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**PM Modi calls for youth empowerment on Veer Bal Diwas**

"From startups to science, sports to entrepreneurship, a new wave of transformation is happening. Our policies prioritise giving strength to the youth. Whether it is the startup ecosystem, the future of the space economy, or sports and fitness, all our initiatives are youth-centric," he said.

On the occasion, Modi launched the 'Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan', a programme aimed at improving nutritional outcomes through active community participation.

The initiative aligns with the government's broader goal of ensuring the well-being of every Indian.

Modi also urged young Indians to embrace the values of courage, innovation, and service to propel the nation towards greater unity and progress.

Referring to his call to bring one lakh youth with no political connections into politics, he said this initiative was crucial for the next 25 years and encouraged the youth to be part of this campaign to bring a new generation into politics.

Noting that the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' would be held at the beginning of next year on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, he said millions of youth from villages, towns, and cities across the country will participate, discussing the vision and roadmap for a developed India.

**Uninterrupted power supply only after 100 pc metering: Omar**

nation. "We are hopeful that people will come and for that we need snowfall in places like Sonamarg, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. When there is snowfall, more tourists will come," he added.

On his surprise visit to two hospitals here a day earlier, the chief minister said while the facilities at the hospitals were better, there were some complaints of absence of staff during the night.

"The situation in the hospitals is better, but there are complaints from the patients that everything is fine during the day but no one is to be seen during the night. I made a surprise visit in the day, some day, I will make a surprise visit during the night," he added.

**OGW detained under PSA**

ror supporters in the district, police launched an operation and detained a hardcore terror associate in jail under PSA, officials said.

He was identified as Abdul Qayoom alias Bittu, a resident of Kadwah, Basantgarh. After his detention, he was sent to jail.

Qayoom was involved in providing logist support to terrorist groups. He was said to have worked as an active guide and facilitator for terrorist organisations until his arrest.

Several FIRs were registered against him at the Basantgarh police station. Considering his activities, the authorities ordered his detention under PSA, the officials added.

With this, the number of terror associates detained in the Udhampur district has risen to three.

On November 29, another terror associate, identified as Abdul Satar from Ponara Soni, was detained under PSA. He was also involved in multiple terror cases and acted as an active guide and facilitator for terrorist organisations until his arrest, officials said.

**Shutdown in Katra enters 2nd day**

during the bandh. "The bandh will continue until the government shelve the ropeway project. It is an assault on the livelihoods of most Katra residents, who are dependent on the pilgrimage economy," a samiti spokesperson said.

Last month, the board decided to install the ropeway to facilitate access to the temple for senior citizens, children and others who find it difficult to climb the 13-km-long track to the cave shrine.

The samiti, which represents shopkeepers, pony operators and palanquin owners, said the ropeway project would destroy the livelihoods of local business owners and demanded that the project be scrapped.

For the second consecutive day, all shops, restaurants and business establishments remained closed and traffic was off the roads in the holy town.

The bandh affected normal life in Katra town.

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

added. Sinha urged every section of society to imbibe the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ and promote the spirit of peace, forgiveness and compassion.

"Lord Jesus Christ had emphasised on the purity of person's thoughts, moral actions and doing good deeds without expecting anything in return. There is a need to follow Lord Christ's ideals and make selfless service our motto," he said.

The LG called for united resolve from all the sections, especially the younger generation, to promote harmonious living and mutual respect for all. "Youth are the inheritors of the rich legacy of spiritual values and they must work for equality and fraternity," he said.

"India's culture is unique and ageless. This great country has been a witness to co-existence of almost all major religions known to humankind. The co-existence of all major

religions has enriched and diversified our cultural heritage," he added.

He said the festivity of Christmas season was also an occasion to embrace the core values of harmony and brotherhood.

He said Lord Jesus Christ's emphasis on the brotherhood of mankind, harmony, selfless action and his fight against discrimination of any kind are of particular significance in today's world.

"Lord Jesus Christ's life is a testimony of love, non-violence, peace and forgiveness and his teachings are a source of inspiration for the entire human society. I hope his teachings will guide us for betterment of society," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Ivan Albert Pereira, Bishop Jammu-Srinagar Diocese, extended the support and cooperation of the Christian community to the government in its endeavours towards inclusive development of J&K.

"We are proud that our government has been engaged in fostering an environment where people of all faiths and communities can live in peace and harmony," he said.

Ashu Peter Mattoo, President All J&K Christian Sabha, members of CNI Church, Jammu-Srinagar Diocese, heads of various institutions and organizations, youth, community members and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

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

unanimously passed in Parliament that PoJK is an integral part of India. Despite that, Congress leaders have repeatedly visited Pakistan and sought their support, which is nothing less than a national crime."

Calling for accountability, Gupta demanded strict action against those responsible for displaying the erroneous map. He asked Congress to clarify its stance on India's territorial sovereignty and respect the sentiments of the nation.

"The Congress divided India in 1947, and its current actions reflect the same divisive mindset," he said, appealing to people to remain vigilant against any attempts to undermine India's unity and integrity.

Gupta reaffirmed BJP's steadfast commitment in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and urged all citizens to support efforts that strengthen India's territorial integrity.

**JPC on Waqf Bill to visit J&K**

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had also written to the committee seeking to present their position on the Bill.

"These amendments have sparked significant concerns and anxiety within the community due to their potential impact on religious, social and charitable institutions. The critical nature of these amendments could undermine the autonomy and fundamental purpose of Waqf properties. The organisation believes that the proposed changes could have far-reaching implications on the welfare and self-governance of the Muslim community in the region," the MMU, which is a conglomerate of 46 religious bodies and Islamic education institutions, said in a statement issued on November 28.

Mr. Pal told reporters at the end of the meeting on Thursday that the committee had conducted 18 to 20 tours and was planning to visit West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. "Our members also want to go to Jammu and Kashmir. For this, we will seek the Speaker's permission," Mr. Pal said.

The committee on Thursday heard the representatives of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. "We had called the Principal Secretary of the Minority Affairs Departments of these States and asked them to bring information on properties that have been registered and other details. But we haven't got a satisfactory reply so far," he said.

The panel will meet again on Friday (December 27, 2024) when officials from Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Delhi are scheduled to arrive.

Recently, the Lok Sabha approved a motion to extend the tenure of the panel and mandated the presentation of their report by the end of the Budget Session in 2025. The panel has had 27 meetings so far in Delhi.

**Govt planning to send human into deep sea: Jitendra**

day. Speaking at the 'Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami' at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), he recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mentioned the Deep Sea Mission in the past Independence Day address.

"We are also planning to send a human into the deep sea. I was telling Ravichandran (Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences) that it would be a strange coincidence-one human in space and another in the deep sea. This will happen almost simultaneously," Singh said.

"The human space mission, initially planned for 2025, may not take place next year, but is now expected in early 2026," he added.

"One Indian up there, and one Indian in the deep sea. That will be once again, a record of sorts," Singh said, also emphasising the increasing importance of oceanic exploration in the country's journey toward becoming a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Advocating for the sustainable exploration and conservation of India's 7,500-kilometre coastline and its abundant marine resources, the minister said the government is

working to create an ecosystem to support these efforts.

He said the services and information provided by INCOIS were not only relevant to coastal communities along India's shoreline but also to people worldwide.

Lauding the state-of-the-art facility, he said the institute is providing services that contribute not only to the development of a 'Viksit Bharat' but also to India's significant contribution to the world.

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

(AAP), which is also a recognised national party, received contributions of over Rs 11.06 crore during the fiscal.

Another recognised national party, Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), received donations worth over Rs 7.64 crore.

National People's Party (NPP), which is the only recognised national party from the North East, got over Rs 14.85 lakh in its kitty.

The BJP was also a major beneficiary of electoral bonds purchased by big corporate groups like Vedanta, Bharti Airtel, Muthoot, Baja Auto, Jindal group and TVS Motors.

The party also received Rs 3 crore through multiple donations from Future Gaming and Hotel Services Pvt Ltd owned by Santiago Martin, also known as the 'Lottery King' of India.

He is under scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (IT) department for alleged money laundering.

Future Gaming was also the biggest donor through electoral bonds route with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) being the top beneficiary.

The company had donated Rs 542 crore to the TMC, Rs 503 crore to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Rs 154 crore to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

**Kohli fined 20 pc match fee**

stas bumped their shoulders and also exchanged a few words in the first session's play at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here.

"Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct relates to: "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match)", the ICC said on its website.

"No formal hearing was needed as Kohli accepted the sanctions proposed by Match Referee Andy Pycroft. On-field umpires Joel Wilson and Michael Gough, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Shawn Craig levelled the charge," it added.

While moving across the pitch after the completion of the over, both the players bumped their shoulders and exchanged a few words before Australia opener Usman Khawaja and on-field umpires Gough and Wilson intervened.

Konstas later played down the incident after the end of the play, saying "Virat Kohli accidentally bumped into me, that's cricket and can happen with tension."

**Radio jockey Simran dies by suicide**

ing in her room on Wednesday night. No suicide note was found from the spot, officials said, quoting police said.

Simran had over 6 lakh followers on Instagram, officials said.

**Former PM Manmohan Singh passes away**

emergency department of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), where he breathed his last, the hospital confirmed.

The former Prime Minister was administered CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), but efforts to revive him remained unsuccessful, said sources.

Born on September 26, 1932, in Gah village, West Punjab (now in Pakistan), Singh's life was a testament to service, scholarship, and leadership. He earned a Master's degree in Economics from Panjab University, Chandigarh, and later obtained a doctorate from the University of Oxford.

Singh served as Prime Minister from May 22, 2004, to May 26, 2014, leading the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government for a historic 3,656 days. His tenure made him the third longest-serving Prime Minister in Indian history, following Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Before his political career, Singh had an illustrious journey in government service. Starting as the Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Trade in 1971, he quickly rose through the ranks. By 1976, he was Chief Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Finance. Over the years, he held several key roles, including Director of the Reserve Bank of India, Alternate Governor for India at the Asian Development Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Member (Finance) at the Atomic Energy and Space Commissions.

Singh's legacy will forever be tied to the transformative economic reforms he initiated during his tenure as Finance Minister in 1991. These reforms not only liberalized the Indian economy but also paved the way for its global integration.

His contributions extended beyond economics. As Prime Minister, he prioritized inclusive growth, social welfare, and diplomacy, steering India through global economic challenges and strengthening its position on the world stage.

India mourns the loss of a statesman whose vision, integrity, and leadership left an indelible mark on the nation's history.

**Controversy erupts over 'incorrect' Indian map during Cong session**

the nation. They've done it once. They'll do it again."

The BJP Karnataka unit termed the "incorrect depiction" of the Indian map as a way to appease its "vote bank". "@INCKarnataka, has shown utter disrespect for India's sovereignty by displaying a distorted map at their Belagavi event, portraying Kashmir as part of Pakistan. All this just to appease their vote bank. This is shameful!" the party posted on 'X'.

Hitting out at the Congress, BJP's Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal demanded that the police register a case against the organisers.

"The publication of an incorrect map of India not only constitutes a breach of Geospatial information standards but also violates the law," Yatnal said in a post on 'X'.

According to him, under section 74 of the IPC, displaying a wrong map of India is a clear offence. It is also a violation under the National Honour Act.

"This is the way how the Congress celebrates its historic CWC session by distorting the map of India, not showing PoK as part of Indian territory. Shame on @INCKarnataka." Jammu and Kashmir tourism

"I appeal to the @SPBelagavi to register a case against the organisers for wrongfully depicting the map of India immediately," he said.

Targetting the Congress over the issue, the JDS in a post on 'X' said, "The Italian Congress has omitted the territory of Kashmir from the map of India drawn in Belgaum under the name 'Gandhi Bharat'. Distorting and altering the map of India is a serious criminal act, like treason."

The party held Shivakumar responsible for it.

"Kashmir is an integral part of India, but the Congress' anti-national mentality of expressing support for Pakistan by playing politics of appeasement for votes is now getting wide spread all over the country through banners," it said.

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

opment, Risk & Compliance Management, HR Functions with his previous employer besides interacting and participating in various Industry and Government forums.

He has completed his Master's in Business Administration from ICAI University Hyderabad besides having qualified the CAIB offered by IIBF. Beyond his professional pursuits, he is a passionate sports enthusiast and follows tennis, football and cricket.

J&K Bank is a prominent regional bank in India, headquartered in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Established in 1938, it operates as a universal bank in Jammu and Kashmir and a specialised bank in the rest of India. The bank is known for its strong presence in the northern region, particularly in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

In the past one year, J&K Bank share price has lost 21.7 per cent against Sensex's rise of 10 per cent.

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

completed. The remaining portion between Katra and Reasi is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is a 272 km railway project that connects Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of India. It is considered one of the most challenging railway projects in the Indian subcontinent.

The project will reduce travel time between Srinagar and Jammu from six hours to 3.5 hours. The railway projects have been constructed after overcoming natural challenges such as extreme temperatures, major earthquake zones, and inhospitable terrain.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to flag off the Vande Bharat train to provide a fast link for passengers travelling between Kashmir and Delhi in January 2025.

**Centre proposes Coal Law extension to J&K**

to Jammu & Kashmir, which was previously excluded.

Union Ministry of Coal has written to all states and Union Territories, inviting comments from the public and State Governments on the proposed amendments. Following the Union Ministry's communication, the J&K's Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs has written to Commissioner Secretary of the Mining Department to submit their comments on the matter directly to the Union Coal Ministry.

According to the Geology and Mining Department of J&K, the Union Territory has coal reserves of 9.5 million tonnes. The primary coal reserves are located in Kalakote, Jangalgali, Metka, Ladha, Chinka, Dhansal, Swalkote, Chakar, Dandil, Mohogala, San-gar-Marg, and Kura.

The Kalakote coal mines are estimated to have a usable reserve of roughly 5.4 million tonnes up to a depth of about 300 metres, according to the Geological Survey of India.

**China approves world's largest dam over Brahmaputra river**

**BEIJING, DEC 26:** China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam, stated to be the planet's biggest infra project costing USD 137 billion, on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet close to the Indian border, raising concerns in riparian states — India and Bangladesh.

The Chinese government has approved the construction of a hydropower project in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra, according to an official statement quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency on Wednesday.

The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra river makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

The total investment in the dam could exceed one trillion yuan (USD 137 billion), which would dwarf any other single infrastructure project on

the planet including China's own Three Gorges Dam, regarded as the largest in the world, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

China has already Operationalised the USD 1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.

The Brahmaputra dam was part of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 adopted by Plenum, a key policy body of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2020.

Concerns arose in India as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities.

India too is building a dam over Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh. India and China established the Ex-

pert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006 to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers under which China provides India with hydrological information on the Brahmaputra river and Sutlej river during the flood seasons.

Data sharing of trans-border rivers figured in the talks between India, China Special Representatives (SRs) for border question, NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, held here on December 18.

The SRs "provided positive directions for cross-border cooperation and exchanges" including data sharing on trans-border rivers, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The Brahmaputra Dam presents enormous engineering challenges as the project site is located along a tectonic plate boundary where earthquakes occur. The Tibetan plateau, regarded as the roof of the world, frequently experiences earthquakes as

it is located over the tectonic plates.

The official statement on Wednesday sought to allay concerns about earthquakes, saying that the hydropower project is safe and prioritises ecological protection.

Through extensive geological explorations and technical advancements, a solid foundation has been laid for the science-based, secure, and high-quality development of the project, it said.

The Brahmaputra flows across the Tibetan Plateau, carving out the deep canyon on Earth and covering a staggering vertical difference of 25,154 feet before reaching India, the Post report said. The dam will be built in one of the rainiest parts of mainland China bringing bountiful flows of water.

According to a 2023 report, the hydropower station is expected to generate more than 300 billion kWh of electricity each year — enough to meet the annual needs of over 300 million

people.

In 2020, Yan Zhiyong, then chairman of the state-owned Power Construction Corporation of China, was quoted in the media as saying the location on the Yarlung Tsangpo was one of the most hydropower-rich areas in the world.

"The lower reaches area features a vertical drop of 2,000 metres over a 50km distance, representing nearly 70 million kilowatts of resources that could be developed — that is more than three Three Gorges Dams with an installed capacity of 22.5 million kilowatts," the Post quoted him as saying.

To harness the hydropower potential of the river, four to six 20km-long tunnels must be drilled through the Namcha Barwa mountain to divert half of the river's flow at about 2,000 cubic metres per second, according to the report.

Yan said that the hydropower exploitation of the Yarlung Zangbo River

downstream is more than a hydropower project. It is also meaningful for the environment, national security, living standards, energy and international cooperation. "It is a project for national security, including water resources and domestic security," he said, noting that the project will also smooth cooperation with South Asia. The hydropower station could generate income of 20 billion yuan (USD three billion) annually for the Tibet Autonomous Region, he said.

An official statement on Wednesday defended the project, saying it will play a positive role in accelerating the country's efforts to create a new development pattern and pursue high-quality development.

It is also of great importance to advancing the country's strategy for carbon peaking and carbon neutrality and to coping with global climate change, it said.