

President Murmu confers Bal Puraskar excellence awards to 17 children

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Varun Dhawan accepts he was jealous of Sidharth Malhotra during Student of the Year

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OGW detained under PSA



An Over Ground Worker (OGW) of terrorists was today detained under Public Safety Act (PSA) for providing logistic support to terror groups active in Udhampur district of Jammu.

Acting firmly against ter

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Shutdown in Katra enters 2nd day

Shutdown in Katra, the base camp for the Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage, against the proposed ropeway project entered second day today.

The protesters also sat on a hunger strike, demanding the release of those detained by police the day before.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti has called for a 72-hour shutdown, which commenced yesterday, announcing that all activities in Katra would remain suspended.

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Radio jockey Simran dies by suicide



Simran Singh, a freelance radio jockey from Jammu and Kashmir, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her rented house in sector 47 of Gurugram.

According to officials, her body was found hang

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Kohli fined 20 pc match fee



MELBOURNE, DEC 26: India superstar Virat Kohli was on Thursday fined 20 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point by the ICC following his on-field altercation with Australia debutant Sam Konstas on the opening day of the fourth Test here.

The incident happened in the 10th over when Kohli and the 19-year-old Kon

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Govt planning to send human into deep sea: Jitendra



HYDERABAD, DEC 26: The Centre is planning to send a human into the deep sea with the mission likely to coincide with the human space mission in early 2026, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science, Jitendra Singh said on Thurs

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PM Modi calls for youth empowerment on Veer Bal Diwas

Says youngsters shouldn't limit to textbook knowledge only

NEW DELHI, DEC 26: Emphasising the crucial role of young people in India's progress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today stressed the importance of preparing them for future by equipping them with skills in emerging fields like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

Speaking at an event to mark Veer Bal Diwas, Modi underscored the need to adapt to rapid changes and challenges across various fields, emphasising the government's "youth-centric" policies and efforts to move in that direction with the start of the new education policy.

With his government marking the journey of the Constitution's 75 years in a major way, Modi said the Constitution's principle of equality aligns with the teachings of gurus who advocated the welfare of all.

Modi said his government is committed to supporting young talent and fostering their self-confidence.

"This era has moved beyond machines to machine learning. AI is taking centre stage, and we can see its application replacing conventional software. It is essential to make our youth future ready to tackle these challenges," he said.



He urged the youth to work towards making their respective sectors, be it railways, semiconductors, travel or astronomy, the best.

Remembering the "unparalleled" sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, the Sahibzadas, he said they chose "unwavering courage and faith over submission to the Mughal Empire's oppression".

He noted that Veer Bal Diwas teaches an enduring lesson: "No matter how adverse the circumstances, nothing is greater than the nation's cause. Every act done in the interest of the nation is an act of valour."

"More than 300 years ago, on December 26, the Sahibzadas, despite their tender age, displayed unparalleled bravery and sacrificed their

lives. They rejected every temptation and endured unimaginable torture, showing that for them, the nation's cause was supreme," he said, urging youngsters to draw inspiration from their legacy.

He said India's strong democracy was built on the bravery and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas.

"The Constitution teaches us that no one is small or big in the country", he said, adding that this principle aligns with the teachings of our gurus, who advocated for the welfare of all.

The prime minister also interacted with the winners of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. Seventeen children from 14 states and Union Territories were honoured for their exceptional contributions in fields like art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment.

Congratulating the awardees, Modi said, "These children have demonstrated what India's youth are capable of achieving. I extend my best wishes to all the winners on behalf of the nation."

He elaborated on the government's focus on empowering the youth through targeted policies.

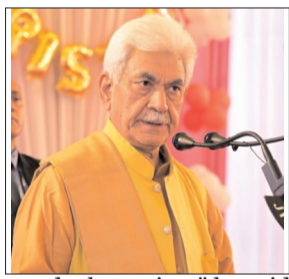
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Govt's prime objective is to light lamp of love, kindness: LG

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 26

Stating that 'our unity is key for building a just, equitable & vibrant society', LG Manoj Sinha today said that the government's prime objective was to light the lamp of love, kindness & brotherhood in the heart of every citizen.

"Our unity is the key for building a just, equitable and vibrant society. Unity provides us the strength to discharge our duties and responsibilities with commitment and sincerity to-



wards the nation," he said after attending a function to celebrate Christmas here. The function was organised by All J&K Christian Sabha.

"Our prime objective is to light the lamp of love, kindness and brotherhood in the heart of every citizen,"

the LG added.

He interacted with bishop, priests and members of CNI church, Jammu-Srinagar Diocese and All J&K Christian Sabha, and commended their contribution in building a peaceful, selfless, compassionate and caring society.

"The Christian community has selflessly served the society and made immense contribution in the field of education and healthcare. I hope that their commitment to service inspires others," he

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BJP got Rs 2,600 cr in donations, Cong Rs 281 cr: EC report

NEW DELHI, DEC 26: The ruling BJP received contributions of over Rs 2,604.74 cr during 2023-24 while the opposition Congress got Rs 281.38 cr in its kitty, according to contribution reports of the two parties put in public domain by the Election Commission (EC).

The donations listed in the reports were received till March 31, 2024 ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP had declared donations worth over Rs 740 crore ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, while the Congress had received over

Rs 146 crore in 2018-19.

During 2023-24, while the BJP received over Rs 723 crore worth of donations from Prudent Electoral Trust, it also got over Rs 127 crore from Triumph Electoral Trust and over Rs 17 lakh from Einzigartig Electoral Trust.

The Congress got over Rs 150 crore from the Prudent Electoral Trust, which was the sole trust donor to the party.

Interestingly, the Congress received multiple donations of Rs 1.38 lakh including those from top leaders including Sonia

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal and Digvijaya Singh, among others.

Multiple donations were made to the Congress under the heading "Happy Birthday to our leader-JKB."

The contributions declared by the BJP and the Congress do not include the donations received through electoral bonds as these have to be declared in the party's annual audit reports and not contribution statements.

The Aam Aadmi Party

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JPC on Waqf Bill to visit J&K

NEW DELHI, DEC 26: The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf Bill is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir, chairman of the panel and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal said on Thursday, at the end of a day-long meeting of the committee.

Several members of the panel have argued that the report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 would be incomplete if the panel does not visit the Union Territory with the largest Muslim population. The Muttaheda Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU) headed by Hurriyat chairman and

According to the draft bill, the amendment proposes to omit the words "except the State of Jammu and Kashmir." The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, proposes to extend the law

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Centre proposes Coal Law extension to J&K

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 26

The Union government has proposed amendments to the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act-1957 to make it applicable to Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the draft bill, the amendment proposes to omit the words "except the State of Jammu and Kashmir." The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, proposes to extend the law

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Uninterrupted power supply only after 100 pc metering: Omar

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 26

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that uninterrupted power supply to the people of J&K would become a reality only after the target of 100 pc metering was achieved.

"People in the valley are facing difficulties due to intense cold conditions but the government will be able to provide uninterrupted electricity only after 100 per cent metering is achieved," he said while talking to scribes.

"As far as winter preparedness is concerned, there is an intense cold, and there has been a dry spell. I pray to God for snowfall so that this dry spell ends," Omar added.

"Our endeavour is to minimise the power cuts, and ensure water supply even as pipes freeze due to the low temperature. Despite difficulties, our endeavour is that the government functions smoothly," he said.

The chief minister said the complaints of unscheduled power cuts would continue "because there is pressure on the system".

"The problem is that some people have a (load) agreement of four bulbs, but they use four heaters instead. Meter is the best way to address this, the more metering we have, the less power cuts there will be," he added.



"I hope we take J&K to 100 per cent metering so that we supply 24 hours electricity. God willing, we will achieve that very soon," he said.

He said the government was making attempts to maintain a contact with the people and address their demands and difficulties, even as some issues will persist until statehood is restored.

"There are several issues which cannot be resolved rapidly, there are issues which cannot be dealt under the UT and for those we have to get our state back. But, attempts are being made to at least listen to their problems and assure them that it is their own elected government and there is no issue which we will not listen to," he said.

To a question on tourism, Omar said the government is making attempts to project J&K as a year-round tourist desti

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Controversy erupts over 'incorrect' Indian map during Cong session

BELAGAVI (KARNATAKA), DEC 26: A controversy has erupted over the alleged misrepresentation of the India map on the posters displayed by the Congress to commemorate the centenary of 1924 Congress session in Karnataka's Belagavi, with the BJP dubbing it as "vote bank" politics by the national party.

The ruling Congress has put up these posters throughout Belagavi town as part of celebrations for the centenary event.

According to BJP and its

ally JD(S) in Karnataka, the Indian map featured on the posters omits the Gilgit region of Pakistan-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir as well as the Aksai Chin region, currently under the Chinese administration, which are integral parts of J&K.

Reacting to the controversy, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Congress Karnataka unit president, said the posters would be removed if there was any mistake.

"Some leaders might have made some mistake,

we are removing everything. Don't try to pick a small stone in the curd... We have done according to Indian tradition and values of those days... BJP is there to attack us, they can't digest. There is no medicine for jealousy. Let them do what they want..." he told reporters in Belagavi.

The national unit of BJP strongly criticised the Congress.

In a post on 'X' it said, "RaGa's Mohabbat ki Dukaan is always open for China! They would break

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J&K Bank shares jump 7 pc after Chatterjee's appointment as MD

NEW DELHI, DEC 26: Jammu and Kashmir Bank shares jumped 7.4 per cent in Thursday's trade, logging an intraday high at Rs 105.44 per share on BSE. The stock gained after the bank board appointed Amitava Chatterjee as managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years to be effective from December 30, 2024.

At about 11.32 am, J&K Bank shares were up 4.82 per cent at Rs 102.85 per share on BSE. In comparison, the BSE Sensex was up 0.07 per cent at 78,528.01.

The market capitalisation of the company stood at Rs 11,325.66 crore. The 52-week high of the stock stood at Rs 152.45 per share and the 52-week low stood at Rs 88.20 per share.

"The government of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed Amitava Chatterjee as a Government Nominee Director on the Board of Directors of the Bank in place of Baldev Prakash with effect from December 30, 2024," the filing read.

Amitava Chatterjee is presently deputy managing

director at State bank of India (SBI) and has also served as MD & CEO of SBICAPS. Chatterjee has an illustrious career in banking spanning over more than three decades in diverse geographical locations and strategic positions.

His diverse experience includes heading the SBI's operation as CGM New Delhi, circle and Jaipur Circle with high end clientele like PSUs, NBFCS, and DISCOMs. He has shouldered responsibilities that included Business Devel

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Rlys completes trial run on cable-stayed Anji Khad bridge at Reasi

NEW DELHI, DEC 26: Indian Railways has successfully carried out a trial run of a tower wagon on the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge, located in Jammu's Reasi district.

The achievement is a major step forward in enhancing railway connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, with services expected to commence in January 2025.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav shared a video of the trial run on the social media platform X, highlighting the progress of

the crucial project.

"The trial run on the Anji Khad Bridge, a key component of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project, has been successfully completed," according to the Ministry of Railways.

Completed last month, the Anji Khad Bridge is an engineering marvel featuring a single pylon that rises 331 metres above the riverbed. It is supported by 48 cables on its lateral and central spans and stretches 473.25 metres in total length. The viaduct mea-

sures 120 metres, while the central embankment spans 94.25 metres.

This is the second-highest railway bridge in India after the Chenab Bridge, which is the highest in the world at a record 359 metres above the riverbed. Both bridges are part of the ambitious USBRL project aimed at increasing connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The USBRL project stretches across 272 kilometres, of which 255 kilometres have already been

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Kavinder accuses Cong of deliberately excluding PoJK from India's map

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 26

Senior BJP leader and deputy CM Kavinder Gupta today strongly criticised Congress for showcasing a 'distorted map' of India during its centenary celebrations of the 1924 Belagavi session in Karnataka. The map purportedly depicted Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) as part of Pakistan, igniting widespread outrage and raising questions about the party's commitment to national in-



tegrity. He said the banners put up during the Congress event clearly depicted PoJK as part of Pakistan, terming it as a grave insult to the nation/ "It tantamounts to treason. Such actions undermine India's sovereignty and cannot be ignored," he

added. Gupta also took aim at the Congress's 'historical' decisions, saying, "What did Nehru do for India's territorial integrity? We lost significant land to China under his leadership, and he dismissed it by claiming that nothing could grow on that land. Now, the Congress continues its legacy of betrayal by excluding PoJK and other territories from India's map."

He referred to the Parliament's resolution on PoJK, asserting, "It has been

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