

Lecture emphasizes socio-political dynamics in NE's neighbourhood

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GOALPARA, Aug 24: The North East being situated at the heart of one of the world's most emerging geo-strategically important areas, it is very important for students and young people to remain abreast of their neighbourhood, noted journalist and Nagaland University Chancellor Dr Samudra Gupta Kashyap said here recently.

Delivering a lecture titled, 'Our Neighbourhood, Our Future' at Goalpara College here recently, he dwelt at length on the fast-changing political developments, particularly in Bangladesh, and highlighted the critical importance of un-

derstanding the socio-political dynamics in the neighbourhood of north-east India. He emphasized that the NE's unique geographic and cultural positioning makes it susceptible to the influence of developments in neighbouring regions and countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and Myanmar. The region's future, he argued, is intricately tied to these external factors, and it's crucial for students and young people to stay informed about these developments.

Dr Kashyap noted that Assam is part of a three-tiered neighbourhood and a pluralistic society with diverse ethnic communities. It is encircled by seven States, including West Bengal, each with distinct socio-economic and cultural traits. Additionally, North East India shares borders with four countries i.e., Bhutan, China, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. Any socio-economic or political changes in these neighbouring countries will affect the North East, just as developments in adjacent States directly impact Assam.

Dr Kashyap advocated for the inclusion of "Neighbourhood Studies" in high school curricula, believing it will deepen students' understanding of neighbouring States and countries, foster stronger regional ties, and enhance their ability to excel in competitive exams. By encouraging interactions among students from various North East States, he envisioned a future of improved cultural understanding and cooperation, ultimately benefiting the entire region.

In his welcome address, Dr Subhash Barman, Principal of Goalpara College, emphasized the significance of cultural understanding in promoting community harmony. He highlighted that appreciating diverse neighbouring cultures can cultivate a more inclusive and peaceful society where conflicts are resolved through empathy and cooperation. Many others also spoke on the occasion which was well attended by students and faculty members of the college.