying to show that the country has a very beautiful picture of the economy. They are not paying attention to the real problem...It seems they have not paid attention to it."

"The Prime Minister says some things at the international level to divert people's attention from the present situation," the former Union minister said, adding that people will be hit by inflation and feel a pinch in their pocket.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Tuesday

quashed all criminal cases registered against students involved in protests between July 20 and 25 and directed the Centre to provide financial compensation within three months to families of NEET aspirants who took their own lives.

Replying to a query about it, Pawar said protesters should be allowed to agitate democratically.

"It is a students' protest and they have some demands. The judiciary has clearly stated how the policy adopted by the government is wrong. The judiciary has in a way given strict advice to the government that if you do not take a de-

cision in this way, we will have to take some decisions.

"This government has brought things to such a condition that we should worry whether rights pertaining to the judicial system will eventually go into the hands of administrative officers," he said.

When asked about the hearing on tussle over allotment of Shiv Sena symbol, Pawar said, "I cannot say what will happen, the court's decision is final. Hearing is still going on, before that we should not comment. Let's wait eight to ten days for both and then we will discuss."

Talking about PM Modi's proposed visit to Baramati, Pawar said, "He has said that he is coming. We have given him a date of October 16, but it may be later. An Artificial Intelligence institute has been built here, it is the first in the country. He will inspect it and a presentation will be given to him."

"Some of our people had given him their presentation at Supriya (Sule's) daughter's wedding. But he wants to understand it in detail, the programme is here," he added.

During his Baramati visit, PM Modi may inaugurate 'Purna Sthal', a dome and museum complex, at the Vidya Pratishthan cam-

India can become developed nation only by reconnecting with its heritage: UP CM



MATHURA (UP), Sept 3: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said India can realise its vision of becoming a developed nation only by reconnecting with its heritage, asserting that the state has undergone a transformation where festivals have replaced fears of riots and disturbances.

Speaking at an event in Mathura, Adityanath highlighted the contribution of Swami Haridas to Braj's cultural and musical heritage.

"Swami Haridas Ji Maharaj gave devotion the form of music, made music a form of spiritual practice and connected spiritual practice with the consciousness of society," he said.

He said Swami Haridas' musical practice was so powerful that it inspired even an emperor towards devotion.

The chief minister said development had long been viewed only through roads, electricity, water, buildings and industries, while heritage was neglected.

"For a long time, we tried to look at development only from the perspective of roads, electricity, water, buildings and industries. In the name of development, heritage continued to be insulted and attempts were made to erase the heroes of history from India's memory," he said.

Referring to Mathura's history and the attacks on temples, Adityanath said Sanatan traditions had survived repeated assaults.

"Foreign invaders destroyed temples but could they erase the memory of Shri Krishna? Could they erase the memory of Radha Rani? "Did the celebration of Janmashtami stop? Did devotion in Vrindavan stop? Did the Holi of Barsana stop? Did the Govardhan parikrama stop? No. This is our Sanatan. This is the strength of

Braj," he said.

Drawing a parallel with Ayodhya, he said the Ram temple was the outcome of a long civilisational struggle.

"These traditions continued, moved forward with the spirit of Sanatan and created a new zeal for struggle. The result is that today a grand Ram temple has been constructed in Ayodhya," he said.

Adityanath said heritage was not limited to monuments.

"Heritage is in our temples, our language, our literature, our music, our art, our philosophy, mathematics, science, medicine, skill and knowledge, our folk traditions and our knowledge tradition," he said.

"Our message is very clear. India will realise the vision of a developed nation only by connecting itself with its heritage," he said.

The chief minister said Uttar Pradesh recorded 156 crore tourist visits in 2025, describing it as evidence of improved connectivity, law and order and infrastructure.

"A tourist will come only when he feels safe. A businessman will invest only when he has confidence in security. A mother and daughter will step out fearlessly only when they have faith in the government," he said.

"Today, Uttar Pradesh is free from curfew, free from riots and free from stone-pelting," he added.

Adityanath said religious events were now being organised with preparations focused on arrangements rather than preventing disturbances. He cited the Mahakumbh, where he said 66 crore devotees participated.

On Braj development, he said work was underway on the Chaurasikosi, Panchkosi and three other parikrama routes. Projects including a ropeway and mega parking facility in Vrindavan in Mathura are also being developed, he added. (PTI)

CM Revanth Reddy resorted to 'blackmail politics' for my removal: Konda Surekha

HYDERABAD, Sept 3: Telangana Forest Minister Konda Surekha, who was dropped from the Cabinet on Thursday, alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy resorted to "blackmail politics" seeking her removal though the party high command was not in favour of it.

Surekha, who said she committed no wrong, claimed that she was not given an opportunity to present her views before sacking her.

She said it is painful that she was removed from the council of ministers without providing any reasons.

"High Command has no intention to remove me. I know that 100 per cent. But, the Chief Minister indulged in blackmail politics saying he would go if I am not removed," she claimed, while talking to reporters shortly after the CM booted her out.

She also found fault with Revanth Reddy's claims that he would be chief minister for the next term as well and also announce the candidates for the next assembly elections.

It is painful that the chief minister took action against her out of a vindictive attitude on the basis of the critical comments made by her daughter friend and other party leaders, Surekha contended.

Asserting that she and her husband, who belong to backward classes, came up in politics with their hard work, she expressed confidence that people would continue to support them.

"The minister's post is only like an ornament for us. Earlier, I had quit on my own. I don't feel bad today that I lost cabinet post. But, I am not able to digest that I was removed without being informed and without giving reasons," (PTI)

AAP accuses Chadha of 'backdated' Delhi voter registration

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday accused Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha of attempting to get his voter registration made in Delhi through a "backdated process", while rejecting his allegation that the Punjab government was behind the deletion of his name from the state's draft electoral rolls.

The AAP, in a post on X, said the Election Commission was conducting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the Punjab government had no role in deciding whose name was included or deleted from the electoral roll.

"It is a matter of public record that Raghav Chadha has been living in Delhi and not in Punjab. If he no longer resides in Punjab, maintaining or shifting his voter registration was his own responsibility. He cannot now blame the AAP or the Punjab Government for the deletion of a voter entry," the party said. The AAP also alleged that Chadha was trying to get his voter registration made in Rajinder Nagar in Delhi through a backdated process. "If any such backdated or unlawful exercise has taken place, it must be investigated and the entire truth brought before the public," it said.

A senior Election Commission functionary, however, rejected the claim of any back-channel effort to include Chadha's name in Delhi's voter list, saying,

"There was, and there is no such move whatsoever."

AAP national spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar also hit out at Chadha, saying, "The Punjab government is not conducting SIR. Raghav Chadha should show some courage and question the right people instead of falsely accusing the AAP." Kakkar alleged that the SIR exercise resulted in the exclusion of voters' names in several states and questioned Chadha's response to the issue. "If he tried to include his name through backdated entry and get his name included in Rajinder Nagar, if he has committed such illegality, then the matter will not stop here. Because other people do not have the same opportunity," she said.

The AAP asserted that if the BJP or anyone else had facilitated any such backdated entry, it would pursue the matter "to its logical conclusion" and expose the truth. The reaction came after Chadha, a Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, alleged that his name had been marked as "shifted" in the draft electoral rolls despite his voter ID being registered in Mohali.

"The AAP government in Punjab has now taken its politics of revenge to the draft electoral rolls. I am a sitting Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, with my voter ID registered in Mohali, Punjab. Yet my name has been classified as 'shifted' in the draft electoral rolls," Chadha said in a post on X. (PTI)

BJP workers protest in Patna over Swara Bhasker's 'Jauhar' remarks

PATNA, Sept 3: A group of BJP workers on Thursday protested against actor Swara Bhasker over her remarks on 'Jauhar' in the film Padmaavat.

The protest was held at Dak Bungalow Chauraha, a major intersection in Patna, and was led by BJP leader Krishna Singh 'Kallu'.

The actor has been at the receiving end of social media ire over comments made during an event on Monday, where she said the film glorified 'Jauhar', the practice among some Rajput communities, in which women committed mass self-immolation to avoid capture, enslavement or sexual violence when defeat in war appeared imminent.

Bhasker has since said her remarks were "completely mistranslated" on social media and that she never called Rani Padmavati or other women who committed Jauhar "cowards".

Meanwhile, Singh had lodged a complaint against Bhasker on Wednesday at Patna's Kotwali police station, accusing her of using "objectionable and offensive" words against kshatris, or women belonging to the Rajput community.

"The way Bhasker used objectionable and offensive words against the kshatris has maligning all the women who made sacrifices for the country. We have lodged a complaint against her and demanded appropriate legal action," he said. (PTI)

Bengal CM warns schools of aid cut over Vande Mataram non-compliance

KOLKATA, Sept 3: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari on Thursday warned schools that financial aid and other government support would be stopped if the mandatory singing of the full version of Vande Mataram during school prayers was not strictly followed.

Addressing the annual programme of Vivekananda Vidya Bharati Vikas Parishad, an RSS-affiliated organisation, at Ramakrishna Mission in Kolkata's Golpark, Adhikari alleged that the state's education system had been "brought to the brink of destruction" under successive governments in the past.

He said the current BJP dispensation was undertaking reforms to restore Indian culture, traditions and nationalist values in school education.

"A few people had objected to singing the complete rendition of Vande Mataram. I told them that government aid would stop. Then they budged, but only partially. They stood up, but did not move lips. Then I told them that lips must move as well," the CM said, sporting

a smile.

Claiming that English-language education was curtailed during the Left Front regime while the TMC era had "distorted school curricula through appeasement politics", Adhikari said words such as 'maa', 'jal' and 'akash' in school curricula were deliberately replaced with 'amma', 'pani' and 'asmaan', respectively.

The "subtle changes", he claimed, stood in contrast to the pedagogic ideas of stalwarts like Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Swami Vivekananda.

Adhikari also accused the previous government of committing the "unforgivable crime" of banning the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in educational institutions.

"I met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently and made two requests: First, I urged him to build more Sainik Schools in the state, and second, I told him I will write to him seeking permission to make NCC mandatory in schools and colleges. I have already sent him that letter and received his assurance to do

the needful," the CM said.

Adhikari's remarks came against the backdrop of continuing political disagreements in West Bengal over education policy, curriculum changes, teacher recruitment and the role of ideology in educational institutions.

"The people of West Bengal provide time when it comes to change and giving opportunities. They gave time to the Congress after Independence, gave sufficient opportunities to the subsequent United Front and Left Front governments, and for the last 15 years they have given time to the TMC," he said.

"But they also brought about the change in the state at the right time, else an Islamic education system of Bangladesh would have been replicated here," Adhikari said, referring to the state's political history.

He claimed that had the education policy followed during the last decade of TMC rule continued for some more time, "our values, our heritage, tradition, patriotism and nationalism were pushed to the brink of getting lost forever". (PTI)

Pinarayi Vijayan likens Keralam crackdown on student protests to Centre's action in Delhi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Sept 3: CPI(M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday alleged that the UDF government was deliberately attempting to suppress protests by SFI activists and likened the action to the Centre's handling of student protests in New Delhi.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) was protesting against the rendition of the full version of 'Vande Mataram' during National Sports Day celebrations held at the Kerala university attended by Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Higher Education Minister Roji M John on Tuesday.

Police first used water cannons to disperse the protesters and later resorted to lathicharge, according to the protesters.

Two women activists suffered injuries to their faces and heads and were later taken to the hospital, SFI leaders alleged.

SFI carried out a protest march against lathicharge on Wednesday, which also turned violent.

Vijayan visited the injured students on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters after meeting them, Vijayan alleged that male police officers had launched a "brutal attack" on female students.

He alleged that police officers were aware of the consequences of hitting people on the head or the back of the skull.

"Hitting like that caused a female student to collapse unconscious," he said.

Vijayan alleged that the incidents showed an attempt to suppress protests in Keralam through a "police state".

"What is suspicious here is that certain officers who are notorious for such actions are present in the police force. Such individuals have been specially selected and assigned the responsibility of handling these protests in a capital city like Thiruvananthapuram," he said.

He also alleged that harsh provisions of the law were being invoked against protesters, including charges of attempt to murder.

"Serious charges, including attempt to murder, are being pressed against people who participated in a protest," he said.

Vijayan warned that such measures would not suppress protests and could instead lead to stronger protests across Keralam.

"If this is how protests are going to be dealt with, do not think that the protests can be crushed through such means. A strong reaction will naturally arise across Keralam," he said.

"It is best that this does not continue. However, we cannot normally expect the Keralam government to adopt such a stance. In recent days, we saw how the Central Government handled student protesters. If that involved severe aggression, the UDF government in Keralam is moving along a similar path," he alleged.

He said the government should correct its approach and end the alleged repression, warning that protests would continue otherwise.

"No ruling system has ever been able to quiet or terminate protests through such repressive measures, and the UDF government would do well to remember that," he said.

Asked whether the CPI(M)'s statements were aimed at inciting students and provoking protests, Vijayan questioned the need for students to be incited.

"Inciting students? What is the reason for students to rise up? Is it because the CPI(M) incited them?" he asked.

Vijayan alleged that Vande Mataram was being sung inside the university in a manner similar to its rendition at RSS platforms, departing from the convention followed by the Constituent Assembly.

"Our Constituent Assembly itself had decided back then that only two stanzas of Vande Mataram should be sung." (PTI)

Centre only interested in arresting people, says Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: Reacting to the grant of bail to former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal slammed the Centre over his arrest, alleging it is only interested in arresting people.

Kejriwal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi only has an interest in arresting people like a "thanedar" (police station in-charge) and not running the country.

"Modi ji, what did you achieve from this? Twenty-four hours a day, you just keep thinking about sending people to jail. You have no interest whatsoever in running the country. Nor do you even know how to run it," Kejriwal said in a post on X in Hindi. "You should have been a policeman instead of prime minister. Your antics are just like that," he added.

A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to Jain in a corruption case involving the Delhi Jal Board. AAP Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj also slammed the Centre, saying its days are numbered.

"Firstly there is no scam, the same thing they said about the 'excise scam' but when it went to court, the matter did not even warrant a charge sheet. This is just unnecessary harassment of a citizen and former minister who was working in Punjab," Bharadwaj said in a video message.

"They arrested him and sent him to Tihar. We want to tell the central government that this kind of hooliganism won't last long. Their days are numbered, they will soon be out of power as the public will not vote for them again," he added.

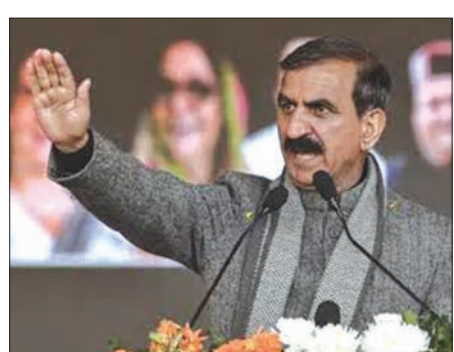
Jain had been sent to a 14-day judicial custody on August 19. The case pertains to a tender awarded to Ms Euroteck Environmental Private Limited when Jain was the Delhi water minister.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had alleged that there was manipulation of tender conditions, as the tendering process was "deliberately" made technology-centric to favour Euroteck Environmental. (PTI)

SHIMLA, Sept 3: Two days after pensioners in Himachal Pradesh held a protest in Shimla, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the state's economic condition is steadily improving and the government is periodically clearing dues owed to employees and pensioners.

Talking to mediapersons on Thursday, Sukhu said the government will settle the rest of the dues as the state's economic health improves further. He asserted that this process was not being driven by any external pressure.

On Tuesday, pensioners in the state staged a massive protest near Vidhan Sabha, demanding payment of 16 per cent Dearness Allowance, post-2016 pay revision liabilities, revised pension arrears, leave encashment, and other pending financial benefits.



The chief minister said his government has released the arrears of pensioners aged above 67. All dues of Class IV pensioners have been

settled, and 55 per cent of outstanding payments for those who retired between 2016 and 2022 have been paid.

He said his government has generated revenue by closing the loopholes that facilitated corruption. Despite the Centre's discontinuation of the Revenue Deficit Grant, the state has continued to clear pensioners' dues, he added.

Targeting the Central government, Sukhu said that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced ₹ 1,500 crore for disaster relief, Himachal Pradesh has not yet received a single penny. He said the state government was functioning with financial discipline and transparency, and the interests of employees and pensioners would be safeguarded by increasing revenue. (PTI)

Brown sugar worth ₹ 80 crore seized in Manipur, one held

IMPHAL, Sept 3: A person was arrested after brown sugar worth ₹ 80 crore was seized from his possession in Manipur's Jiribam district, an Assam Rifles statement said on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the Assam Rifles, CRPF and the Jiribam police conducted a search operation at Makha Basti in the JT Road area on Wednesday and seized 10.891 kg of brown sugar from the person, it said.

The apprehended person and the seized narcotic substance have been handed over to the district police for further legal proceedings, it said.

Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out in the state three years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. (PTI)

Regulatory arrangements that had 'outlived their developmental relevance', say Assembly Nagaland assembly passes unanimous resolution urging Centre to withdraw PAP regime

KOHIMA, Sept 3: The Nagaland assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution, urging the Centre to withdraw the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime in the state, saying the restrictions were hampering tourism, investment, international engagement and economic opportunities.

The resolution, moved by Deputy Chief Minister (Home) Yanthungo Patton, was adopted through a voice vote.

The PAP, which foreigners need to visit certain areas as notified by the government, was relaxed in Nagaland in 2011. It was reimposed on December 17, 2024.

Moving the resolution, Patton said Nagaland had emerged as a peaceful destination for tourism, culture, investment, entrepreneurship and international engagement, which have become important sources of employment and livelihood, particularly for the youth.

The resolution noted that events such as the Hornbill Festival, the state's "Land of Festivals" initiative and other tourism and cultural programmes had helped project Nagaland and India's cultural diversity internationally while creating economic op-



portunities for local communities and entrepreneurs.

However, the continuation of the PAP regime had created impediments to international tourism, investment, business en-

gagement, cultural exchange and international partnerships in the state, it said.

The resolution said the state government remained committed to national security and was prepared to ensure the registra-

tion, regulation and monitoring of foreign nationals through modern technology and institutional mechanisms in coordination with the Centre and its agencies.

It said the demand for withdrawal or relaxation of the PAP regime had been repeatedly raised by the state government, civil society organisations, tribal bodies, tourism stakeholders, entrepreneurs and other sections of Naga society.

The resolution appealed to the Centre to consider Nagaland's peaceful environment, developmental aspirations, economic potential and the aspirations of its youth for greater opportunities and participation in India's growth.

The assembly said regulatory arrangements that had "outlived their developmental relevance" should not become barriers to economic opportunity, employment generation and Nagaland's participation in the national and global economy.

Earlier, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Tourism and Higher Education Minister Temjen Imna Along, Industries and Commerce Advisor Hekani Jakhalu and MLA

Naiba Konyak participated in the discussion on the resolution.

They said Nagaland was currently peaceful and its situation was different from that of some other northeastern states where the PAP had been imposed.

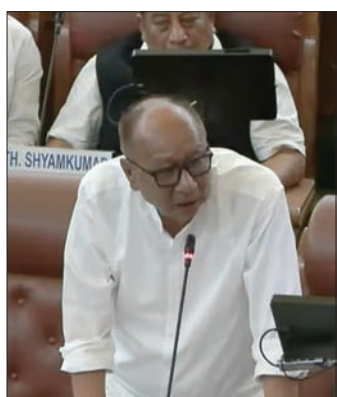
Rio urged the Centre to take into account the peaceful environment prevailing in Nagaland, the aspirations of its people, the importance of tourism and investment to the state's economy and the hopes of its youth.

Assuring the Centre that Nagaland remained committed to national security, peace and stability, Rio said, "Security and development can go together. Progress and responsibility can go together. Openness and national interest can go together."

"Nagaland seeks peace. Nagaland seeks progress. Nagaland seeks investment. Nagaland seeks greater opportunities for youth. Nagaland seeks to welcome genuine visitors, partners and friends from India and across the world," he said.

The resolution was subsequently put to a vote by Speaker Sharingain Longkumer and adopted unanimously. (PTI)

Will make every effort to strengthen police: Manipur CM Khemchand



IMPHAL, Sept 3: Manipur Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh on Thursday said he was making efforts to strengthen the police force, while asserting that effective law and order was difficult to maintain in areas where police lacked authority and capacity.

Speaking on the law and order situation in the state assembly, Singh said the attendance of two Kuki legislators in the ongoing session was a positive develop-

ment and the result of peace initiatives by various stakeholders.

"The attendance of two Kuki legislators in the assembly session is a good beginning and is the initiative of the House. They can come due to the peace initiatives taken by all," he said.

The chief minister said the ability of the police to maintain law and order was crucial for the functioning of the administration.

"It is truly pointed out that a land where morality, strength and administration of police is absent is one where maintenance of law and order is difficult," Singh said.

He said the ongoing crisis had affected the movement of security personnel across areas dominated by different communities.

"The effect of the crisis is such that Meitei and Naga police cannot enter Kangpokpi areas. Unfortunately, areas inhabited by communities have become sectarian. This was the scenario when I first became the CM," he said.

Singh recalled that there had been a time when protests were held against the deployment of police commandos in certain areas.

"At one time, strikes were held against the entry of Manipur Police commandos, citing their capabilities. Though it will take time to recover, I am trying and will continue to make every effort at the highest level to strengthen the police," he said.

On the state's finances, Singh said the prolonged crisis had affected revenue generation despite efforts by the government.

"As the state is in a period of crisis, the revenue sector, despite our efforts, has not increased much," he said.

He said the state had collected ₹ 20 crore in liquor revenue since March this year and was working to increase it further.

"We are working on improving revenues. As to the increase in borrowing, it is within the permissible amount under the Ministry of Finance," Singh said. (PTI)

Protest over mandatory Vande Mataram singing enters second day, govt urges NSF to withdraw

KOHIMA, Sept 3: The Naga Students' Federation's (NSF) protest outside the assembly against the compulsory singing of Vande Mataram entered its second day on Thursday, as the issue was raised during Zero Hour in the House.

The NSF members sang hymns such as "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder", "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus", as they protested the Centre's decision.

Raising the matter in the assembly, NPF MLA Achumbemo Kikon, a former NSF president, said the agitation was not confined to any particular constituency but concerned the state as a whole.

He said the controversy centred on the compulsory singing of Vande Mataram and had already generated extensive debate in the House.

Kikon said the state government, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, had taken serious note of the sentiments expressed by legislators across tribal and political affiliations, as well as views of the Church, civil society organisations, tribal bodies and the NSF.

Kikon said an order issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on January 28 directed states to ensure the compulsory singing of Vande Mataram during the arrival of important VIPs at national functions, including the governor's arrival at the assembly.

The matter was subsequently referred to a committee constituted to examine the applicability in Nagaland of laws passed by Parliament in the context of Article 371A of the Constitution, he said.



The committee, headed by Parliamentary Affairs Minister K G Kenye, has been examining the issue and was expected to submit its report during the ongoing session.

However, Kikon said the enactment of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026, had necessitated a fresh examination of the legal position.

He appealed to the NSF to withdraw its agitation, saying the concerns would be addressed at the appropriate forum.

"I would like to appeal, on behalf of the Government, and in the capacity of the former President of NSF, to the NSF friends, to kindly call off their agitation," he said.

Kenye, while explaining the committee's position, described the issue as "very contentious" and "hypersensitive", particularly in the context of Article 371A and other constitutional provisions.

He said the committee had met twice, in May and June, and was ready to table its report. However,

the President's assent to the Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament had changed the legal circumstances.

"Earlier it was an executive directive, and now that it has been enacted by Parliament, it takes the shape of law," Kenye said.

The committee was awaiting publication of the legislation in the Gazette of India before examining its provisions further, following which it would submit its report to the House, he said.

Despite the government's appeal and the committee's ongoing examination, the NSF maintained that it would continue its protest unless the Nagaland assembly adopted a resolution opposing the compulsory singing of Vande Mataram.

Nagaland's lone Lok Sabha member, S Supongmeren Jamir, visited the protest site and expressed solidarity with the protesters. He assured the students that he would take up the matter with the Centre. (PTI)

Probe ordered into alleged question paper leak in Tripura CHO recruitment

AGARTALA, Sept 3: Tripura Police have launched an investigation into an alleged question paper leak in the recruitment examination for 126 Community Health Officer (CHO) posts under the National Health Mission (NHM), officials said on Thursday.

The probe follows a complaint lodged by an aspirant, Ruma Deb, at the NCC police station in West Tripura on August 31, alleging that the question paper was leaked a day before the written examination held on February 1 this year.

Deb has also raised doubts over some candidates scoring 97 and 98 marks despite the examination having negative marking, police said.

"We came to know that some job aspirants had received the questions just 24 hours before the written examination," NCC police station Officer-in-Charge Paritosh Das told PTI.

"We have already spoken to the complainant in detail and also visited the office of the Society for Entrepreneurship Development (SoFED) at Indranagar to examine the examination process," Das said.

SoFED is a registered society entrusted with conducting written and oral examinations for the selection of candidates for various government organisations. (PTI)

3 surrendered militant groups threaten 72-hour rail-road blockade in Tripura from today

AGARTALA, Sept 3: Three surrendered militant groups in Tripura threatened to launch a 72-hour rail and road blockade from Friday, demanding immediate implementation of commitments made in a tripartite peace agreement signed in 2024.

The National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), NLFT (Parimal Debbarma group) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) had signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre and the state government on September 4, 2024, aimed at establishing lasting peace in the northeastern state.

"We have been demanding implementation of the promises for proper rehabilitation of all the cadres as per the peace accord. Unfortunately, our demands have not been implemented two years after the signing of the agreement," Joint Movement Committee (JMC) convenor Prasenjit Debbarma said at a press conference on Thursday.

The three surrendered militant organisations, under the banner of the JMC, had blocked national highway and railway connectivity in June, demanding implementation of the commitments made in the accord.

The blockade was lifted following an assurance from the government that their demands would be fulfilled.

Debbarma said the JMC had no option but to launch the agitation over rehabilitation as the returnees were facing livelihood difficulties.

"Our cadres will gather at three locations in the state to stall connectivity -- both road and railway -- on Friday for the rehabilitation of each surrendered militant. We appeal to the government not to harass our cadres during the peaceful movement," he said.

Debbarma said the JMC could extend the 72-hour blockade indefinitely if the government did not provide a written assurance.

NLFT president Parimal Debbarma said that of the more than 1,200 cadres who had surrendered, only 91 had received rehabilitation packages under the agreement over the past two years, leaving the remaining cadres facing serious livelihood problems.

He also said the organisations had reservations about certain guidelines for implementing a ₹ 250-crore rehabilitation project funded by the North Eastern Council (NEC) for surrendered militants. (PTI)

4 militants arrested from India-Myanmar border in Manipur

IMPHAL, Sept 3: Security forces arrested four militants belonging to various banned outfits from the India-Myanmar border area in Manipur's Chandel district, police said on Thursday.

The four were apprehended by a joint team of the Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police on Tuesday during a search operation based on continuous surveillance and credible intelligence in the vicinity of Border Pillar 59 at Aivomjang village, a senior officer said.

The four armed militants - three members of the proscribed United National Liberation Front (Koireng) and one cadre of the outlawed Prepak - entered into Indian territory, and their bid to flee back towards Myanmar was thwarted, an Assam Rifles statement said.

The four militants were subsequently handed over to the Molcham Police Station for further legal proceedings, it said. Myanmar currency notes were recovered from their possession, the officer said.

Security forces have been conducting search operations in Manipur since ethnic violence broke out in the state three years ago.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023. (PTI)

Mizoram CM directs officers to take strong action against corruption

AIZAWL, Sept 3: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Thursday directed officers to take strong action against corruption.

He was speaking at the inauguration of a training-cum-workshop on the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, organised by the Vigilance Department for officials of the Mizoram Lokayukta, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and state police.

Lalduhoma said his government was committed to ensuring a transparent and clean administration and had taken several steps to strengthen anti-corruption institutions, including the Lokayukta and ACB.

The government has sanctioned new vehicles for the ACB and extended vehicle entitlements to Lokayukta inquiry officers, he said.

The special incentive allowance for ACB personnel, which was discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been restored, while similar incentives have been introduced for Lokayukta inquiry officers, he said.

Funds have also been allocated for anti-corruption awareness campaigns, Lalduhoma said.

The CM told inquiry officers that the law vested them with considerable powers, urging them to exercise these strictly. (PTI)

AAPSU warns of strong response over threats to SIR teams in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, Sept 3: The All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) on Thursday warned of a strong response to any threat against its executive members and leaders engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bordumsa-Diyun area of Changlang district.

The warning comes amid a controversy over voter enrolment in Bordumsa-Diyun, where AAPSU has alleged the inclusion of illegal, bogus and non-genuine names in the electoral rolls, including suspected entries involving Chakma-Hajong and other refugee populations.

AAPSU president Meje Taku said the union's members and volunteers involved in the SIR exercise were

working in the interest of the state and its indigenous people and cautioned against any attempt to threaten or harm them.

"If a single hair on their head is touched, if anything untoward happens to them, AAPSU will not tolerate it, and we will respond in a manner that leaves no doubt about our resolve," Taku said in a statement. Taku said the union would not allow the identity and interests of Arunachal Pradesh's indigenous people to be compromised.

"Any officer, MLA, or minister found shielding or facilitating such elements will be held answerable to the people of this state, and AAPSU will not remain silent," Taku said. (PTI)

Sikkim Film Promotion Board plans roadmap to boost local cinema, proposes cine conclave

GANGTOK, Sept 3: The Sikkim Film Promotion Board on Thursday drew up a roadmap to strengthen the state's film ecosystem, with a proposed three-day Cine Conclave and greater access to filmmaking equipment and skill development emerging as key priorities.

The Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) said that a meeting chaired by Sikkim Film Promotion Board chairman Tashi Tshering Bhutia was held here to discuss measures to promote, develop and facilitate the film sector in the state.

Bhutia proposed organising the Sikkim Cine Conclave from November 26 to 28, as a platform to bring local filmmakers and creative-sector stakeholders together, the IPRD said in a statement.

The proposed conclave would focus on Sikkimese cinema under the theme "In Sikkim, By Sikkim", with short-film competitions, screenings and an awards programme. The winning entries may also get an opportunity to showcase their work at the Sikkim International Film Festival, it said.

Board member Dr Manoj Rai called for



clear criteria to recognise artists, filmmakers, entrepreneurs and other contributors to the film and creative sectors, including awards for acting, debut works and other notable contributions.

Another board member, Prashant Rasaily, stressed the need to make professional filmmaking equipment such as cameras, lenses and other technical resources more accessible to local filmmakers, according to the statement.

Rasaily suggested exploring equipment support and technical training through collaboration with the Skill Development Department, without necessarily involving direct financial

expenditure wherever feasible, while also underlining the need for proper maintenance and technical support for the resources.

Board member Rushma Rai emphasised the importance of film screenings at the proposed conclave, suggesting that the event showcase Sikkimese films, classic works and selected films from outside the state.

The meeting also discussed capacity building and skill development, including a possible collaboration with Tezact, an Andhra Pradesh-based company, for training in creative media and artificial intelligence-based tools, with a focus on digital content creation, practical skills and emerging career opportunities, according to the IPRD.

The meeting stressed the need for a structured and collaborative approach to nurture local talent, promote Sikkimese cinema and create sustainable opportunities in the state's film and creative media sector.

The proposals will be examined further before an appropriate framework and future course of action are finalised, the statement said. (PTI)

NOTICE INVITING E-BID Government of Assam

Office of the District Collector, West Karbi Anglong, Hamren (Excise Branch)

Bid Reference No.: WKA/Excise/2026-27/4

Date: 07/09/2026

e-Bids are invited from intending and eligible bidders for grant of Assam Made Liquor (AML) Vend license in West Karbi Anglong district under rule 114A and 682 of the Assam Excise Rules, 2016 as amended. The base bid (Initial Grant Bid) is Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only). A non-refundable Application Fee of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) per bid and an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh only) per vend, payable through online mode only, shall accompany the bid. The Bid documents can be downloaded from www.assamtenders.gov.in from 07/09/2026. (11.00 hours).

- A pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 14/09/2026 at 11.00 hours through Google Meet at the link: <https://meet.google.com/bay-icsa-jat>
- The last date and time of submission of e-Bid is 28/09/2026 (14.00 hours).
- The Technical Bids will be opened online on the e-Procurement portal on 28/09/2026 (16.00 hours). The date of opening of Financial Bids will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders.

The TIA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to grant of license, without assigning any reason thereof.

Name of the TIA: DISTRICT COLLECTOR, West Karbi Anglong, Hamren

Address of the TIA: Office of the DISTRICT COLLECTOR, West Karbi Anglong, Hamren

Phone: 9394102009

E-mail: dc.westkarbianglong@gov.in

Sd/-

District Commissioner,
West Karbi Anglong, Hamren

Yashvir in for Neeraj; Tejas, Abhishek out as AFI names 77 athletes for Asian Games



LUDHIANA, Sept 3: Commonwealth Games bronze medalist javelin thrower Yashvir Singh has replaced injured Neeraj Chopra in the Indian athletics team for the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, while long distance runner Abhishek Pal has been dropped after he was served notice for an alleged doping offence by the NADA.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Thursday announced a 77-member Indian track and field team for the September 19-October 4 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games at a press conference in Ludhiana which is hosting the National Youth Championships. Men's 110m hurdler Tejas Shirshe has also been omitted from the team after he sustained an injury during the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

"We have brought in Yashvir who is a CWG medal winner in place of Neeraj Chopra who is currently injured. It was an injury replacement and so there was no problem (in Yashvir coming in)," AFI President Bahadur Singh Sagoo said.

"Long distance runner Abhishek Pal has been dropped because of the issues he is facing. So this is the final team for the Asian Games," he added.

Last month, Abhishek was served notice by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after his dope sample was found to contain a female fertility drug which the officials said was "below threshold level".

"It's not a case of (Abhishek) returning dope positive. The presence of the substance is below threshold level. NADA is currently undergoing investigation. But we did not want to take any risk. We don't want anybody to point a finger on us. So, we have dropped Abhishek from the team," former AFI secretary and current planning commission chief Lalit Bhanot said.

Shirshe and Abhishek were included in the 73-member Indian athletics team announced by the Sports Ministry earlier this

month. The ministry added six more track and field athletes on Wednesday.

The athletes added are 200m runner Harita Bhadra, quarter-miler Kiran Pahal, pole vaulter Sindhu Shree G, triple jumper I Asha Ilango, discus thrower Sanya Yadav and hammer thrower Praveen Kumar.

With two athletes – Abhishek and Shirshe – dropped from the original 73 and six added on Wednesday, the final entry is 77.

Bhanot said the names of the six added athletes have been accepted by the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games organisers on the request of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

"These six athletes were not in the long list submitted by us (few months back) but the IOA made a request for their inclusion and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the Asian Games Organising Committee have accepted their entry," Bhanot told PTI.

"It just happened just a few days back," he added.

The AFI has also made a request to the organisers to allow last edition Asian Games double medalist Avinash Sable run in 5000m race also. His participation in his pet 3000m steeplechase event is, though, confirmed.

Sable has run in just one race this season after he underwent an ACL surgery last year. He won a gold in 3000m steeplechase and a silver in 5000m in the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

"Sable's participation in 3000m steeplechase is confirmed, there is no problem in that. But we have also made a request to the Asian Games organisers for him to run in 5000m also.

"But, this is subject to him breaching the AFI qualification mark (in 5000m) during the final event of the Indian Athletics Series on September 10 in New Delhi," Bhanot said.

The Indian Athletics Series Finals in New Delhi on September 10 will be a prize money event and most of the Asian Games-bound athletes will compete in that.

Sable will have to breach the AFI qualification mark there and also hope for clearance from the Asian Games organisers if he has to participate in the 5000m race.

Regarding Shirshe, an AFI source said that the federation had asked him to update his fitness condition in writing but he has not done it so far.

Meanwhile, Gulveer Singh and Parul Chaudhary will run in three events each in the Asian Games. Gulveer will run in 10,000m, 5000m and 1500m, while Parul will compete in 3000 steeplechase, 5000m and 1500m. (PTI)

Indian hockey teams set for double title defence as Junior Asia Cup begins in China

MOQI (CHINA), Sept 3: The Indian under-21 men's hockey team will eye a record-extending sixth title, while the women will chase a hat-trick of trophies when the defending champions in both categories begin their AHF Junior Asia Cup campaigns here on Friday.

The women's team, which lifted the Asia Cup trophy in the last two editions, will be led by mid-fielder Khaideem Shileima Chanu this time.

The team has undergone a structured training programme under coach Tim White, who assumed charge earlier this year.

As part of their preparations, an extended squad undertook an exposure tour of the United Kingdom, where they played matches against Scotland Senior Women, USA U-21, England U-21 and Belgium U-21.

India, placed in the Elite Pool, will begin their campaign against South Korea on September 5. The team will then face Malaysia on September 6, before taking on Japan on September 8 and hosts China on September 9.

"Our first game is against South Korea on Saturday, so we are preparing for that. The team has acclimatized well. The weather is a bit cooler (in Moqi), but conditions are good and we are really looking forward to Match 1," said White in a press release issued by Hockey India.

"In terms of our expectations, we prepared well in Bengaluru over a number of months, including a tour of the UK and some games against a combined team.

"We feel our game is in good order and we are well prepared to play against the best teams in Asia. We are looking forward to seeing how our game plan is going to stand up against the best teams. I am sure the girls will do India proud."

Men's team targets record-extending sixth Trophy

Pak team being criticised by those who never achieved anything: Naqvi

KARACHI, Sept 3: Livid with the criticism that Pakistan's cricket team has faced after its heavy Test losses to England, PCB Chairman Naqvi said the side is being lambasted by those "who have never achieved anything in their lives".

Speaking to the media in London, Naqvi cited other teams' losses to weaker opponents, including India's recent T20 defeats at the hands of Ireland, to assert that a few setbacks do not define an outfit.

Naqvi and the Pakistan Cricket Board came under fire after they decided to replace seven players in the touring squad in England and with mostly young names. Pakistan are trailing 0-2 in the three-match series.

Clearly irritated by the criticism from all quarters, Naqvi, who is also Pakistan's Interior Minister, said it was unfair to claim that the country's cricket is at its worst right now.

"You used to be ranked eighth in ODIs, which has now gone up to fifth. You have had six ODI series, out of which you have won four, but still, our cricket is finished?" he said.

"Our success rate has gone up from 24 per cent to 73 per cent, and I'm not talking about just one or the other specific match, but still, our cricket is finished?" (PTI)



The men's team will also enter the competition with the distinction of having won the continental title five times, including the last three editions.

Defender Anmol Ekka will captain the side, while newly appointed coach Frederic Soye will look to begin his tenure with a title win.

The squad has undergone extensive preparation, including an exposure tour of Belgium, where the team competed against strong international U-21 opposition from Austria, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

The team also played a series of friendly games at home against the Malaysian U-21 side in Bengaluru, followed by a three-match series against hosts China in Dalian.

"Our progression has been quite good. The

last (friendly) game against China (an 8-2 win for India) was very positive," said coach Soye.

"It gave our confidence a huge boost heading into the tournament. We spent one week in Dalian, getting used to the conditions in China, before arriving in Moqi ahead of our opening match against Indonesia on Saturday.

"Our main expectation from this tournament is to keep progressing and become more confident and consistent, maintain solid defensive structure and raise our level of performance with every match," Soye added.

India will open their Pool A campaign against Indonesia on September 5. The title-holders will then face Japan on September 6, followed by matches against South Korea on September 8 and Chinese Taipei on September 9. (PTI)

Khalid Jamil defends dropping seniors, says picked India squad purely on merit



NEW DELHI, Sept 3: Indian football team head coach Khalid Jamil on Thursday strongly defended his decision to drop several established players from the squad for the upcoming high-profile friendlies against Brazil, Uruguay and Panama, saying he picked the 26 probables purely on merit after giving everyone an "equal and adequate chance".

Former India captain Sandesh Jhingam, along with Rahul Bheke, Lallianzuala Chhangte, FPAI Player of the Year, Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Vishal Kaith, golden glove winner at the recently-concluded Durand Cup, Liston Colaco and East Bengal midfielder Jackson Singh, were among the notable omissions from the squad announced earlier this week.

"I have selected players according to their merits and performance. It's not like we have selected 26 players. We don't have to take all of them. If someone isn't performing well, he will go back within two days. It's not like I didn't give anyone a chance. I saw everyone. Whoever deserves to be there, I gave him a 100% chance," Jamil told PTI in an interview.

"And whoever got a chance but didn't perform, he will get another chance. Here there are no seniors or juniors. So we have to do a mix. So it is a balanced team. I believe in the players. All the players are mature enough," he observed.

Jamil said the changes were part of India's long-term plan to build a team capable of qualifying for the 2027 Asian Cup.

"Many changes were made because we are building a team for the future. Our main target is next year, in 2027. Asia Cup qualification. Overall, whatever the football requirement is, we will do it. Even set-pieces, we have to be good. Attacking, defending."

"Then, after attacking, come-back, defense. So overall, we have to be good in all situations," he

emphasised adding that "Everybody must be strong in defensive and attack as well. Take responsibility as a player. Pressure will be there for the players. Before this, we have to attend the camp."

With India set to face three higher-ranked opponents, Jamil said he would remain flexible with his formations rather than commit to a single tactical approach.

"Yes, we have to decide. It's not that we will stick with one. We will see according to the situation. 3-4-3, 5-4-1, whatever you say. We will see. According to that, we will play. It's not that we will stick to one plan. We have to be a stronger team. We have to be strong defensively."

"Yes, we will go for a win. We will never aim to concede a few goals. We will never think like this. It is not like that. And I know that we are playing with a good team. Yes, you have to raise your level."

Jamil also expressed confidence in his current squad, pointing to India's recent competitive outings against strong opposition.

"Talking about my players, we played with Iran, Oman, and high-ranking Tajikistan on their home ground. They did not qualify. We came in the final. We did well against Zimbabwe. And with Ja-

Inter fullback Federico Dimarco wins top honors at Italian players' association gala

MILAN, Sept 3: Inter Milan fullback Federico Dimarco expressed disappointment that his contract hasn't been extended when he picked up the top honors at the Italian players' association awards.

Dimarco was named last season's best player after his performances venturing forward on the left wing helped Inter win Serie A with an 11-point advantage over Napoli. He had already been named MVP by Serie A in separate awards in May.

However, with his contract due to expire after this season, Dimarco had other thoughts in mind at Wednesday night's event at La Scala theater.

Dimarco said of a hoped-for extension, "We haven't discussed it yet. I was hoping that would happen after last season."

Also on Wednesday, Inter replaced longtime sporting director Piero Ausilio with Dario Baccin.

"I wasn't expecting that," Dimarco said. "I read about it after training. (Ausilio) is someone who I have a relationship with. We won a lot together."

Still, Dimarco didn't indicate he planned to leave Inter — as he discussed when asked about reports of interest from Barcelona.

"It's always nice to be mentioned alongside these great clubs. But you know my history with Inter. I grew up here," said Dimarco, who came up through Inter's youth system. (AP)

A first for India at Asian Games

Safeguarding Officer to tackle abuse or neglect

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: Following a mandate made compulsory by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), Neetal Narang will be India's first ever Safeguarding Officer in the Asian Games where she will be the athletes' point of contact for matters related to harassment, abuse or neglect during the mega-event.

Narang is the President of the Softball Association of India and was a part of the erstwhile Boxing India's administrative set-up.

She is an internationally-certified Safeguarding Officer. The 20th Asian Games will run from September 19 to October 4 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

"It's a very broad role which will cover something as small as neglect to something as grievous as mental harassment or worse sexual harassment. My job is to give athletes a safe space to express themselves whether it is psychological abuse or harassment or bullying, neglect and isolation.

"The process of dealing with these complaints will be kept confidential to inspire confidence among athletes," Narang told PTI.

"They have already been sensitised and will be given a broader idea of what they can expect of a Safeguarding Officer in the coming days. It's the first time India is having such an officer for its Asian Games contingent and hopefully it would prove to be beneficial," she added.

Narang would be working in close coordination with OCA's Safeguarding Officer, who would be in charge of documenting all reports of harassment and abuse during the Games.



The OCA made the role mandatory in 2022 and subsequently, India had a Safeguarding Officer for the Youth Asian Games last year with former shot-putter Om Prakash Karhana fulfilling the responsibility.

"Harassment and abuse have no space in sport, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure safe sports all year round. Any athlete should be given the option to report to a safeguarding officer when needed," the

OCA had stated while outlining its safeguarding framework.

Safeguarding Officers have also been a part of the Olympics with some countries including them in the 2024 Paris Games where it was not compulsory to have them.

India will field 503 athletes (269 men and 234 women) in 36 disciplines at the Asian Games hoping to better the best ever tally of 106 medals achieved in the previous edition of the Games in Hangzhou. The haul in-

cluded 28 gold, 38 silver and 40 bronze medals.

At the Hangzhou Games, India fielded a significantly higher 661 athletes in 35 sports.

Just 56 women in support staff
The 246-strong contingent of support staff features only 56 women, which is roughly 22 per cent of the total strength.

The skewed male-female ratio of the contingent prompted the Sports Ministry to direct the IOA to ensure that "adequate" female staff is available for squads which don't have any earmarked.

Volleyball and E-Sports understandably do not have women support staff as only men are in fray in these events.

However, the all-female three-member judo squad and golf (three women representatives) too do not have female support staff members.

"IOA shall ensure adequate availability of female support staff, such as Doctors, Physiotherapists, Masseuses, etc. from the approved pool of support staff for the welfare and assistance of female athletes in disciplines where such female support staff are not included in the discipline-wise contingent," the Ministry stated in its order.

An IOA source said since there is no mandate to have a specific number of women officials, National Sports Federations (NSFs) cannot be forced to include them.

"We can only urge them to ensure that the ratio is balanced but it's their call end of the day. Also, in some cases the athletes want specific coaches who are males, that cannot be ignored either," said the source. (PTI)

Jadeja's adaptability, Pandya's composure fuel Kartik Yadav's all-format ambitions

NEW DELHI, Sept 3: Young spinner Kartik Yadav may have played only three Ranji Trophy matches so far, but he is already looking to emulate Ravindra Jadeja's adaptability and Hardik Pandya's composure under pressure to become an all-format cricketer.

The 19-year-old from Uttar Pradesh claimed a five-wicket haul on his Ranji Trophy debut against Tamil Nadu last year. Though he went wicketless in the matches that followed, Yadav said the experience of playing at the senior level proved to be an important learning curve.

"Debuting at this age is a dream for everyone. You are debuting at such a young age, contributing to the team and doing well. Taking a five-wicket haul was a great experience," Yadav, who is currently representing Kashi Rudras in the UP T20 League, told PTI.

"As far as learning is concerned, learning will always be there. I went to that level for the first time, so I faced different conditions, different players and tough situations."

The left-arm spinner from Prayagraj, who sees himself as an all-rounder, said he draws inspiration from Jadeja and Pandya to become an all-format player.

"I have always seen myself as an all-rounder. From the beginning, I have looked up to Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya," he said.

"The key things that I have observed in Hardik Pandya are his mindset, self-confidence and the way he handles pressure. No matter how intense the match is, he stays cool and calm. His belief that 'I am the best' also impresses me a lot."

Yadav said he finds similarities between his own game and that of Jadeja, particularly because of their ability to contribute with both bat and ball.

"I feel that his game and my game are a bit similar in terms of batting and bowling. I feel there are many similarities in the way he bowls," he said. "No matter what the wicket has to offer, he knows how he has to bowl so that things work out. I also try to learn from him."

Yadav had an impressive run in the UP T20 League last year, picking up 14 wickets at an economy rate of 6.29. This season, he has claimed 10 wickets as the Kashi Rudras won five of their 10 matches to finish third in the league standings.

The young spinner said he sees himself as a player capable of contributing across formats and is keen to improve his ability to read situations and deal with pressure as he prepares for the upcoming domestic season.

"Last season, I felt that I could have read situations better, which I understood later. This season, I want to know how to handle certain situations and how to get out of difficult situations. (PTI)