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Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani praises mom for 'shielding' her, says kids nowadays grow up under scrutiny



#### **Sopore operation** called off

After they found no trace of the escaped terrorists, security forces today called off the Sopore operation. One jawan was martyred in an encounter with terrorists in the area

Sepoy Pangala Kartheek was martyred in the exchange of fire with terrorists in a hideout at Zaloora Gujjarpati at Sopore yester-

day.
"The (Sopore) operation, launched on specific intelligence inputs, involved the busting of a militant hideout. During the exchange of fire, an Army jawan sustained critical injuries and Cont. on P9

#### **Jawan injured in** landmine explosion

An Army jawan was inured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu today.

The jawan was part of a patrolling party when he accidentally stepped on a landmine near the LoC in Krishna Ghati sub-sector,

In the subsequent explosion, the jawan sustained critical injuries. He was immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital by other

Cont. on P9 >

#### Employees asked to register on iGOT Karmayogi portal

The government has instructed all its employees to register on the iGOT Karmayogi portal, a key initiative under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building.

The programme aims to enhance competencies and improve public service delivery through skill development.

Despite previous instructions, many employees have yet to register, prompting authorities to take the matter seriously. Departments have been

asked to ensure compli

#### **JKCCE** prelims on Feb 23

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 21

The J&K Public Service Commission today said that the the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (Preliminary) shall be held in two sessions on February 23.

A J&KPSC notification issued in this regard said: "In continuation to this office notice issued on November 10, 2024, it is for the information of eligible candidates, who have applied for the post of J&K Combined Competitive (Preliminary)

Cont. on P9 >

#### Significant win for New Delhi

## WB's neutral expert backs India on 2 hydro projects in J&K

rift between the two neighbouring countries on Indus Water Treaty, there has been a significant win for New Delhi in its dispute with Islamabad on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects in Jammu & Kashmir, with a neutral expert ruling in favour of the India's

"A World Bank-appointed neutral expert has backed New Delhi's position on the framework to resolve certain disputes between India and Pakistan on Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu & Kashmir," External Affairs Ministry

India has consistently maintained that only the neutral expert has the competence under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty to resolve these differences, a position that Pakistan had contested while demanding a court of arbitration to settle the differences.

"It has been India's consistent and principled position that the neutral expert alone has the competence under the Treaty to decide these differences. Having upheld his own competence, which comports with India's view, the neutral expert will now proceed to the next (merits) phase of his

**NEW DELHI, JAN 21:** 

Lok Sabha Speaker Om

Birla today called upon po-

litical parties to extend

their cooperation for the

smooth functioning of Par-

liament and State legisla-

He was speaking on the

the concluding day of the

85th All India Presiding Of-

ficers Conference in Patna.

the people, the political

parties should ensure that

their elected representa-

tives behave properly so

that Parliament and State

legislatures run properly,

NEW DELHI, JAN 21:

The Supreme Court on

Tuesday asked all high

courts to expedite setting

up a two-judge panel to ad-

dress grievances of district

judicial officers on the im-

plementation of the Second

National Judges Pay Com-

mission recommendations.

tices B R Gavai, Augustine

George Masih and K Vinod

Chandran passed the order

after senior advocate K

Paremeshwar, who is as-

sisting it as an amicus cu-

riae, said many high courts

were yet to form the Com-

A bench comprising Jus-

"In the larger interest of

While India has been pressing for resolution of the issues by the neutral expert as mandated under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between the two countries, Pakistan has been backing the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to resolve them. India and Pakistan signed IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations with a sole aim to manage issues relating to cross-border rivers.

proceeding. This phase will culminate in a final decision on the merits of each of the seven differences," the ministry said.

In 2015, Pakistan requested the appointment of a neutral expert to address its concerns over two hydropower projects, but it backtracked from its position in 2016 and called for a court of arbitration instead.

While India has been pressing for resolution of the issues by the neutral expert as mandated under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between the two countries, Pakistan has been backing the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to resolve them.

India and Pakistan signed IWT on September 19, 1960 after nine years of negotiations with a sole aim to manage issues relating to cross-border

**Parties must ensure smooth functioning** 

of Parl, state legislatures: LS Speaker

He was accompanied by

Bihar Legislative Assembly

Speaker Nand Kishore Ya-

dav, Rajya Sabha Deputy

Chairman Harivansh, Bi-

har Legislative Council

Naravan Singh, and Bihar

Deputy Chief Minister Vi-

SC asks HCs to set up panel for judges'

Pay Comm recommendations

mittees for Service Condi-

tions of the District Judi-

ciary (CSCDJ) as directed

The top court, on Janu-

ary 4 last year, said it rec-

ommended setting up the

two-judge panel in all high

courts to ensure that the or-

ders on pay, pension and

other retiral benefits for ju-

dicial officers as per the

Second National Judicial

Pay Commission (SNJPC)

On Tuesday, the amicus

said while some high courts

had set up the panels, they

did not meet regularly to

were implemented.

Awadhesh

Chairman

India welcomed the ruling by the

Birla said the presiding

officers had collectively

adopted a resolution at the

conference that they would

ensure uninterrupted and

systematic discussion and

debate in the legislative

bodies so that an environ-

ment of best dialogue in

public interest can be cre-

ated on legislative and pol-

The Speaker said the pre-

siding officers resolved to

take the values of the Con-

stitution to different sec-

tions of society on the occa-

sion of the completion of 75

deal with the grievances,

prompting several judicial

officers to move the top

the high courts to imple-

ment the directions issued

by this court by order dated

January 4, 2024. If the

CSCDJs are not appointed

so far by any of the high

courts, the same shall be

appointed within a period

of four weeks from today,'

officers - required to be re

It also directed the nodal

Cont. on P9 >

"We therefore request all

years of the Constitution.

icy issues.

neutral expert, International Commission of Large Dams president Michel Lino.

Lino ruled that he was competent to render a decision on the "merits of the Points of Difference" between India and Pakistan on the two hydropower projects.

"India welcomes the decision given by the Neutral Expert under Paragraph 7 of Annexure F to the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"The decision upholds and vindicates India's stand that all seven questions that were referred to the neutral expert, in relation to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects, are differences falling within his competence under the treaty," it said on Tuesday.

In 2015, Pakistan sought the ap

Cont. on P9 >

#### Woman, son killed in cylinder blast

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 21

A woman and her sixmonth-old son were killed in a cylinder blast that took place in their house at Jandrola in Poonch district of Jammu today.

The dead were identified as Shazia Kousar, wife of Sajjad Hussain, and her infant son Ayan Ahmad. Shazia was preparing

food when the incident took place at Jandrola in Mandi area of Poonch in the evening, officials said. Neighbours doused the

flames and shifted the in

Cont. on P9 >

#### **Trump declares** end to birthright citizenship



**NEW DELHI, JAN 21:** 

President Donald Trump has signed a flurry of executive orders and decrees aimed at cracking down on immigration. From one order tackling the definition of birthright citizenship, to another de Cont. on P9 >

## Stopping cycle of deaths at Badhaal top priority: Omar

Promises support to grieving families

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 21

A day after the central team's visit to the village, chief minister Omar Abdullah today met the affected Badhaal families, who have lost 17 members to the mysterious illness, spent time with them and told them that 'the government's top priority is to stop the cycle of deaths in the village'. He also promised them justice and government support.

Expressing profound grief, he extended his condolences and assured the bereaved families of full support and assistance by his government.

He was accompanied by cabinet minister Javed Rana and Budhal MLA Javed Igbal Choudhary.

Omar stressed that the government's priority was to ensure the prevention of such incidents in the future and immediate end to the of unfortunate

compensation to the af-He assured the public that a detailed investigation was underway to determine the cause of mys-

terious deaths He also directed Deputy "The civil administration Commissioner, Rajouri, and health department are actively addressing the matter, while police have constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the incident. Additionally, a central team has been deputed and is working diligently to un-

man lives," he stated. On the occasion, Budhal MLA submitted a proposal to the chief minister for

cover the reasons behind

this unfortunate loss of hu-

fected families. On this, Omar confirmed that a proposal was under active consideration and pledged timely action.

Abhishek Sharma, to extend all necessary support to the families during this difficult time. He reassured the public that the findings of the in-

vestigation will be made transparent and that appropriate measures will be implemented based on the results. Urging restraint in politi-

cal interference, he added, Cont. on P9 >

#### Simultaneous Polls

#### Second JPC meeting to examine 2 Bills on Jan 31 website, procedure and criticising the concept as an

NEW DELHI, JAN 21: The second meeting of the joint parliamentary com-

mittee examining the two bills for simultaneous elections is scheduled to be held on January 31.

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill were introduced in Lok Sabha during the recent Winter Session and referred to the

According to the schedule posted on Lok Sabha

modalities for examination of the amendment bills would be discussed at the upcoming meeting. The panel had held its

first meeting on January 8, where representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) briefed the members. A robust exchange of

contesting views had marked the first meeting of the parliamentary panel with opposition members

attack on the basic fabric of the Constitution and federalism, and BJP MPs hailing it as reflective of popular

All MPs were given a trolley carrying over 18,000 pages, including one volume of the Ram Nath Kovind committee report each in Hindi and English, and 21 volumes of annexure, besides a soft copy as

Headed by BJP MP PP

### 'Gangster' shot dead in broad daylight at Jewel Chowk

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, JAN 21

A 'gangster', said to be the kingpin of Vijaypur's 'Gataru Gang', was shot dead in broad daylight by the rival gang members at the ever-busy Jewel Chowk here today.

Officials identified him as Sumit Jandiyal (37) of Vijaypur.

According to officials, the assailants, who were three in number, intercepted Jandival's Thar jeep (JK21G/0770) at Jewel



and fired at least four rounds at him, causing him serious injuries, officials

Leaving Jandial in a pool of blood, the assailants Cont. on P9 >

#### calls for meeting 21st century challenges with entrepreneu **Empowering Jammu** and counting earnings at the end of

Sahil Mahajan

Time and again, Jammu has been finding itself at the crossroads, mulling how it can empower itself. There has been a lot of debate over this, but that has remained confined to the intellectuals and politicians within the region, others have viewed it as a matter of grant. There is an obvious gap. This is widening with the new generations with new aspirations about their identity and the place to which they belong.

A paradigm shift in thinking and policy making is needed to meet the aspirations of the new generation that is exposed to the world on social media and through ever advancing technology. Jammu is shedding its culture, for which it was defamed of "hatti and khatti" (setting up shops the day). There has been a change, the idea of entrepreneurship is catching up, though not matching to its potential. There also is an awakening about the prospects beyond the government services. But again that is at a very limited scale, hampering its own scope.

The change is very slow and that's what is making it unnoticeable. To bring it on a wider canvas, the whole of the region approach is needed. One of the biggest banes is the fragmented approach that has been applied in addressing the problems and exploring prospects. The region has to understand that split screen image and theories are self-defeating . The advantage of which has been taken by the vested interests who love such divisions as that helps them in advancing their interests and agendas. Jammu has seen it all,

but refused to learn lessons in time. It is bearing the consequences.

the bench said.

One of the major factors that has plagued the region, especially its population in the plains, is that we have not reconciled to the changing times. There are possibly two reasons, the independence in Jammu and Kashmir was not from the foreign rulers like in the rest of the British India. Jammu and Kashmir was a sovereign state. Its script of independence had a different vocabulary dictated by the unexpected circumstances - the October 1947 Pakistani invasion and the resultant war as Indian troops were needed to save the state . Jammu wanted to be part of India. In fact it shared the cultural, religious and political ethos of the mainland India and wished for the same in its inner thinking and articulation. That's why the message of Gandhi and Nehru found resonance among the people here. In their minds, Maharaja Hari Singh's rule was the Indian rule.

There was a glorious past, in which Jammu had its identity at its peak. It did not have to quest for political power or the economic opportunities . The turbulences of history changed that. That glorious past of the gone by era cannot be part of the present. The challenges are different, and the opportunities have to be created and grabbed. Nothing is available on a platter . Remembering the glorious past is essential to remind what the region was, but it also beckons to the newer reality where the region and its people are today. That past should be preserved but also made a spring board to surmount the new challenges thrown at us in the 21st Second, as we see the world un-

fold in new world order where science, technology and geo-strategic calculations more than anything else, the younger generations must be prepared for that . Our classroom culture in schools and homeschooling needs to change .Barring few schools where the interaction is arranged between the class room teaching to the newer entrepreneurship outside, the schooling methods remain ingrained in the 20th century methodology where the whole concept rests in black board and chalks.. In a place where schools are without proper buildings, where trees overlook the teachers and students in open air, and where teachers are with half knowledge, this society cannot progress. A change has to be effected. And that will come with the consultations. The government efforts will always fall short unless

those are guided by the societal advice. Are we preparing for that? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

Third, we have always complained about the political leadership. Finger pointing has become our habit .There is a lot of truth in it but not the whole of it. The politicians have taken advantage of the lack of the strategic landscape They feel that to praise a particular narrative is the only way out to survive, others love doing it the other way . The prisms are contradictory and often fallacious. The people are caught in their own dilemma. They are not sure how to come out of that. The political education is a must. It's not happening. That should happen as that is one of the ways to the empowerment of Jammu, which will have its own standing not looking at others for conferring it to them.