



Donald Trump to visit India...: US ambassador Sergio Gor

(Gns). Calling India the United States' most vital partner, US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor said New Delhi and Washington are preparing to restart the next round of India-US trade deal talks from Tuesday, January 12, while also signalling that US President Donald Trump may travel to India next year.

Gor, who serves as Special Envoy to South and Central Asia at the US Embassy, explained that the aim of the new posting is to push the India-US partnership into a higher gear, using closer political ties to support cooperation on trade, security, technology and other shared priorities.

US Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor announced India and the United States are set to restart trade deal talks from January 12th, with a potential visit from President Donald Trump within the next two years, and India will be invited to join the Pax Silica alliance next month.

During an address at the US Embassy in Delhi, Gor underlined India's strategic value for Washington and said the two capitals are planning an ambitious agenda across key sectors including counter-terrorism, defence ties, clean energy, digital technology, education exchanges and health-care collaboration, alongside the long-running India-

US trade negotiations. Describing the political relationship, Gor stated, "The United States and India are bound, not just by shared interests but by a relationship anchored at the highest levels. Real friends can disagree but always resolve their differences in the end," linking this to the personal rapport between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gor said he has travelled widely with Trump and noted, "I have travelled all over the world with President Trump, and I can attest that his friendship with Prime Minister Modi is real," adding earlier that Trump's bond with Modi is "real" and helps both sides manage differences.

Reflecting on potential

high-level engagement, Gor recalled a recent con-

versation with Trump, saying, "This is the intersection between the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy. During my last dinner with him, President Trump recounted his last visit to India and also his great friendship



President will be visiting us soon, hopefully in the next year or two. President Trump has a habit of calling

at 2 in the morning, and with the time difference in New Delhi, it might work out pretty well," suggesting a visit could reinforce India-US ties.

India US partnership on trade and Pax Silica alliance

On economic talks, Gor stressed that moving the India-US trade deal forward remains difficult yet essential, saying, "Many of you have asked me for an update on the ongoing trade deal negotiations. Both sides continue to actively engage. In fact, the next call on trade will occur tomorrow. India is the

world's largest nation. So it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line," and repeating, "India is the world's largest nation. So it's not an easy task to get this across the finish line, but we are determined to get there," emphasising the scale of the task.

Gor also confirmed that India is set to join the Pax Silica alliance, a US-led framework designed to build a secure, resilient and innovation driven silicon supply chain, announcing, "I am pleased to announce that India will be invited to join this group of nations as a full member next month,"

which would deepen India-US cooperation in critical technology materials, member next month.

Setting out his priorities, Gor declared, "No partner is more essential than India. In the months and years ahead, it is my goal as ambassador to pursue a very ambitious agenda. We will do this as true strategic partners, each bringing strength, respect, and leadership to the table," underscoring that the India-US relationship is expected to deepen through trade, security and technology cooperation in the coming years.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Shri Friedrich Merz visit Gandhi Ashram

Prime Minister and German Chancellor pays floral tribute to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi
German Chancellor Shri Friedrich Merz Impressed by Gandhi Ashram Visit

Gandhinagar, 12 January 2026: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited the historic Gandhi Ashram located on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad. On this occasion, both dignitaries offered floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and paid heartfelt homage.



The Prime Minister and the German Chancellor also visited Hriday Kunj, Mahatma Gandhi's residence within the Ashram,

Gandhiji's simple way of life, his message of self-reliance, and the values of truth and non-violence.

On the occasion of this visit to Gandhi Ashram, Governor Shri Acharya Devvratji, Chief Secretary Shri M. K. Das, Sabarmati Ashram Chairperson Shri Kartikeya Sarabhai, Chairman of the Sabarmati Ashram Redevelopment Committee Shri I. P. Gautam, Ahmedabad Collector Shri Sujeet Kumar, members of the German delegation, and eminent personalities associated with Gandhi Ashram were present.

and observed the process of spinning the charkha. During the visit to Gandhi Ashram, both leaders expressed deep respect for

Centre adopting biased, vengeful attitude towards Kerala: CM

(Gns). Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday accused the Central government of adopting a biased and vengeful attitude towards Kerala and deliberately creating obstacles to hinder the state's growth.

Inaugurating the ruling Left Democratic Front's (LDF) 'Satyagraha' protest against the BJP-led Union government's alleged political vendetta and denial of Kerala's rightful financial allocations, at the Martyrs' Column in Thiruvananthapuram, Vijayan said the Centre, through its policies, is attempting to weaken the state and stall its progress.

Describing the satyagraha as a fight for survival in an extraordinary situation, the Chief Minister said the Centre has consciously created hurdles to block Kerala's development.

"The state is being dis-

criminated against and denied its rightful share of financial resources and support," he said.

Kerala is not demanding anything it does not deserve, Vijayan asserted, adding that everyone who has an interest in the welfare of the state should stand united against this neglect.

"The Centre has deliberately created obstacles to stop the growth of our state. In this matter, everyone who is concerned about Kerala should stand together and raise their voice. Unfortunately, some groups in the state are not prepared to speak out against the Centre," he said. Vijayan further alleged that the Centre is attempting to snatch away Kerala's constitutionally guaranteed rights, which should not happen in a democratic country.

He also dismissed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent statement that Kerala would have a BJP Chief



Minister next time, saying such a scenario would never become a reality in the state.

The satyagraha, held in front of the Palayam Martyrs' Column from 10 am to 5 pm, was led by Chief Minister Vijayan and attended by state ministers and LDF leaders. The protest is a continuation of an earlier demonstration led by the Chief Minister in Delhi.

Meanwhile, BJP Kerala president Rajeev

Chandrasekhar said on Monday that Chief Minister Vijayan's criticism of the Central government over Kerala's financial crisis amounted to an admission of failure by the LDF government on the financial front after nearly a decade in power.

He accused the Chief Minister and the LDF government of misgovernance, fiscal mismanagement, and deliberately misleading the public ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

Rejecting Vijayan's allegation that the NDA government is discriminating against Kerala, Chandrasekhar said the Modi government is not curtailing any rightful claims of the state.

"The UPA government gave ₹72,000 crore to Kerala, whereas the Modi government has given ₹3.2 lakh crore. During Pinarayi Vijayan's tenure, the state's

Nitish Kumar begins 16th statewide outreach tour from Friday

(Gns). Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will embark on yet another statewide tour on Friday. During the tour, titled "Samridhi Yatra" (Prosperity Journey), he will review the pace of development in Bihar, assess the on-ground implementation of new schemes launched under "Saat Nishchay 3" (Seven Resolves 3), and engage directly with the public to better understand their needs.

During the yatra, Nitish Kumar will also inaugurate and lay foundation stones for various development projects, aimed at giving a fresh impetus to Bihar's development journey.

A key component of the "Samridhi Yatra" will be direct public engagement. As per the scheduled

programme, the chief minister will participate in "Jan



Samvad" (public dialogue) programmes in every district, where he will interact with residents to discuss their problems and gather feedback.

He will also hold in-depth district-level review meetings in each district to evaluate the performance of the local administration

and concerned departments. Issues related to

undertaken 15 statewide journeys and is now set to begin his 16th journey from Friday.

During the previous "Pragati Yatra," the Chief Minister had launched around 430 development projects at an estimated cost of approximately Rs50,000 crore. Of these, 21 projects have since been completed.

The "Pragati Yatra" had a strong focus on women's empowerment and the Jeevika scheme. Soon after the yatra, Nitish Kumar had announced the "Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana," which provides cash assistance of Rs10,000 to women for self-employment. The scheme is believed to have played a significant role in the NDA's return to power with a historic majority.

At startup summit, CM Mohan Yadav calls MP land of emerging opportunities

(Gns). Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav said on Monday that Indians have possessed a deep understanding of trade and business since ancient times as enterprise, entrepreneurship, innovation, and commerce are integral to Indian values and ethos.

He said Madhya Pradesh is a land of emerging opportunities and that youth drive the nation towards new thinking and new directions. "Their innovations form the foundation of development, and therefore, promoting innovation is a firm resolve of the state government," he assured.

The CM expressed these views while addressing participants on the last day of the two-day 'Madhya Pradesh Startup Summit 2026', held at Ravindra Bhavan in Bhopal.

He said India has over six crore MSMEs, which contribute more than 30 per cent to the national GDP and account for nearly 45 per cent of the country's total exports. He emphasised that startups have played an unparalleled role in strengthening the Indian economy, and today India has become the world's

third-largest ecosystem.

The CM said now that India has emerged as the fourth-largest economy in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with collective national efforts, it will soon become the third-largest global economy.

During the summit, financial incentives exceeding ₹2.5 crore were transferred to 156 startups, while loan assistance of more than ₹8.17 crore was disbursed to 21 startups under the Chief Minister Udyam Kranti Yojana through a single-click transfer. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also felicitated the founders and incubators of successful startups.

Long-term MoUs were signed between the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), along with agreements involving the Central Bank of India, Karvy Startup

startups Labs and Startup Middle East on the occasion. The chief minister also released a booklet highlighting successful startups established in Madhya Pradesh.



He provided bank loans and investment assistance to the founders of four startups under the Chief Minister Udyam Kranti Yojana and the MP Startup Policy and Implementation Scheme-2025.

Dr. Yadav described the two-day summit as a remarkable initiative to encourage youth-led startups. He said India has achieved new milestones on the strength of talent and capability, with a significant contribution from bright young minds.

Recalling India's scien-

tific heritage, he referred to Dr. Jagadish Chandra Bose, who first demonstrated that plants possess life and conducted pioneering work through crescography. He said Dr. Bose demonstrated wireless wave transmission in Kolkata in 1895, but due to a lack of institutional support for his innovation, recognition went elsewhere.

The CM noted that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, startups and research across the country are now receiving unprecedented encouragement. A dedicated startup portal was launched from Indore in 2022, and innovation-friendly policies are being implemented in Madhya Pradesh. Today, over 2,200 startups are operating in Indore alone.

Dr. Yadav appreciated the youth of Madhya Pradesh for driving innovation, and in response, the state government is encouraging innovation while addressing basic societal challenges. He expressed confidence that with the strength of youth, India will soon become the third, and eventually the number one global economy.

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Editorial

Regulating Speech

India's long struggle with hate speech has always sat at an uneasy intersection of law, politics and social reality. The recent move by Karnataka to introduce a dedicated law against hate speech and hate crimes is, therefore, not merely a legal experiment; it is a test of whether the country can confront a real social menace without undermining constitutional freedoms in the process. There is no disputing the problem. Public discourse has coarsened. Identity has become an easy weapon.

Social media has accelerated outrage, television has amplified it, and electoral politics has often rewarded it. The link between incendiary speech and real-world tension is no longer theoretical. In such a climate, the impulse to legislate is understandable, even necessary. A state that does nothing risks appearing complicit in the erosion of civic peace. Yet, the manner in which a problem is addressed often matters as much as the intent behind it. When a law treats the mere communication of offensive or hateful ideas as a criminal act, without a clear requirement of incitement or resulting harm, it crosses into dangerous territory. Criminal law is a blunt instrument. It is designed to punish acts that threaten public order or safety, not to police opinion or regulate moral boundaries. The risk is not abstract. Vague definitions invite subjective interpretation, and subjective interpretation invites misuse. This is especially sensitive in India's political environment, where lines between criticism, provocation and propaganda are frequently contested.

What one group sees as hateful, another may defend as ideological expression. Without precise legal thresholds, enforcement becomes dependent on who is in power, who is being criticised, and which way the political wind is blowing. That is not rule of law; it is rule by discretion. Supporters of such legislation argue that empowering the police and removing procedural barriers will lead to quicker action and fewer communal flare-ups. But speed is not the same as fairness. The police are not insulated from political pressure, social bias or institutional instinct. When laws are broad and penalties severe, enforcement tends to become cautious in some cases and aggressive in others. Both outcomes are corrosive: one breeds impunity, the other fear.

There is also a deeper constitutional question. Free speech in India is already subject to reasonable restrictions. The legal framework does criminalise incitement, deliberate provocation and acts intended to inflame communal passions. The challenge has never been the absence of law; it has been uneven application. Creating new offences without fixing enforcement culture risks multiplying power without improving accountability. None of this is an argument for tolerating hatred. A society that shrugs at bigotry eventually pays a price in fractured trust and episodic violence. But the answer lies in sharper definitions, higher thresholds for criminality, and stronger judicial oversight ~ not in elastic laws that expand executive discretion. India's diversity is both its strength and its vulnerability. Protecting harmony requires firmness, but it also requires restraint. A law that is meant to shield communities should not end up silencing citizens.

(Gns).

One of the oldest and most impactful media traditions is Time magazine's Person of the Year title, first given to legendary y aviator Charles Lindbergh after his momentous transatlantic trip in 1927. In addition to individuals, Time has also named organizations and, on rare occasions, even concep ts, such as the "endangered earth" in 1988. The magazine has now identified "the architects" of AI as the most influential figure rather than a single individual as Person of the Year for 2025.

"And this year, no one had a greater impact than the individuals who imagined, designed, and built AI," Time Editor-in-Chief Sam Jacobs wrote in a letter to readers. This year, there are two covers: one is an artwork that shows the letters AI surrounded by workers, and the other is a painting that highlights the tech leaders: Nvidia's Jensen Huang, xAI's Elon Musk, Anthropic's Dario Amodei, AMD's Lisa Su, Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, DeepMind's Demis Hassabis, AI "godmother" Fei-Fei Li of Stanford University's Human-Centered AI Institute and CEO of World Labs, and OpenAI's Sam Altman.

Interestingly, this is the third instance in the past 50 years that Time's selection of the person of the year captured pivotal moments

(Gns).

For a country that has lived with dengue as a seasonal inevitability, the emergence of DengiAll, India's indigenous single-shot dengue vaccine now in advanced trials in Delhi, is more than a scientific milestone. It is a test of whether India can finally shift from managing out-

breaks to preventing them. After years of incremental progress, the possibility of a tetravalent vaccine designed for real-world conditions marks a turning point in how the disease is understood ~ and confronted.

Dengue has always been an awkward adversary. Unlike many viral

The significance of AI architects

According to DeepSeek, by building this model in just a few months, utilizing less advanced chips, China was able to close the gap in a competition that Silicon

Biden's more circumspect AI policies during that first week of his second term. Trump also approved several AI projects in the months that followed while



Valley experts hadn't thought would be close. The revelation of DeepSeek's discovery strengthened the argument for acceleration for the tech executives influencing Trump's new AI strategy. Tech giants Masayoshi Son, Larry Ellison, and Sam Altman made their own statement at the White House the following day. They called the project "Stargate" and promised to invest up to \$500 billion in the construction of AI data centers around the US.

Global competitiveness, incredible innovation, enormous sums of money, and the alchemizing powers of public and private interests were all foreshadowed in those two days. Trump signed an executive order undermining President

cutting or freezing massive amounts of federal funding in other sectors. What is the true potential of AI? Well, in November, Jensen Huang told Time, "This is the single most impactful technology of our time." However, many people think that AI is a bubble, perhaps larger than the dot-com one.

Whether this is the case or not, there are trade-offs associated with all this advancement. The energy needed to operate these systems depletes resources. For the first time in history, even college-educated people are losing jobs due to new tech. Undoubtedly, some employment may vanish, but this is an entirely unexplored field. As was pointed out by Jensen Huang, ten

years ago, some AI scientists expected that AI would eliminate radiologists from the workforce. However, now, radiologists are in greater demand than ever as AI has improved their ability to identify cancer. AI orchestrates deepfakes, AI increases the likelihood of widespread cyberattacks, and AI also makes inequality worse. Many saw the January DeepSeek breakthrough as Beijing's Sputnik moment. The following month, Alibaba unveiled plans to invest \$53 billion in AI over the next three years. Six AI unicorns ~ StepFun, Ziphu AI, Moonshot AI, MiniMax, 01.

AI, and Baichuan ~ rose to prominence due to a flood of investment, earning them the moniker China's "AI Tigers." However, experts and common people have widely different perspectives on the roles of AI. While leaders, businesspeople, and professionals are mostly overly excited about AI and the "architects" guiding its development, interestingly multiple surveys revealed that average Americans are concerned about AI and would rather prefer the technology be developed safely, even if it means taking its time. For instance, according to a Pew Research Center study published in September, 53 per cent of participants predicted that AI would make people's capacity for creative thought worse, while 16 per cent predicted that it would make it better and 16 per cent thought that it would make it neither better nor worse.

What about the pulses of people in other countries? As per a Pew Research report from October 2025, of the respondents surveyed in 25 countries, a median of 34 per cent say they are more worried than excited about the growing use of AI, while 42 per cent say they are both worried and excited. Only 16 per cent of respondents are more enthusiastic than worried. In India, 16 per cent are more excited than worried, 39 per cent are equally excited and worried, and 19 per cent are more worried than excited. Well, despite this skepticism, AI has transformed our environment in recent years in novel, enchanted, thrilling, and occasionally terrifying ways. And according to Forrester researcher Thomas Husson, 2025 might be a "tipping point" for how often AI is currently utilized in our daily lives.

Thus, despite widespread cautionary notes, as Sam Jacobs of Time has noted, AI's destiny will be decided by humanity, and each of us may contribute to determining AI's structure and future. Does that mean that each of us is an "architect" of AI?

country at the forefront of a field that will only grow in importance. An effective dengue vaccine would also alter the politics of public health. It would reduce the annual cycle of emergency responses, hospital overcrowding and municipal blame games. It would shift resources from crisis management to long-term planning. And it would challenge the assumption that complex biomedical innovation must always be imported. But perhaps the most important dimension is psychological. Dengue has long been treated as unavoidable ~ a fact of life to be endured rather than defeated. A working vaccine would puncture that fatalism. It would signal that even deeply entrenched public health problems can be addressed with patience, investment, and scientific ambition. The road ahead remains uncertain. Regulatory scrutiny will be intense, public expectations high, and the margin for error thin. That is as it should be. In a field shaped by past missteps, caution is not obstruction; it is responsibility

We, the People

As the nation prepares to celebrate yet another Republic Day on 26th January, 2026, some serious reflections on the health of the republic are the need of the hour. While institutions and ideas forming the bedrock of our constitutional edifice are under intense scrutiny, it is also pertinent to reflect on the inner dynamics of 'We, the People of India' who enacted, adopted and gave to themselves the hallowed Constitution of India.

The quality of human resource is a very significant marker of a nation's power which again depends on variables like access to nutrition, health care, education, and skill. Of equal importance are subjective factors like fellow feeling, cooperative spirit, ability for team work, empathy for the less privileged, respect for other's rights, intolerance towards injustice and agency to fight for vindication of citizens' rights. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's emphasis on the principle of Fraternity, as the most significant cohesive factor joining together the values of Liberty Equality and Justice, is particularly noteworthy as one tries to fathom the nuances of India's nationhood.

At the beginning of its journey as the world's largest democracy, 345 million people started a 'tryst with destiny', to borrow a phrase immortalized by India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a stupendous challenge for every Indian and the leaders as they embarked on a journey to lift millions above the poverty line, to ensure universal education, health care, and meaningful employment, and perhaps most daunting, to eradicate entrenched divisive factors like

casteism, communalism , patriarchy, linguistic chauvinism and ethnic animosities so as to create a truly cohesive nation, a rock solid edifice of the "we, the people of India".

During the last seven decades, the trajectory of India's journey has been an awe-inspiring one. Proving wrong many Western scholars who predicted the imminent collapse of democracy in a semi-literate, underdeveloped country, India has muddled through, despite occasional hiccups. One of the world's fastest growing economies, producing the highest numbers of graduates every year, a country whose technological prowess has become noteworthy, a country committed to uphold the post-war liberal international order, a leading advocate of sustainable, futuristic development, India has made its mark in the comity of nations. But unfortunately, the people of India, despite their glorious achievements in various fields, continue to be a divided lot.

Casteism, communalism, violence against women and people of third gender continue to tear asunder the fabric of our nation. Many social commentators allege that such violence, far from declining, is on the rise. These prejudices continue to lurk behind our gleaming cities, sparkling malls, spiraling highways, and our apparently peaceful, idyllic rural hinterland. Citizens for

Justice and Peace has recorded thousands of cases of caste-related violence even in 2025, like the killing of Dalit men who dared to have relationships with upper caste girls, Dalit students denied access to drinking pots in schools, Dalit grooms burned alive for daring to ride a horse during marriage procession,



a practice considered to be the prerogative of only upper caste men.

Though India has risen to rank 130 in the 2025 Human Development Index, showing progress in life expectancy, education, and income, it continues to face persistent gender, caste, communal and income inequality. Neeraj Ghaywan's film 'Homebound', recently shortlisted for Best International Feature Film by the Oscar Awards Committee is a soul-stirring depiction of two young men, belonging to the marginalized sections of society, struggling desperately for a life of dignity in a ruthless society trying to hide its nasty prejudices. According to the renowned Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen, true freedom goes beyond merely having resources; it is about the ability to use these resources to lead the kind of life one values.

Prevalence of primordial prejudices in India often acts as a hindrance to economic and emotional well-being. India is witnessing a

troubling rise in road rage incidents, with what often begins as a minor disagreement escalating into violent altercations, sometimes ending in death. Frustrations on the road, fuelled by congestion and impatience, are increasingly leading to physical confrontations. In extreme cases, these incidents have turned deadly, leaving behind a trail of victims. Extreme lack of patience and fellow feeling becomes apparent from such incidents. Numerous incidents of stampedes in India also reflects badly on our national character.

From religious festivals to sporting celebrations, fan frenzy to political campaigns, the year 2025 witnessed several crowd crushes and stampedes, leading to over 100 deaths. While what triggered these stampedes could vary, poor crowd management and a lack of proper public infrastructure cannot be ignored. Almost 80 per cent of stampedes in India occur at religious gatherings or pilgrimages. They also bear testimony to the fact that Indians keen on achieving salvation often sacrifice the basic human spirit of helping the weaker among us on the altar of blind devotion, not only to Gods and Goddess but also cine superstars and renowned footballers. Women and children suffer greater number of casualties in such incidents.

People becoming irrational machines of wild passion, and dispensers of justice, lynching petty thieves sometimes accused of stealing food are symptomatic of deep-seated anger or frustration, perhaps rising from dissatisfaction about their own socio-economic conditions or helplessness in the face of mounting corruption and abuse of power

perpetrated by the social and political elite. Our leaders are projected and accepted as Messiahs, not evaluated as duty bound public servants. Psychologists opine that rapid degeneration of moral and ethical standards and ever-increasing materialistic cravings, exacerbated by a rabid bourgeoisie and consumer culture, are contributing to the emergence of a heartless, cruel social order.

Our education is no longer a man-making mission but just a tool to open the gates of material success. Men are becoming money-making machines. Of late, the rate of suicides has risen alarmingly in India, particularly among young men, women and even among the elderly. Suicides in India have quietly become a public health emergency. Multiple factors are responsible for this growing malady. Adolescents and young children often struggle with academic challenges or neglectful or abusive parenting, while many older adults grapple with social isolation and coming to terms with physical limitations. Sheer hopelessness and lack of social support push them into the pit of depression.

Breakdown in relationship and financial crisis emerging from wrong choices are also pertinent factors. The trend signifies weakening of our emotional resilience, fighting spirit and our helplessness and isolation in an era when people have numerous friends in social media but very few in real life, friends who can hold one's hands and offer advice in times of crisis. India ranked 118th out of 147 countries in the World Happiness Report 2025 released recently.

confidence. What makes the current effort notable is its design philosophy. Instead of incremental protection, it aims for balance across all four serotypes, recognising that in dengue half-measures can be harmful. The emphasis on a single dose is equally significant. In a country where healthcare access is uneven and follow-up is uncertain, simplicity is not a luxury ~ it is a prerequisite.

If prevention is to be universal, it must also be practical. Yet, excitement should not be confused with certainty. Dengue does not follow laboratory schedules. Its spread depends on climate, urban density, migration, and the invisible patterns of mosquito ecology. Trials can demonstrate



promise, but real validation will come only when populations are exposed to all circulating strains. This is the slow, uncomfortable truth of infectious disease research: nature, not science, controls the clock. There is also a broader context. Climate change is expanding the range and intensity of mosquito-borne diseases. What was once a tropical concern is now a global one. For India, this creates both pressure and opportunity. Pressure, because failure will be costly in lives and public trust. Opportunity, because success would place the

The Soul in the Machine

(Gns).

The intellectual landscape of Bengal has historically been a dialogue between the "Red Flag" and the "Ochre Robe," a dialectic between Karl Marx's historical materialism and Swami Vivekananda's Vedantic humanism. While their 19th-century frameworks seemed diametrically opposed ~ one rooting reality in the economic base and the other in the transcendental spirit ~ the digital dawn of 2025 has forced a surprising convergence.

As we navigate the era of Generative AI and algorithmic governance, the question of what constitutes the "human" has moved from the realm of abstract philosophy to a crisis of survival. Marx famously argued that it is not the consciousness of

men that determines their existence, but their social existence that determines their consciousness. In the contemporary context, this "social existence" is increasingly defined by the algorithm. We are witnessing the rise of a "Digital Materialism," where human



replace the very mind that fed it. This represents a new kind of "Metabolic Rift" ~ not just between man and nature, but between the human subject and his own cognitive essence. However, it is precisely at this juncture of digital colonization that Vivekananda's "Man-making" philosophy offers a radical defence.

Vivekananda warned that any system based solely on material redistribution, without a corresponding "redistribution" of character, would merely replace one form of tyranny with another. In the age of AI, this warning takes on a technical dimension. If we view the human being merely as a biological computer ~ a materialist assumption shared by both classical Marxism and modern Silicon Valley ~ then the replacement of the human by the machine is inevitable. But the "Monk" insists that the human is not a machine to be optimized.

Hockey Coach Rapes And Impregnates Minor Trained Under Him In Stadium Bathroom, Arrested

(Gns). In Rewari district, a junior hockey coach was arrested after a Class 12 student filed a complaint alleging rape and pregnancy due to an assault at the stadium. The police registered an FIR under the POCSO Act, and the accused has been sent to police remand while the investigation continues.

Switch To Shorts

The accused was taken into custody after the survivor, a Class 12 student, filed a complaint at the Khol police station on Friday.

According to the police, the girl, who is a hockey player, had known the coach for about three years. She alleged that around four months ago, the coach assaulted her inside a bathroom at the stadium where she used to train regularly.

The incident came to light after the girl's health worsened following a miscarriage earlier this month.

Victim's Complaint and Hospitalization

In her statement to the police, the survivor said that she became pregnant after the assault but did not inform anyone initially out of fear and embarrassment.

On January 5, she suffered a miscarriage at home, after which her condition deteriorated. Her family members then rushed her to a nearby hospital for treatment.

After medical examination and counselling, the girl revealed the truth about what had happened to her. Following her statement, the police immediately reg-



istered an FIR under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Police officials confirmed that the accused was arrested soon after the complaint was filed. "We have arrested the accused and presented him before the city court. He has been

sent to two days of police remand, and further interrogation is underway," a Rewari police officer said.

Investigation Underway

The police have started a detailed investigation into the matter and are gathering evidence from the sports stadium where the incident allegedly took place. Officials are also recording statements from other players and staff members who were present at the facility during that period.

Authorities said that the case would be handled with full sensitivity, given that the survivor is a minor. A child welfare team and women's protection officers have been informed to provide counselling and legal assistance to the victim and her family.

Cause of Prashant Tamang's Death Revealed? Doctors, Family Statement & Rumours Explained

(Gns). Singer and actor Prashant Tamang, winner of Indian Idol Season 3, passed away at the age of 43 on Sunday, leaving the entertainment industry and the Gorkha community in shock. Tamang was found unresponsive at his residence in New Delhi and was later declared dead at a hospital in Dwarka on January 11, 2026, sources confirmed.

Filmmaker Rajesh Ghatani was among the first to confirm the news, while Darjeeling-based singer Mahesh Sewa stated that Prashant Tamang reportedly suffered a cardiac arrest. However, doctors have not yet issued an official medical bulletin specifying the exact cause of death.

According to hospital sources, Prashant Tamang was brought dead to a private hospital in Dwarka at around 9:00 am. Preliminary inputs suggest a sudden cardiac event, but medical professionals have clarified that no formal cause of death has been publicly released as of now.

Doctors indicated that there were no known major health complications reported prior to the incident. Further clarity is expected once formal procedures are completed.

Family Maintains Silence Amid Rumours

Amid growing speculation on social media,



Prashant Tamang's family has not issued any official statement regarding the cause of death. Close associates have urged fans this period of mourning.

Recent Travel and Last Public Appearance

Reports suggest that Prashant Tamang had recently returned to Delhi after a live performance in Arunachal Pradesh. Those who interacted with him during the event said he appeared healthy and energetic, making the sudden nature of his death even more difficult for fans to comprehend.

Condolences Pour In From Across India

Tributes have poured in from artists, political leaders, and community organisations. Nanda Kirati Dewan, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangh (Assam State), described Tamang's death as an "irreparable loss".

and media outlets to avoid spreading unverified claims, stressing that the family is still processing the loss.

Sources close to the family have dismissed rumours circulating online, calling them baseless and insensitive. They have requested privacy during

Iran Says It's Open to Talks as Death Toll Rises Past 500

(Gns). The nationwide Iran protests over inflation and the collapsing rial have turned deadlier, with rights monitors reporting more than 500 deaths and thousands detained. US President Donald Trump has said Washington is examining military options, while demonstrations backing Iranian protesters continue in several countries, including Germany and the United States.

US-based rights group HRNA has reported at least 490 protesters and 48 security personnel killed during the last two weeks of unrest, taking the total death toll past 500. Activists cited by Reuters say the overall figure has reached 538. More than 10,600 people have been arrested during this period, according to the same rights networks.

Iran protests over inflation and the collapsing rial

have resulted in over 500 deaths and more than 10,600 arrests, with demon-

on 28 December over soaring prices and inflation. Since then, security forces



strations continuing in several countries and the United States examining military options. Protests began on December 28, and the government has encouraged counter-rallies while security forces suppress gatherings.

Data from activists and rights organisations linked to the Iran protests show a rapidly rising casualty count and large-scale detentions. Demonstrations first erupted

and protesters have both suffered fatalities, while prisons across Iran have reportedly seen a sharp influx of detainees from the streets.

Donald Trump has repeatedly raised the possibility of United States involvement as the Iran protests grow. Speaking with reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday, Trump again said military steps are under consideration. The comments follow



(HRANA), more than 10,600 protesters have been arrested as authorities attempt to suppress dissent. Internet access has been heavily restricted in several regions, with social media platforms blocked or slowed down to prevent the spread of protest footage.

Growing Public Anger

Over Economic Hardship

Protests initially broke out in smaller towns but quickly spread to major cities, including Tehran, where thousands of citizens gathered to express frustration over the worsening economic situation. Many protesters have blamed the government for mismanagement, corruption, and the impact of international sanctions, which have driven up prices of food, fuel, and basic commodities.

The demonstrations have grown into a wider expression of anger against Iran's ruling establishment. Videos circulating online show crowds chanting slogans demanding political change and greater accountability.

several earlier warnings from Washington about a potential response to the Iranian authorities' handling of the unrest.

Trump said, "It looks like (the line has been crossed)... Some people, who were not supposed to be killed, have been killed... If you talk about leaders, I don't know if they are leaders or just rule through violence... But we and the military are looking at it very seriously, and we are looking at some very strong options," according to reporters travelling with the president.

The US president also claimed Iran's leadership has recently reached out following warnings linked to the Iran protests. Trump stated, "The leaders of Iran called" yesterday, he told reporters aboard Air Force One, adding that "a meeting is being set up... They want to negotiate." Trump nevertheless cautioned that "we [the US] may have to act before a meeting."

Inside the country, Iranian officials have intensified their response to the Iran protests, which began on 28 December. State media reports say authorities see the unrest as part of "terrorist actions led by the United States and Israel," with references to the 12-day war with Israel last year. Tehran has publicly accused Washington and Israel of "fomenting trouble" during the current crisis.

As demonstrations continued, the government has encouraged counter-rallies against what officials describe as foreign interference driving the Iran protests. Supporters of the authorities have been urged to march against United States and Israeli influence. At the same time, security forces have moved to suppress gatherings over inflation and the falling currency in numerous towns.

BMC Elections: Annamalai Responds Sharply to Raj Thackeray's 'Rasmalai' Comment

(Gns). The clash between K Annamalai and Raj Thackeray has intensified just days before Maharashtra civic polls, with sharp exchanges over Mumbai, Marathi pride and Tamil identity. At a recent joint rally in Mumbai, Raj Thackeray mocked the BJP leader as "rasmalai", triggering a storm that has spilled into campaign speeches and media debates across both states.

The row centres on Annamalai's comments about Mumbai and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Kamaraj, which drew attacks from Maharashtra Navnirman Sena and Shiv Sena (UBT). Raj Thackeray questioned Annamalai's right to speak on Mumbai affairs and used a slogan



linked with earlier agitation politics, further straining ties between Marathi and lungi bajao punji," Raj Thackeray said referencing a slogan historically associated with the Shiv Sena's early campaigns against South Indians.

Annamalai responded from Chennai, saying he would not withdraw his comments or avoid Maharashtra civic polls campaigning in Mumbai. He rejected any suggestion

that he had insulted Marathi people and argued that his remarks on Kamaraj and Mumbai had been misrepresented. The BJP leader also said he viewed the verbal assault as part of a politics based on threats.

Maharashtra civic polls rhetoric, threats and K Annamalai's counterattack

Challenging the Thackeray family directly

Annamalai questioned their right to warn him against entering the city. "Who are Aditya Thackeray and Raj Thackeray to threaten me?" he said, stressing that he was proud of being a farmer's son and that political pressure or personal attacks would not force any change in his plans to travel.

Ladakh's winter tourism hit as iconic Chadar Trek put on hold after Zaskar River unfreezes

(Gns). In a setback to Ladakh's winter tourism, the annual Chadar Trek on the Zaskar River has been suspended till 20 January, as the ice formation on the nearly 105 kms trail is not yet stable due to warmer weather conditions, raising potential safety issues for trekkers.

The trek at a height of 11,000 ft was earlier supposed to begin on 10 January but was postponed by five days and has now been suspended till 20 January following the unfreezing of the Zaskar River, which has rendered the trekking route unsafe, said an official announcement by the Ladakh authorities on Monday.

According to an official



Authority, Leh, the decision has been taken after a recce team reported hazardous conditions posing a serious risk to human life. "All trekking and allied adventure activities on the Chadar route have been

prohibited during the suspension period," he ordered.

The Chadar Trek or the Zaskar Gorge trek is a winter trail over the frozen Zaskar River, and its suspension has created uncertainty over the iconic trekking activity in which people from across the country and abroad partici-

pate.

The authorities have directed tour operators and local stakeholders not to organise, promote, or facilitate any trekking activity during the period of suspension. Tourists and trekkers have been advised to strictly comply with the order. Chadar is the country's most challenging trek on the Zaskar River, which freezes in temperatures dropping down to -25 degrees Celsius and brings a larger-than-life experience.

As many as 41 trekkers were trapped in 2020 between the Tibb and Neyraks camps due to the unfreezing of the river and overflowing of water over the ice, and they were rescued in helicopters.

Uttarakhand farmer dies by suicide after alleging police inaction in ₹4-crore land fraud

(Gns). A Kashipur-based farmer, Sukhwant Singh, died by suicide after shooting himself in a hotel room in Nainital in the early hours of Sunday. A video recorded by him before his death, alleging police inaction and harassment in connection with an alleged ₹4-crore land fraud, has since gone viral.

In the video, Singh says, "I am a farmer and I am dead. Yes, I am dead. You are watching this video after my death. Along with me, my wife and son have also committed suicide. A gang in Kashipur, Uttarakhand, has defrauded me of ₹4 crore. Of this, ₹3 crore was paid in cash and ₹1 crore was transferred to their account. They showed me one piece of land but gave me another."

Singh, a resident of Paiga area in Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar district, named several individuals in the video and alleged that he was cheated of ₹4 crore in a land deal. He further claimed that the police, including the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Udham Singh Nagar, failed to help him and instead harassed him



and his family.

"For the past four months, the police have been harassing us. After our death, sell all the body parts of mine, my wife and our son, and give the money to the SSP, the station officer of ITI Police Station and their staff," Singh said in the video, making grave allegations against the police.

He also demanded a CBI inquiry, alleging collusion between senior police officials and those who had allegedly defrauded him. "I only want justice," he said.

In the video, Singh levelled serious allegations

against 26 named individuals, including eight women, as well as senior police officials, including SSP Manikant Mishra and the station officer of ITI Police Station, Rautela.

He alleged that when he approached the ITI police station with his complaint, no action was taken, his family was misbehaved with, and they were detained for hours. He also claimed that his complaint to the SSP yielded no result and alleged that the police had taken money from the accused parties.

Concluding the video, Singh said, "All these people are responsible for my suicide. Our souls will not find peace until action is taken against them."

According to police, Sukhwant Singh had checked into Devbhoomi Hotel in Nainital with his wife, Pradeep Kaur, and their 12-year-old son on Saturday. At around 2:30 am on Sunday, he allegedly took out his firearm and fired at his son.

Kaur reportedly pushed the boy away, sustaining injuries herself while saving him. She managed to escape the room with the injured child, after which Singh shot himself dead at point-blank range.

Taking serious note of the viral video, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. He said the investigation had been handed over to Kumaon Commissioner and senior IAS officer Deepak Rawat.

"An impartial and transparent investigation, taking into account all facts and circumstances of the incident, must be conducted to uncover the complete truth. Strict action will be taken against all those found responsible," the Chief Minister said.

Eminent SOA professor R.N.P. Choudhary passes away

(Gns). Prof. R.N.P. Choudhary, an eminent academic researcher and Emeritus Professor in the Physics Department of the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering and technology of SOA Deemed to be University, passed away here on Sunday after prolonged illness. He was 80.

Prof. Choudhary had earned his Ph. D. from the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, and served in senior academic roles such as Head of Department of Physics at IIT Kharagpur which reflected his experience in higher education leadership.

Prof. Choudhary's research area comprised Applied Physics with focus on dielectric and ferroelec-



tric materials. He had numerous research publications and citations to his credit and continuously figured in the list of world's top 2 per cent researchers in the field of Applied

Physics compiled by Stanford University in the USA.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Founder President of SOA, deeply condoled the passing away of Prof. Choudhary said it was a great loss to the academic world and the field of research. SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda also mourned the demise of Prof. Choudhary described him as an excellent teacher and guide for researchers.

BJP-ruled states witness rise in atrocities against Dalits, alleges Congress

(Gns). The Congress party Monday accused BJP-ruled states of witnessing a surge in crimes and atrocities against Dalits, alleging that the perpetrators are being protected and patronized by the ruling governments. Uttar Pradesh has been cited as a glaring example. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress SC Department chairman Rajendra Pal Gautam alleged that the Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh is indifferent and discriminatory towards Dalits, backward classes, and minorities. Gautam pointed to a recent incident in the Meerut district where a Dalit girl was abducted and

her mother brutally killed when she tried to save her. He claimed that when he and his party colleagues tried to meet the affected family, they were stopped by the local administration and police. "The entire area was converted into a police cantonment to prevent us from meeting the victims' family. Had the UP government shown this kind of resolve against criminals, there would not have been so many atrocities against Dalits in the state," he said. He alleged that the Yogi government's crackdown on crime is selective and based on caste identity.



"When the accused belongs to Dalit or minority communities, bulldozers are immediately rolled out. But when the culprits are from upper castes and the victims are Dalits or minorities, no such action is taken. Yogi's bulldozers rust when the crime is against Dalits," he remarked. Gautam also accused the Union government of treating crimes against Dalits lightly, saying official data on atrocities has not been made public since 2022. "This lack of transparency itself shows the seriousness – or rather the lack of it – with which the issue is being handled," he

pointed out. The Congress leader stressed that atrocities on Dalits can be curbed only through time-bound investigation, speedy trials, and strict punishment of the guilty. "Justice delayed is justice denied, especially for the most vulnerable sections of society," he added. Gautam criticized the Delhi Police for denying permission to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar against the Meerut incident, calling the restriction unreasonable and insensitive. The Congress said it will continue to raise the issue on the streets and in Parliament, demanding accountability from BJP governments and concrete measures to ensure Dalit safety and dignity.

Mamta government will change, Muslims will also vote for BJP: Nishank

Yogi Adityanath is a center of faith and doing good work there should be order in religious places
Not all goons among Muslims are scoundrels. Mathura. On Monday, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and former Union Minister MP Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has said that Mamata Banerjee has misbehaved with the ED and BJP government will be formed in West Bengal, Muslims will also vote for BJP now. Yogi Adityanath is the center of faith and he is doing the right thing. Nishank, National Vice President of NUJI, Braj Press Club President Dr. Kamalkant Upmanyu was talking to journalists at Advocate's residence in Cantonment area.

Nishank said that the government investigating agency was formed to investigate corruption and it is doing its job. The way Mamata Banerjee has treated the ED team is wrong. Her message is that Mamata wants to hide corruption. He said that not all goons among Muslims are scoundrels, there are good people among them and even



National Vice President of NUJI and President of Braj Press Club, Dr. Shri Upmanyu and Bar Association President Pradeep Sharma and Secretary Lavania, Regional Councilor and others welcoming former Union Human Resources Minister and former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank with a memento at the residence of Advocate Kamalkant Upmanyu

Adityanath and told that Yogi and I used to sit

together on different sides in Parliament. I have told Yogi ji the policies I had made regarding religious places and priests when I was a Union Minister. Yogi is doing fine. He said that there should be more proper arrangements in religious places and Yogis will do good work in this direction also. Praising the Uttarakhand government, he said that the young Chief Minister there is doing good work. BJP will win in the elections led by Modi. Recalling the old history, Nishank said that Atal ji had run the government with equality and Mamta. Atal ji had dominance, hence Mamata was in control. Now Mamata government will not be formed in West Bengal.

Raya reached out to SP MP Ramjilal Suman regarding the demolition of Ambedkar statue

Samajwadi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Ramjilal Suman taking information at Ambedkar Park along with SP leader Pradeep Choudhary and others. SP MP calls Yogi government anti-Dalit, demands imposition of NSA on anarchist elements Mathura. The issue of demolition of the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in Raya town is now taking a political color. Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha MP Ramjilal Suman reached Ambedkar Park on Monday. In view of his arrival, the police administration had made strict security arrangements and heavy police force was deployed. MP Suman visited Ambedkar Park with local SP leaders. He inspected the ongoing work of installing the new statue



and interacted with the officials of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Social Reform Committee. Speaking to the media, the SP MP described the incident of vandalism as 'extremely unfortunate'. He alleged that not only Raya, but statues of Baba Saheb and Buddhist great men are being demolished in the entire state. Suman raised the question why such incidents are happening only during the tenure of Yogi government and said that if the government takes timely strict action then their recurrence can be prevented. Ramjilal Suman termed the Yogi government as

anti-Dalit and said that the government's bulldozer runs on the basis of caste and religion. The thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar and Manu are the nurturers of this ideology of mischievous elements who do not believe in the Constitution. Those who are truly guilty in this incident have not been identified. We demand the administration to take effective action against such unruly elements and impose NSA. During this time DrGulab Singh,

President of Bhimrao Ambedkar Social Reform Committee, said that full help is being provided by the administration. No big public representative reached on the day of the incident. Apart from this, the Speaker told the SP MP that no district level officer from his party also came. Prominent among the SP delegation are Mathura District President Virendra Singh Yadav, District General Secretary Subhash Pal, senior leader Pradeep Chaudhary, District Vice President Digambar Singh Jatav, District Vice President Om Prakash Yadav, Assembly Baldev President Rajendra Sikarwar, Lohia Vahini President Sonu Thakur, Student President Santosh Yadav, Baba SahebVani President Sachin Pehalwan

When Values Clash Across Generations, Mahadev & Sons Unfolds a Compelling Family Saga of Love, Trust, and Betrayal

Lucknow, 12 January 2026: 'Kuch rishtey misaal ban jaate hain... aur kuch misaalon ka boj ban kar reh jaate hain'. Bringing to life this sentiment, COL-ORS presents 'Mahadev & Sons', a compelling family drama born from forbidden love and shaped by lifelong consequences. Set in the sacred lanes of the temple town of Hardoi, the story is backdropped to the extraordinary rise of Mahadev, an orphan who entered the powerful Bajpai household as a servant and emerged as one of the town's most respected and wealthy men. His forbidden love for Vidya, his master's daughter, cost her everything - her home, her name, and her inheritance. Disowned and disgraced, the couple rebuilt their lives brick by brick, with disci-



pline and tradition, choosing dignity over bitterness. What begins as a journey of sacrifice slowly grows into a close-knit, happy parivaar where days begin and end together with

and celebrate together. The respected patriarch is determined to protect the happiness he has built, even if it means ruling from fear of loss rather than a place of love, because beneath the harmony lies an old wound that refuses to heal. Living across from Mahadev & Sons, Vidya's elder sister Bhanu stands in opposition, her unresolved resentment casting a long shadow over this seemingly perfect world. Burdened by the price of

his own love story and terrified of history repeating itself, Mahadev draws one unbreakable line for his children: love marriages are forbidden. His rules keep the family together, but at a cost; his children obey him, yet silently yearn for choice, for voice, for love without fear. And among them stands Dheeraj, the youngest son... and the one most likely to rebel. Will the love Mahadev once fought society for become the very force that tests his family's unity? Step into the world of 'Mahadev & Sons', starring Shakti Anand as Mahadev, Sneha Vagh as Vidya, Manasi Salvi as Bhanu, and Aasim Khan as Dheeraj; airs every Monday to Friday at 09:30 pm, only on COLORS and JioHotstar.

Not pressing for share in power, PM Modi might visit Thiruparankundram temple: TN BJP chief Nainar Nagenthran

(Gns). Denying that the BJP has been pressing for a share in power with three cabinet berths from the AIADMK, heading the NDA in Tamil Nadu, in the event of the alliance winning the assembly election, party state president Nainar Nagenthran on Monday made it clear that the party's sole agenda was to remove the ruling DMK from power. "Because the Congress raises the demand for power with the DMK, we need not follow suit. We are not pressing for a coalition government with the AIADMK," he told the media in Madurai, countering reports that the saffron party has been insisting on this with the AIADMK, which has been delaying seat-sharing talks. He also denied that the BJP was demanding 56 seats for itself and some of

its minor allies, like the Tamil Maanila Congress of former Union Minister GK Vasan. "It is all mere rumours," he added. While the AIADMK had finalised the seat-sharing agreement with the OBC Vanniyar-dominant PMK of the Anbumani faction, the number of seats allotted has been kept a secret. With the BJP formal parleys having only begun a couple of days before, when Nainar called on AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS). Both parties are yet to seal the deal. On which parties would be inducted into the NDA, he said, "It would be decided by EPS, Amit Shah,

and Piyush Goyal, who is the BJP in-charge for Tamil Nadu." Since Madurai is one of the possible venues for the Prime Minister's January 23 visit to the state, he was here to inspect the venue near Pandi Kovil on the outskirts of the temple city. Nainar was accompanied by BJP leaders and local AIADMK functionaries. "The public meeting would be the first major show of the NDA in which leaders of all the constituents will share the dais with the Prime Minister.



BJP prepares district outreach on rural employment guarantee Act

(Gns). The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday organised a state-level workshop at its state office in Ranchi on the Developed India Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Mission (Rural), focusing on the provisions of the proposed VB G Ram G Act, 2025. The workshop was chaired by BJP Jharkhand president and Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi. Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs and former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar attended as the chief guest. Senior party leaders, district-level committee members and speakers from across the

state were present. The programme aimed

Addressing the workshop and a press interac-



to counter what the BJP described as misinformation being spread by the Congress and other opposition parties on the Act and to prepare party workers to communicate its provisions at the grassroots level.

tion, Manohar Lal Khattar said the VB G Ram G Act, 2025 seeks to make rural employment a vehicle for sustainable development in line with the vision of Developed India 2047. He said weak administrative

systems, corruption and a demand-driven framework had gradually reduced the long-term impact of MGN-REGA. He said the earlier demand-based model often led to financial imbalance and the creation of unnecessary works, resulting in wastage of public funds and labour. Under the new Act, projects would be approved based on the actual needs of villages. Rural works would be planned through developed Gram Panchayat plans and consolidated at the block, district and state levels. Khattar said the annual employment guarantee has been increased from 100 to 125 days, along with provisions for quicker wage pay-

Patanjali Wellness concludes 6-day integrated training program for Yoga instructors

(Gns). The six-day Integrated Yoga, Naturopathy, and AYUSH-Based Training Program for yoga instructors working at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs under the State Homeopathy Department concluded successfully on Monday. The training was organized by the Divya Yoga Mandir Trust in collaboration with the Patanjali Herbal Research Division and the Patanjali Research Foundation at Patanjali Wellness, Haridwar, from January 7 to 12, 2026. The program aimed to strengthen integrated health services by enhancing the professional competence of yoga instructors. The training concluded with the divine blessings of

Acharya Balkrishna and Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev. Participants received

Saini, Vaidya Pavanesh Maurya, Dr. Prashant Katiyar, Arjun Yogi, and

Officer (District Homeopathy Medical Officer), was present at the closing ceremony. He praised the quality, disciplined organization, and content of the training, describing it as extremely useful for the effective implementation of integrated health services at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. He also expressed interest in organizing similar collaborative training programs in the future.



training in subjects such as yoga, Ayurveda, naturopathy, diet therapy, pranayama, meditation, yoga psychology, and therapeutic yoga. Experienced experts, including Dr. Ajit Rana, Dr. Vivek Chaurasia, Dr. Anoop

Mayur Chauhan, conducted the training sessions. On the final day, participants delivered hands-on demonstrations, presented case studies, underwent evaluations, and took part in a formal closing session. Dr. Vikas Thakur, Nodal

Beyond Davos: Why Jharkhand took its stones to the world

(Gns). When Indian states travel to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, the pitch is usually predictable. Investment figures, industrial corridors, ease of doing business. This year, Jharkhand carried something else in its diplomatic briefcase. Stones. As Chief Minister Hemant Soren prepares for engagements in Davos and during an official visit to the United Kingdom, the state has chosen to foreground a narrative that reaches far beyond quarterly growth charts. It is presenting itself as one of the world's oldest inhabited cultural landscapes, anchored in living megalithic traditions that still shape community life in its forests and villages. At the heart of this story lies the Singhbhum Craton, among the earliest stable

landmasses on Earth, formed over three billion years ago. On this ancient geological foundation,



human societies erected monoliths, stone circles, and memorial slabs long before recorded history. Unlike most megalithic cultures across the world, which survive only as archaeological remnants, Jharkhand's stone traditions remain alive. In places such as Chokahatu in Ranchi district, members of the Munda community continue to erect memorial stones

for their ancestors. New stones stand beside old ones, creating a layered archive of lineage, memory, and belief that spans centuries. Anthropologists describe it as one of the largest living megalithic landscapes in the Indian subcontinent, a rarity in global heritage studies. Further north, at Pakari Barwadih in Hazaribagh, rows of monoliths are aligned with the movement of the sun and the equinox. The precision has drawn scholarly attention and invites comparison with Stonehenge, the iconic prehistoric site in southern England. The parallel is not about scale or spectacle, but about a shared human impulse across continents and millennia to mark time,

death, and cosmic order in stone. Jharkhand's narrative extends beyond megaliths alone. Cave complexes such as Isko, with their ancient rock art, and the fossilised forests of Mandro add further depth, linking planetary time with living cultural practice. Together, they form a rare continuum where geology, archaeology, and contemporary indigenous life coexist within the same geography. By placing this heritage alongside its economic vision in Davos and in the United Kingdom, Jharkhand is attempting a subtle shift in how states present themselves on global platforms. The message is that long-term development cannot be divorced from cultural continuity or ecological memory.