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Systematic Discrimination Against Jammu Youth Unacceptable : CM Must Answer-Pawan Sharma

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Mahila Panthers join procession, dharna of Angawadi workers

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PRAGATI driving timely execution of mega projects in J&K : Chief Secretary



BRIEF

Sr DCM Jammu to receive 'Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar'

Jammu : Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) of northern railway's Jammu division Uchit Singhal has been selected for the 'Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar', to be conferred by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in recognition of his outstanding service in 2025, an official said on Monday.

The award ceremony would be held on January 9 in Delhi to facilitate more than 100 outstanding employees from various railway zones and departments across the country. The award is being given to Singhal for bringing unprecedented improvements and innovations in commercial and passenger services in the Jammu division, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January last year, the northern railway's Jammu division said in a statement.

Woman found dead under mysterious condition, probe launched

Poonch, Jan 05 : A woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Tehsil Mandi, Poonch, on Monday morning. Official sources said the deceased has been identified as 25-year-old Asia Kousar, wife of Mohd Jahangir, resident of Jandrola.

The circumstances of her death are considered suspicious. Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. Police are conducting inquiries to determine the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, as the investigation progresses.

Police attresd 3 drug peddlers, heroin seized in Indora

Jammu : Himachal police attresd 3 Jammu drug peddlers, heroin seized in Indora. During routine patrolling and surveillance under the NDPS Act, CIA Nurpur police received a credible tip-off that a white Hyundai Verna car (registration number JK-02CF-1088) was transporting heroin near Barrier Chowk, Indora. Acting swiftly under Section 42 of the NDPS Act, the police team intercepted the vehicle near the rain shelter at Indora in the presence of independent witnesses. Three individuals were apprehended: Jitendra Singh (40), resident of Batala, Punjab - driver Mandeep Singh alias Mantu (30), resident of Jammu and Rajji Bala alias Rajju (20), resident of Indora, District Kangra.

Upon searching the vehicle, police recovered 34.37 grams of heroin (chitta) concealed in a plastic container under the driver's seat. A case has been registered against the accused under Sections 21, 25, 29, 61, and 85 of the NDPS Act. Further investigation is underway.

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With Operation Sindoor, armed forces demonstrated India's resoluteness to World : Vice President

New Delhi, Jan 05 : Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Monday said the armed forces made India proud with Operation Sindoor as they demonstrated to the world the country's resoluteness while successfully carrying out the military action.

In his address at the National Cadet Corps' Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantonment, he also hailed the role of the NCC during the operation. "The NCC made a commendable contribution during Operation Sindoor when nearly 72,000 NCC cadets turned into 'NCC warriors' by volunteering services for civil defence measures. These cadets helped in emergency drills, blood donation camps and other civil defence-related activities. Operation Sindoor was carried out by the Indian armed forces in the early hours of May 7, 2025, elim-

inating at least 100 terrorists, in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 innocent civilians. Last year, our armed forces made the country



proud as they demonstrated to the world India's resoluteness by successfully carrying out Operation Sindoor," the Vice President said.

"Operation Sindoor was a powerful symbol of the unwavering commitment of

the Indian armed forces to protect the nation's honour, sovereignty and its citizens," he asserted. Vice President Radhakrishnan on Monday formally inaugu-

rated the NCC's Republic Day Camp, which will culminate with a PM Rally on January 28. A total of 2,406 NCC cadets, including 898 girls, from across the country are participating in the nearly month-long camp. In his address, the Vice

President described the cadets as "not just participants in a Republic Day Camp, but ambassadors of a new India" who will contribute to the making of an 'Aatmanirbhar' and strong India, a Viksit Bharat by 2047. "In each one of you, I see a strong foundation of a Viksit Bharat, a foundation of a developed, inclusive and confident country. I see in you. He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a transformative journey towards building a developed nation has begun. And, at its centre lies 'Atmanirbharta', a spirit of self-reliance powered by skilled, disciplined and value-driven youths. "In today's rapidly changing global environment, India needs youth who can be courageous yet compassionate, technically skilled yet rooted in good values, (Cont. on Page-11)

Hindu man shot dead in Bangladesh, fifth such incident in three weeks

New Delhi, Jan 05 : Another Hindu man was shot dead in Bangladesh on Monday, marking the fifth such incident in the neighbouring country since the death of radical student leader Sharif Osman Hadi. The victim was identified as Rana Pratap Bairagi, who was shot dead by some miscreants at Kopalia Bazar in the Jessore district around noon on Monday.

According to media reports, Bairagi was resident of Arua village and used to teach at a school. He was attacked by some miscreants when he was at the market. Following the incident, the attackers fled, while Bairagi died at the spot. The police later reached there and have launched an investigation to hunt down the attackers.

Bairagi's killing is the fifth such incident that has taken place in Bangladesh

which has remained on the edge following Hadi's death last month. First, Dipu Chandra Das, a worker at garment factory, was attacked and beaten to death by a mob on December 18 in Mymensingh. Six days after this incident, another Hindu man, Amrit Mondal was lynched in Pangsha upazila over allegations of blasphemy.

Later, Bajendra Biswas was shot dead in Mymensingh. A mob also assaulted and set on fire a 50-year-old Hindu businessman Khokon Das earlier this month, while he was returning from work. After battling for life for a few days, Das succumbed to his injuries on Saturday (January 3).

Last month, India expressed concerns over killing of Hindus in Bangladesh, with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal saying more than 2,900 incidents of attacks on minorities have been reported in the neighbouring country under the interim government of Mohammad Yunus. "The unremitting hostility against minorities in Bangladesh, including Hindus, Christians, and Buddhists at the hands of extremists is a matter of grave concern," Jaiswal had said at a media briefing on December 26. Hadi, the founder and main spokesperson of Inqilab Moncho, was shot in the head last month, while campaigning in Dhaka for the February 12 parliamentary elections. He was shifted to Singapore, where he succumbed to his injuries on December 18. His death sparked protests across Bangladesh following attacks on Hindus have been reported across the country.

Committed to empower youth through the power of sports : LG Sinha

TT Correspondent Jammu, Jan 05 : Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday attended the grand opening ceremony of the 2nd edition of the 'Khelo India Beach Games' at the iconic Blue Flag certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu.

The ceremony was also graced by Shri Praful Patel, Administrator, UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

During the event, a special message from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was read out, extending his heartfelt felicitations to the partici-

pating athletes and organizers.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor stated that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is witnessing a new revolution in sports. "We are committed to empower youth through the power of sports. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India's youth are redefining sports excellence and scripting a new history from playgrounds to podiums. The young sportspersons are not confined to traditional sports but they are

conquering new grounds with sweat, dreams and victory," the Lieutenant



Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the spectacular Khelo India Beach Games event reflects the Government of India's commitment to nurture a strong sporting culture and India's

Youth Surge in Coastal Sports. The Lieutenant Governor said that the Jammu & Kashmir is proud to be an active participant in this national sporting movement. These games will build confidence and leadership that will spur rise of Gen Z athletes in global tournaments, he further said. The Lieutenant Governor called upon the athletes to act as brand ambassadors for 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and share the warm hospitality and priceless culture of Diu with their respective regions. (Cont. on Page-11)

Lt Governor Ladakh meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi

New Delhi, Jan 05 : The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and held detailed discussions on the overall development and welfare of the region.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor briefed the Prime Minister on key developmental initiatives, welfare schemes, and major infrastructure projects currently underway in Ladakh. He highlighted efforts being made to strengthen road and air connectivity, improve public infrastructure, and ensure the timely delivery



of essential services in the geographically challenging and strategically significant region.

Kavinder Gupta also apprised the Prime Minister of initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, preserving Ladakh's unique cultural and ecological her-

itage, and creating livelihood opportunities for local youth. Issues related to education, healthcare facilities in remote and border areas, and the implementation of Central Government schemes were also discussed in detail. (Cont. on Page-11)

Pakistan has no say in J&K Hydropower Projects : Khattar

Jammu, Jan 5 : Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar asserted that Pakistan's objections to hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir hold no relevance, stating that India will proceed with all power projects strictly in national interest.

The Union Minister made these remarks while launching the dam concreting works of the Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar, marking the beginning of his two-day visit to the Union Territory. He urged engineers and executing agencies to ensure timely and efficient completion of the project.

Speaking to reporters Manohar Lal Khattar said the Ratle project had faced a delay of more than two years due to various constraints, but added that work has now picked up pace. Once completed, he said, the 800 MW project will significantly enhance power availability in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country.

Emphasising inclusive

development, the Minister said local residents must be given priority in employment opportunities related to the project, describing them as the primary stakeholders.



On Pakistan's repeated objections to projects such as Dul Hasti, Khattar said India undertakes such infrastructure works solely for its own developmental needs and that Pakistan has no role or authority to question them. He made it clear that no objection from across the border would be entertained.

Replying to a question on the Indus Waters Treaty and recent fast-tracking of projects, Khattar said the

treaty has been kept in abeyance, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clear policy stance. He said the waters of the Chenab and Indus rivers will now be utilised to meet

domestic requirements and serve the interests of India's people. The Union Minister also stressed strict vigilance at project sites, stating that individuals with unlawful backgrounds would not be allowed to work on hydropower projects in Kishtwar. Regarding reports of alleged Over Ground Workers (OGWs) being spotted at project locations along with local leaders, Khattar said the

(Cont. on Page-11)

World's 2nd 'Environmental Benchmarks' facility, world's 5th 'Solar Calibration' unit inaugurated

New Delhi, January 5 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Department of Space and Department of Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the world's second "National Environmental Standard Laboratory" and the world's fifth "National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration" at the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL).

Addressing the 80th Foundation Day celebrations of CSIR-NPL here, the Minister said, while the "National Environmental Standard Laboratory" marks for India a major leap in Environmental Governance, the "National Primary

Standard Facility" makes India a member of Elite Global League in Solar Metrology. Describing India's premier scientific institutions as "monuments of 20th and 21st century India," Dr. Jitendra Singh said that laboratories like the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory embody India's scientific journey from pre-Independence foundations to global technological leadership. The Minister said that science and technology reforms will be the key drivers shaping India's socio-economic future. Recalling the unique legacy of CSIR-NPL, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the laboratory was already operational before Independence and later became an integral pillar of

India's post-Independence scientific architecture. He said CSIR itself is older than independent India, making



NPL one of the earliest "siblings" among the 37 CSIR laboratories. Highlighting its historic significance, the Minister recalled that the laboratory was mentored by

eminent national leaders including Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, calling

Minister said, underscoring the laboratory's role in establishing Indian Standard Time (IST). He said that this contribution quietly but profoundly shaped everyday life in India and remains a symbol of national integration through science. Emphasising public outreach, he suggested that such institutions must be showcased to students and citizens, much like historical monuments, to inspire scientific curiosity and help young minds discover their aptitude for science and innovation.

On the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the National Environmental Standard Laboratory, describing it as a critical step towards strengthening India's environmental governance

framework. He said that reliable, India-specific calibration and certification of air pollution monitoring systems was long overdue and would now enable transparent, traceable, and accurate environmental data. The facility will support regulatory bodies, industries, and startups by ensuring that monitoring instruments are tested under Indian climatic conditions, thereby improving policy enforcement under programmes such as the National Clean Air Programme. The Minister also inaugurated the National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration (Solar Energy Complex), terming it a "future-ready facility" that places India among a select group of global leaders in

photovoltaic measurement standards. Developed in collaboration with PTB, Germany, the laser-based Differential Spectral Responsivity (L-DSR) system achieves the lowest uncertainty globally at 0.35% (k=2) for reference solar cell calibration. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the facility would reduce India's dependence on foreign certification agencies, save foreign exchange, shorten turnaround time for calibration and enhance investor confidence in the country's rapidly expanding solar sector. Highlighting the government's openness to public participation, the Minister said that even sectors traditionally considered closed are now being opened,

closed are now being opened,