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Trump speaks in Davos: PM Modi is my great friend, a big India-US trade deal will happen soon

Agency, Davos



A major development has emerged from the 56th annual summit of the World Economic Forum, being held amidst the snow-capped mountains of Switzerland. US President Donald Trump has highly praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed hope that a significant trade agreement between the two countries will be concluded soon. In a special discussion during the summit, Trump called PM Modi a very good friend and said that he is very excited about the relations with India. Expressing deep respect for Prime Minister Modi in his address, Trump said, "PM Modi is a wonderful person and a very good friend of mine. We respect his leadership, and a big and effective trade deal between the US and India is going to happen very soon." This statement by President Trump is being seen as a reflection of India's growing

stature on the global stage and strengthening bilateral relations. Trump's positive stance comes at a time when trade negotiations between the two countries are at a crucial juncture. However, some challenges remain in the path of this much-awaited deal. For some time now, negotiators from both countries have been trying to reach a consensus on technical issues such as tariff rates and access to each other's markets. Disagreements have also arisen between the two countries on some issues, particularly related

Trump now mispronounces even the names of countries while lying

Davos: US President Donald Trump, who portrays himself as a messenger of peace to the world, has now started mispronouncing the names of countries while lying. The way he used to mock former President Joe Biden's pronunciation of words in his speeches, he is now being ridiculed on social media for similar mispronunciations. Clips of Trump's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos are going viral. It's not that Trump's speech was being discussed for its policy points, but rather his slip of the tongue brought him into the spotlight. Interestingly, the

Trump's comments in Davos, expectations have increased that a major announcement



on the economic and strategic fronts may be seen in the coming weeks.

very problem for which Donald Trump used to mock former President Joe Biden was observed in his own speech. During his long address, several instances came to light that became the subject of much discussion on social media. At the beginning of his speech, Trump mentioned his diplomatic achievements on the international stage. He claimed that under his leadership, several global conflicts have ended and America's position has become stronger than before. This was fine, but as the speech progressed, people's attention shifted to Trump's mispronunciations.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren and MLA Kalpana Soren arrived in London late at night from Davos



Correspondent, Ranchi

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren arrived in London late Wednesday night. He was welcomed by Jharkhandi scholars and members of the Indian diaspora upon his arrival. Chief Minister Soren is accompanied by his wife and MLA Kalpana Soren as part of the government delegation. Earlier, the delegation led

by Chief Minister Hemant Soren had participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The Directorate of Information and Public Relations stated on Thursday that upon their arrival in London, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren were welcomed with traditional songs and music by Jharkhandi scholars and members of the Indian diaspora. On this occasion,

Chief Minister Soren said, "I am overwhelmed and speechless by this welcome and honor. I feel proud to see your love for me. Our people in London are bringing glory to Jharkhand. My heartfelt gratitude to all of you." Kalpana Soren said, "I express my gratitude to our scholars and members of the diaspora from Jharkhand for this warm welcome. Jharkhand Johar to all."

Brief News

Army vehicle falls into gorge in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir; 10 soldiers martyred



Doda: A tragic accident occurred in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday when an Indian Army Casper vehicle fell into a deep gorge. Ten soldiers were martyred in the accident, while 10 others were seriously injured. According to reports, the army vehicle was traveling on the Bhaderwah-Chamba road towards a high-altitude post. The road conditions were reportedly very poor. For reasons yet unknown, the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing the Casper to plunge into a gorge approximately 200 feet deep. Upon receiving information about the accident, the army, police, and rescue teams rushed to the spot and immediately launched a rescue operation. A swift rescue operation was carried out to pull the soldiers out of the gorge.

Death toll in Karachi shopping plaza fire rises to 61



Islamabad: The death toll from the massive fire that engulfed the Gul Shopping Plaza on MA Jinnah Road in Karachi, Pakistan, has risen to 61. Authorities confirmed on Wednesday that 30 bodies were recovered from a single shop inside the building. According to Dunya News, Deputy Inspector General of Police (South) Asad Raza said the bodies were found in a crockery shop. The removal of debris was temporarily halted to allow for the recovery of the bodies. He said it appears that many people locked themselves inside the shop to escape the smoke and flames after the fire broke out. Deputy Commissioner (South) Javed Nabi Khoso announced that Rescue 1122 has been directed to conduct final search operation in the plaza. He said that after this operation is complete, the building will be demolished. The responsibility for demolishing the structure will rest with the Sindh Building Control Authority. More than 40 percent of the plaza has already collapsed.

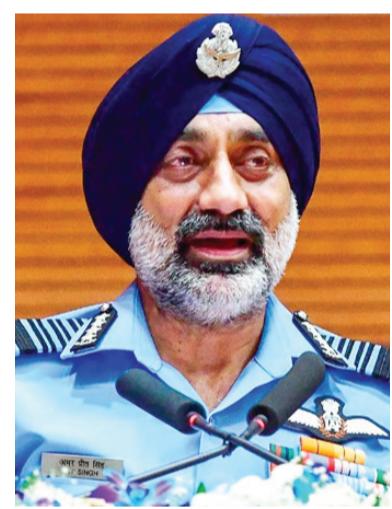
This is the most opportune time to forge strategic partnerships with friendly nations: Air Force Chief

Agency, New Delhi

Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has shared a crucial and strategic perspective on the country's air defense. He emphasized that this is the most opportune time for India to forge strategic partnerships with reliable friendly nations for the development of next-generation air combat systems and weapons. Addressing a seminar on 'National Security Imperatives' in New Delhi, the Air Force Chief said that in view of future challenges, global cooperation for advanced military aircraft engines

and cutting-edge technology has now become imperative. The Air Force Chief specifically cited the recent defense cooperation with France as an example, stating that the decisions taken regarding the development of fighter aircraft engines can prove to be a strong foundation in this direction. Pointing to the current global turmoil, he warned that for any country, strengthening its military power, especially air power, is no longer an option but a necessity. According to him, India does not lack the necessary willpower and human resources to become self-reliant in the defense sector, but there are some

technological hurdles that require external cooperation to overcome. Air Chief Marshal emphasized that although India is capable of developing technology on its own, given the current regional security situation and the activities of neighboring countries, we do not have much time. He said that research and development efforts, along with quick decision-making under the Make in India initiative, are necessary to ensure the availability of required weapons and platforms in the near future. The Air Force Chief's statement comes at a time when the number of fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force



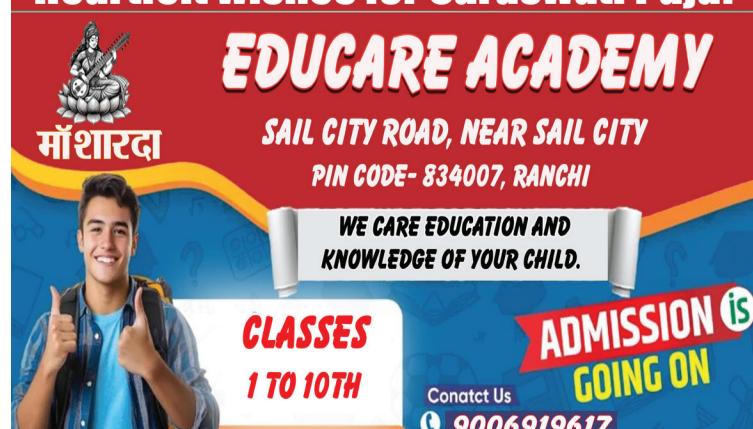
Election Commission launches ECI-Net app, all services available in one place



Agency, New Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) formally launched the ECI-Net application on Friday, integrating more than 40 different types of online services into a single platform. The app was formally launched at Bharat Mandapam during the international conference of election management bodies of democratic countries in Delhi. During the launch, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar invited election management bodies from around the world to benefit from India's initiative. The Election

Heartfelt wishes for Saraswati Puja!



सरस्वती महाभागे विद्ये कमललोचने।
विद्यारूपे विशालाक्षि विद्या देहि नमोऽस्तु ते॥

हे महाभाग्यवती ज्ञानरूपा कमल के समान विशाल नेत्र वाली,
ज्ञानदात्री सरस्वती! मुझे विद्या दो, मैं आपको प्रणाम करता हूँ।

Muskan Hospital & Research Centre

जहां है मुस्कान वहां है जिन्दगी आसान



Ram Nagar Colony Chas
Bokaro Jharkhand

S-3, City Centre, Sec.-4, (Near
Samarjit Gas) B.S. City Jharkhand

88770 80718, 88770 80738

On National Girl Child Day, an awareness program was held in Banka, conveying the message of eliminating child marriage

Correspondent.DN

Banka: Under the direction of District Magistrate Mr. Navdeep Shukla, IAS, and in accordance with the guidelines of the Women and Child Development Corporation, Bihar, Patna, the Women and Child Development Corporation office in Banka organized a special awareness campaign today, January 22, 2026, at Project Balika Uchchay Vidyalaya, Kharhara (Barahat), under the aegis of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women, as part of the National Girl Child Day (January 20-24, 2026) celebrations. The schoolgirls actively



participated in various programs such as painting and speech competitions, poetry recitation, etc. In addition, a special program was organized to raise awareness against child marriage under the Child Marriage Free India campaign. On the occasion of National Girl Child Day

2026, the District Mission Coordinator, along with the Hub's Gender Specialist, Financial Literacy expert, and Case Worker, jointly held a detailed discussion on social evils like child marriage and provided information on everyone's roles and responsibilities in its eradication. This program is a significant step towards strengthening collective participation and public awareness in the direction of eliminating child marriage. Detailed information was also provided on various schemes operated under the Women and Child Development Corporation, Banka, such as Beti Bachao

Beti Padhao, prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace, Child Helpline - 1098, Women Helpline number - 181, 112 emergency number, Women Rehabilitation Fund, skill development, etc. All participants in the program received caps and T-shirts with the BBBP logo, and the girls who secured first, second, and third positions in the competitions were awarded bags, geometry boxes, and other prizes. Finally, the children presented paintings they had created on the theme of empowering women and girls. The school principal, all students, teachers, and staff were present at the program.

Inspecting the Karam Daha fair, and giving instructions to officials regarding security and arrangements

Correspondent.DN

Jamtara: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Jamtara, Mr. Ravi Anand, IAS, Project Director ITDA, Mr. Jugnu Minj, inspected the Karam Daha fair; instructions were given on various points. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Jamtara, Mr. Ravi Anand, IAS, Project Director, ITDA, Jamtara, Mr. Jugnu Minj, along with the Block Development Officer-cum-Circle Officer, Narayanpur, inspected the Karam Daha fair held on the banks of the Barakar River. During the inspection, he took a detailed look at



the entire fair premises and also visited the famous Dukhiya Baba temple complex. During the inspection, he gave clear instructions to the magistrates deployed at the fair, members of the fair management committee, and the Circle Officer on various points related to law and order, crowd management, cleanliness, drinking water, lighting, and security arrangements, emphasizing that the safety of devotees and visitors should be given priority during the fair. He also instructed all concerned to work in coordination with each other to ensure that the fair is conducted peacefully, safely, and in an orderly manner. Besides Block Development Officer Narayanpur, Devraj Gupta, other concerned officials were also present on this occasion.

Voter Pledge Organized in Chaibasa on the 16th National Voters' Day

Correspondent.DN

Chaibasa: On the occasion of the 16th National Voters' Day—2026, a Voter Pledge programme was organized on Thursday at the auditorium of the West Singhbhum District Collectorate. The programme was led by the District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Chandan Kumar. On this occasion, Deputy Development Commissioner Utkarsh Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Praveen Kerketta, District Land Acquisition Officer Lily Enola, Deputy Election Officer Bandhan Long, Sadar Chaibasa Sub-Divisional Officer Sandeep Anurag, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Bahaman Tutti, along



with Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, district-level officers, employees of the Collectorate, and others were present. All the officers and staff present in the auditorium took the Voter Pledge, reaffirming their complete faith in democracy. Through the pledge, everyone resolved to uphold the dignity of the country's democratic

traditions and to exercise their voting rights fearlessly while maintaining the sanctity of free, fair, and peaceful elections. They also pledged to vote in all elections without being influenced by religion, class, caste, community, language, or any kind of inducement. The objective of the programme was to enhance voter awareness and strengthen democratic values.

District Health Committee (DHS) meeting concluded in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner

Correspondent.DN

Godda: A review meeting of the District Health Committee (DHS) was held in the auditorium of the Collectorate under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Godda, Ms. Anjali Yadav, IAS. The meeting reviewed in detail the health services being provided in the district, the progress of schemes under the National Health Mission (NHM), institutional deliveries, maternal and child health, immunization, family planning, Ayushman Bharat, the status of health sub-centers/primary health centers/community health centers, and other related issues. The Deputy Commissioner directed that the availability of

essential medicines and equipment be ensured in all health institutions, continuous monitoring of the attendance of doctors and health workers be maintained, and quality health services be provided to the general public in a timely manner. She emphasized strengthening antenatal and postnatal care to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates, and ensuring proper referral systems for high-risk pregnant women. Reviewing the progress of the immunization program, directions were given to conduct campaigns according to the micro-plan to achieve 100% target, identify dropout children to increase coverage, and organize special camps in urban and remote



areas. Emphasis was also placed on the creation of Ayushman cards for eligible beneficiaries and updating the list under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed the health department officials to regularly update the progress of all schemes on the portal and ensure the expeditious completion of pending tasks. Instructions were also given to ensure cleanliness, proper biomedical waste management, and sensitive behavior towards patients. The meeting was attended by the Civil Surgeon, Godda District Program Manager, nodal officers of various health programs, Block Medical Officers, and other concerned officials.

JKA India National Karate Championship concludes in Guwahati, Jharkhand wins 18 medals

Correspondent.DN

Chaibasa: Under the aegis of the Japan Karate Association of India (JKAI), the 43rd National Senior Karate Championship, 13th Veteran National Karate Championship, and 18th Kyu Level National Karate Championship were successfully held in Guwahati, Assam. This five-day championship was organized from January 16 to January 20, 2026. On this occasion, a National Karate Training Camp was also organized. Along with the black belt examination, examinations for national-level instructors, examiners, and judge-referees were also conducted during the camp. The training camp was

conducted by JKA Japan's 7th Dan Black Belt Takuya Taniyama from Japan and JKA India's Chief Karate Instructor, 7th Dan Black Belt Anand Ratna. A total of 27 karatekas from JKAI Jharkhand participated in the championship. Among them, 2 karatekas participated in the Veteran National Karate Championship, 10 in the Kyu Level National Karate Championship, and 15 in the Senior National Karate Championship. The Jharkhand team delivered an excellent performance, winning a total of 18 medals, including 5 gold, 5 silver, and 8 bronze medals. The results of the Jharkhand team are as follows—In the under-8 Kyu Level girls' kata and kumite category, Saleja Chaudhary



won a bronze medal. In the under-10 Kyu Level girls' kata and kumite category, Avni Malho Hembrom won a bronze medal. In the under-16 Kyu Level boys' kata category, Devashish Gop won a silver medal and a bronze medal in kumite. In the under-18 Kyu Level boys' kata and kumite category,

Modamdar Prasad Bari won a gold medal, while in the same category, Gautam Surin won silver medals in both kata and kumite. In the above-18 Kyu Level boys' kumite category, Mangal Tiriya won a silver medal. In the under-14 Black Belt and Brown Belt mixed boys-girls team kata category, Ansh Machhua, Bhumika Biruli, and Laxmi Hembrom won a bronze medal. In the under-18 Senior Brown and Black Belt girls' kata category, Bhavani Kumari won a silver medal and a gold medal in kumite. In the above-18 Senior Brown and Black Belt men's team kata category, Ravi Machhua, Anshu Vishwakarma, and Sawan Kumar Mohanty won a gold medal. In the above-50 Veteran

men's kata category, Pankaj Kumar Singh won a gold medal and a bronze medal in kumite. In the above-55 Veteran men's kumite category, Dr. Amresh Anish won a bronze medal. Around 500 karatekas participated in the national karate training camp, while approximately 800 karatekas from across the country showcased their talent in the competition. On the success of the Jharkhand team, Sant Xavier Kalyan Kendra Director Father Eugene Ekka, In-charge Rakesh Tigga, JKAI Jharkhand Vice President Irshad Ali, other office bearers, and several dignitaries expressed their happiness. This information was shared by JKAI Jharkhand President and Chief Karate Instructor Pankaj Kumar Singh.

Meeting held to prepare for the Samriddhi Yatra (Prosperity Journey)

Correspondent.DN

Bhagalpur: A meeting was held at the Review Building under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Dr. Naval Kishore Chaudhary, IAS, to discuss the successful organization of the Samriddhi Yatra - 2026.

It is noteworthy that the first phase of the Samriddhi Yatra is being undertaken by Chief Minister Mr. Nitish Kumar from January 16th. It will start from West Champaran and conclude in Vaishali district on January 24th. In the second phase, he will arrive in Bhagalpur in the second half of February. During the meeting, a point-wise review was conducted



with the concerned officials regarding the preparations for the Samriddhi Yatra, based on the format provided by the 7 Resolves 2, Chief

Minister's Entrepreneurship Scheme, electric crematorium/cremation grounds in blocks, Chief Minister's Women's Employment Scheme, establishment of industrial areas, model schools in blocks, establishment of degree colleges, availability of health services, village connectivity scheme, land mutation, land record correction, land dispute resolution, ration cards, revenue collection campaign, formation of sports clubs, engineering college, establishment of women's ITI, etc. Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Pradeep Kumar Singh and all other concerned officials were present at the meeting.

A voter pledge ceremony was organized at the Jamtara Collectorate on National Voters' Day

Correspondent.DN

Jamtara: On the occasion of the 16th National Voters' Day, a program for administering the voter's pledge was organized in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Nirajan Kumar, as per the instructions of District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mr. Ravi Anand, IAS. On the instructions of District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Jamtara, Ravi Anand, IAS, a program for administering the voter's pledge was organized in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Nirajan Kumar on the occasion of the 16th National Voters' Day. Project Director ITDA Jugnu Minj, Deputy Election Officer Vijay Kumar, District Land Acquisition Officer Satyaprakash, District Social Welfare Officer Kalanath, District

Planning Officer Prashant Tudu, along with other officers and staff of the Collectorate cadre were present. On this occasion, Deputy Development Commissioner Mr. Nirajan Kumar extended his best wishes for National Voters' Day to the officers, staff, and new voters present and administered the voter's pledge, stating that "We all, having full faith in democracy, will uphold the dignity of our country's democratic traditions and, maintaining the sanctity of free, fair, and peaceful elections, will exercise our right to vote fearlessly in all elections without being influenced by religion, class, caste, community, language, or any other inducement." Similarly, on the occasion of National Voters' Day, the voter's pledge was also administered by the respective office heads in various block and circle offices within the district, and an appeal was made to all to vote fearlessly in the greatest festival of democracy—the elections.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sapan Kumar Pal, son of Shri Ramchandra Pal, resident of Village-Singhni, Susania, Post Office-Guhia-Jori, Police Station- Dumka Muffasil, Subdivision and District- Dumka, Jharkhand, PIN No. 814158, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that:

1. That I am a permanent resident of the above-mentioned address.
2. That I retired from the Army a few years ago.
3. That Aditya Kumar Pal is my son, whose date of birth is 10-02-2010.
4. That my son Aditya Kumar Pal's name is recorded as Aditya Pal in my service book, which is incorrect. The correct name of my son is Aditya Kumar Pal, which is recorded in his Aadhaar card (No. 7631 2403 5179) and his matriculation certificate.
5. That I am submitting this affidavit so that the incorrect name "Aditya Pal" in my service book can be corrected to the correct name "Aditya Kumar Pal".
6. That the above statements are true and correct, and I shall be fully responsible if any of the statements are found to be false. I, Sapan Kumar Pal, verify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I have signed this document in Dumka on this 12th day of December 2025.

R.No. 1096 Date: 18/12/2025

Brief News

Officials and staff jointly take the voter's pledge



Khunti. On the occasion of National Voters' Day 2026, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R. Ronita, along with other officials and staff, jointly took the voter's pledge. In accordance with the instructions of the Election Commission, and under the theme "My India, My Vote," the District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R. Ronita, along with other officials and staff, jointly took the voter's pledge at the Collectorate premises today. The officials and staff present with the District Election Officer resolved that they would exercise their right to vote without being influenced by religion, caste, creed, language, or any kind of inducement, and would contribute to strengthening democracy. Highlighting the importance of National Voters' Day, the District Election Officer said that this day is celebrated to create awareness among voters and ensure their participation in democracy. Its objective is to increase public participation in the election process and ensure fair elections. On this occasion, the District Election Officer extended her best wishes to everyone on National Voters' Day 2026. Present on the occasion were Project Director ITDA Mr. Alok Shikari Kachhap, Additional Collector Mr. Parmeshwar Munda, Deputy Election Officer Mrs. Pratibha Kujur, and officials and staff from various departments.

Meeting related to the PC&PNDT Act chaired by Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R. Ronita

Khunti. A meeting related to the PC&PNDT Act was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mrs. R. Ronita. Instructions were given to investigate and take action against illegally operating clinics. A crucial meeting concerning the PC&PNDT Act was held today in the office chamber of the Collectorate under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Khunti, Mrs. R. Ronita. All members of the concerned committee and doctors were present at the meeting. During the meeting, the Chief Medical Officer provided the members present with detailed information about the provisions of the PC&PNDT (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques) Act. It was informed that out of a total of 9 ultrasound clinics in the district, 6 are currently operational under the PC&PNDT Act, and applications have been received for the operation of 2 new ultrasound clinics. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that it is the responsibility of the committee members to ensure compliance with all the guidelines under the Act. All members were apprised of their roles and the implementation process. The Deputy Commissioner said that it is essential to ensure strict adherence to all the regulations for the operation of ultrasound clinics and other clinics, so that malpractices like sex determination of the fetus can be curbed and quality healthcare services can be ensured in private medical institutions. It is mandatory to have a doctor at the clinic, and a lab rate chart should also be displayed so that patients do not face any problems. Emphasis was placed on all members playing an active role in ensuring complete compliance with the Act, increasing public awareness, and conducting timely raids as needed. The meeting was attended by the Civil Surgeon, doctors, lawyers, AYUSH medical officers, and other concerned officials as members.

Admissions Open for Postgraduate Diploma Programmes for Teachers at Azim Premji University



Azim Premji University

Ranchi: Azim Premji University has announced the commencement of admissions to its one-year, part-time postgraduate diploma programmes for teachers and professionals working in the education sector at its Bengaluru campus, with the last date for applications set as February 12, 2026; interviews will be conducted in February, and classes will begin on March 1, 2026. The programmes include postgraduate diplomas in early childhood education, educational assessment, and teaching children with learning disabilities, and will be offered in both online and offline modes, enabling working teachers and education professionals from Jharkhand and across the country to pursue the courses alongside their jobs. A minimum of two years of work experience is mandatory for admission. According to Ankur Madan, Director of the Faculty of Education at the university, the objective of these programmes is to provide teachers with practical and applicable understanding so that they can make their everyday classroom teaching and school-level academic work more effective.

Jharkhand: Naxalite carrying Rs 1 crore reward killed in encounter with security forces

West Singhbhum: In an encounter that took place on Thursday in the Saranda forest area under Chotanagpur police station in West Singhbhum district, security forces killed Naxalite Anal Da alias Patiram Manjhi, who carried a reward of Rs 1 crore. IG Operations and police spokesperson Michael Raj S confirmed Anal's death. Eleven other Naxalites are also reported to have been killed in the encounter along with Anal.

Deputy Commissioner Directs Stamp and Registry Department to Increase Digital Registrations

Agency. Ranchi



A review meeting of the district's internal financial resources was held on Thursday in the Deputy Commissioner's auditorium at the Collectorate, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri. The objective of the meeting was to increase revenue from the district's internal sources (stamp duty, registration fees, mining royalties, market fees, transport fees, water tax, property tax) and ensure target achievement. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that the district administration aims to strengthen internal financial resources to increase digital registrations and keep a close watch on illegal transactions. Instructions for

make more funds available for the implementation of government schemes and enable faster execution of public welfare works. The progress made so far in line with the targets received from various departments was reviewed in detail during the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Stamp and Registry Department to increase digital registrations and bring transparency in the fees collected from market committees and panchayats

and to implement an online collection system. In addition, a survey and awareness campaign was directed to be conducted to increase property tax collection in municipal corporations and rural areas. Instructions were given to ensure penalties and disconnection of connections for defaulters in water tax collection. In the meeting, it was decided to form a special team to promote digital payments, GST integration, and real-time monitoring through the revenue portal. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departmental officers to prepare an action plan for timely target achievement and to submit progress reports in the monthly review meeting.

1,750 Youth Receive Certificates in Future-Tech Skills, Focus on Industry-Ready Preparedness



Samsung Electronics, said that hands-on training in areas such as AI, IoT, big data, and coding is helping bridge the gap between education and industry. Along with technical subjects, emphasis is also being placed on soft skills to strengthen workplace readiness among youth. The training is currently being conducted across 10 states in the country and is expanding access to future-oriented technical education in underserved and semi-urban areas. At the national level, women account for 44 percent of total participation.

Voter Pledge Ceremony Held on National Voters' Day

Agency. East Singhbhum



On Thursday, a voter pledge ceremony was organized in the auditorium of the West Singhbhum District Collectorate on the occasion of the 16th National Voters' Day – 2026. The program was led by the District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Chandan Kumar. All the officers and staff present in the auditorium took the voter pledge, reaffirming their complete faith in democracy. Through the pledge, everyone resolved to uphold the sanctity of the country's democratic traditions and to exercise their right to vote fearlessly, maintaining the dignity of free, fair, and peaceful elections. They also pledged to vote in all elections without being influenced by

SP directs officials to establish child-friendly police stations

Agency. West Singhbhum



A one-day workshop was organized on Thursday at the Superintendent of Police's office conference hall in the District Collectorate on the topics of child-sensitive policing, Juvenile Justice Act, principles of child care and protection, and the Child Marriage Prohibition Act – 2006. The program was organized by the police department in collaboration with UNICEF and with the technical support of the Center for Child Rights (CCR), National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi. 39 Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) from various police stations of the district participated in the workshop. During the workshop, Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit

Renu instructed all Child Welfare Police Officers to establish and operate child-friendly police stations.

Narendra Sharma continued the program by reviewing the information gained from previous training sessions.

In the technical sessions, Gaurav, Child Protection Officer, NUVN, UNICEF, highlighted the key principles of child-sensitive policing under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and the Jharkhand Juvenile Justice Rules 2017, such as dignity, non-discriminatory approach, confidentiality, and prioritizing the best interests of the child. Discussions were also held on the

Fierce encounter between security forces and Maoists in Jharkhand, several Naxalites feared dead

Agency. West Singhbhum



A fierce encounter broke out between security forces and the CPI (Maoist) Naxalite organization in the dense and inaccessible Saranda forest of West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand on Thursday morning. The encounter, which took place in the Chotanagpur police station area, saw heavy firing from both sides for a considerable period. According to initial reports, several Maoists are feared to have been killed in the encounter. There has been no official confirmation from the security forces yet. It is reported that senior officers of the CRPF and Jharkhand Police had received information about the presence of Naxalites in the

Saranda forest area. Based on this information, a joint team of Cobra, Jharkhand Jaguar, and district police launched a search operation in the area. As soon as the security forces approached the Naxalite hideouts, the Naxalites, finding themselves surrounded, opened indiscriminate fire. The security forces then retaliated. Seeing the security forces gaining the upper hand, the Naxalites managed to escape by taking advantage of the dense forest and hilly terrain. After the encounter, the security forces have cordoned off the entire area and a large-scale search operation is underway. IG (Operations) Michael Raj S has confirmed the encounter. He said that an encounter has been going on between the police and Maoists since morning. It is noteworthy that the Saranda and Kolhan regions have long been Naxal-affected areas.

Signs of summer in Jharkhand, temperatures gradually rising

Agency. Ranchi



Summer is beginning to make its presence felt across the state. Temperatures have started to rise in various districts of the state, including the capital Ranchi. However, temperatures are still quite low in some districts, resulting in a feeling of cold in those areas. Gumla remains the coldest region in the state. On Thursday, the minimum temperature recorded there was 4.8 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature was 26 degrees Celsius. As for the hottest districts, Chaibasa and Seraikela recorded the highest temperatures in the state. In Chaibasa, the maximum temperature reached 30.4 degrees and the minimum temperature crossed 11 degrees, while in Seraikela, the maximum temperature was recorded at 30.3 degrees Celsius. The weather in the capital Ranchi is experiencing a mix of warm and cool conditions. On Thursday, the maximum temperature recorded here was 25 degrees and the minimum temperature was 9 degrees Celsius, while in Jamshedpur, the minimum temperature rose to over 13 degrees, which is 2.3 degrees higher than the normal

temperature. According to the Meteorological Department, fluctuations in weather are expected in the coming days. The department has predicted a 2 to 3 degree Celsius increase in temperature after Basant Panchami (January 23). During the last 24 hours, the highest temperature in the state was recorded in Chaibasa at 30.4 degrees Celsius and the lowest temperature in Gumla at 4.8 degrees Celsius. On Thursday, the weather remained clear throughout the day in Ranchi and surrounding areas, with moderate winds. There was also light fog in the morning, but the weather cleared completely later.

Saraswati Puja to be celebrated with great fanfare at Shishu Mandir on the 23rd



Agency. Ranchi

Saraswati Puja will be celebrated with great enthusiasm at Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir on Friday. Students of the school will participate in the worship of Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. According to information provided by

Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital to Open in Jharkhand, Centre Gives Approval: Irfan

Agency. Ranchi



Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari met with Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Pratap Rao Jadhav in New Delhi on Thursday. During the meeting, the central government agreed to establish an Ayurvedic medical college and hospital in Jharkhand. An Ayurveda college and hospital will soon open in Jharkhand. The minister said that a meeting was also held during his interaction with the Union Minister, where several proposals related to strengthening Jharkhand's healthcare system were discussed. The central government has given its in-principle approval to these proposals. Minister Irfan Ansari said that the state did not have an Ayurvedic medical college until now. Under the central government's

proposal, one government and one private Ayurvedic medical college and hospital will be established. In addition, the proposal to establish state-of-the-art high-tech labs equipped with Japanese technology in all medical

colleges of the state and Ranchi Sadar Hospital has also been approved. This will help improve diagnostic facilities and reduce the need for patients to travel outside the state for treatment. He said that an agreement has also been reached on increasing the number of MBBS seats from 100 to 250 in SNMCH, Dhanbad, and MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur, and other medical colleges, as well as increasing the number of postgraduate seats. The Union Minister said that this process will be taken forward after an inspection by an expert team. The minister said that an agreement has also been reached on the construction of Wellness Health Centers (Health Cottages) in all districts of the state, with financial assistance shared between the central and state governments in a 60:40 ratio.

Guru as 'parent', elephants on the road: Voter-roll fixes in Bengal get inventive

New Delhi, Agency:

Monks and nuns may have renounced all trappings of worldly life — and many of them do not vote — but they, too, are being called for SIR (Special Intensive Revision) hearings, mainly for listing their spiritual gurus' names under the 'name of parent' column in the electoral records. Taking cognisance of the inconvenience faced by monastic orders, the Election Commission (EC) has directed district election officers (DEOs) to conduct hearings at ashrams and religious institutions, instead of asking monks to travel to designated centres. In cases where supporting documents are unavailable, the DEO — who is the district magistrate — has been authorised to act as a quasi-judicial authority and clear voter applications.

The issue surfaced after several monks received hearing notices due to address and identity mismatch, caused by years of transfers between ashrams. Eighty-two-year-old Swami Muktikamananda, adhyaksha of the century-old Gadadhar Ashram (Ramakrishna Math) in Bhowanipur, south Kolkata, said his voter ID card and Aadhaar were linked to a Ramakrishna Math in Bankura (more than 200km from Kolkata), where he had stayed for an extended period. "I was initially asked to attend a hearing in Bankura, but after intervention by electoral officials, I submitted my enumeration form in Bhowanipur itself," he said.

Last Wednesday, around 90 monks attended a special SIR camp organised at Belur Math, with hearings held at



the Abhedananda Convention Centre. Participants included residents of the Belur headquarters as well as monks from centres such as the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama in Narendrapur. While monks of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission do not vote, they seek inclusion in electoral rolls to avoid complications in visa applications and administra-

tive work. Monks from Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS) and Iskcon, many of whom do vote, have also received SIR notices. Swami Mahadevananda of BSS said several monks had listed founder Acharya Swami Pranavananda's name as their parent, triggering document mismatches. General secretary Dilip Maharaj said

monks without passports attended a special hearing on Jan 20 at the Ballygunge headquarters.

Iskcon spokesperson Radharann Das said monks who had earlier voted in Kolkata had been asked to submit fresh documents from their native places across India and abroad.

Avoiding elephant routes

Voters in Jhargram and West Midnapore — in Bengal's Jangalmahal, about 150km from Kolkata — have, over the years, learnt how to coexist with elephants. It's a sort of mutual respect, born out of a certain wariness — and a tacit understanding: "Stay out of my hair, and I'll stay out of yours."

During the SIR, regular elephant movement has coincided with a sudden rise in human movement — resi-

dents with voter detail anomalies are having to travel far and wide to arrive at hearing centres, a highly unsafe exercise. And, so, the poll body said yes when the two district administrations wanted to set up multiple hearing centres, located near human settlements, across six assembly constituencies. Similar arrangements are also being planned in elephant-heavy pockets of North Bengal. In West Midnapore, voters from select Jangalmahal villages will attend hearings at the Pirakata Community Hall, under the jurisdiction of Salboni police station. Salboni BDO Ruman Mondal said residents of villages such as Kalsibhang, Satpati, Kalaimuri, Garmal, Lalgaria and Bhimpur were directed to appear at the new centre from Jan 15.

Bengaluru airport's flight of shame

How Air India SATS staffer misused 'manual frisking' to molest South Korean businesswoman

Bengaluru, Agency: South Korean businesswoman has accused an airline ground-handling employee of sexually assaulting her at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, allegedly under the pretext of "manual frisking".

The 32-year-old woman was returning to South Korea on Monday when the incident occurred in the international departures area of Terminal 2, shortly after she had cleared immigration and security checks.

How the incident unfolded According to the woman's complaint, the incident took place around 10.45am. A man approached her after she



had completed Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) frisking and immigration formalities, identified himself as airport staff and asked to see her boarding pass.

He then claimed there was a problem with her checked-in baggage, saying a beeping sound had been detected and that resolving

the issue would take time. He allegedly suggested an alternative — what he described as "manual frisking" — and asked her to accompany him.

Police said the woman was taken to an area near the men's washroom. There, under the guise of inspection, the man allegedly touched her chest

multiple times, asked her to turn around and then touched her private parts.

When the woman objected, he allegedly hugged her, thanked her and told her she could leave.

What police say The Kempegowda International Airport police said the accused has been identified as Mohammed Affaann Ahmed, 25, a ground-handling staff member with Air India SATS. Police said he had no authority to physically inspect passengers. According to investigators, the woman later reported the incident to airport security staff, who immediately detained the accused and alerted airport police.

Display West Bengal discrepancies, unmapped list by Jan 24: EC



New Delhi, Agency:

Pursuant to the Jan 19 SC direction, Election Commission on Wednesday instructed the Bengal CEO to ensure that names of electors listed under "logical discrepancies" and "unmapped" categories under the SIR exercise are displayed by Jan 24 at gram panchayat bhawans, public places in talukas, block office of talukas as well as in ward offices of urban centres, reports Bharti Jain. People in these two categories can

submit documents/objections through their authorised representative, who can even be a booth level agent.

However, there will be a signed/thumb-marked authority letter, by the person, in favour of such a representative. On Wednesday, EC wrote to Bengal chief secretary and DGP, asking them to provide adequate manpower to state CEO for deployment at panchayat bhawans/block offices.

Operation Trashi-I: Day 5 sees fresh encounter in J&K's Kishtwar; JeM terrorists holed up in dense forests

New Delhi, Agency: A fresh gunfight broke out on Thursday between security forces and holed-up terrorists during an ongoing search operation in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

The operation, codenamed "Operation Trashi-I", was launched in Sonnar village near Mandral-Singhpura in the Chatroo belt on Sunday. During the initial contact, three soldiers were injured when a search team encountered terrorists around noon in the Sonnar area, north-east of Chatroo. Officials said, "One of the search teams encountered a group of two to three foreign terrorists, believed to be affiliated with Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). The terrorists allegedly opened indiscriminate fire and lobbed grenades in an attempt to breach the cordon."

A major terrorist hideout was unearthed near the scene of the



encounter on Monday, and several individuals were picked up for questioning, the officials said.

The situation escalated on Thursday morning when a fresh contact was established with the holed-up terrorists in the dense forests of Singhpura. "Heavy firing between the two sides was going on when last reports were received, and efforts are on to neutralise the terrorists operating in the area," officials said. A group of two to three terrorists allegedly affiliated with JeM are believed to be trapped in the encounter, according to the officials.

EC seeks WB reply for defying its order against poll officers

New Delhi, Agency: Taking exception to Bengal govt's decision to unilaterally exonerate Baruipur Purba assembly constituency assistant electoral registration officer (AERO) Tathagata Mondal and impose only a minor penalty against Moyna AC AERO Sudipta Das — despite clear instructions by Election Commission (dated 05.08.2025) to suspend and initiate disciplinary proceedings against them — EC Wednesday asked the state chief secretary to get the competent authority to submit to the commission a written explanation for the "procedural lapse".

The explanation — sought by 5pm on Jan 24 — must detail the circumstances that led to non-compliance with the commission's instructions, which had mandated that disciplinary authorities shall consult EC before closing or finalising any matter arising out of disciplinary proceedings initiated on the poll panel's recommendation. "Since the disciplinary proceedings have been finalised without



adherence to the prescribed procedure and without mandatory consultation with the Commission, the Commission does not accept such finalisation of disciplinary action. Accordingly, the same shall be treated as procedurally irregular and non est in the eyes of the Commission, warranting reconsideration," EC said in the letter sent to the state chief secretary.

As part of the explanation sought by EC, the competent authority has been asked to furnish the complete disciplinary case records, including

the articles of charge, written statements of defence, inquiry reports, findings of the inquiry authority, orders of the disciplinary authority, file notings and all other relevant records forming the basis of the disciplinary action taken in respect of four officials, namely Tathagata Mondal, Debottam Dutta Choudhury, Biplob Sarkar and Sudipta Das.

The commission had directed the state govt to suspend and initiate suitable disciplinary proceedings against the EROs/AEROs concerned and lodge FIRs against the erring officials, including the contractual data entry operator, under Section 32 of the RP Act, 1950, read with the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Information Technology Act, 2000. Sources said they were allegedly disposing of applications for inclusion in the electoral roll without proper verification or allowing a window for filing claims and objections.

New rule: 5 or more traffic offences in a year, you may be barred from driving

New Delhi, Agency: Five or more traffic offences in a year and you could be barred from driving.

This provision — disqualification or revocation of driving licence (DL) — has been added by the road transport ministry through a fresh amendment to the Motor Vehicles Rules to rein in habitual errant drivers. The licencing authority — regional transport office (RTO) or district transport office (DTO) — has the power to decide on suspension of DL.

The Rules also state that the licencing authority must give the licence holder an opportunity of being heard.

The notification published on Wednesday said the condition of five or more offences of provisions of the

MV Act or Rules in a year for disqualification of DL commences from Jan 1. It added that "no offence or contravention recorded in any previous one-year period shall be taken into account for determining offences or contravention in any subsequent one-year period".

Till now there were 24 provisions in the Rules that could trigger the licencing authority concerned to initiate disqualification of DL. These included theft of vehicle, assault on passenger(s), abduction of passenger(s), driving beyond permitted speed limit, overloading and abandoning vehicle in a public space. These provisions have been made considering that these "constitute nuisance or danger to public". Now, going by the new provision of five or

more traffic offences, such as not wearing helmet, seat belt and jumping red signal, can result in suspension of DLs.

The new provision drew mixed reaction from experts in road traffic laws. Former Delhi deputy transport commissioner Anil Chhikara said that disqualification after five offences is a step in the right direction, but "the conflict is that people driving dangerously are not caught by traffic police". He added that in absence of a standard operating procedure (SOP), traffic offences recorded using CCTV cameras are often challenged in courts. Hence, there is a need to have SOP and disposal guidelines, he said.

Rohit Baluja, who teaches police, transport and judicial officers on

laws related to motor vehicles, termed the amendment "draconian and conceptually flawed". He said, "Disqualification is a second-order enforcement tool, meant to follow fair, consistent, and credible primary enforcement. In a system where enforcement across states remains uneven, often revenue-driven, and weak on due process, such a provision will inevitably invite discretionary misuse by enforcement personnel."

"Instead of improving road safety, it risks punishing drivers for minor, repetitive infractions while ignoring the deeper structural causes of violations — poor traffic engineering, inadequate signage, confusing road layouts, and the absence of uniform deterrence for serious offences," he said.

The ministry's notification also specified the procedures for issuing, managing and paying traffic challans, or fines. It said that any police officer in uniform or any other officer authorised by state govt will issue a challan, either in physical or electronic form, and there can be auto-generation of e-challans. The violator can pay the challan or contest it within 45 days.

Failure to contest within 45 days will be treated as deemed acceptance by the offender. In such a case, they must pay the penalty in the next 30 days. In case, a challan is challenged, the authority concerned must resolve it within 30 days and failure to adhere to this timeline, the challan will be quashed.

Journey of development

Sikandar Bansal

January 25th is not just a constitutional date in Himachal Pradesh's history, but also a symbol of the collective consciousness that gave the mountains, valleys, and border areas the identity of a complete, autonomous, and self-confident state. After full statehood, Himachal's development journey has gone through different political eras and leaderships, with

each Chief Minister guiding the state according to their respective priorities. Following Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar, Thakur Ram Lal's tenure fostered administrative continuity and social balance. Shanta Kumar established a service-based political identity by placing drinking water, sanitation, and basic services at the center of governance. During Virbhadra Singh's long tenure, roads, education, health, and institution-

al expansion strengthened the state's administrative capacity. Subsequently, during Prem Kumar Dhumal's tenure, infrastructure, sports, and e-governance gained new momentum. During Jai Ram Thakur's tenure, special attention was paid to border areas, road networks, and social security schemes. Currently, under Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, the state is striving for a new balance between fiscal discipline, institutional reforms,

and quality in education and health. Despite ideological differences, the common achievement of all these leaderships was that the basic direction of Himachal never deviated with the change of power. Himachal's achievements in the field of education, despite limited resources, are remarkable at the national level. According to the 2011 Census of India, the state's literacy rate was 82.80 percent, which was higher than the national

average at that time. Access to schools in remote villages, availability of teachers, and social participation made education a mass movement. This is why Himachal has long been considered among the leading states in educational indicators. Himachal's model in healthcare has also been cited as an example. The network of primary health centers, community health centers, and district hospitals significantly mitigated the chal-

lenges of the mountainous geography. Reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates, widespread vaccination, and improved life expectancy have proven that even the mountains can build a strong public health infrastructure with policy continuity and administrative commitment. Roads are Himachal's lifeline. After full statehood, road construction received top priority, as connectivity is a prerequisite for development.

Editorial

Prove that he is Shankaracharya

If the Shankaracharya, the crown jewel of Sanatan Dharma, has been insulted in a government run by those who sing Sanatan's praises, how can Sanatan Dharma be considered safe and respected? We're not directly questioning Prime Minister Modi or Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, but has the average Uttar Pradesh administration become so self-righteous that it has sent a notice to the Shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, demanding that he prove his identity? Will the country's authorities—the President, the Prime Minister, or the political leadership—now decide who will be the Shankaracharya or who should be removed from the position? The issue is a simple one, but the Uttar Pradesh administration and police have blown it out of proportion. Previously, the Maha Kumbha (great Kumbh) was held at Prayagraj Sangam, where approximately 660 million devotees from around the world bathed in the confluence of Mother Ganga, but there was no fuss about protocol. Shankaracharya is considered one of the supreme saints of Sanatan Dharma. He is considered a descendant of the 8th-century Adi Shankaracharya. Adi Shankaracharya was a great Indian philosopher and religious leader who founded the Advaita philosophy. He unified Hinduism and established four monasteries in the four corners of India. They are also called Peethas. Shankaracharyas have been given the highest status and position after God.

Now I remember Subhash Chandra Bose more

Freedom is a word with various meanings, and in our country too, the concept of freedom implies a process of development. By freedom, I mean all-encompassing freedom—freedom for the individual as well as for society. Freedom for the rich as well as the poor; freedom for men as well as women; freedom for all classes. This freedom does not merely mean freedom from political constraints. It also implies the equitable distribution of wealth, the end of caste barriers and social inequalities, and the destruction of communalism and religious intolerance. This is an ideal that may seem utopian to men and women with rigid views, but it is this ideal that can satisfy the soul and hunger.

Mukesh Tiwari

Subhas Chandra Bose's presidential address to the Lahore Students' Conference in October 1929.

Has the Indian Republic, which has celebrated its golden jubilee, been able to realize Subhash Chandra Bose's dream of independence? No. But Netaji himself once offered a warning: "We have everything else, but the only thing we lack is self-sacrifice." We don't love our country deeply, and that's why Mir Jafar Amchand is born among us. Subhash Chandra Bose had long ago expressed his concern about the severe erosion of moral values ??in India and the utter lack of discipline that has permeated our lives. In the context of democracy, he once told Sardar Balwant Singh, an officer instructor of the Azad Hind Fauj, "I saw something in Japan and it struck me that to make a democratic system meaningful and successful in India, the children of the country must first be given the values ??that will shape an independent, self-reliant, and respectable nation, over a long period of two



decades."It's crucial for a strong and democratic system. Sitting on the top floor of a Japanese hotel, he was looking out the open window at the street below. He noticed a disciplined line of children crossing the public street, but there was no noise or jostling. They walked in a line, step by step, silently, with military discipline. Seeing this, Subhas Chandra Bose was astonished. He remembered his own country, the children there. He asked the hotel manager, "Where are these children going?" The manager replied, "You don't know, they're going to listen to your speech." That day was Subhas Chandra Bose's first speech in Japan. He asked the hotel manager again, but he couldn't give a precise answer about who had taught them such discipline. But what happened next? Somehow, my question even reached General Tojo of Japan. Well, that day the speech took place. Several days passed. One day, I met General Tojo and told him that I wanted to see that school in his country. The children here have such strict discipline. General Tojo called and asked for a list of all the schools, handed it to me, and told me that there were a large number of schools. But after reviewing this list, mark any school you wish. We will take you there with full respect. We went to the school I had marked. Classes were in full swing. Initially, we went and stood in the room where the teacher was staying, but he didn't come to show any formality. Japan's most important person was standing

with us. In the room where we were, children were studying on the board, and the teacher was explaining with full concentration. This is a magnificent form of discipline that has become an essential part of Japanese civilian life. Netaji had a strong desire that when India became independent, all children should be compulsorily taught the discipline, brotherhood, love, loyalty, and virtues of military life within the first two decades. Studies should continue alongside this. In 20 years, India too would embrace discipline. After this, no one would have to learn a systematic way of life.

Then no one will dare point a finger at our fellow citizens. This education will make India's democratic system more efficient. Incidentally, Netaji's views are also noteworthy: study and contemplation are the only means to eliminate the ego and disappointment that result from success or failure in any endeavor and to cultivate self-control. Only then can a person develop internal discipline. Without internal restraint, external restraint cannot be permanent.

In America, presidents change, but not the system

Anuj Acharya

A deeper look reveals that America is governed not by one individual, but by a well-structured, organized, and long-term system. This system prioritizes national interests and determines friends, partners, and adversaries based on those interests. This can be understood simply by not directly occupying the country but by engaging in military intervention, political influence, subversion, and indirect control, including in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cuba, the Philippines, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Nicaragua, and most recently, Venezuela. Furthermore, the United States maintains a broad and influential presence worldwide through over 100 major companies, including Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Tesla, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, Google, Walmart, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and Nvidia. The structure of American democracy is based on the concept of "checks and balances." While the president heads the executive branch, Congress and the Supreme

Court constantly monitor his powers. Major decisions such as war, the budget, and international agreements are impossible without resorting to war. Therefore, when the US finds a country hostile to its interests, it first resorts to economic sanctions. Trade blockades, banking isolation, and technical restrictions are all measures taken to undermine that country's internal stability. Instead of directly declaring a country an enemy, the US categorizes it as a "threat." Moral pressure is then exerted by raising issues like human rights, democracy, and freedom of the press on international forums. This narrative is so powerful that many countries are compelled to side with the US. The bitter experiences of direct war have taught the US that direct military intervention can be costly, risky, and unpopular in domestic politics. Therefore, it has adopted a policy of proxy warfare. Without engaging in war itself, it pursues its interests by providing arms, money, and diplomatic support to local or regional powers. The Ukraine-Russia conflict is a clear example of this. While the

US is not directly involved in the war, its influence is clearly visible through the backdoor supply of weapons and dollars. This can be best understood from the recently approved bill by the US President, the "Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025," which aims to pressure countries that are purchasing cheap crude oil from Russia amid the Ukraine war. When a country's government openly challenges US strategic interests, attempts at regime change begin. Supporting coups, overt or covert support for opposition forces, and attempts to influence public opinion through the media and NGOs are all part of the same strategy. Unless the fundamental nature of the American power structure changes, regardless of who is president, the world will face the same strategy: a strategy based on force, pressure, and control. In light of this analysis, it becomes imperative that the Indian government and our policymakers, instead of creating freebies for our citizens, formulate policies to build a strong, prosperous, and powerful India, including a strong defense

system based on indigenous technology, an independent foreign policy, and a self-reliant India, ensuring India's long-term interests are protected. This statement from King Bhartrihari's famous text, "Veer Bhogya Vasundhara," warns us that we must always prioritize our own security. Furthermore, the Indian government's chief strategists should comprehensively analyze the four types of policies outlined in our ancient scriptures—Saam, Daam, Dand, Bhed—in addition to key texts like Chanakya Niti, Vidur Niti, Bhishma Niti, Manu Niti (Manusmriti), Shukra Niti, Brihaspati Niti, and Garga Niti, which provide practical guidance for governance, war, economics, religion, and personal life, and incorporate their practical ideas into their strategy. It is crucial for Indian leaders to understand that, rather than pandering to a selfish country like the United States, it is essential to formulate long-term, effective policies for India's strength, because global politics is driven not by ideals but by the protection of self-interest.

HCL Group and UpLink Announce Winners of 'Water Resilience Challenge' Under the Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative

Davos, Agency: HCL Group, a leading global conglomerate, and UpLink, the World Economic Forum's early-stage innovation initiative, have announced the winners of the 'Water Resilience Challenge,' the fourth in a series of five challenges under the five-year, CHF 15 million Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative launched by HCL Group. The announcement marks a significant step in the ongoing mission to address global water challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship. After evaluating over 300 submissions from around the world, 10 Aquapreneurs from nine countries were selected for their innovative solutions in the freshwater sector. This year's winners, termed 'UpLink Ventures' and

Aquapreneurs,' represent a diverse set of approaches demonstrating the potential of innovation to strengthen water resilience across regions and industries. The winners will share financial support from a CHF 1.75 million fund, enabling them to scale their initiatives and amplify impact. In addition to funding, the winners will gain access to exclusive resources, mentorship, and global networks provided by HCL Group and UpLink.

The Water Resilience Challenge was dedicated to identifying scalable and pioneering solutions that enhance the resilience of water systems facing mounting pressures from climate change, pollution, and rising demand. Submissions focused on three priority



areas: strengthening infrastructure resilience, rethinking water use in agri-food systems, and optimising water efficiency across the technology and energy sectors.

"As water risks intensify across regions and industries, pressure on water systems is accelerating - driven by climate impacts, urban growth,

and the expansion of water-intensive technologies central to today's economy," said John Dutton, Head of UpLink at the World Economic Forum. "From data centres seeking more efficient cooling to agricultural systems under strain, innovation is no longer optional. What's needed is early-stage innovation that

supports economic growth without undermining natural resources.

These Aquapreneurs show what's possible, developing scalable solutions across infrastructure, agriculture and industry. Working alongside HCL Group and other partners, UpLink is backing these ventures with the access, resources and connections they need to deploy solutions that support sustainable growth and long-term water resilience."

Highlighting the role of the Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative in combating challenges related to freshwater, Sundar Mahalingam, President of Strategy at HCL Group, said: "Through the Aquapreneur Innovation Initiative, HCL Group is focused on enabling solu-

tions that can deliver measurable impact at scale. With global water demand projected to rise by up to 30% by 2050, strengthening the resilience of freshwater systems is no longer optional. This year's Water Resilience Challenge attracted a diverse and compelling set of applications from across the world - spanning improvements in agricultural water use to cutting-edge technological interventions. The selected winners reflect this breadth, representing digital tools, biological innovations, advanced hardware, deep-tech design, and community-driven models that can improve water efficiency, reduce pollution, and help communities and industries adapt to growing water stress."

India's Semiconductor and AI Surge Powers Global Economic Transformation

KPMG at World Economic Forum 2026

Davos, Agency: India's emergence as a pivotal force in global trade, technology, and sustainability is underpinned by bold investments in semiconductor manufacturing and rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), according to KPMG's latest report, "Shift from Emerging to Pivotal: India in the New Geoeconomic Order," launched at the World Economic Forum 2026. "India's transformation is remarkable. What we're seeing is more than economic growth, it's about building trust and shaping the future of global collabora-



tion. From advanced manufacturing and digital infrastructure to clean energy and AI, India is building an ecosystem that drives resilience and innovation at scale. The country's ability to turn ambition into action is what stands out, deliver-

ing real progress that opens new opportunities for businesses worldwide," said Bill Thomas, Global Chairman & CEO, KPMG International.

Semiconductor Investments: Driving Technological Leadership

India has approved six semiconductor fabrication plants ("fabs") with an outlay of \$1.3 billion, marking a decisive shift from policy intent to execution-led capacity building. The government has allocated \$2.2 billion for deep-tech research and development, reinforcing India's top 5 global ranking in critical technologies. - Flagship initiatives such as the India Semiconductor Mission and Semicon India are accelerating domestic chip-making infrastructure, including fabrication capacity, testing facilities, and advanced packaging units.

Trump says US to receive USD 600 billion in tariff revenue, highlights surge in investments

Davos, Agency: US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that the United States will receive around USD 600 billion in tariff revenue, adding that the amount is expected to be much higher next year.

Trump made these remarks during his address at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit in Davos, where he highlighted a sharp rise in investments flowing into the US.

Speaking about investor sentiment, Trump said the United States is witnessing levels of investment. He said, "We're doing numbers in terms of people investing in the United States as we've never had before."

He linked this surge to the November 5 election, stating that the election outcome provided



clarification on his administration's approach to tariffs. According to Trump, tariffs are aimed at protecting the country, which he said had been taken advantage of for years.

Trump noted that the estimated USD 600 billion in tariff revenue does not include additional investments by countries and companies setting up operations in the United States.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Delivers Robust 9M FY26 Results

New Delhi, Agency: The Board of Directors of Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited (BSE: 544583) (NSE: CANHLIFE) approved and adopted the unaudited financial results for the 9M ended December 31, 2025. The Company continued to deliver solid performance across key financial and operating metrics during the third quarter of FY26, sustaining growth momentum in its first year as a listed entity. Performance during the quarter was supported by a robust growth in the protection business, continued improvement in persistency metrics, product diversification, and focused initiatives to deepen customer reach through strategic partnerships. Performance Highlights (9M FY26) - Individual Weighted Premium Income (WPI): ₹1,915.3 crore, with 20.5% Year-on-Year (YoY) growth - Total APE: ₹2,095 crore, with 22.3% YoY growth - Value of New Business (VNB): ₹412.9 crore, with 36.8% YoY growth - Total Premium Income:

₹6,931.4 crore, with 31.6% YoY growth - Assets Under Management (AUM): ₹46,888.8 crore, with 17.2% YoY growth - Embedded Value (EV): ₹6,867.8 crore, with operating RoEV of 18.2% (on rolling 12 months basis) - Profit After Tax (PAT): ₹91.9 crore, with 8.2% YoY growth - Persistency Ratios: 13th month at 85.6%, 61st month at 59.2% - Product Mix (on APE basis): ULIP 61%, Non-Par Savings 13%, Non-Par Protection 7%, Par 5%, and Annuity 12% - Total Protection: Up by 126% YoY (Credit Life Up 48% YoY; Individual Protection Up 3X QoQ) MD & CEO's Statement Anuj Mathur, MD & CEO, Canara HSBC Life Insurance, said: "The quarter gone by represents significant strengthening of our business momentum, underpinned by sustained growth across key performance metrics including stronger persistency and accelerated protection-led growth supported by the recent GST reforms introduced by the Government of India.

India becomes second largest overseas market for US tourism as visitation surges 40 per cent

New Delhi, Agency: Travel from India to the US is witnessing sustained and robust growth, with India emerging as the second-largest overseas source market for the US, Brand USA president and CEO Fred Dixon said.

Dixon was in Bengaluru as part of his visit to India for the 12th edition of Brand USA Travel Week.

He noted that the growth underscored the increasing sophistication and spending power of Indian travellers, as well as their growing appetite to explore destinations beyond traditional US gateways.

"We're thrilled that travel to the United States from India continues to grow at a really incredible pace. We're up 40 per cent in terms of visitation volume since before the pandemic, since 2019," Dixon told PTI Media.

He added that 2025 marked the second consecutive year of strong recovery, with more than two million Indian visitors travelling to the US.

"We just finished the second year,



According to him, the presence of a large US delegation at Brand USA Travel Week India reflects the growing importance of the market. The delegation includes about 75 representatives from US destinations and travel businesses engaging with Indian travel trade partners and media from across the country.

Looking ahead, Dixon said 2026 would be a landmark year for US tourism, driven by a convergence of major global events.

"It's an incredible year for us. In

2026, you've got three major events happening in the United States that are really once in a lifetime," he said.

Highlighting the FIFA World Cup, Dixon said, "The FIFA World Cup is coming to the US this summer. It'll be in the months of June and July, and it's the largest World Cup ever, with 48 teams in 11 host cities across the US, from Seattle to Miami."

He added that the tournament would generate excitement not just for football fans but also for local communities across the country.

The World Cup will coincide with the 250th anniversary of the United States, with celebrations peaking around July 4, while 2026 will also mark a major anniversary of Route 66, one of America's most iconic highways.

"It's probably the greatest symbol of the great American road trip," Dixon said, adding that Indian travellers are increasingly interested in self-drive holidays across the US.

Policy focus on innovation & stability and consumer protection to support long-term growth in India: RBI

New Delhi, Agency: The policy focus on maintaining a balance between consumer protection, innovation, and a prudent regulatory approach will help support long-term economic growth in India, according to a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

According to the RBI, the latest findings of the financial structure of India have reaffirmed the strength of the financial system. The stress test results showed that both banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are capable of withstanding losses under adverse scenarios, while maintaining capital lev-

els well above the regulatory minimum.

The RBI report stated that going forward, a policy approach that carefully balances innovation and stability, along with consumer protection and prudent regulation and supervision, will be crucial in improving productivity and sustaining long-term economic growth. It stated "the policy focus on striking a balance between innovation and stability, consumer protection, and a prudent approach to regulation and supervision should help improve productivity and support long-term economic



growth".

The report noted that banks remain well supported by strong capital buffers, improved asset quality, and robust profitability, even in a challenging global environment.

The report also took note

of the global environment as the year 2026 began with an escalation of geopolitical tensions. It highlighted developments such as US intervention in Venezuela, the continuing conflict in the Middle East, uncertainty around the Russia-Ukraine peace deal, and the escalation of the row over Greenland. These factors, the RBI said, point to still-elevated geo-economic risks and persistent policy uncertainty at the global level.

Despite these global challenges, the RBI report said the current state of the Indian economy provides grounds for optimism. The GDP

growth estimates for 2025-26 indicate that India will continue to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

The report also highlighted India's efforts to diversify and strengthen exports in order to reduce risks related to the external sector. It said India is currently engaged in trade negotiations with 14 countries or groups, representing nearly 50 nations, including the European Union, Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the United States.

In December, India concluded trade negotiations with New Zealand and Oman.

Additionally, the RBI noted that 2025 witnessed major economic reforms, including the rationalisation of tax structures, the implementation of labour codes for labour market reforms, and financial sector deregulation.

These measures, the report said, are expected to further strengthen India's growth prospects in the coming years.

Overall, the RBI report emphasised that India's resilient financial system, reform momentum, and balanced policy framework place the economy in a strong position despite ongoing global uncertainties.

Team India will aim to continue their winning streak in the second T20

Agency, Raipur



The Indian cricket team will aim to continue their winning streak in the second match of the five-match T20 series against New Zealand here on Friday. Having already taken a 1-0 lead in the series with a 48-run victory in the first T20, India will now aim to extend their lead to 2-0. The Indian team's batsmen and bowlers are both in good form, which will benefit them. In the first match, Abhishek Sharma and Rinku Singh played aggressive innings to help the team reach a good score. Captain Suryakumar Yadav also found his rhythm with his 32-run innings. The Indian bowlers also restricted the Kiwi team to under 200 runs in the first match, securing an easy victory for their team. The Indian team has won the only T20 match played at this venue so far. This match was against Australia in 2023, and Suryakumar Yadav was the captain then as well. Rinku Singh and Axar Patel performed well in that match. Now, Rinku is expected to perform well in this

match too. Axar suffered a finger injury in the first T20, so his participation in this match seems doubtful. Rinku played an aggressive unbeaten innings of 44 runs off 20 balls in the first T20. In the second T20, the Indian team will also be keeping an eye on the performance of Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan in the top order. Both of them failed in the first T20. Samson has been in and out of the playing XI recently, but given the upcoming T20 World Cup next month, he is likely to get opportunities. Samson will also want to score big when given the opportunity. Ishan Kishan will also be looking to play a big innings in this match. Captain Suryakumar will also want to boost his confidence by playing a big innings in this match. He scored 32 runs off 22 balls in the first T20. On

the other hand, the visiting team New Zealand will want to win this match and make a comeback in the series. Their batsmen and bowlers will want to give their best performance in this match. The Kiwi team's batting will depend on Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Rachin Ravindra, and Daryl Mitchell, while their bowling attack will be led by Jacob Duffy, Mitchell Santner, and Kyle Jamieson. **The two teams are as follows:**

India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wicketkeeper), Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy, Rinku Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshit Rana. **New Zealand:** Mitchell Santner (captain), Devon Conway, Bevan Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Tim Robinson, Jimmy Neesham, Ish Sodhi, Jack Foulkes, Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Rachin Ravindra, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy.

Australian Open 2026: Defending champion Madison Keys and sixth seed Jessica Pegula advance to the third round

Agency, Melbourne



In the Australian Open 2026 being played at Melbourne Park, defending champion Madison Keys has advanced to the third round despite some ups and downs in her game. In the second-round match played on Thursday, Keys defeated her compatriot Ashlyn Krueger 6-1, 7-5. Keys completely dominated the start of the match. She won the first set in just 23 minutes, hitting seven winners and converting all three break points she received. However, in the second set, Keys, ranked ninth in the world, faltered for a while. Due to consecutive double faults, she lost her serve twice, giving the 21-year-old Krueger a three-game

lead. Keys then made a brilliant comeback, winning five consecutive games to clinch the match. After the win, Keys said, "I started the match quite well, and I knew Ashlyn would definitely raise her level. As soon as I found my rhythm, I tried my best to come back in the

set." In another match of the day between two American players, sixth seed Jessica Pegula defeated McCartney Kessler in a one-sided match 6-0, 6-2 to enter the third round. Thus, the excellent performance of American players continues in the Australian Open 2026.

Men's Hero HIL Qualifier 1 Preview: Final Ticket at Stake, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers and Ranchi Royals Face Off

Agency, Bhubaneswar



The excitement will be at its peak in the Men's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26 Qualifier 1 when the top two teams of the league stage, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers and Ranchi Royals, face each other at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium on January 23. The winning team in this crucial match, starting at 5 PM (IST), will directly qualify for the final. In the league stage, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers secured the top spot in the points table with 16 points, while Ranchi Royals finished second with 12 points. This is why both teams have the opportunity to clash in Qualifier 1. Vedanta Kalinga Lancers: Dominance in the League Stage - Vedanta Kalinga Lancers had a very strong and balanced performance in the league stage. The team suffered only one defeat in seven matches, that too in their last league match, when they lost 2-1 to JSW Surma Hockey Club. However, this defeat did not affect their qualifier status. The Lancers won four matches in regular time and two matches in shootouts. Strong defense has been their biggest strength, where they conceded only 8 goals throughout the tournament, the fewest of any team. Belgian drag-flick specialist Alexander Hendrickx has proven to be the most important player for the team. Before Qualifier 1, the team captain Arthur Van Doren said, "We have worked hard throughout the season and now our goal is to perform our best in the most important

match. We are aware of Ranchi Royals' attacking capabilities, but we have complete confidence in our defense and set pieces. The atmosphere in Bhubaneswar always gives us extra energy and we would like to give our supporters the gift of victory."

Ranchi Royals: Tremendous Attacking Power - Ranchi Royals have been one of the most aggressive teams this season. The team has scored a total of 25 goals so far, the most in the league. The Royals' attack is led by captain Tom Boon, who is the tournament's top scorer with 15 goals. These include 5 field goals, 8 penalty corners, and 2 penalty strokes. In the league stage, Ranchi Royals won three matches in regular time and one in a shootout, while losing two matches in regular time and one in a shootout. Before Qualifier 1, Ranchi Royals captain Tom Boon said, "Matches like Qualifier 1 are special for every player. We have played excellent hockey in the league stage, especially in attack. Patience and proper execution will be crucial against a team like the Lancers. We have faith in our team and our playing style, and we are fully prepared for this challenge in Bhubaneswar." Head-to-Head: Lancers Ahead - The two teams played a match in Chennai earlier this month during the league stage, in which Vedanta Kalinga Lancers won 4-2.

Rajmata Gayatri Devi Memorial Cup: Jaipur Polo defeats Optimus Achievers in a thrilling match

Agency, Jaipur



The Jaipur Polo team made a brilliant start to the home season, defeating Optimus Achievers 7.5-7 in a thrilling match in the Rajmata Gayatri Devi Memorial Cup. With balanced play, aggressive strategy, and astute game management throughout the four chukkas, Jaipur maintained composure until the end and registered a memorable victory. After suffering a half-goal defeat against Suhana All Stars in their first match, this win proved to be a crucial morale booster for the Jaipur Polo team in their quest to

advance in the tournament. In the opening chukka, Jaipur Polo took full advantage of their handicap advantage and sharp attack, building a 3.5-0 lead. Lance Watson was incredibly accurate in front of the goal, while HH Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh (Jaipur) maintained

Abhishek surpassed Yuvraj, becoming the sixth Indian player with the most sixes

Agency, Nagpur



Young Indian cricket team opener Abhishek Sharma broke a record held by legendary all-rounder Yuvraj Singh in the first T20 match against New Zealand here, hitting four sixes in his half-century innings. In this match, Abhishek completed his 50 runs in just 22 balls, including 4 fours and 4 sixes. Abhishek needed only 3 sixes to break Yuvraj's record for most sixes in T20 International cricket, which he easily achieved. Abhishek surpassed Yuvraj by hitting a six off Christian Clarke's bowling on the fifth ball of the fifth over. Abhishek has now moved to sixth place in the list of Indian players with the most sixes in T20 International cricket. He now has a total of 81 sixes in this format, while Yuvraj has 74. Rohit Sharma holds the record for the most sixes for India with 205, while Suryakumar Yadav is second with 74 sixes and Virat Kohli is third with



124 sixes. Hardik Pandya is fourth with 106 sixes, while KL Rahul is fifth with 99 sixes. Along with sixes, Abhishek has also surpassed Yuvraj in terms of runs. He scored runs at a strike rate of over 200 in this match. While Yuvraj scored 1177 runs in 51 innings, Abhishek has scored 1198 runs in just 33 innings. It is noteworthy that Yuvraj hit 74 sixes in 51 innings of 58 matches between 2007 and 2017 in T20 International cricket. During this period, Yuvraj scored 1177 runs with 8 half-centuries.

Australian Open 2026: Djokovic advances to third round after defeating qualifier Maestrelli

Agency, Nagpur



Melbourne, January 22 (IANS). Novak Djokovic advanced to the third round of the Australian Open after defeating Italian qualifier Francesco Maestrelli 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. Continuing his impressive run at Rod Laver Arena, the 38-year-old Djokovic took another step towards a record-breaking 11th Melbourne Park title and a 25th Grand Slam trophy overall. The fourth seed Djokovic maintained complete control in the second-round match and didn't feel the need to shift into high gear. Speaking about the 23-year-old Maestrelli, Djokovic said, "I didn't know much about him until a few days ago, which is often the case these days. But there's always respect, and I

didn't underestimate him. He has a great game, just lacks experience. His game can take him high in the rankings, and I wish him all the best."

Djokovic seized control in the first set with a break in the second game and then attacked again in the first game of the second set, putting pressure on Maestrelli, who is ranked 141st in the world.

Maestrelli tried to capitalize on a few opportunities but was unsuccessful. Djokovic created a set point with

a brilliant backhand and then won the set with an unreturned shot from the same flank, registering his 399th Grand Slam win and 101st win in Melbourne, leaving him just one win behind record holder Roger Federer. In the third set, Maestrelli made a comeback after losing two breaks, but Djokovic then raised his level and secured the victory, setting up a third-round clash with Dutch player Botic van de Zandschulp.

UEFA Champions League: Lopez's two goals, Barcelona defeats Slavia Prague 4-2



Agency, Prague

minute, giving Barcelona the lead. The precise shot from the edge of the box found the bottom right corner, leaving Stanek with no chance to save it. However, Barcelona's lead did not last long. In an unfortunate moment two minutes later, Slavia Prague equalized. While defending a corner, the ball deflected off Robert Lewandowski's shoulder and went into the goal, and the first half ended in a 2-2 draw. In the second half, Barcelona completely controlled the game and launched continuous attacks.

Raphinha, Pedri, and Lopez had good opportunities, but they couldn't convert them.

In the 64th minute, substitute Dani Olmo scored a spectacular goal, unleashing a powerful shot from outside the box that found the top corner of the net.

In the 70th minute, Lewandowski redeemed himself for his earlier own goal, sealing the victory for his team. Marcus Rashford, who came on in the second half, made a surging run down the left flank and delivered a superb cross.

Lewandowski initially couldn't control the ball, but reacted quickly, guiding it past the goalkeeper and into the net. After the match, Fermín López said,

"We knew it would be a tough match in such cold conditions. They put a lot of pressure on us."

Saudi Pro League 2025-26: Ronaldo's decisive goal leads Al Nassr to a 2-1 victory over Damac

Agency, New Delhi



Al Nassr defeated Damac 2-1 thanks to a decisive goal from Cristiano Ronaldo in a Saudi Pro League 2025-26 match played late Wednesday night at the Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Stadium in Abha. Abdulrahman Ghareeb scored the first goal for Al Nassr, while Ronaldo doubled the lead. Jamal Harkas scored the only goal for Damac. With this win, Al Nassr is temporarily four points behind Al Hilal, who are at the top of the table. Meanwhile, Damac is still waiting for its second win of the season and remains in 15th place, just one spot above the relegation

zone. Al Hilal will host Al Feiha on Thursday. After collecting only four points in their last five matches, Al Nassr looked aggressive from the start of this match. The team benefited from this in the fifth minute when Kingsley Coman took the ball to the goal line from the right and delivered a cut-back pass. After a deflection, the ball reached

Ghareeb, and the 28-year-old faked a shot with his left foot and then placed the ball into the bottom left corner, giving his team the lead. Five minutes later, Ronaldo had a chance to double the lead when he headed a superb cross from Joao Felix, but the ball went straight to the goalkeeper. In the final moments of the first half, Felix had

two consecutive chances, but one shot went over his foot, while the other attempt hit the crossbar.

Al Nassr maintained the same aggressive approach in the second half, and just five minutes into the half, Ronaldo scored his 16th goal of the season. On a pass from Joao Felix, the 41-year-old

Ronaldo netted the ball with his first touch from a tight angle. Damac attempted a comeback a little before the last 20 minutes of regular time. From a corner kick, Jamal Harkas, unmarked, headed the ball into the net, reducing the deficit.

However, this goal proved insufficient for Damac, and Al Nassr maintained their lead to win the match.

In a UEFA Champions League match played in extremely cold weather late Wednesday night, Barcelona made a spectacular comeback to defeat Slavia Prague 4-2. Fermín Lopez scored two goals, while Dani Olmo and Robert Lewandowski scored in the second half to secure the team's victory. With this win, Barcelona has moved up to ninth place in the standings with 13 points. The team still has one match remaining and remains in the race to secure a place in the top eight and qualify directly for the Round of 16. Slavia Prague, on the other hand, is third from the bottom in the table with only three points.

In the freezing conditions of minus eight degrees Celsius in Prague, Slavia Prague got off to a brilliant start.

In the 10th minute, from a well-executed move from a corner, Tomas Holes passed the ball from the near post to the far post, where Vasil Kusej, under pressure from Frenkie de Jong, managed to get the ball across the line.

Barcelona equalized in the 34th minute. Fermín Lopez unleashed a superb shot from a sharp angle inside the box, which, after a slight deflection, deceived

goalkeeper Jindrich Stanek and went into the goal at the near post. Lopez scored his second goal in the 42nd

minute, giving Barcelona the lead. The precise shot from the edge of the box found the bottom right corner, leaving Stanek with no chance to save it. However, Barcelona's lead did not last long. In an unfortunate moment two minutes later, Slavia Prague equalized.

While defending a corner, the ball deflected off Robert Lewandowski's shoulder and went into the goal, and the first half ended in a 2-2 draw. In the second half, Barcelona completely controlled the game and launched continuous attacks.

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Lewandowski initially couldn't control the ball, but reacted quickly, guiding it past the goalkeeper and into the net. After the match, Fermín Lopez said,

"We knew it would be a tough match in such cold conditions. They put a lot of pressure on us."

Happy Basant Panchmi



Basant Panchami – Welcoming Spring and the Goddess of Knowledge

Basant Panchami marks the arrival of spring in India, a season associated with renewal, learning, and hope. Celebrated on the fifth day of the Hindu month of Magha, this festival holds deep cultural, spiritual, and seasonal significance. The word "Basant" means spring, while "Panchami" refers to the fifth lunar day. Together, they symbolize a transition from the harshness of winter to the warmth and vibrancy of spring.

One of the most important aspects of Basant Panchami is the worship of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, wisdom, music, art, and learning. Dressed in white and seated on a lotus, Saraswati represents purity and enlightenment. On this day, students, teachers, artists, and scholars offer prayers seeking blessings for wisdom and intellectual growth. Educational institutions across India organize special ceremonies, and it is considered an auspicious day to begin learning, especially for young children.

The color yellow dominates Basant

Panchami celebrations. Yellow represents mustard fields in bloom, sunlight, prosperity, and energy. People wear yellow clothes, prepare yellow sweets like kesari halwa and boondi, and offer yellow flowers during prayers. In many parts of North India, especially Punjab and Haryana, vast mustard fields paint the countryside golden, making the festival visually striking.

Basant Panchami is also closely linked with agriculture. Farmers see it as a sign of upcoming harvests and prosperity. The blooming of crops reassures them that the agricultural cycle is progressing well. In rural areas, the festival is celebrated with folk songs, dances, and community gatherings that express gratitude toward nature.

In eastern India, particularly in West Bengal, Odisha, and Assam, Basant Panchami is celebrated as Saraswati Puja with immense devotion. Temporary pandals are set up, idols of the goddess are installed, and students place their books and musi-

cal instruments before her, refraining from studying on that day as a mark of respect. The following day, idols are immersed in rivers or ponds.

Historically, Basant Panchami has been mentioned in ancient Hindu scriptures and texts.

It was also patronized by scholars and kings who believed knowledge was the foundation of a strong society. Over centuries, the festival evolved but retained its essence of celebrating learning, culture, and nature.

In modern times, Basant Panchami continues to be relevant. Amid fast-paced digital lives, the festival reminds people of the importance of education, creativity, and harmony with nature. It encourages introspection and renewal, aligning personal growth with the rhythms of the natural world.

Thus, Basant Panchami is not merely a religious festival but a celebration of life, learning, and seasonal transformation, uniting people across regions and generations.

Saraswati Puja and Basant Panchami

A Festival Rooted in Knowledge and Culture



Basant Panchami holds a unique position in India's cultural calendar as a festival that honors learning, wisdom, and creativity. Central to this celebration is Saraswati Puja, dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the embodiment of intellect, music, and the arts. This sacred occasion transcends religion, touching every sphere of society where knowledge and creativity are valued.

The worship of Saraswati on Basant Panchami reflects the ancient Indian belief that education is divine. From early childhood, learning has been treated as a sacred pursuit rather than merely a means to earn a livelihood. This philosophy is evident during the festival, when books, pens, musical instruments, and even modern gadgets like laptops are placed near the deity to seek her blessings. One of the most touching traditions associated with Basant Panchami is Vidy

Arambh or Akshar Abhyasam, the ceremony where young children are introduced to writing for the first time. Parents consider this day extremely auspicious to start their child's educational journey. In temples and homes, children trace letters under guidance, marking the beginning of lifelong learning. The festival also highlights India's rich artistic heritage. Musicians, dancers, and painters observe Saraswati Puja with special reverence. Classical music concerts and cultural programs are organized, especially in educational institutions and cultural centers. The connection between Saraswati and the arts reinforces the idea that creativity and discipline go hand in hand. In West Bengal, Basant Panchami takes on a grand community form. Schools and colleges organize elaborate pujas, and students take charge of decorations, rituals, and performances.

The Symbolism of Yellow and Spring in Basant Panchami Celebrations



Basant Panchami is visually one of the most vibrant festivals in India, with the color yellow dominating every aspect of celebration. From clothing and decorations to food and flowers, yellow symbolizes joy, prosperity, and the awakening of nature. The festival coincides with the onset of spring, a season associated with new beginnings and growth.

Spring marks the end of winter's dormancy. Trees begin to blossom, birds return, and fields transform into lush landscapes. Basant Panchami captures this moment of renewal, encouraging people to embrace change and positivity. The blooming mustard fields in northern India become a natural emblem of the festival, drawing poets, painters, and travelers alike.

The association of yellow with Basant Panchami has both cultural and scientific roots. Yellow is linked with the sun, the primary source of energy and life on Earth. As days grow longer during spring, sunlight becomes more prominent, uplifting moods and boosting agricultural productivity. Psychologically, yellow is known to stimulate happiness and creativity.

Traditional attire on Basant Panchami often includes yellow sarees, kurtas, or dupattas. Even in urban settings, offices and schools encourage wearing yellow, creating a shared festive atmosphere. This collective participation strengthens social bonds and cultural identity.

Food plays an equally important role. Dishes like kesari halwa, khichdi, boondi laddoos, and saffron-flavored sweets are prepared at home and shared with neighbors. The use of turmeric and saffron not only adds color but also reflects India's culinary traditions rooted in natural ingredients.

Basant Panchami also holds importance for farmers.

Spring signals healthy crop growth and hope for good harvests. The festival becomes an expression of gratitude toward nature, recognizing humanity's dependence on seasonal cycles. Folk songs and dances performed in villages often depict agricultural life and the beauty of spring.

In literature and classical Indian music, Basant raga is associated with this season. Poets like Kalidasa celebrated spring as a time of romance and rejuvenation.

Even today, cultural programs during Basant Panchami reflect these age-old artistic traditions.

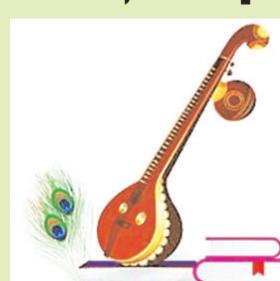
Beyond celebration, the festival carries an underlying message: life is cyclical, and renewal is always possible. Just as nature rejuvenates itself, humans too can refresh their minds and spirits. Basant Panchami encourages optimism, creativity, and harmony with the environment.

Thus, the symbolism of yellow and spring transforms Basant Panchami into more than a ritual—it becomes a celebration of life itself.

Basant Panchami Across India – Diverse Traditions, One Spirit

Although Basant Panchami is celebrated across India, its customs and expressions vary widely from region to region. Despite these differences, the core spirit of the festival—welcoming spring and honoring knowledge—remains the same. In North India, Basant Panchami is closely associated with agriculture and seasonal change. Farmers celebrate the blooming mustard fields, while families perform Saraswati Puja at home. In Punjab, the festival also marks the beginning of kite-flying season, filling the skies with colorful kites that symbolize freedom and joy. In West Bengal, the festival is synonymous with Saraswati Puja. Educational institutions become vibrant cultural spaces, with students organizing events, music, and art exhibitions. The festival fosters creativity and teamwork, making it deeply meaningful for young people. In Odisha and Assam, similar traditions prevail, with special emphasis on community worship and cultural performances. In Bihar and Jharkhand, Saraswati Puja pandals are common, and the festival becomes a major social event. In parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, Basant Panchami is linked with folk traditions and seasonal fairs. People sing traditional songs celebrating nature and love, reflecting the joyful essence of spring. Southern India observes Basant Panchami in a quieter but equally spiritual manner. Temples conduct special prayers, and families focus on learning-related rituals. Though the scale may differ, the reverence for Saraswati remains universal. Historically, Basant Panchami was also celebrated in royal courts, where poets and scholars were honored. Kings patronized learning and art on this day, recognizing their importance in governance and society. Despite modernization, regional traditions continue to thrive. Social media and digital platforms have further expanded the festival's reach, allowing people to share celebrations across distances.

Basant Panchami's regional diversity highlights India's cultural richness while reinforcing unity. The festival proves that while customs may differ, shared values like knowledge, harmony, and respect for nature bind the nation together.



Basant Panchami in Modern India – Tradition in a Changing World

In contemporary India, Basant Panchami continues to evolve while preserving its traditional essence. Urbanization, technology, and changing lifestyles have influenced how the festival is celebrated, yet its core values remain intact. In cities, Saraswati Puja is often observed in schools, colleges, offices, and residential societies. Online learning platforms and digital tools are now symbolically included in rituals, reflecting the modern face of education. Students pray not only for academic success but also for creativity and clarity in an increasingly competitive world. Social media has played a significant role in popularizing Basant Panchami among younger generations. Festive greetings, virtual pujas, and

online cultural events allow people to celebrate even when physically distant. This digital adaptation ensures continuity of tradition in changing times. Despite modernization, families still emphasize traditional values. Parents encourage children to understand the significance of learning and respect for teachers. The festival becomes an opportunity to reconnect with cultural roots and pass them on to the next generation. Environmental awareness has also influenced celebrations. Many communities now opt for eco-friendly idols and minimal decorations, aligning the festival's message with sustainability. This shift reflects a growing understanding of harmony between culture and nature.