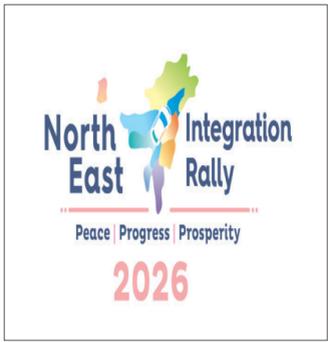




KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 568 | SILCHAR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 05, 2025. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com ,www.krctimes.com

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PERSPECTIVE

Win in silence. Let them think you're losing.

Manipur MLA hails PM Modi and Amit Shah's efforts after Imphal-Dimapur highway set to reopen after 2 years

IMPHAL

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, has successfully facilitated consultations with various stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Following intensive deliberations, a major breakthrough was achieved on September 4, 2025, with the decision to reopen the Imphal-Dimapur Road (National Highway-2), a crucial lifeline for the state.

The reopening of the highway is expected to significantly restore normalcy and improve connectivity, fostering economic and social activities across the region. MLA of Singjamei Assembly Constituency, Khemchand Singh, expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and the Home Minister, Amit Shah, for their decisive leadership. He also acknowledged the contributions of MHA officials, stakeholders, and CSOs for their relentless efforts in resolving the crisis.

Singh appealed to citizens and concerned parties to set aside past differences and collaboratively work towards a progressive and inclusive Manipur, reviving the communal harmony and mutual respect that once defined the state.

WHO SAID WHAT



India's hardworking middle class is at the heart of our growth journey. Through historic income tax cuts and now #NextGenGST reforms that make products like TVs, ACs and everyday essentials more affordable, we are committed to enhancing ease of living and supporting the aspirations of crores of families.

~ Narendra Modi, PM

PM Modi may address two rallies during his visit to violence-hit Manipur

IMPHAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is expected to visit strife-torn Manipur on September 13, is likely to address two major rallies during his stay.

If confirmed, this will be his first visit to the state since the outbreak of ethnic violence in May 2023.

Notably, in Churachandpur, preparations are underway for a gathering of nearly 9,000 people at the Peace Ground, where the Prime Minister

is expected to deliver a speech and briefly interact with internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The district administration has already declared the area a "no drone zone." Social activist Thangminlun said that several civil society organisations plan to submit memorandums directly to the Prime Minister.

Later in the day, Modi is scheduled to fly to Imphal and proceed to the historic Kangla Fort, where arrangements are being made for a rally with a capacity of 15,000 attendees.

NOTABLY, in Churachandpur, preparations are underway for a gathering of nearly 9,000 people at the Peace Ground, where the Prime Minister is expected to deliver a speech and briefly interact with internally displaced



"It's an official visit, however party workers are ready to give a grand welcome and to make sure the Prime Minister has a full house enthusiastic gathering inside Kangla."



Meghalaya Pushes Centre on ILP, Language Recognition, Cadre Restructuring

SHILLONG

Meghalaya Chief Minister made a strong case for administrative independence during a high-stakes meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on September 4, highlighting the state's unique position as the only region in India operating under a joint cadre system.

The chief minister emphasised that Meghalaya remains the sole state sharing administrative officers with another state through the existing Meghalaya-Assam cadre arrangement. "No other state in the country has got a joint cadre," the chief minister stated, urging Shah to consider segregating the cadres to provide Meghalaya with dedicated administrative officials.

Beyond administrative reforms, the meeting addressed critical cultural and security concerns. The chief minister renewed demands for including the Garo and Khasi languages in the official Eighth Schedule, reinforcing previous assembly resolutions and multiple memorandums submitted to the Centre.

Border security emerged as a pressing agenda item, with the chief minister advocating for implementing the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system in Meghalaya. The proposal

gains urgency given current tensions along international borders and evolving situations in neighbouring countries.

"It was important to not only strengthen the presence of our forces along the border, create more infrastructure, but at the same time, have a mechanism to check illegal immigration and infiltration in the state of Meghalaya," the chief minister explained, positioning ILP as the most viable solution under existing legal frameworks.

The discussion also touched on national recognition, with a proposal to name a New Delhi road after the late PA Sangma, former Lok Sabha Speaker and prominent northeastern leader. The chief minister described Sangma as "a national figure, a person who has always raised his voice for the Northeast, for the tribals and for the minorities."

The comprehensive agenda reflects Meghalaya's broader struggle for greater autonomy while addressing immediate security and cultural preservation needs. The state government has repeatedly submitted memorandums on these issues, indicating sustained pressure on the Centre for concrete action.

Gaurav Gogoi will probably flee abroad soon: Assam CM Himanta Sarma

GUWAHATI

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that there is no point in reflecting upon the views of the opposition leader as most of his immediate family members are "foreigners".

Speaking to reporters, Sarma said that earlier he used to give importance to Gaurav Gogoi, "But later, when I came to know that his children and wife are foreigners, I realised that he (Gaurav Gogoi) too will probably flee abroad soon."

"What wisdom can someone offer us when three members of his family are foreigners? I consider such a person to be a Bangladeshi foreigner," he added.

CM Sarma has repeatedly levelled allegations against Congress leader Gogoi. Going back in May this year, Assam Chief Minister described him as a "deep-rooted Pakistani agent." The Assam Chief Minister claimed that Gogoi

had only revealed 10 per cent about his visit to Pakistan and that he and his wife are deeply involved in anti-India activities.

Congress leader has rejected allegations made by the Chief Minister against him and said that these are all just "lies and slander". In August, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi also raised questions on the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led State government and sought to know why, despite the BJP government being in power for nearly a decade, there were infiltrators entering the State. The Congress leader stated that his party's stance was clear- no Bangladeshi should be illegally residing in the state.

"The Congress party's position is clear, no Bangladeshi should stay illegally in Assam. It is the duty of both the Assam government and the central government to ensure this. They have been in power for 10 years, and with border security under their watch, if infiltrators are still coming, then who is responsible?" Gogoi asked.

Assam DGP Conducts Field Visit to Sribhumi, Evaluates Policing Standards

SRIBHUMI

Assam DGP Harmeet Singh on Thursday visited Sribhumi district and reviewed the performance of police personnel of Sribhumi and Hailakandi districts in the Barak Valley area.

He visited Badarpur police station in Sribhumi district and took part in a review meeting with senior police officials of both bordering districts.

The Assam DGP stated that, previously, the Assam police were known for being an insurgency-oriented force, but they have been transforming into a service-oriented organisation. He highlighted the transformation of Assam Police from an insurgency-focused force to a service-oriented organisation.

Speaking to the media, Assam DGP said, "I come here to review Barak Valley's policing, security scenario, crime, etc. I reviewed the performance of police personnel of Sribhumi and Hailakandi districts. Our Chief Minister is saying that, earlier, Assam police was an insurgency-oriented force and now it has transformed and been transforming towards a service organisation."

"Police duty is to provide protection of common people as well as to protect the state and serve the people. I also shared information with our police personnel about service orientation and how we are



working on this. I am satisfied with the services of both Sribhumi and Hailakandi police," the Assam DGP added further.

Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday launched Chief Minister's Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan in Dhekiajuli constituency. Under this, cheques were distributed to 31,224 members of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), covering 29,523 women from rural areas and 1,701 from urban areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the

Chief Minister highlighted that Assam has around 4 lakh SHGs with 40 lakh women members and said, "Of these, nearly 8.5 lakh women already earn Rs 1 lakh or more annually. Many of these 'Lakshpati Baides' have even grown into bigger entrepreneurs, earning up to Rs 10 lakh every year, thereby rising to the level of 'Maha Lakshpati Baides'."

Highlighting the government's efforts, Sarma noted that women had previously faced problems due to high-interest loans from micro-finance institutions.

Madani Hits Out at Himanta Over Remarks on Muslims, Endorses Eviction Campaigns

GUWAHATI

Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind president Mahmood Madani extended support to the ongoing eviction drives against illegal immigrants in India, asserting that no "foreigner" or "Bangladeshi" citizen should stay in the country. He also criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for projecting every Muslim as "Bangladeshi."

"No Bangla-

deshi, foreigner should be staying in India...He (Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma) is projecting every Muslim as Bangladeshi...He is talking about sending me to Bangladesh, which shows his mentality...He (Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma) claims that he is a hero and I am zero," Madani told in an interview.

He further mentioned that forced immigration is being carried out in Assam ahead of the elections; meanwhile, the Supreme Court guidelines are also not being followed on the issue.

Madani further criticised the Assam government for diverting the attention of common people from unemployment and corruption.

"In Assam, the guidelines of the Supreme Court are being deliberately ignored and forced eviction is being carried out as the elections are approaching. They (Assam government) don't want questions to be raised on unemployment, corruption and want to divert attention from the real issues. They want to make this a matter of a particular community and this was my complaint with them (Assam government), the

drive should be carried out following the guidelines...There is a process to deport the Bangladeshis, which is not being followed in the eviction area," he said.

Madani also addressed the level of political language in the present time. He said that these issues are not important at present, and even PM Modi doesn't pay attention to them. "Even the Prime Minister does not pay attention to it... We all should exercise restraint and even the PM is not mindful of this," he said.

Earlier, Maulana Madani visited Assam and spoke out against

the government's methods, calling them "unfortunate and painful."

"Eviction drive is being carried out in the state...Seeing the manner in which it is being done here is saddening. If you visit and see this, see the system, you will be saddened."

I was pained, especially because communities and countries are formed under a system. If anything is done in violation of the system, if it is overlooked and trampled on it is unfortunate and painful. The more it is condemned, the less it is," Madani said while ad-

ressing the media. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma however refuted Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind President Maulana Mahmood Madani's claims.

"Who is Madani? Is Madani God? Madani's bravery exists if there is Congress."

There is no evidence of Madani's bravery during the BJP's time. If he does too much, I will send Madani to jail. I am the CM, not Madani," Sarma said.



"WHO IS MADANI? IS MADANI GOD?"

Madani's bravery exists if there is Congress. There is no evidence of Madani's bravery during the BJP's time. If he does too much, I will send Madani to jail. I am the CM, not Madani," CM Sarma said.

No Bangladeshi, foreigner should be staying in India...He (Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma) is projecting every Muslim as Bangladeshi...He is talking about sending me to Bangladesh, which shows his mentality...He (Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma) claims that he is a hero and I am zero."





VOLUME:1, ISSUE 568

MADE IN INDIA HOSPITALS

In India today, the paradox of healthcare is stark. On one hand, the country is emerging as a global hub of innovation and manufacturing in pharmaceuticals and vaccines. On the other, advanced healthcare facilities remain largely concentrated in metropolitan cities. Over 70 per cent of India's population lives in Tier II, Tier III cities and rural areas, yet tertiary care — critical for conditions like cancer, cardiac ailments, or renal failure — is overwhelmingly metro-centric. This urban skew forces millions of families to travel long distances, often at crippling financial cost, to access care. The solution to this imbalance lies not in creating more metropolitan “super-speciality” islands, but in building Made in India Hospitals — world-class yet affordable institutions powered entirely by indigenous medical technologies and infrastructure. This vision is not aspirational; it is actionable.

The defining feature of Made in India Hospitals will be their reliance on indigenously manufactured medical devices, diagnostics, and hospital infrastructure. For decades, India has imported 70-80 per cent of its medical technology. High-end devices such as MRI and CT scanners, surgical robots, or heart valves have been priced in foreign currency, creating a cost barrier for hospitals and patients alike.

Andhra Pradesh Medical Technology Zone (AMTZ), the world's largest integrated medical technology park, has demonstrated how this dependency can be broken. An imported MRI once cost about 6 crore; within AMTZ, it is now manufactured at nearly half the cost — without compromising global quality standards. Similarly, ventilators, dialysis machines, and heart valves are being built indigenously, cutting costs drastically while ensuring accessibility. By equipping hospitals exclusively with such Made in India devices, foreign exchange outflows can be eliminated, reducing procurement costs, and delivering care at a fraction of current pricing. A dialysis session that might cost 2,500 in a metro hospital could be delivered for 800 in a Made in India Hospital. This is the transformative power of self-reliance.

These hospitals are not only healthcare facilities — they are catalysts for regional economic growth. Every hospital creates direct demand for hundreds of devices: surgical tools, imaging equipment, diagnostic consumables, beds, monitors, and implants. By sourcing them domestically, India can stimulate manufacturing in clusters like AMTZ and beyond.

Global Standards, Indian Affordability
A frequent question is whether Indian-made devices can meet international benchmarks of quality. The answer lies in the rigorous ecosystem built within AMTZ. Devices manufactured here undergo ISO certification, NABL testing, and CDSCO approvals. Many are already exported to regulated markets in Europe and Asia, proving that Indian affordability does not come at the cost of global quality. Made in India Hospitals will, therefore, deliver care that is globally benchmarked yet priced for Indian realities. Imagine a cardiac stent manufactured and tested in India, implanted in a district hospital at one-fourth the international cost, with the same efficacy.

The hospitals will also serve as adoption hubs for Indian innovations. Across AMTZ and its MediValley incubator, startups are developing technologies ranging from AI-driven diagnostic tools and wearable health trackers to robot-assisted surgical systems. There are inclusive innovations like solar-powered tricycles for divyangians and mobile dialysis units designed for rural deployment. By embedding these solutions into hospital workflows, we ensure that innovation reaches patients, not just laboratories.

The economic impact of Made in India Hospitals is multi-fold. The first benefit is lower capital costs of building hospitals by sourcing affordable indigenous equipment. Secondly, these hospitals can reduce patient expenditure, preventing catastrophic health spending for families. Thirdly, local jobs will be generated across manufacturing, healthcare, and logistics. Finally, exports get boosted, turning India from an importer into a global supplier of hospitals and devices. But most importantly, they close the healthcare equity gap. A cancer patient in a Tier III town should not need to travel 500 km to a metro for chemotherapy. With Made in India Hospitals, the care comes to their doorstep.

The concept of Made in India Hospitals is not just about reducing imports or cutting costs. It is about reimagining healthcare delivery — making advanced care accessible to every Indian, creating jobs, stimulating manufacturing, and positioning India as a global leader in healthcare innovation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“To write well, express yourself like the common people, but think like a wise man.”

-Aristotle

Teachers at the Crossroads: Deciding Between Obsolescence and Inspiration

BIJU DHARMAPALAN

On September 5th, each year, we commemorate Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and contemplate the enduring influence of educators on society. On this day, we take a moment to contemplate the influence of educators on the development of young minds, the direction of society, and the cultivation of future citizens. Historically, it has been a day of celebration, reminiscence, and gratitude. However, Teachers' Day necessitates introspection in 2025, as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionising the very foundation of education.

The teacher's function has always been critical; however, it is currently at a juncture. On the one hand, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to prepare students for an interconnected world by establishing a holistic, multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary learning system. Conversely, AI platforms and systems currently provide the transdisciplinary, adaptive, and personalised learning NEP 2020 envisioned. And in the middle, we have educators — many of whom are still bound by antiquated methods, rigid curricula, and exam-centric teaching.

This paradox raises the question: Why are teachers falling behind if AI can seamlessly incorporate transdisciplinary learning? Additionally, what lessons can educators extract from AI to develop into authentic mentors for Gen Alpha, the generation that was born into a digital-first world?

AI and the Lost Promise of Transdisciplinary Learning

The NEP 2020 aimed to dismantle the compartmentalisation of subjects. It underscored critical thinking, creativity, ethical reasoning, and problem-solving, frequently necessitating interdisciplinary connections. A student ought not to perceive mathematics as isolated from music, nor literature as inconsequential to science. Education ought to mirror the reality of existence: interrelated, dynamic, and ever evolving.

Ironically, AI systems are currently implementing this goal. Request an AI tool to elucidate climate change, and it may promptly integrate atmospheric science with economics, politics, history, and literature. Request assistance for a youngster in learning music, and it can include physics (sound waves), mathematics (rhythms), and cultural studies (origins of instruments). This exemplifies transdisciplinary learning in practice, facilitated not by educational institutions but by machines.

Educators frequently adhere to disjointed subject boundaries, curriculum-based lectures, and memorisation-based evaluations. The chance to evoke amazement by connecting ideas across several fields is commonly overlooked. In this regard, educators have not met the NEP's mandate for transdisciplinary education.

This failure is not irreversible. It is, in reality, an opportunity. Educators may restore their position as inspirational mentors by embracing AI rather than fearing it.

Five Lessons Teachers Must Acquire from AI

1. Individualisation Takes Priority Over Standardisation:

AI thrives on customisation. Adaptive

platforms are capable of monitoring the strengths, weaknesses, pace, and manner of each learner, thereby providing personalised content. This personalised approach is intuitive for Gen Alpha, who are accustomed to immediate responses, curated feeds, and on-demand entertainment. Teachers may take advantage of this information. The model of instruction that is universally applicable is no longer viable. A teacher's arsenal must include differentiated instruction, flexible lesson plans, and personalised mentoring. An exceptional teacher is not one who completes the curriculum; rather, they ignite the individual potential of each student.

2. Fostering Curiosity, Not Conformity: AI never grows weary of responding to enquiries. AI responds without judgement to a “why” from a five-year-old or a “how” from an aspiring scientist. Conversely, classrooms frequently discourage curiosity in the interest of exam preparation, discipline, or the completion of the syllabus.

The joy of inquiry must be rediscovered by instructors in order to inspire Gen Alpha. They must embrace inquiry, regardless of whether it presents a challenge. Albert Einstein once stated, “The main thing is to continue to question.” Lifelong learners are fostered by educators who foster curiosity, while those who discourage it cultivate mechanical rote learners.

3. Thinking Beyond Subject Silos:

AI illustrates how literature can elucidate psychology, how art can enlighten physics, and how coding can intersect with music. Teachers must also adopt collaborative, transdisciplinary teaching. The mandate and the authority to do so are provided by NEP 2020. A literature teacher and a biology teacher could collaborate to investigate environmental poetry, while a history teacher and a maths teacher could investigate ancient Indian mathematics. This is the process by which learning is brought to life.

4. Feedback as a Continuous Dialogue:

AI tools are exceptional at providing immediate feedback, whether through assessments, practice tests, or writing evaluations. This continuous feedback spiral is both instructive and motivating for students. In contrast, educators frequently restrict feedback to annual reports or quarterly assessments.

Teachers can acquire the ability to provide feedback that is more immediate, constructive, and supportive. A brief reflective dialogue, a quick note on improvement, or a tender word of encouragement can impact a child's development more than pages of red ink on an exam paper.

5. The Essence of Lifelong Learning:

AI algorithms are perpetually updated. They adapt, evolve, and acquire knowledge. It is incumbent upon educators to emulate this behaviour. In a world where knowledge doubles every few years, a teacher who ceases to learn after acquiring a degree is unable to motivate Gen Alpha. Teachers must adopt continuous learning — reskilling, upskilling, and maintaining intellectual agility — in order to remain pertinent. More importantly, they must serve as examples of this learning mentality, demonstrating to students that learning is an ongoing process.

What AI Can't Teach — and Where

Teachers Need to Shine

AI can give you ideas, but it can't take the position of professors. Three things that no AI can copy are:

1. Empathy: A machine can give information, but it can't feel the sorrow of a pupil who is having trouble or hear the unspoken scream for help behind a preoccupied glance. Teachers can.

2. Ethics: AI can come up with answers, but it can't teach people how to have values, make decisions, and think morally. Teachers are the ones who make sure that students learn about ethics.

3. Inspiration: AI can make things look creative but can't spark the human spirit. A great teacher can get kids to believe in themselves, dream big, and work for a better society.

These are not small distinctions; they are essential. They remind us that teachers don't have to be afraid of AI. They must instead add to it. If AI is the encyclopaedia, the teacher must be the wise person. If AI is the guide, the instructor must be the compass.

Transitioning from Providers of Information to Custodians of Wisdom

On this Teachers' Day, we must enquire: What type of educators does Generation Alpha require?

They do not require information providers — Google and ChatGPT provide that role. Disciplinarians demanding conformity are unnecessary — algorithms already standardise efficiency. Gen Alpha need sagacious mentors: educators who can personalise learning, integrate disciplines, cultivate curiosity, and motivate ethical behaviour.

To serve as effective mentors, educators must acquire knowledge from AI while transcending its limitations. They must incorporate transdisciplinary knowledge akin to AI and infuse empathy, ethics, and inspiration. Only then will they exemplify the authentic essence of Dr. Radhakrishnan's vision: education as the craft of rendering life significant.

As we commemorate Teachers' Day in 2025, let us refrain from only offering perfunctory congratulations and floral offerings. Let us regard it as a summons for transformation.

To educators nationwide: perceive AI not as a menace but as a mentor. Understand its strengths — personalization, curiosity, feedback, integration — and incorporate them into your teaching. Simultaneously, reinforce the qualities that render you indispensable: empathy, ethics, and inspiration.

Bear in mind that Generation Alpha is observing. They will not be motivated by educators who adhere to antiquated ways, but by those who adapt with audacity and innovation. They will not honour educators who simply convey information, but rather those who inspire wisdom.

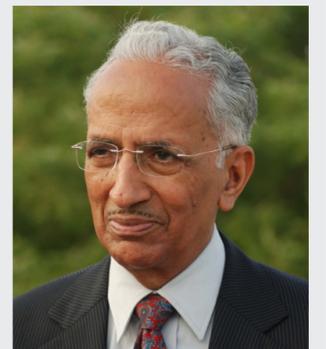
On this Teachers' Day, let us remember that AI is not intended to supplant the teacher, but rather to invigorate the teacher's role. It serves as a mirror, reflecting our potential if we relinquish rigidity and adopt creativity. To maintain relevance with Generation Alpha, educators must assimilate insights from

AI while transcending it — transforming from mere conveyors of information into architects of wisdom and empathy.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

People in India are angry - perhaps, very angry - with America, not so much because they have imposed 50% tariff, which we can absorb, but more so because of the unparliamentary, undignified, and abusive language which US spokesmen have used against India and its Prime Minister.

~ Prakash Singh, Former DG, BSF, DGP, UP & Assam



OF EDUCATION, TEACHER, AND TEACHER'S DAY

SAURABH DIXIT

The word “shiksha” means “the act of teaching and learning”. Education is a word with a wide meaning, but generally we try to understand it through formal and informal education. Formal education is provided for a fixed duration through a fixed curriculum, joint efforts of teacher and institute, whereas informal education can be obtained anytime, anywhere and from anyone. In other words, it can be said that education is the best divine gift received by any person, which helps in separating him from animals and giving him a respectable place. Education is a construction process going on from birth to death, whose main function is to develop and reveal the inner powers inherent in man. Education makes a person skilled. One important part of education is curriculum, i.e. education is a three-pronged process, whose three main parts are teacher, student, and curriculum. Education lies in the interaction of all three. In ancient times, education was provided in a healthy environment. Students were made to memorize the literature of the time by their teachers. One important part of education is the teacher. Teacher means a reliable hand which saves us from drowning in depression. Teacher means one whose word becomes a lamp of hope in moments of despair. Teacher means a personality who shows the right path for our benefit. Teacher means one who takes us from ignorance to knowledge and from darkness to light. Teacher means one who not only provides us with literacy but also guides us in every step of life.

The Guru-Shishya tradition is an important and

sacred part of Indian culture. Parents are the first to be worshipped because they bring us into this colourful and beautiful world. Mother and father are called the first Guru of children. But parents, society, friends, relatives provide us informal education which helps us in our practical life. But the path to live life is obtained from the continuous guidance of teachers. Teachers tirelessly make continuous efforts to provide quality education to the education system. Teachers consider their students as their own and impart education and work hard. As a student, when we need inspiration and encouragement, then these teachers teach us to come out of any unpleasant situation through the knowledge of patience. In the history of India, through examples like Maharshi-Vashishtha Shri Ram, Sandipani- Shri Krishna, Shri Parashuram-Bhishma, Ramanand-Kabir Das, Narharidas-Tulsidas, Shri Ramakrishna Paramhans Swami Vivekananda, Vallabhacharya-Surdas, Samarth Guru Ramdas-Chhatrapati Shivaji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale-Mahatma Gandhi, Matsyendranath-Gorakhnath, Raidas-Mirabai, Chanakya-Chandragupta Maurya, Govind Bhagwatpad Ji-Adi Shankaracharya, Shri Krishna-Abhimanyu, Aalal Kalam-Gautam Buddha, it can be understood that Gurus are also special to prepare a good disciple. Kabir Das has expressed the glory of a teacher in this way-

I will make all the earth a paper, all the forest opinions to write. I will make ink from seven seas, but Guru's virtues cannot be written.

The teacher has always reformed the society and given it a new direction. Teachers awaken the feeling of

social welfare in us. From making an ordinary person a great warrior to a knowledgeable, idealistic person, the teacher has an important role to play. Providing education is the biggest religion because only due to education can a society develop and prosper. Hence, man should share knowledge with the society like a teacher so that the society can be benefited. Goswami Tulsidas says that God is present in every particle, thus everyone is each other's Guru and disciple.

There are many such examples which tell that the tradition of Guru and disciple was sacred in ancient and medieval times. Today Guru-disciple are painted in the color of modernity. The identity of a real Guru is not self-respect. Imparting education is becoming a business. Though teachers are a mine of qualities, it is very important for a teacher to have ideal personality, all-round qualities, a sense of equality, interesting teaching, sharing experiences, being punctual about time and discipline, self-respect, and other such basic qualities. Disciples have always respected their Gurus and followed their instructions. Be it Shri Ram killing demons on the orders of Guru Vishwamitra and choosing Sita while participating in Sita Swayamvar, Shri Krishna bringing back his Guru Sandipani's dead child Punarblatta from Yamraj, Eklavya cutting off his right hand's thumb on the orders of Guru Dronacharya, Bhishma fighting with his Guru Shri Parashuram on his orders, Chhatrapati Shivaji bringing the milk of a lioness on the orders of Samarth Guru Ramdas, our civilization is full of such incidents.

Why only in honor of Radhakrishnan?

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born in a Brahmin family in Thiruttani village of Tamil Nadu on 5 September 1888. Radhakrishnan was always blessed with extraordinary talent and the spirit of nationalism was deeply embedded in him. Being a brilliant student, Radhakrishnan always received scholarships. He later adorned the post of Vice Chancellor of the college from which he did his M.A. After getting education, as a professor in Madras Presidency College, Mysore University, Kolkata University, Oxford University and Banaras Hindu University, when he used to teach fluently in Hindi and English wearing a turban and dhoti on his head, the students used to listen to him with fascination. It is also said that even the teachers used to be eager to teach his class. Radhakrishnan himself was highly influenced by Swami Vivekananda and Veer Savarkar, who were great men of extraordinary talent. In 1962, when Radhakrishnan became the second President of the country, many of his disciples requested him to celebrate his birthday.

After a lot of persuasion, he said that if you all want to celebrate my birthday, then celebrate it as Teachers' Day. In the same year, to show respect to teachers in India, Teachers' Day started being celebrated every year on 5 September. Radhakrishnan was one of the most famous writers of contemporary India. He wrote articles on theoretical, religious, moral, educational and informative subjects. His major books are Indian Philosophy, The Bhagavad Gita, Satya Ki Khoj, Philosophy of Hinduism, Our He is a heritage. He was nominated 16 times for the Nobel Prize for Literature and 11 times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Asom Sonmilito Morcha leads Assam protest against CAA extension, warns of identity risk

GUWAHATI

The Asom Sonmilito Morcha (ASM), on Thursday, staged a protest at Chachal, voicing strong opposition to the Centre's extension of the CAA cut-off to December 2024 and highlighting alleged corruption among state leaders.

The demonstration drew support from leaders and workers of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), CPI(M), and the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) and also Congress.

Protesters voiced strong opposition to granting citizenship to foreign nationals who entered India illegally up to December 31, 2024, the displacement of indigenous and tribal communities by outsider business groups, and alleged



corruption scandals involving the Chief Minister, BJP leaders, and their families.

AJP president Lurinjyoti Gogoi warned that Assam would bear the brunt of the Centre's order more than any other state. "Pushing illegal infiltrators into Assam is sheer injustice. The government once promised deportation of infiltrators, but after securing votes, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Amit Shah, and Prime Minister Modi have betrayed the people," he said.

Gogoi added that the 10-year exemption could be repeatedly extended, posing a threat to Assam's identity, culture, and land. "Whether Hindu or Muslim, we will not tolerate illegal foreigners in Assam," he declared, urging people to unite and continue

the protest movement.

Earlier in the day, the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) also condemned the Centre's Gazette Notification bringing into effect the Immigration and Foreigners Exemption Order, calling it a "blatant vote-bank strategy" of the BJP. The Congress argued that while the law is meant for the entire country, its impact would be felt most acutely in Assam, where illegal immigrants stand to gain directly. The party demanded that the Assam government clearly inform the Centre that the order should not be implemented in the state, and urged voters to reject the BJP in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Centre's order, extending the CAA cut-off to December

31, 2024, sparked widespread opposition in Assam, with political leaders and student groups calling it a "black day" for the state. The Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025, published in the Gazette of India, exempts certain communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bhutan, including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians, from needing passports or valid travel documents if they entered India on or before the new deadline.

The extension has reignited the CAA debate in Assam, which has long opposed the law for undermining the 1985 Assam Accord, which fixed March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for detecting and deporting illegal migrants.

Centre extends UDAN scheme, promises heliports in every NE District

ITANAGAR

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu on Thursday said that the Budget allocation for the Northeast has risen by 153 per cent since 2014-15, with over Rs 1.45 lakh crore invested in infrastructure projects in the region under the PM Gati Shakti Scheme. Speaking at the inaugural session of the North East Region Ministers' Conference on Civil Aviation-cum-3rd North East Aviation Summit here, the Union minister said the summit has emerged as an important platform to discuss infrastructure development, policy initiatives, and collaborative opportunities to boost connectivity in the region. Kinjarapu announced that the government will extend the UDAN scheme for another 10 years in a modified form, providing greater assurance for civil aviation stakeholders, particularly smaller airlines and states. Highlighting connectivity as the region's biggest challenge, he said plans are under way to develop heliports in every district of all north-eastern states under the extended UDAN scheme.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, in his address, said the Northeast has witnessed unprecedented development in the last 11 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He further announced that Arunachal Pradesh will soon have two additional airports, and sought continued support and technical assistance from the Civil Aviation Ministry. Civil aviation ministers, representatives from all north-eastern states, policymakers, and industry leaders are participating in the daylong event to discuss ways to expand airport infrastructure, promote helicopter and small aircraft services, enhance general aviation, and explore opportunities in seaplanes, drones, and maintenance facilities.

Cachar administration moves to fast-track key infrastructure projects



SILCHAR

The Cachar district administration is taking active steps to clear pending issues and accelerate major national infrastructure projects under the Bharat Mala initiative.

District Commissioner Mridul Yadav chaired a meeting on September 4 to address land acquisition and other roadblocks affecting multiple packages of the project. Officials focused on the Silchar-Badarpur-Churairabi Package-1, including land clearance at Srikona, resolving issues within the Defence Estate at Tarapur, and

relocating government and private institutions to keep the project on schedule.

The meeting also reviewed progress on the Panchgram and Badarpur bypass projects under Packages 2 and 3. Officials examined an additional 3G report aimed at expediting work and discussed specific challenges in the Karaikandi area related to the Badarpur Bypass to prevent delays.

Yadav emphasised the administration's commitment to supporting these nationally important projects, highlighting efforts to address on-ground issues, strengthen inter-departmental coordination, and promote infrastructure development that will boost connectivity and economic growth in the Barak Valley.

Senior district officials, representatives from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

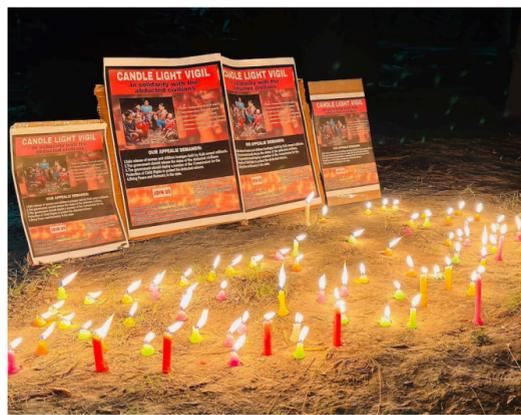
Body of Thadou leader recovered from Assam river days after alleged killing by Kuki militants

IMPHAL

The body of a prominent Thadou community leader has been recovered from a river in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, five days after he was allegedly killed by Kuki militants in late August.

Nehkam Jomhao, 59, was abducted from his residence at Chonghang Veng in the Manja area on August 30 evening around 7:30 pm before being killed, according to local police. His death has sent shockwaves through the Thadou community, which has been asserting its distinct ethnic identity separate from other tribal groups in the region.

The Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) Assam, which operates under a ceasefire agreement similar to Manipur's suspension of operations pact, issued a statement on September 4 expressing being "shocked



and deeply saddened by the heinous crime."

The group's general secretary LS Gangte identified five alleged perpetrators: Samson Kuki, Jangpu Hangsing, Mang-

members, had been arrested in connection with the case. "They confessed to having killed the abducted person," Saikia told media, adding that investigations were ongoing to determine the motive.

The killing appears linked to Jomhao's recent peace initiatives with Meitei organisations. Thadou groups claim he was murdered for pursuing reconciliation efforts that conflicted with the positions of various armed factions in the region.

The Thadou community has been caught in the crossfire of the broader Kuki-Meitei conflict that erupted in Manipur in May 2023. Unlike other communities in the region, the Thadous have consistently refused to be categorised under the broader Kuki tribal umbrella, maintaining their separate ethnic identity.

Police investigations continue as the community mourns the loss of their leader.

Meghalaya: GHADC employees hold protest rally over pending salaries

WEST GARO HILLS (MEGHALAYA)

A mega protest rally in support of the demands of the employees of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) for the release of their dues was organized in the Tura region of the West Garo Hills district of the state of Meghalaya on Thursday.

Several social organizations, student bodies, and civil society groups together took part in the protest rally to register a strong protest over the delay in payment of salaries.

A conglomerate of organizations, including the Garo Students Union and several social outfits, marched alongside hundreds of salary-deprived staff of the district council as they made their way through the main thoroughfares of Tura town on Thursday.

Speaking to the media, an employee, Arphina M Sangma, said, "There is lot of problems in GHADC employees' family...there is no food to eat, no clothes to wear...main problem is the children of GHADC employees' family...the children, they can not go to school because of the non-payment of 44 months' salaries and the patients, the sick persons...there is so many people of GHADC employees' family, there is a sick person is there, like cancer patients, diabetes patients and many other diseases...they can not take a proper treatment, so some of the employees already expired...today we met at a mass rally in Tura, all the GHADC employees, NGO's, senior citizen forums, demanding to clear the pending of 44 months' salaries".

Shops across Tura town were shut down for four hours when the rally took place.

The Employees of GHADC have reached a mark of 44 months in unpaid dues. Days earlier, the Executive Committee of the GHADC, headed by Chief Executive Member (CEM) Albinush Marak, reportedly assured the striking employees of 5 months' salary, followed by regular monthly salaries from the first week of November, to get them to return to work.

However, the agitating employees aren't cooperating. Peeved with their own EC for dragging its feet on the issue, they now want nothing short of the clearance of the entire 44 months of pending salaries.

According to the reports, the NPP-led Meghalaya government under Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma

had made overtures to the affected employees and announced its keenness to step forward and help clear their salaries every month, beginning the first week of November, with one requisition- GHADC must take up financial reforms to ensure it doesn't face another similar crisis.

The protesters alleged that the overture from the Chief Minister hasn't been well appreciated by social groups and other political parties, who accuse the state government of infringing on the autonomy of the district council. This has now led to a stalemate.

The rally started from William Point, which is meters away from the head office of the GHADC, and proceeded through Members' Hostel, DC Office road, Tura Bazar, Hawakhana, and back to William Point.

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Assam Rifles hands over historic Cancipur Hillock to Manipur after four long decades



IMPHAL

The Assam Rifles on Wednesday handed over the historic Cancipur Hillock - also known as the Langthabal Hillock or Langthabal Konung (Palace) - to the Art and Culture Department of Manipur.

Atop this sacred hillock stands the Langthabal palace complex located on the southern side of the Manipur University campus at Cancipur, once the seat of power of the Manipur kingdom. Established in 1827 by Maharaja Gambhir Singh following the liberation of Manipur from Burmese occupation, the palace served as the capital until 1844. The site also houses the Langthabal temple, a centuries-old structure dedicated to traditional Meitei deities, believed to have been patronised during the reign of Maharaja Bhagyachandra Singh in the late

18th century. Though now in ruins, the temple remains a revered symbol of Manipur's spiritual heritage, with its mandap and sanctum still drawing quiet reverence from visitors and historians alike.

Spanning over 22 acres, the palace and temple complex is protected under the Manipur Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1976. For over four decades, Assam Rifles and Indian Army maintained a company operating base at this location.

Recognising the hillock's immense historical and emotional significance, the Government of Manipur constructed an alternate post for the Assam Rifles on an adjoining hillock, ensuring seamless continuity of security operations while enabling the transfer of the heritage site. The relocation process began on November 30, 2023, marked by the inauguration of the new accommodation for the Assam Rifles.

Wednesday's handing over ceremony was attended by Assam Rifles officers and troops and senior Manipur Government officials.

Assam Agricultural University supported startup 'Assure Biovention' paves new path for northeast's agri-innovation

GUWAHATI

Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, has set a significant milestone in strengthening the startup ecosystem of Northeast India by supporting its very first startup—Assure Biovention Pvt. Ltd. The initiative marks a pioneering step, making AAU the first state agricultural university in the country to incubate a startup under its own innovation and entrepreneurship policy.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Bidyut Chandan Deka highlighted that AAU had framed its Innovation, Startup, and Entrepreneurship Policy in 2021, in line with the National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) 2019, with the objective of enabling students and faculty members to translate their research and technological innovations into entrepreneurial ventures.

The startup, Assure Biovention Pvt. Ltd., was officially founded on August 5, 2024, by Professor Bidyut Kumar Sarmah, Director of



DBT-North East Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology (DBT-NECAB) and former ICAR National Professor, along with co-founder Mr. Binod Hazarika, a prominent businessman from Nagaon. Registered under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (GoI) and recognized by DPIIT (DIPPI 95782), the company aims to serve as an innovative solution provider in the biological sciences to empower farmers, students, entrepreneurs, and researchers across the region.

On November 5, 2024, Assure Biovention signed an MoU with AAU for upscaling and marketing several technologies developed at the university. Under this agreement, royalties will be shared between AAU and the scientists who spearheaded the innovations.

The startup currently receives consultancy support from Dr. Popy Borah (Senior Scientist, ARRI, AAU) and mentorship from Dr. M.V. Deshpande, retired scientist of NCL Pune. The company has already commercialized five bioinput products—two growth promoters (Biopushti and Bioshakti) and three biopesticides (Bioveer, Bioguard, and Biosona)—all developed under DBT-NECAB with funding from DBT, Government of India. These eco-friendly products are gaining popularity among farmers and tea planters for their efficacy and residue-free quality.

In a notable collaboration with AAU and the Karbi Anglong district administration, Assure Biovention has supplied bioinputs and agronomic expertise to the Karbi Ex-Rev-

olutionary United Forum (KERUF), enabling the cultivation of around 100 bighas of maize and 50 bighas of pumpkin under organic farming practices. A recent "Field Day" in Bokajan saw 70 farmers participate in hands-on training on bioinput application.

The startup has also entered into partnerships with several tea estates and small tea growers in Assam and Nagaland, covering 50 hectares of organic and integrated tea cultivation. Export-focused tea gardens have appreciated the high microbial concentration and pesticide-free nature of the products, which ensure international market compatibility. Additionally, the company has begun promoting crop biodiversity in tea gardens through the supply of tissue culture banana plantlets and turmeric for organic cultivation. Beyond its agricultural ventures, Assure Biovention has been organizing awareness programmes, training sessions, and motivational talks to guide students and scholars on competitive exams, research opportunities, and entrepreneurship prospects. Impressed by the achievements of its first supported startup, AAU authorities have urged more students, researchers, and faculty members to venture into entrepreneurship, positioning the university as a hub for agri-innovation and sustainable development in Northeast India.

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47% of India's ministers face criminal charges, including murder: ADR report

NEW DELHI

Nearly 47% of ministers in the country have declared criminal cases against themselves, including serious charges such as murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women, reveals an analysis of poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report came days after the Centre introduced three bills that sought the removal of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and ministers arrested for 30 days on serious criminal charges.

ADR examined self-sworn affidavits of 643 ministers from 27 state assemblies, three Union Territories and the Union Council of Ministers, and found that 302 ministers, or 47% of the total, have criminal cases against them.

Of these 302 ministers, 174 face serious criminal cases, the report declared.

At the national level, 29 of the 72 Union ministers (40%) declared criminal cases in their affidavits.

According to the analysis, of 336 BJP ministers, 136 (40%) declared criminal cases against themselves, and 88 (26%) are facing serious charges.

The Congress, which is in power in four states, had 45 ministers (74%) with criminal cases, including 18 (30%) with serious offences.

In the states, 11 assemblies, namely Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Puducherry, have more than 60% of ministers with criminal cases.

In contrast, ministers in Haryana, Jammu and

Kashmir, Nagaland and Uttarakhand reported no criminal cases against themselves.

Of 31 DMK ministers, 27, accounting for around 87%, face criminal charges, while 14 (45%) face serious cases. The Trinamool Congress too had 13 of its 40 ministers (33%) with criminal cases, including 8 (20%) with serious charges.

The Telugu Desam Party had the highest proportion, with 22 of its 23 ministers (96%) declaring criminal cases and 13 (57%) of them booked for serious offences. Among AAP ministers, 11 of 16 (69%) face criminal cases, while five (31%) are facing serious ones.

ADR has also come up with an analysis of the financial assets of ministers in the report. According to it, the average assets of ministers stood at Rs 37.21 crore, with the total assets of all 643 ministers amounting to Rs 23,929 crore.

Out of the 30 Assemblies, 11 have billionaire ministers. Karnataka leads with the highest eight billionaire ministers, followed by Andhra Pradesh with six and Maharashtra with four such ministers.

Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana and Telangana have two each, while Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have one billionaire minister each.

At the Union government, six of the 72 Union Council ministers (8%) were billionaires, the report said.

Party-wise, the BJP had the highest number of billionaire ministers at 14, though this constituted just 4 per cent of its total. The

Congress ranked second, with 11 of its 61 ministers (18 per cent) being billionaires, while the TDP had 6 billionaire ministers among its 23 (26 per cent).

The Aam Aadmi Party, Janasena Party, JD(S), NCP and Shiv Sena also have billionaire ministers.

The richest minister in the country is Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani of the TDP, who represents Andhra Pradesh's Guntur in the Lok Sabha. He has declared assets worth over Rs 5,705 crore.

Karnataka Congress leader and state minister D K Shivakumar follows next, with assets exceeding Rs 1,413 crore, while Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who helms the TDP, has assets worth over Rs 931 crore.

Other rich ministers in the top 10 include Narayana Ponguru and Nara Lokesh from Andhra Pradesh, Gaddam Vivekanand and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy from Telangana, Suresha B S from Karnataka, Mangal Prabhat Lodha from Maharashtra, and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

At the other end of the spectrum, a handful of ministers reported very modest wealth. Sukla Charan Noatia of the Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura declared assets worth just Rs 2 lakh, while West Bengal minister Birbaha Hansda of the Trinamool Congress reported assets of a little over Rs 3 lakh.

ADR noted that the status of the criminal cases cited in the affidavits may have changed since they were filed with the Election Commission during polls between 2020 and 2025.

India, Singapore unveil economic roadmap including civil nuclear, defence cooperation amid global trade shifts

NEW DELHI

India and Singapore on Thursday unveiled a comprehensive economic roadmap aimed at deepening strategic cooperation across trade, civil nuclear energy, and defence ties, amid growing global trade uncertainties.

The announcement was made following wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, who is on his maiden official visit to India. The leaders agreed to fast-track the review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) in a time-bound manner to accelerate bilateral trade and economic integration.

"This decision will accelerate bilateral trade," Modi said, as both leaders unveiled a renewed roadmap to deepen strategic and economic ties. The move comes amid rising global protectionism, particularly the tariff-heavy trade regime under President Donald Trump, which has prompted India to diversify its export markets and reinforce regional partnerships.

Wong, on his first official visit to India since assuming office, underscored the importance of the partnership in current times.

"In a world marked by uncertainty and turbulence, the partnership between India and Singapore becomes even more important," he said.

Modi echoed this sentiment, saying that the India-Singapore relationship now spans advanced manufacturing, green shipping, skilling, civil nuclear cooperation, and urban water management.

"India-Singapore relations go far beyond diplomacy," and pointed out that the partnership has expanded beyond traditional sectors," he said, highlighting increasing participation by Indian states in building ties, and citing recent visits by the chief ministers of Odisha, Telangana, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh to Singapore.

Modi also noted that GIFT City in Gujarat has become a key connector between the Indian and Singaporean stock markets.



"Singapore remains a vital pillar of India's Act East Policy and a partner in boosting ASEAN and Indo-Pacific stability," he said, thanking Wong for Singapore's solidarity after the recent terror attack in Pahalgam and its support in the global fight against terrorism.

"We believe that fighting against terrorism with unity is the duty of all countries which believe in humanity," Modi added.

The two leaders also virtually inaugurated the second phase of the JNPort PSA Terminal (BMCT). The upgrade brings the total container handling capacity at India's premier port to 4.8 million TEUs, reinforcing its position as a critical trade hub. JNPA now handles 54% of India's total containerised cargo among major ports.

A number of agreements were signed during Wong's visit, including a key MoU on digital asset innovation

between the Reserve Bank of India and the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Speaking to reporters later, P. Kumaran, Secretary (East) at the MEA, emphasised Singapore's position as India's largest FDI source in recent years.

"Over the last seven years, Singapore has averaged about \$15 billion in FDI annually, with cumulative investments since 2000 standing at \$170 billion," he said.

With India's growth trajectory intact despite global uncertainties, Singapore continues to view India as a long-term investment destination, Kumaran noted.

Civil nuclear cooperation also featured in talks, with both sides agreeing to explore collaboration on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and emerging technologies. Teams from both nations will be formed to take this forward.

On maritime security, India has

expressed interest in joining the Malacca Straits Patrol, currently conducted by Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore. Kumaran confirmed discussions are ongoing but no conclusion has been reached yet.

In civil aviation, Singapore is looking to invest in India's MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) infrastructure.

"Singapore Airlines, which holds a 25% stake in Air India, is working closely with Tata Group to develop MRO capacity in India," Kumaran said. The partnership could leverage India's land availability to establish major MRO hubs.

While there was no direct discussion on the Trump administration's tariff actions, officials confirmed that the talks addressed the broader context of global trade uncertainty.

"There's a growing need to diversify trade and supply chains through FTAs and PTAs," Kumaran said

INTERNATIONAL

Trump hosts tech titans — but not Musk — at White House



WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump hosted a high-powered group of tech executives at the White House on Thursday as he showcased research on artificial intelligence and boasted of investments that companies are making around the United States.

"This is taking our country to a new level," he said at the center of a long table surrounded by what he described as "high IQ people."

It was the latest example of a delicate two-way courtship between Trump and tech leaders, several of whom attended his inauguration. Trump has exulted in the attention from some of the world's most successful businesspeople, while the companies are eager to remain on the good side of the mercurial president.

While the executives praised Trump and talked about their hopes for technological advancement, the Republican president was focused on dollar signs. He went around the table and asked executives how much they were investing in the country.

Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, who sat to Trump's right, said \$600 billion. Apple's Tim Cook said the same. Google's Sundar Pichai said \$250 billion.

"What about Microsoft?" Trump said. "That's a big number." CEO Satya Nadella said it was up to \$80 billion per year.

"Good," Trump responded. "Very good." Notably absent from the guest list was Elon Musk, once a close ally of Trump who was tasked with running the Department of Government Efficiency. Musk had a public breakup with Trump earlier this year.

At the table instead was one of Musk's rivals in artificial intelligence, Sam Altman of OpenAI.

In another reflection of shifting loyalties in Trump's world, the dinner included Jared Isaacman, who founded the payment processing company Shift4.

Isaacman was a Musk ally chosen by Trump to lead NASA, only to have his nomination withdrawn because he was, in Trump's words, "totally a Democrat."

The dinner was expected to be held in the Rose Garden, where Trump recently paved over the grassy lawn and set up tables, chairs and umbrellas that look strikingly similar to the outdoor setup at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.

But because of inclement weather, officials decided to move the event to

the White House State Dining Room.

The event followed an afternoon meeting of the White House's new Artificial Intelligence Education task force, which first lady Melania Trump chaired and some tech leaders participated.

"The robots are here. Our future is no longer science fiction," she said, Pichai, IBM chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna and Code.org President Cameron Wilson were among those participating in the task force.

The White House confirmed that the guest list for the dinner also included: Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates; Google founder Sergey Brin; OpenAI founder Greg Brockman; Oracle CEO Safra Catz; Blue Origin CEO David Limp; Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra; TIBCO Software chairman Vivek Ranadive; Palantir executive Shyam Sankar; Scale AI founder Alexandr Wang; and Shift4 Payments CEO Jared Isaacman.

Trump's outreach to top tech executives has occasionally been divisive within the Republican Party.

One of Trump's closest allies in Congress, Sen. Josh Hawley, delivered a sharp criticism of the tech industry during a speech at a conservative conference in Washington on Thursday

morning. He criticized the lack of regulation around artificial intelligence and singled out Meta and ChatGPT.

"The government should inspect all of these frontier AI systems so we can better understand what the tech titans plan to build and destroy," the Missouri senator said.

Trump has embraced AI-created imagery and frequently shares it online, despite his complaints earlier in the week about the technology being used to create misleading videos.

Late Wednesday night, he posted a string of AI-generated memes and videos, such as one depicting him interacting with the man pictured in the Cracker Barrel logo, one showing California Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff with an extremely elongated neck, and one with Trump's face superimposed on a pole vaulter as it appears to leap over a Cracker Barrel banner.

On Tuesday, Trump said a video showing items being thrown out of an upstairs window of the White House must have been created by AI, despite his team seeming to have confirmed the video's veracity hours earlier.

Trump then said, "If something happens that's really bad, maybe I'll have to just blame AI."

The first lady, at her event Thursday, likewise highlighted both the potential and peril of AI.

"As leaders and parents, we must manage AI's growth responsibly," she said, calling for both action and caution. "During this primitive stage, it is our duty to treat AI as we would our own children — empowering, but with watchful guidance."

Last month, the first lady launched a nationwide contest for students in grades K-12 to use AI to complete a project or address a community challenge. The project was aimed at showing the benefits of AI, but the first lady has also highlighted its drawbacks. Melania Trump lobbied Congress this year to pass legislation that imposes penalties for online sexual exploitation using imagery that is real or an AI-generated deepfake. The president signed the "Take It Down Act" in May.

Collateral consequences of Ukraine conflict, including fuel price, affecting Global South: India tells UNGA

UNITED NATIONS

India has voiced regret over the Ukraine conflict's collateral consequences, including prices of fuel, saying countries of the Global South have been left to fend for themselves, as Delhi underscored that diplomatic efforts hold the promise to end the war and bring lasting peace.

India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine.

We maintain that the loss of innocent lives is unacceptable, and no solution can be found on the battlefield, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said Thursday.

Addressing the UN General Assembly debate on The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, Harish said India continues to "note with regret that the collateral consequences of the conflict, including prices of fuel, is affecting the world at large and particularly the countries of the Global South, which have been left to fend for themselves. From our perspective, it is critical that their voices are heard, and their legitimate concerns duly addressed".

Underlining that an early end to the Ukraine conflict is in everyone's interest, Harish referred to Modi's message that this is not an era of war and emphasised that Delhi stands ready to support diplomatic efforts for an early end to the conflict. Hours before India's statement at the UNGA, Modi spoke with European Council President Antonio Costa and von der Leyen. Exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and efforts for bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine, Modi said in a post on X.

Earlier on Thursday, External Affairs Minister S

We also note the subsequent diplomatic efforts by the US president in engaging with Ukrainian president and European leaders in Washington Harish said.

We believe all these diplomatic efforts hold the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up prospects for a lasting peace.

Three days after rolling out the red carpet for Putin for the summit meeting in Alaska, Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and seven other European leaders - German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron, United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte - in the White House.

Harish said Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains in touch with Putin, Zelensky and the European leadership on the evolving situation.

Underlining that an early end to the Ukraine conflict is in everyone's interest, Harish referred to Modi's message that this is not an era of war and emphasised that Delhi stands ready to support diplomatic efforts for an early end to the conflict. Hours before India's statement at the UNGA, Modi spoke with European Council President Antonio Costa and von der Leyen. Exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and efforts for bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine, Modi said in a post on X.

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Jaishankar also spoke with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and discussed bilateral cooperation as well the Ukraine conflict.

India supports an early end to this conflict and the establishment of an enduring peace, Jaishankar said.

Sybiha said he informed Jaishankar about the current battlefield situation and Ukraine's efforts to achieve a just peace.

We rely on India's authoritative voice and active role in supporting the full cessation of hostilities and broader international peace efforts, Sybiha said, adding that he and Jaishankar agreed to meet during the upcoming high-level UN General Assembly session.

Modi met Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin, China, earlier this week and the two leaders exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine".

Last week, Modi and Zelensky spoke over phone and exchanged views on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspect, and efforts to restore peace and stability".

Harish stressed that India has consistently advocated that the path of dialogue and diplomacy is the only way forward to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, no matter how insurmountable such a course may appear. He said India's approach to the Ukraine conflict continues to be people-centric, providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic support to friends and partners in the Global South, including some of India's neighbours who are facing economic distress.

North East India Festival comes to Singapore this September 19-21, with trade, culture, tourism showcase



The North East India Festival (NEIF) will make its Singapore debut from September 19 to 21, bringing the region's cultural performances, trade opportunities, and tourism offerings to the Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre, the organiser has officially announced on

tainment, and networking platforms. In line with India's Act East Policy, the North East India Festival was launched to strengthen ties between Northeast India and Southeast Asian nations.

The Festival has previously drawn large audiences in Bangkok (2019, 2022) and Ho Chi Minh City (2023).

Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his town hall address in Bangkok in 2019, had opined that it was India's initiative to connect South East Asia through North East India.

This year's edition marks the 60th anniversary of India-Singapore diplomatic relations and coincides with the India-ASEAN Year of Tourism.

It will be a presentation of the Indian High Commission, the Ministry of External Affairs, and state governments across the Northeast and driven by the organiser of North East India Festival initiatives, Trend MMS, with support from the Assam Association, Singapore, and the North East India Association, Singapore.

The opening ceremony on September 19 will be attended by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, State Ministers from Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, and Sikkim, among other dignitaries.

Top functionaries of the Singapore government, industrialists, tour operators of Singapore, and ASEAN embassies will attend the Inaugural session, the organiser said in a statement.

Before the inaugural session, the Singapore Business Forum will organise an investor's roundtable, where top industrialists from Singapore will

have one-on-one meetings with leaders from North East India.

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita is expected to grace the closing session of the programme. Singapore's top Ministers will attend the festival on various days, the organiser said.

The main exhibition will take place from September 20th to 21st, from 10 AM to 10 PM.

Around 60 stalls will bring the best of GI products, One District One Product, specially agri-horti, food processing products of North East India, curated handicraft exhibition by award-winning artisans, Assam tea showcase and tea tasting, among others.

Many startup entrepreneurs from the region will also be present in the Festival. Around 150 folk dancers will present the Lion dance from Arunachal, the Satriya, Tiwa, and Karbi dances from Assam, the Manipuri dance, the Hojagiri dance from Tripura, the Warriors' dance from Nagaland, and many more.

A special showcase by Indian cul-

tural performers from SIFAS in Singapore will be an added attraction.

The evening will feature a spectacular fashion show showcasing some of India's finest designers and their silk products. Popular tourism destinations of exotic parts of India, and festivals will be on display.

Some of the top musical bands from Nagaland, Manipur, the heartthrob of NER, Bollywood singer Zubeen Garg, Tripura rapper Borkung Hrangkhal, Popular rock bands of Meghalaya such as Meba Offilia, Garo band Nokpante, Six Frets, talented Nagaland folk rock singer Seyie Chuzo, and Parmeta Reang are expected to perform.

Entry to the Festival will be free, the organiser said.

Shyamkanu Mahanta, the Chief Organiser of the Festival, informed that more than 400 people are travelling to be part of India's biggest programme in Singapore ever.

Mahanta informed that the B2B meet was attended by major tour operators from Singapore, who interacted with tour operators from the North East. The Trade Meet will be attended by prominent buyers of Singapore, interacting with entrepreneurs of the North East.

Two evenings of Spectacular Fashion will have talented designers of the NER, including Bampi Riram, Sarleen Engtipi, Daniel Siyem, Iba Malai, Daisya Momin, Arbin Tonjam, T Hmar, Chimi, etc.

Trade exhibits will include GI-certified teas, coffees, and spices; organic produce from Sikkim; textiles and handicrafts from Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh; and distinctive agricultural products from the region. The tourism pavilion will promote signature events such as the Hornbill Festival, Cherry Blossom Festival, and Tawang Festival, along with adventure travel routes that remain off the beaten track.

Chief Organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta remarked, "Singapore offers a space where cultures interact, commerce thrives, and new ideas build traction."

Through the North East India Festival, our goal is to give entrepreneurs, artists, and tourism promoters a platform that connects them directly with global audiences. Visitors will experience the traditions and creativity of our region while discovering avenues for investment and collaboration. Whether in agriculture, textiles, travel, or creative sectors, the potential for meaningful partnerships is strong. We want this festival to spark dialogue that leads to sustained engagement between the Northeast and ASEAN countries."



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ACTIVITY PROGRAM



BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

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



11 JAN
Adventure Sports
 Trekking & Canoe, Obstacle Navigations, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Techniques, Water Sports.
www.krcfoundation.org



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
 Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley by different stakeholders.
 Includes: MOUs, and 20 general discussion sessions for various stakeholders. Seats are limited and reservation is mandatory. Participation through invitation only. Different rewards are provided.



JAN'25
Online Global Fest
 All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.



BROADCAST PARTNER



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12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave
 Climate change will influence on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, treatment and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competitive and certification. River Barak, Climate Change.



11 JAN
Media Conclave
 An Online Event



Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion

11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave
 The 4th 5E Success Conclave is going to be held on the theme: "From School to Campus to Corporate". Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors.
 Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & Colleges, Extension, Seminars, Public Speaking (College).
 In an online event where students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate.

10 JAN
Media Conclave
 Media Conclave: Media Conclave, Webinars, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the "Barak Festival 2025". Theme: "One for All, All for One".
 Webinars: Journalism, Marketing, Leadership, and Corporate HR, and seminars, panel discussions, workshops.





PAINTING CARNIVAL
NE CULTURAL FEST
E-SPORTS
FILM FESTIVAL | EXHIBITION
 BOOK CLUB | SEMINAR | WORKSHOP

10-12 JAN
Science Studio
 Get a glimpse of Science to its new heights. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, Administrators | Parents.
Raw science out of textbooks into real-life experiences of students.

DEC'24-JAN'25
Photography
 Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture.
 Real-Time Photography Contest of "Barak Festival 2025".



Barak Festival

Band Night | 10 JAN
Musical Night | 11 JAN

10-12 JAN
E-Sports
 Full-Blown Demos | CASH PRIZES | Trophy



11 JAN
film festival
 Award-Giving Ceremony | Film from Manipur, Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, WS, Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet





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10-12 JAN
Book Bank
 #NoLike Campaign | Book Bank | e-books | e-audio | e-video

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

Painting Carnival
 Water Colour painting and Draw-Paint Campaign



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