

Arrested BJP leader slams police for violating human rights

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Shradha Kapoor Is The Brand Ambassador Of Cuteness And Simplicity

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Prolonged dry spell continues

Amid intense cold with several areas recording sub-zero temperature today, the prolonged dry spell continues in the UT of J&K. Besides the winter capital Jammu and its other plains, Patnitop, Baderwah, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch were reeling under severe cold wave.

Meanwhile, the summer capital Srinagar recorded the season's coldest night so far at minus 6.2 degree Celsius. Several areas in

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Inspection of Katra-Reasi rail link on Jan 5, 6

Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, on Friday asked officials of Northern Railways to arrange movement of inspection carriage nominated for Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, New Delhi, for statutory inspection of Katra-Reasi rail section in connection with Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line project.

The ministry held that during the inspection the CAO/USBRL, CBE, CSE, COM-G, CEGB from HQ, DRM/FZR and BOs shall

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IT dept unearths hawala transactions used to invest in Dubai properties

The Income Tax Department has carried out raids on the KCI Emporium Group of Kashmir and Dubai property brokers in a coordinated operation across Srinagar, Mumbai and Delhi.

Sources said the raids revealed significant hawala cash transactions originating from Kashmir, used to invest in properties in Dubai, UAE.

Evidence of substantial investments made by Indians in Dubai properties

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Former Haryana CM Chautala passes away



NEW DELHI, DEC 20: Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala passed away in Gurugram on Friday, December 20. He was 89.

He was last seen publicly during the voting of the Haryana Assembly elec

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Pak missile systems can potentially harm US: Dy NSA

WASHINGTON DC (US), DEC 20: Speaking at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, US Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer said that Pakistan's missile systems could potentially harm the US.

Speaking on the US President Joe Biden administration's efforts to reduce nuclear dangers and adapt US nuclear weapons and non-proliferation policy to an uncertain world, Finer said that it raises questions on Pakistan's intentions.

"Recently, Pakistan has

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Amid din, govt refers One Nation One Election Bills to JPC

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: Amid uproar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today sent the two Bills, that lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections in the country, to a Joint Parliamentary Committee that consisted of 39 MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha adopted a motion to nominate 12 MPs to the joint panel on simultaneous polls.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Amendment Bill were introduced in the Lok Sabha after a fiery debate on December 17, with the Opposition terming the move "dictatorial" and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal asserting that the legislation would not tamper with the powers enjoyed by states.

According to a statement by the Lok Sabha secretariat, the joint parliamentary committee, consisting of 27 Lok Sabha and 12 Ra-

According to a statement by the Lok Sabha secretariat, the joint parliamentary committee, consisting of 27 Lok Sabha and 12 Rajya Sabha MPs, would scrutinise the Bills and send its recommendation to the Lok Sabha Speaker.

The bills have been vehemently opposed by the Opposition MPs, who called out the idea of simultaneous polls, terming it a violation of the "basic structure of the Constitution".

Congress member Manish Tewari opposed the introduction of the bills, and termed the move an assault on the basic structure doctrine that stipulates certain features of the Constitution are beyond the amending power of Parliament.

"One of the essential features is federalism and the structure of our democracy. The bills assault the basic structure of the Constitution and exceed the legislative competence of this House," Tewari, a former Union minister, said.

Samajwadi Party member Dharmendra Yadav said the measure to introduce "one nation, one election" by the BJP was an attempt to bring dictatorship in the country. Moving the motion, Meghwal said the Upper House of Parliament resolves to nominate 12 members to serve on the joint committee.

The members nominated from the Rajya Sabha are Ghanshyam Tiwari, Bhubaneswar Kalita, Dr K Laxman and Kavita Patidar of the BJP, Sanjay Kumar Jha of the JD(U), Randeep Singh Surjewala and Mukul Wasnik of the Congress, Saket Gokhale of the TMC, P Wilson of the DMK, Sanjay Singh of AAP, Manas Ranjan Mangaraj of the BJD and V Vijaisai Reddy of the YSRCP.

Minutes before the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die, the House adopted a resolution recommending the two bills on holding si

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Parliament's Winter Session

Productivity went down due to Oppn protests: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said that the productivity of Parliament's Winter Session had declined due to disruptions by the Opposition and urged them to avoid similar interruptions in the upcoming Budget session.

"The productivity of the Parliament went down due to disturbances created by the Opposition. We tried a lot to make the Parliament run. I expect and also request Opposition not to create similar disturbances in the Budget session of Parliament," he said while addressing a press conference here.

Rijiju said in the winter session of the parliament 54.5 per cent of work was done in Lok Sabha while only 40 per cent of work was done in Rajya Sabha.

"In Lok Sabha 54.5 per cent and in Rajya Sabha almost 40 per cent work has been done. We are not satisfied with this because people elected us all and made us members of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. We should have worked as much as we could for the country and left no stone unturned in service to the nation. But we have seen such activities in Parliament which have affected the work and also damaged the dignity of the Parliament. Members of the opposition parties have hindered our work progress due to which the productivity rate has reduced considerably," he said.



Rijiju said that more than 100 per cent should be done in the parliament and urged the opposition parties to work together to address this issue of frequent disruption of the proceedings of the house.

"I appeal to the leaders of all parties to work together to address this issue and ensure that the work of Parliament is not disrupted. We should strive to work more than 100 per cent. Whatever the issue is, it should be raised in the parliament, that is why one has been made a member of parliament," he said.

Rijiju stated that instead of causing a disruption in Parliament, opposition party leaders should address their issues by following rules established rules and procedures.

"There are rules and procedures in place for raising issues, and we should

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Canada's 'serious' allegations against Indians

Narrative appears to be anti-India separatist agenda: Govt tells LS

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: Canada's public narrative on the criminal cases involving Indian citizens in their country appears to be in service of "anti-India separatist agenda," the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Congress MP Manish Tewari asked the government, whether it had taken note of the development in the US and Canada over alleged criminal activity involving Indians.

Replying to that query, minister of state for exter-

India has accused Canada of supporting anti-India separatist agendas through unsubstantiated criminal allegations against Indian citizens. The Indian government has requested Canada to act against anti-India elements operating within its borders, while also investigating US-shared intelligence regarding organized crime and terrorism linked to Indian nationals.

nal affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said that Canada had failed to provide "no evidence whatsoever" to substantiate its "serious allegations".

"Persisting with such a narrative can only be harm-

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EVM verification plea to be heard by another SC bench: CJJ

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: The Supreme Court on Friday said the plea seeking a policy for verification of electronic voting machines will be heard by a bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta in January next year.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said the fresh plea of former Haryana minister and five-time MLA Karan Singh Dalal and one Lakhan Kumar Singla on the issue will be heard by a bench headed by Justice Datta in the



week commencing January 20, 2025.

A bench comprising Justice Khanna and Justice Datta had delivered a verdict earlier in April, rejecting the demand for bringing back the old paper ballots.

At outset, senior advo-

cate Maninder Singh, appearing for the Election Commission, sought dismissal of the plea, saying that similar petitions for same reliefs were rejected earlier.

The CJI said the bench headed by Justice Datta would hear this now.

Earlier on December 13, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and P B Varale had refused to hear the plea, saying let it be heard by a bench which had heard similar petitions. Now, it was listed before the CJI-led bench.

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8 killed, 35 injured in road accident

JAIPUR, DEC 20: A deadly collision involving a gas tanker and multiple vehicles turned a stretch of the Jaipur-Ajmer highway here into an inferno on Friday morning, killing eight people, injuring more than 35 and engulfing over 30 vehicles in flames as thick black smoke filled the sky.

Eyewitnesses reported spotting the flames from nearly a kilometre away as ambulances and fire brigade vehicles rushed towards the crash zone. A school van driver on his way to pick up students recounted with horror the

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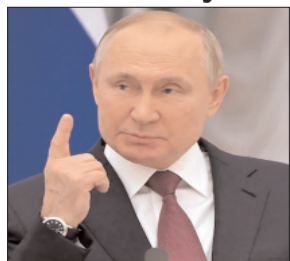
LS adjourned sine die amid uproar

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: The tumultuous winter session of Parliament saw no exception on the last day as an uproar by the opposition over the alleged insult to Dalit icon BR Ambedkar by Home Minister Amit Shah saw both the Houses being adjourned. As a mark of protest, the INDIA bloc skipped the Lok Sabha Speaker's customary tea party.

Opposition leaders said there was no point in joining such a tea party when FIRs were being filed against their MPs, and they were not getting a chance

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Putin denies defeat after rebels took over Syria



MOSCOW (RUSSIA), DEC 20: Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia had not been defeated in Syria after rebel groups ousted his ally and longtime leader, Bashar al-Assad, earlier this month.

He said he had not yet met the former Syrian ruler

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'Be mindful'

India raps B'desh govt over now-deleted 'annex' post by key aide of Yunus

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: Ministry of external affairs (MEA) on Friday responded to a post, which was later deleted, by Mahfuz Alam, a close aide of chief adviser of Bangladesh, in which he threatened to "annex" parts of India.

"We have registered our strong protest on this issue with the Bangladesh side. We understand that the post being referred to has reportedly been taken down," MEA spokesperson

Randhi Jaiswal said. Mahfuz Alam, an adviser in Bangladesh's interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, had sparked controversy with a provocative facebook post suggesting annexation of parts of India. The remarks were made on December 16, Victory Day, a national holiday in Bangladesh commemorating its victory over the Pakistani army in the 1971 Liberation War. Mahfuz accused India of

pursuing policies aimed at "containing" and "ghettoizing" Bangladesh. He linked events such as the 1975 coup, which resulted in the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family, and the ongoing protests in 2024 to efforts to reduce Bangladesh's dependence on India.

He claimed that for Bangladesh to achieve true independence and liberation, it must break free

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Parliament scuffle

Crime Branch to probe complaints filed by BJP, Congress

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: The Parliament case enquiry of both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress' complaints over the yesterday's row would be transferred to the crime branch. Amid protest over Amit Shah's remarks on Ambedkar, a scuffle had yesterday left two BJP MPs seriously injured in the parliament premises.

Amid the boiling rage over Home minister Amit Shah's remarks on Dr BR Ambedkar in the Rajya Sabha earlier this week, a

scuffle had broken out in the Parliament premises yesterday, leaving two BJP MPs severely injured.

The case inquiry would now be transferred to the crime branch for its in-depth probe and find who started first. Following the incident, the saffron party filed a police complaint against Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of assault, incitement and attempt to murder.

"We have filed a complaint with Delhi Police

against Rahul Gandhi for assault and incitement. We have mentioned in detail the incident that happened today outside Makar Dwar, where NDA MPs were protesting peacefully. We have given a complaint under Sections 109, 115, 117, 125, 131 and 351. Section 109 is an attempt to murder, Section 117 is voluntary causing grievous hurt," BJP MP Anurag Thakur had told reporters.

The complaint followed a massive confrontation be

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Over 50 pc of IAF plane crashes due to human error: Parliamentary report

NEW DELHI, DEC 20: Of the 34 plane crashes that the Indian Air Force (IAF) suffered between 2017 and 2022, more than 50 percent were due to human error, including the one that killed former Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, according to a House panel report.

The Standing Committee on Defence report tabled earlier this week in Parliament said that 19 of the 34 accidents were because of human error of the air crew, and one due to error in servicing.

On the positive side, the rate of accidents between 2017 and 2022-also known as the 13th Defence Plan period-had declined from a peak of 0.93 (2000-2005) to 0.27 (2017-2022) and further to 0.20 (2020-2024), the report said.

The aircraft involved in the accidents were Su-30, ALH, MiG-23, Kiran, Mi-17, Hawk, Cheetah, Jaguar, MiG-21, MiG-27, MiG-29, An-32 and Mirage. Of these, the MiG21s met with the most accidents - nine.

The report put down several reasons for the crashes

apart from human error, such as foreign object damage, technical defect, and bird strike. The accidents which did not fall under any of the above categories are still under investigation.

Incidentally, air crew were killed in at least 10 of these crashes, while in 17, the pilots managed to safely eject from the malfunctioning aircraft.

In order to make landing and take-off safe for aircraft, the IAF's 52 operational air force bases could all undertake night landing, the re

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