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-CONTENTS

FROM CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK	5
H1-B VISA	6
EVENTS	9
FARMERS SHOULD REDUCE USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES	11
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHES VIKSIT BHARAT BUILDATHON 2025	12
NATIONAL AWARENESS TIMES PAYS TRIBUTE	13
SWASTH NARI, SASHAKT PARIVAAR ABHIYAAN	15
ENTERTAINMENT	16
HEALTH - BENEFITS OF HAVING KARELA JUICE	17
PIC OF THE WEEK	18
LEARN & PASS IT ON	19

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CHIEF EDITOR DESK



Dear Readers,

On behalf of National Awareness Times (India's National Weekly), the editorial board and the team of our journal would like to wish all the readers a wonderful week ahead to all.

The H-1B nonimmigrant visa program was created to bring temporary workers into the United States to perform additive, high-skilled functions, but it has been deliberately exploited to replace, rather than

supplement, American workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labor.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, addressed the annual meeting of seven district-level cooperative societies, including Rajkot District Cooperative Bank Limited, in Rajkot, Gujarat.

Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, a groundbreaking nationwide innovation movement set to engage students across schools throughout India.

Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually attended the launch event of the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan' at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Saket in New Delhi.

Deepak Singh, Chief Editor

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H1-B VISA

By Editor - Gaurav Singh



he H-1B nonimmigrant visa program was created to bring temporary workers into the United States to perform additive, high-skilled functions, but it has been deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labor. The large-scale replacement of American workers through systemic abuse of the program has undermined both our economic and national security. Some employers, using practices now widely adopted by entire sectors, have abused the H-1B statute and its regulations to artificially suppress wages, resulting in a disadvantageous labor market for American citizens, while at the same time making it more difficult to attract and retain the highest skilled subset of temporary workers, with the largest impact seen in critical science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

The number of foreign STEM workers in the United States has more than

doubled between 2000 and 2019, increasing from 1.2 million to almost 2.5 million, while overall STEM employment has only increased 44.5 percent during that time. Among computer and math occupations, the foreign share of the workforce grew from 17.7 percent in 2000 to 26.1 percent in 2019. And the key facilitator for this influx of foreign STEM labor has been the abuse of the H-1B visa.

Information technology (IT) firms in particular have prominently manipulated the H-1B system, significantly harming American workers in computer-related fields. The share of IT workers in the H-1B program grew from 32 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to an average of over 65 percent in the last 5 fiscal years. In addition, some of the most prolific H-1B employers are now consistently IT outsourcing companies. Using these H 1B-reliant IT outsourcing companies provides significant savings for employers:

one study of tech workers showed a 36 percent discount for H-1B "entry-level" positions as compared to full-time, traditional workers. To take advantage of artificially low labor costs incentivized by the program, companies close their IT divisions, fire their American staff, and outsource IT jobs to lower-paid foreign workers.

Further, the abuse of the H-1B visa program has made it even more challenging for college graduates trying to find IT jobs, allowing employers to hire foreign workers at a significant discount to American workers. These effects of abuse of H-1B visas have coincided with increasing challenges in the labor market in which H-1B workers serve. According to a study from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, among college graduates ages 22 to 27, computer science and computer engineering majors are facing some of the highest unemployment rates in the country at 6.1 percent and 7.5



percent, respectively — more than double the unemployment rates of recent biology and art history graduates. Recent data reveals that unemployment rates among workers in computer occupations jumped from an average of 1.98 percent in 2019 to 3.02 percent in 2025.

Reports also indicate that many American tech companies have laid off their qualified and highly skilled American workers and simultaneously hired thousands of H-1B workers. One software company was approved for over 5,000 H-1B workers in FY 2025: around the same time, it announced a series of layoffs totaling more than 15,000 employees. Another IT firm was approved for nearly 1,700 H-1B workers in FY 2025; it announced it was laying off 2,400 American workers in Oregon in July. A third company has reduced its workforce by approximately 27,000 American workers since 2022, while being approved for over 25,000 H-1B workers since FY 2022. A fourth company reportedly eliminated 1,000 jobs in February; it was approved for over 1,100 H-1B workers for FY 2025. American IT workers have reported they were forced to train the foreign workers who were taking their jobs and to sign nondisclosure agreements about this indignity as a condition of receiving any form of severance. This suggests H-1B visas are not being used to fill occupational shortages or obtain highly skilled workers who are unavailable in the United States.

The high numbers of relatively low-wage workers in the H-1B program undercut the integrity of the program and are detrimental to American workers' wages and labor opportunities, especially at the entry level, in industries where such low-paid H-1B workers are concentrated. These abuses also prevent American employers in other industries from utilizing the H-1B program in the manner in which it was intended: to fill jobs for which highly skilled and educated American workers are unavailable.

The abuse of the H-1B program is also a national security threat. Domestic law enforcement agencies have identified and investigated H-1B-reliant outsourcing companies for engaging in visa fraud, conspiracy to launder money, conspiracy under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, and other illicit activities to encourage foreign workers to come to the United States. Further, abuses of the H-1B program present a national security threat by discouraging Americans from pursuing careers in science and technology, risking American leadership in these fields. A 2017 study showed that wages for American computer scientists would have been 2.6 percent to 5.1 percent higher and employment in computer

science for American workers would have been 6.1 percent to 10.8 percent higher in 2001 absent the importation of foreign workers into the computer science field.

It is therefore necessary to impose higher costs on companies seeking to use the H-1B program in order to address the abuse of that program while still permitting companies to hire the best of the best temporary foreign workers.

The severe harms that the large-scale abuse of this program has inflicted on our economic and national security demands an immediate response. I therefore find that the unrestricted entry into the United States of certain foreign workers who are described in section 1 of this proclamation would be detrimental to the interests of the United States because such entry would harm American workers, including by undercutting their wages.

Accordingly, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Restriction on Entry. (a) Pursuant to sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a), the entry into the United States of aliens as nonimmigrants to perform services in a specialty occupation under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), is restricted, except for those aliens whose petitions are accompanied or supplemented by a payment of \$100,000 — subject to the exceptions set forth in subsection (c) of this section. This restriction shall expire, absent extension, 12 months after the effective date of this proclamation, which shall be 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall restrict decisions on petitions not accompanied by a \$100,000 payment for H-1B specialty occupation workers under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the INA, who are currently outside the United States, for 12 months following the effective date of this proclamation as set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The Secretary of State shall



also issue guidance, as necessary and to the extent permitted by law, to prevent misuse of B visas by alien beneficiaries of approved H-1B petitions that have an employment start date beginning prior to October 1, 2026.

(c) The restriction imposed pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to any individual alien, all aliens working for a company, or all aliens working in an industry, if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, in the Secretary's discretion, that the hiring of such aliens to be employed as H-1B specialty occupation workers is in the national interest and does not pose a threat to the security or welfare of the United States.

Sec. 2. Compliance. (a) Employers shall, prior to filing an H-1B petition on behalf of an alien outside the United States, obtain and retain documentation showing that the payment described in section 1 of this proclamation has been made.

(b) The Secretary of State shall verify receipt of payment of the amount described in section 1 of this proclamation during the H-1B visa petition process and shall approve only those visa petitions for which the filing employer has made the payment described in section 1 of this proclamation.

(c) The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State shall coordinate to take all necessary and appropriate action to implement this proclamation and to deny entry to the United States to any H-1B nonimmigrant for whom the prospective employer has not made the payment described in section 1 of this proclamation.

Sec. 3. Scope and Implementation of Restriction on Entry. (a) The restriction on entry pursuant to section 1 of this proclamation shall apply only to aliens who enter or attempt to enter the United States after the effective date of this



proclamation as set forth in section 1(a) of this proclamation.

(b) No later than 30 days following the completion of the H-1B lottery that immediately follows this proclamation, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly submit to the President, through the Assistant to the President and Homeland Security Advisor, a recommendation on whether an extension or renewal of the restriction on entry pursuant to section 1 of this proclamation is in the interests of the United States.

Sec. 4. Amending the Prevailing Wage Levels. (a) The Secretary of Labor shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the prevailing wage levels to levels consistent with the policy goals of this proclamation consistent with section 212(n) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(n).

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall initiate a rulemaking to prioritize the admission as nonimmigrants of high-skilled and high-paid aliens, consistent with sections 101, 212, and 214 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1101, 1182, and 1184.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This proclamation shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.





The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing at the release of Hindi Vivek publication's 'Deepstambh', in New Delhi.

The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at the inauguration and foundation stone laying of various development projects worth about ₹1,723 crore of the Delhi Government under the 'Seva Pakhwada' on the occasion of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, in New Delhi.





The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh addressing at the 'MANTHAN 2025', a two-day national conference organised by the Directorate General of Defence Estates (DGDE), in New Delhi.

24-30 September, 2025

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The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan planting a sapling, in New Delhi.

PM addressing the gathering at 'Samudra se Samriddhi' programme on the sidelines of the inauguration and laying the foundation stone of multiple development projects at Bhavnagar, in Gujarat.





The Vice-President, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan released two volumes of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's speeches titled 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' at the Vice-President's Enclave, in New Delhi.

FARMERS SHOULD REDUCE USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES



nion Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, addressed the annual meeting of seven districtlevel cooperative societies, including Rajkot District Cooperative Bank Limited, in Rajkot, Gujarat. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, along with several dignitaries, were present. In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that ever since independence, people in the cooperative sector had been demanding a separate Ministry of Cooperation. Earlier, the vast cooperative network was handled by a Joint Secretary in the Agriculture Ministry. In 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi fulfilled this longstanding demand by creating a separate ministry. With this decision, millions of farmers, livestock rearers, and fishermen across India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari now directly receive the profits of their hard work in their bank accounts. He praised Rajkot's cooperative sector as a model not only for Gujarat but for the entire country. He urged that milk societies, service cooperatives, and warehouse-backed cooperatives be established in every village. On the occasion, the statues of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Vitthalbhai Radadiya were unveiled. He recalled that Patel fought for farmers' rights

and founded the Rajkot District Cooperative Bank, while Vitthalbhai strengthened it, transforming it into a bank that has received many NABARD awards. Under the bank's accident insurance scheme, 22 people received benefits, and under its Krishi Samaj Awards, nine cooperative societies were awarded motorcycles and compensation. Highlighting the essence of cooperatives, Shri Shah said profits should not flow to capitalists but be used for farmers' welfare. The Rajkot District Cooperative Bank has won NABARD's Best Performance Award five times and Overall Best Performance Award four times. For 53 years, the bank has maintained less than 1% net NPA, earned hundreds of crores in profits, and provided loans at interest rates lower than zero percent an achievement reflecting the hard work of farmers and the leadership of its directors. He also spoke about the establishment of Tribhuvan Sahkari University in Anand, Gujarat, the country's first national-level university dedicated to all aspects of cooperatives. Over the past three years, more than 60 initiatives have been launched to strengthen the cooperative sector. These include computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), warehouse construction, water conservation projects, and dairy cooperatives. Due to these reforms, the cooperative system, which had been weakening for decades, stabilized in the first year and grew by 12% over the next two years. Shri Shah informed that new cooperative societies, dairy unions, and milk-processing societies are being set up across India, supported by a robust computerized system to ensure profits return to farmers. In Gujarat, a system has been implemented for cooperative institutions to take loans only from district and state cooperative banks. This model has succeeded in Banaskantha and Panchmahal and is now expanding statewide. He further announced several new initiatives, including the creation of Bharat Organic, a cooperative dedicated to buying organic products from farmers, selling them, and returning profits fully to the farmers. Additional cooperative bodies for exports and seed distribution have also been established. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, he said, the cooperative sector is progressing at an unprecedented pace. Shri Shah urged farmers to reduce chemical fertilizer and pesticide use and adopt organic farming, which benefits public health and ensures higher profits. The Government of India has already created systems to support organic farmers. Appealing to farmers in Saurashtra, he encouraged them to contribute to increasing India's share in the global organic product market.On the occasion of Navratri, Shri Amit Shah extended warm greetings to the people of Gujarat. He described Prime Minister Modi's decision to reduce GST from 18% to 5% on items including farm inputs, food products, the automobile sector, and daily essentials as a significant gift for Gujarat and the entire nation during Navratri and Diwali.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHES VIKSIT BHARAT BUILDATHON 2025



nion Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, a groundbreaking nationwide innovation movement set to engage students across schools throughout India. 'Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025' is being organised by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and AICTE. During the event, the Minister launched the jingle and the logo of Viksit Bharat Buildathon.

Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau, Shri Dhirendra Ojha; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T G Sitharam; Vice Chairman, AICTE, Dr. Abhay Jere; Mission Director, AIM, NITI Aayog, Shri Deepak Bagla; Additional Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Shri Dhiraj Sahu; senior officials of the Ministry, KVS, and NVS were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stated that the largest-ever school hackathon, Viksit Bharat Buildathon, would further strengthen the culture of innovation at the grassroots by encouraging students to ideate and build products on four themes: 'Vocal for Local, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi, and Samriddhi.' He further said that the initiative would celebrate

student innovations, engineer an innovation renaissance in the country, and ensure that the young generations become key drivers of Samriddhi, Viksit, and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Secretary, Shri Sanjay Kumar presented a comprehensive overview, setting the stage for the Buildathon and highlighting its significance in fostering student innovation across India.

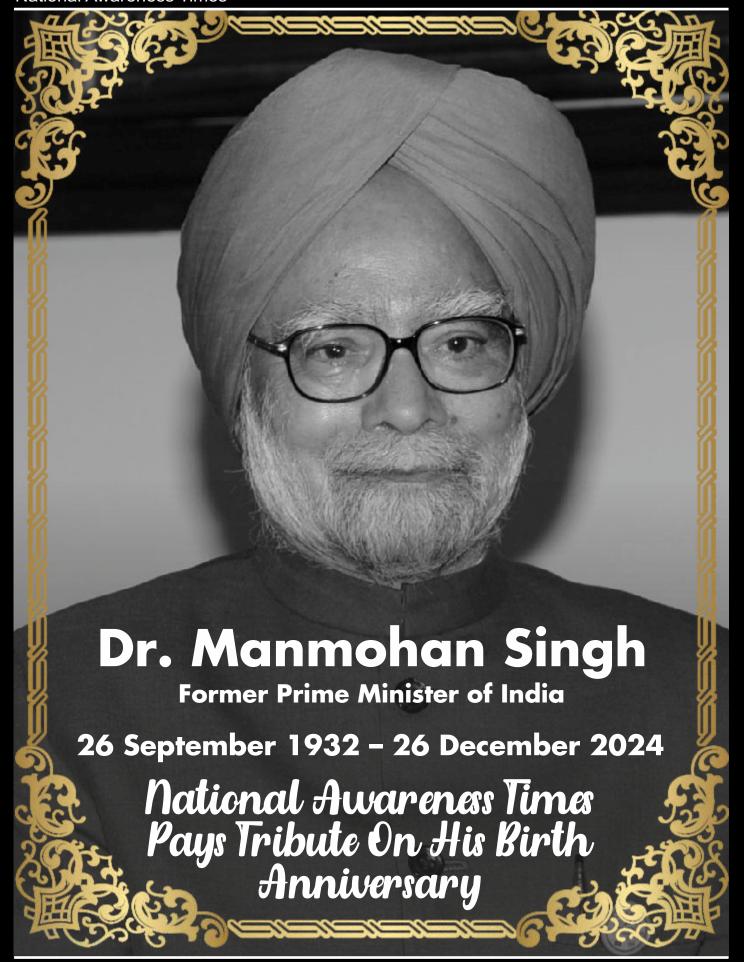
The Buildathon aims to inspire creative thinking for national development, promote self-reliance and sustainable growth, engage schools in synchronized innovation, project India

as a global innovation capital through a potential world record, and celebrate young problem-solvers on national and global platforms. It builds on the success of the School Innovation Marathon 2024, which led to programs like the Student Innovator Programme (SIP) and Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP), along with patents and startup ventures from Atal Tinkering Labs.

The journey of Viksit Bharat Buildathon begins. This will be followed by a preparation period for schools, from October 6 to October 13, in which teachers will quide student teams through the registration process on the portal. Students will then submit their ideas and prototypes on the portal. The core of the Buildathon, the Live Synchronized Innovation Event, will be held on October 13. Following the event, students will submit their final entries from October 13 to October 31. A panel of experts will then evaluate the submissions over a two-month period, from November 1 to December 31. The culmination of the Buildathon will be in January 2026 with the announcement of the results and the felicitation of the top 1.000+ winners.

A video on the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 was screened, highlighting its themes and objectives.





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SWASTH NARI, SASHAKT PARIVAAR ABHIYAAN



nion Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually attended the launch event of the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan' at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Saket in New Delhi. The Abhiyaan was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. Shri Chouhan, along with other public representatives, watched the live telecast of the PM's Programme.

Later, addressing the gathering, Shri Chouhan extended heartfelt wishes to the Prime Minister on his 75th birthday and said that under his leadership, the nation is moving towards becoming a glorious, prosperous, powerful, developed, and self-reliant India. The Union Minister said that the Prime Minister has strengthened India's image across the world. "Today, India's global stature has risen, and the credit goes to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He has devoted his entire life to the service of the people. His life is an embodiment of discipline and devotion. When he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he gave the nation a new model of development and transformed Gujarat into a remarkable state. Later, in 2014, the

nation reposed its trust in him, giving him a clear majority as Prime Minister. Today, under his leadership for the third time, India is achieving unprecedented progress" Shri Chouhan said.

Shri Chouhan highlighted that the Prime Minister has always placed the country's interests above everything. He has represented India's stand firmly before the world. Referring to the Pahalgam terror attack, he mentioned how India's decisive response through 'Operation Sindoor' showcased the valour of our armed forces under the Prime Minister's leadership. Recently, in trade agreements too, the Prime Minister has made it clear that India will only sign deals on its own terms.

The Union Minister further said that various programmes are being organised across the nation to mark the Prime Minister's birthday. Today also marks the beginning of the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan'. He expressed displeasure at the negligence of the previous government in Delhi regarding health services, remarking that health centres were opened only for formality. In contrast, Shri Chouhan appreciated the current initiatives under the present Chief Minister through 'Ayushman Arogya

Mandirs', which are effectively bringing health facilities to the people. Shri Chouhan highlighted that the launch of 'Seva Pakhwada' on the Prime Minister's birthday is a special initiative. Special health check-up camps for women have been set up at the Arogya Mandirs. He emphasised that women's health is crucial because a healthy woman ensures a healthy family. He recalled that the Prime Minister has always prioritised women's empowerment and has launched several welfare schemes for women and daughters, including 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. Referring to his own tenure as the Chief Minister of Madhva Pradesh. Shri Chouhan said that initiatives like the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' were started to place women's welfare at the forefront.

He underlined the need for women to remain mindful of their own health. Women often care for others but neglect themselves, he said. The Government has now taken this responsibility seriously, which is why the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan' was launched.

The Union Minister stressed the importance of regular health check-ups to prevent serious diseases in the future. Early detection allows for timely and effective treatment. He called on all women to avail themselves of the free check-up facilities in these camps and to encourage other women around them to do the same.

Shri Chouhan also urged women to adopt good habits such as taking a nutritious diet, practicing yoga, and doing pranayama. Giving the example of the Prime Minister, he said that despite a busy schedule, Shri Modi follows a healthy daily routine, which serves as a great inspiration for everyone.

Shri Chouhan recalled the Prime Minister's commitment to adopting 'Swadeshi' and urged all citizens to use indigenous products for their daily needs and during the upcoming festivals. This, the Union Minister said, would strengthen the economy and reinforce the vision of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.



AKSHAY KUMAR SLAMS FAKE AI TRAILER, CLARIFIES HE'S NOT PLAYING MAHARISHI VALMIKI



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar took to X (formerly known as Twitter) to address a growing concern about Al-generated content circulating online. The actor posted a clarification regarding videos depicting him in the role of Maharishi Valmiki, which have been widely shared across social media.

"I have recently come across some AI-generated videos of a film trailer showing me in the role of Maharishi Valmiki. I want to clarify that all such videos are fake and created using AI," Akshay wrote in his Instagram stories.

He further criticized media outlets for picking up such content without verification. "What's worse, some news channels decide to pick these up as 'news' without even verifying if these are real or morphed. In today's time, when misleading content is being produced at great speed through manipulative AI, I sincerely request media houses to

verify and report only after authenticating the information," he added.

The actor's clarification comes amid the rising influence of AI in entertainment, as seen in recent viral trends where AI has been used to generate images and videos of celebrities.

Meanwhile, Akshay Kumar is currently seen in his latest release, Jolly LLB 3. Directed by Subhash Kapoor, the courtroom comedy-drama is the third installment in the Jolly LLB franchise and a sequel to Jolly LLB 2. The film stars Akshay Kumar, Arshad Warsi, Amrita Rao, and Saurabh Shukla.

The Jolly LLB series, which began in 2013, revolves around Advocate Jagdish Tyagi, also known as Jolly, and his fight to secure justice for innocent laborers while navigating the challenges posed by the wealthy and a corrupt judicial system. Jolly LLB 3 promises to continue this blend of black comedy and courtroom drama, keeping audiences eagerly awaiting its release.





A day after the sudden demise of legendary singer and filmmaker Zubeen Garg, the Assam government has announced three days of state mourning from September 20 to 22, 2025. Chief Secretary Ravi Kota confirmed the decision on X, stating, "During this period, there will be no official entertainment, dinners, or ceremonial functions."

The government expressed its condolences in a statement, saying, "The Government of Assam expresses deep shock and sorrow at the passing of Shri Zubeen Garg, eminent singer, filmmaker and cultural icon." Ongoing 'Seva Saptah' programmes have been postponed as a mark of respect,

though essential service activities such as health camps, TB support initiatives, and plantation drives will continue.

Zubeen Garg, 52, passed away in Singapore while attending the North East India Festival. According to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the singer died during a yacht trip while "swimming in the sea without a life jacket" alongside 17 others.

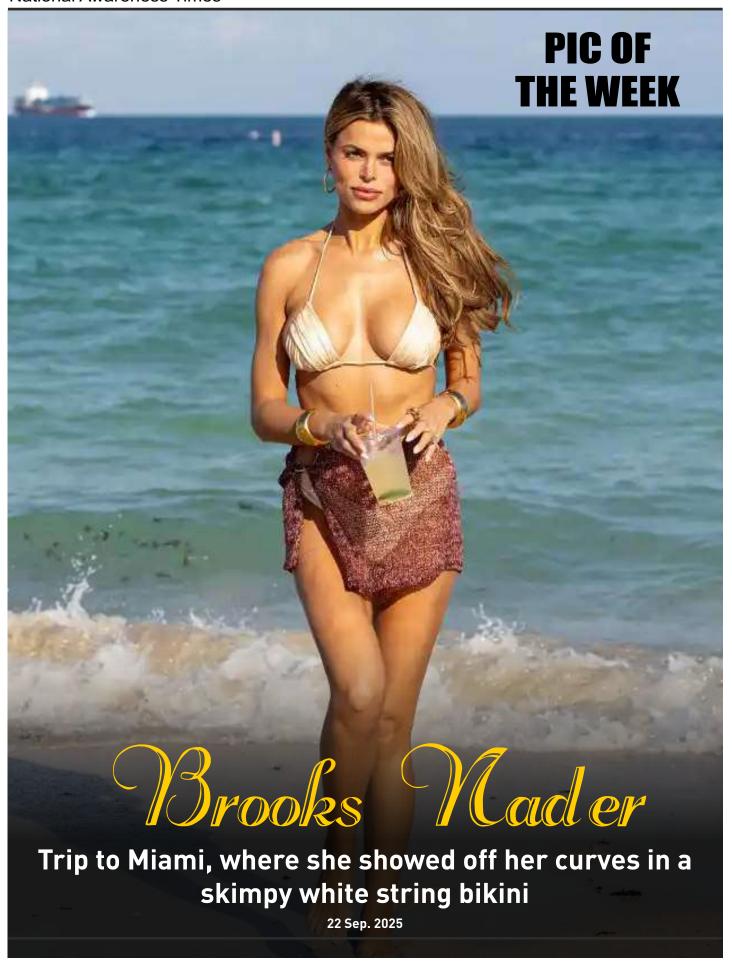
The singer's family, mourning the loss, awaited the arrival of his body at their Kahilipara residence in Guwahati. His father, Mohini Mohan Borthakur, who is in his eighties and suffers from Alzheimer's disease, appeared resigned, while Garg's wife received mourners and well-wishers calmly, according to a report by PTI.

Chief Minister Sarma announced on X that he will travel to Delhi to receive Garg's mortal remains and accompany them to Guwahati. "I will be going to Delhi later today to receive our beloved Zubeen's mortal remains, which will arrive from Singapore. From there, we will immediately bring him back to Guwahati, hopefully by 6 am," he posted. Officials confirmed that the body is expected to arrive in Delhi on Saturday night and in Guwahati on Sunday morning via a special aircraft.

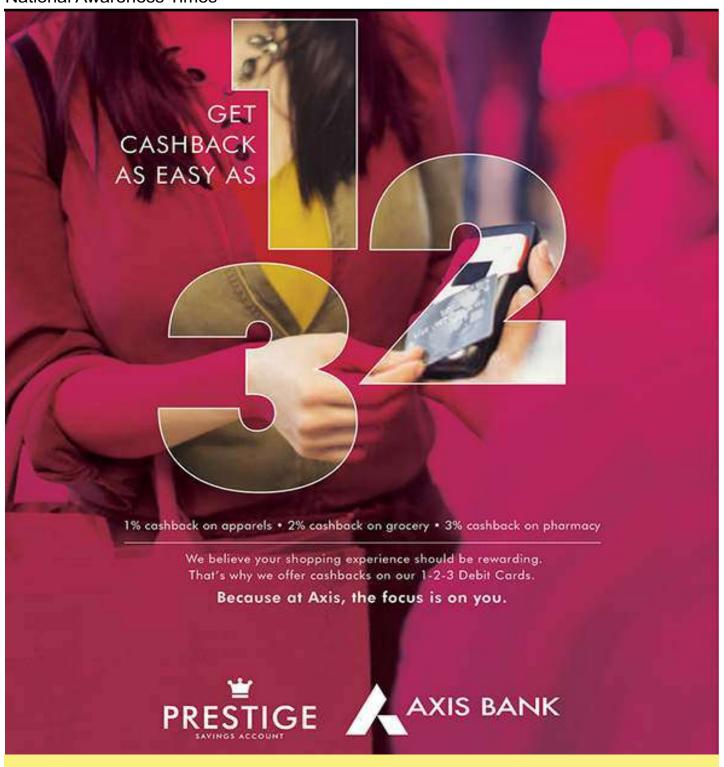


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