

# J&K Wushu team excels in Wushu Federation Cup



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Wushu team of J&K gave exceptional performance in the just held Wushu Federation Cup at Chhattisgarh, winning 39 medals.

The medal tally included nine gold, 12 silver and 18 bronze medals in different

age and weight groups of boys and girls. The J&K team comprised participants in Sub-Junior, Junior, and Senior age groups, a hand-out issued by the .

The team, on their arrival in Jammu yesterday, received by the Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo,

along with officials and members of the Wushu fraternity.

While congratulating the medal winners Handoo lauded their dedication and consistent hard work. He stated that Wushu was steadily flourishing in the UT of J&K and emphasized the need for

greater government support and focused attention to make the sport more medal-oriented at national and international levels.

He also congratulated the coaches of Khelo India Centres (KICs) at Jammu, Shopian, Rajouri, Budgam and Handwara for their contribution towards the athletes' success. Notably, many of these athletes have secured medals at National and International Championships, bringing laurels to the UT.

In the meantime, president of Wushu Association of J&K, Vijay Saraf, along with vice president, Ranjeet Kalra, general secretary Bhavneet, and Treasurer, Sohil Sharma congratulated the team for their exemplary performance.

# Cosco Cricket Tournament honours Shaheed Kulgam Teacher Rajni Bala



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a vibrant tribute to the martyred Kulgam teacher Rajni Bala, the All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir organized the 'Cosco Cricket Tournament' at Guru Teg Bahadur Mini Stadium, Gole Gujral.

Today's matches were played between Baramulla Veevan and Anantnag & Baramulla Uri and

Kulgam. Organizing Team included Messers Hem Raj, Virender Mohan, Arvind Kumar, Ram Krishan, Surinder Mohan, Prithpal Singh (Sarpanch), Dilawar Kumar (Chairman, Barwala Biradari), Mohinder Bhagat (President, Bhagat Sabha), and Raj Kumar Rajji (Shopkeeper President).

The tournament was inaugurated by the family members of Shaheed

Rajni Bala including Raj Kumar Attri (Husband), Babu Ram (Uncle) and Surjeet Kumar (Brother).

Aman Kumar and S. Amreek Singh handled the lively cricket commentary. While Vijay Kumar and Raj Kumar Rajji served as the umpires.

R.L.Kaith lauded the organizing team for staging such a wonderful and memorable event, highlighting the spirit of unity and sportsmanship.

# Winning start by JU in Inter-Varsity Football



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: University of Jammu (JU) made a winning start beating Uttarakhand University by two goals to nil in the North Zone Inter-University Football Tournament being hosted by Baba Bhag Singh (SBBS) University, Village

Khaila, Padhiana in Punjab.

Led by skipper, Rajveer Singh, JU dominated the field throughout to blank the opponent. Mokshan Sharma and Aman Singh were the scorers, who struck in the 10th and 60th minute of the match respec-

tively.

Now, in their next round of this knockout tournament, JU shall take on the winner of the match scheduled between Shimla University and Gadvasu University tomorrow morning, reports reaching here informed.

# Ruhail of J&K to officiate in South Asian Combat event

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ruhail Aijaz Haroon of J&K shall officiate in the 2nd South Asian Combat Federation Championship which is being organised by World Combat Federation at Bhairahawa Lumbini in Nepal from January 16. Ruhail, an international referee in Combat Sport, who hails from Srinagar, shall officiate in this event which features countries including Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and India.

Important to mention here that Ruhail has also been made part of the World Combat Federation as member to look after the administrative works, information in this regard shared by Ruhail here today informed.

# Railways spent 80 pc of gross budgetary support in first three quarters of current fiscal

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Railways has spent 80.54 per cent, which is Rs 2,03,138 crore of the total gross budgetary support (GBS) of Rs 2,52,200 crore, as of the end of December 2025, the ministry said on Monday.

"This represents a 6.54 per cent increase in GBS utilisation compared to the same period last year (December 2024). The expenditure has primarily focused on safety measures, capacity enhancement, infrastructure modernisation and passenger amenities," it added in a press note.

Officials said that Indian Railways is delivering faster,

safer and world-class rail travel at an affordable cost across India by transforming itself into a future-ready organisation aligned with the vision of a modern and connected nation.

Demonstrating this focused approach, the Indian Railways has maintained a strong trend in the utilisation of allocated GBS outlays for 2025-26, they added.

The ministry's press note said 84 per cent of the allocated funds have been utilised in the category of safety-related works.

According to the ministry, out of Rs 1,09,238 crore allocated for capacity augmentation, Rs 76,048 crore (69 per

cent) has been spent. "Customer amenities have seen 80 per cent utilisation, with expenditure amounting to Rs 9,575 crore till December 2025," it added.

Outlining the results of consistent capital expenditure (CAPEX) over the last decade, the ministry said these efforts have resulted in the launch of 164 Vande Bharat train services, 30 Amrit Bharat train services, implementation of the Kavach automatic train protection system, over 99 per cent electrification of the broad-gauge network and extensive works covering new lines, gauge conversion, track doubling, traffic facilities,

investments in PSUs and metropolitan transport systems.

"These initiatives have significantly improved speed, safety and passenger comfort, while keeping rail travel affordable. With the Vande Bharat Sleeper train set for inauguration shortly, the Indian Railways is poised to transform long-distance rail travel," the press note said.

"These trends indicate that the Ministry of Railways' GBS expenditure plan is on track, with infrastructural works being executed expeditiously. They also suggest that the targets for FY 2025-26 are likely to be fully achieved," it added.

# Mamata to move court on Jan 6 against SIR, flags human suffering; BJP hits back

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANGASAGAR: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she would move court against the EC's SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal, alleging fear, harassment and administrative arbitrariness that she claimed had led to deaths and hospitalisations, as she sharpened her confrontation with the poll body ahead of the assembly polls.

Addressing a government programme at Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas, among the worst-hit districts in terms of voter deletion in draft list, in the first phase of the SIR, Banerjee escalated her attack on the EC, alleging that opaque digital processes, including artificial intelligence and informal platforms, were being used to arbitrarily delete names from electoral rolls, undermining democratic safeguards.

Responding to the statement, the BJP said she can move court but will not be able to "protect infiltrators" who are her vote bank.

"This is a fight for existence. We are seeking legal

help. So many people have died due to SIR. We are moving court tomorrow against the inhumane treatment and the death of so many people due to the SIR," she said, adding that she was prepared to escalate the legal battle if necessary.

The CM said she would seek permission to approach the Supreme Court not as a lawyer but as an ordinary citizen.

"If necessary, I will go to the Supreme Court and plead for the people. I will speak for the people," she said, recalling that she was legally trained.

Alleging a "technological conspiracy", Banerjee said opaque digital processes had replaced due process, with artificial intelligence and informal platforms being used to arbitrarily delete names from electoral rolls, undermining democratic safeguards.

"Artificial Intelligence has emerged now. Using images and voices, lies can be spread. Names are being removed using AI," she alleged, claiming that lakhs of names had been deleted without giving voters adequate opportunity to respond through statutory

forms.

"AI is deciding whose surname has changed, who got married, which girl has gone to her in-laws' house. Even a murderer gets a chance to defend himself. Here, people's names are being removed," Banerjee said, arguing that routine events like marriage, address changes or minor spelling mismatches between English and Bangla were being used to justify deletions.

On December 16, the Election Commission published the draft electoral roll after the first phase of the SIR, with the electorate dropping from 7.66 crore to 7.08 crore following the deletion of over 58 lakh names.

The second phase, which began on December 27, involves hearings of 1.67 crore electors under scrutiny, including 1.36 crore flagged for logical discrepancies and 31 lakh whose records lack mapping.

The election to 294 member strong assembly is due in three months and TMC is seeking a straight fourth term.

Banerjee also alleged that government-issued documents, including caste certificates, were being ignored during verification, and questioned the conduct of the poll body, claiming it was being "run on WhatsApp".

"If people's rights are taken away, you too will vanish," she warned Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, urging citizens to verify their names on the draft rolls despite the hardship. "This is a struggle for survival and to protect rights," she said.

Banerjee alleged that elderly citizens, pregnant women and voters on oxygen support were being called for hearings.

"After living in this country for so long, do they still need to prove that they are voters and citizens?" Banerjee asked, claiming that nearly 70 people had died since the exercise began and several others had attempted suicide. "Two months, nearly 70 people have died. Does no heart ache? If your 85-year-old mother were dragged into an ambulance, what answer

would Delhi's leaders give?" she said, questioning whether those ordering deletions had ensured that their own parents possessed all required certificates.

The CM questioned the pace of the revision, arguing that voter list corrections should be spread over two years rather than pushed through in a few months. "We want names to be included, not excluded. Why this coercion?"

Questioning the relevance of documents being demanded, Banerjee said Aadhaar cards were issued by the government after charging fees but were now being rendered meaningless.

She said that her party was not opposed to verification per se, but objected to what she termed its coercive implementation.

The TMC boss also pointed out that documentation norms had evolved over generations. "Earlier, childbirth used to happen at home. Even I was born at home," she said.

The escalation comes a day after Banerjee wrote to the

CEC, urging an immediate halt to what she described as an "arbitrary and flawed" SIR.

Senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari said Banerjee was free to approach the judiciary, and claimed that she would not be able to "protect infiltrators who are the TMC's core vote bank".

The EC and the BJP have rejected allegations of arbitrariness, maintaining that the SIR is aimed at ensuring clean and accurate electoral rolls.

Banerjee also alleged intimidation of Bengali-speaking migrants in BJP-ruled states and challenged what she described as majoritarian politics.

"I dare them to kill me, but I will not stop speaking my mother tongue, Bengali. Is it a crime now?" she asked.

She accused the BJP of keeping a pattern of pre-poll inducements followed by repression. "They will give Rs 10,000 before elections and use the bulldozer once it's over," she said. "You can torture as much as you want, it won't yield results."

# US' unilateral actions in Venezuela transgressed settled principles of international law: Cong

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Congress expressed grave concern on Monday over the US' unilateral actions in Venezuela, saying those transgressed settled principles of international law.

The opposition party also said the will of the Venezuelan people should be given utmost importance and the country's resources should be utilised for their welfare.

"The Indian National Congress expresses grave concern at the unilateral actions taken by the United States of America in Venezuela over the past 48 hours, which transgress the settled principles of international law, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and numerous international treaties," AICC Foreign Affairs Department head Salman Khurshid said.

"Respect for national sovereignty and peaceful coexistence have formed the bedrock of the post World War-II rules-based world order. Any kinetic actions that circumscribe these without the express sanction of the

United Nations risk the resurgence of primordial rules of statecraft and undermine global stability," he said.

"The Indian National Congress urges that the will of the Venezuelan people be given utmost priority and that Venezuelan resources are utilised for the betterment of the Venezuelan people, as guaranteed by the principles of Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources," the former external affairs minister said.

US special forces captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro from his home in Caracas and flew him out of the country in the early hours of Saturday.

US President Donald Trump announced that Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, would face federal narco-terrorism charges in New York.

India has voiced "deep concern" over the US capturing Maduro and his wife in a military operation, and said it is closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the oil-rich South American country.

# Nehru, Leftist historians distorted history by portraying Ghazni as 'mere plunderer': BJP

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday attacked the Congress on 1,000 years of Somnath temple's first destruction by Mahmud of Ghazni, saying this day is important to "remember and understand" how Jawaharlal Nehru and Leftist historians distorted history by portraying the Muslim invader as a "mere plunderer" and that he was not a "religious fanatic".

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said that priests of the temple and the king of that time had pleaded Mahmud of Ghazni to spare the 'Shivling' in lieu of lakhs of gold coins but he rejected the offer and broke it, saying he wanted to be known as a "murtibhanjak (iconoclast)" instead of a "despicable person" who engaged in trade with "idol worshippers".

"A historian, who had accompanied Mahmud Ghazni, has mentioned this episode in his writings. This demolishes all the theories that the Leftist historians and others gave, distorting the history," the BJP Rajya Sabha MP told a press conference at the party headquarters here.

They projected Mahmud Ghazni as the person who was not a religious fanatic and that he came to India with the sole objective of "making money," he charged.

"In our history, it is taught that whatever Mahmud Ghazni did at Somnath temple was only for earning wealth and that he had nothing to do with his religious feelings," he charged.

Trivedi alleged that the book, 'The Discovery of India', authored by the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, is the source of all the distortions made in the history relating to Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion and attack on the Somnath temple.

"Nehru stated in his book that Mahmud Ghazni was far more a warrior than a man of faith. Like many other conquerors, he used to exploit the name of religion for his conquest. India was to him just a place from where he could earn treasures and materials," he said, reading from the first prime minister's book.

"Nehru also wrote that Mahmud Ghazni was such a

lover of art that after seeing the beauty and architecture of the buildings from Mathura to Delhi, he said overwhelmingly that they must have been built by 'jinnis', not human beings," the BJP leader said.

That is why it is important to remember the day today to understand how a very "disingenuous joke" had been played with India's "respect and identity", Trivedi added.

The BJP leader said that the Somnath temple was reconstructed due to the efforts taken by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel despite Nehru's "vehement opposition" to the move.

At the Somnath temple's inaugural ceremony, India's first president Rajendra Prasad had said that its reconstruction will be complete on the day when India will progress on the path of development and prosperity, he recalled.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi today, we are moving towards its completion with India becoming the fourth largest economy in the world, fourth biggest stock exchange, third

biggest automobile manufacturer, second biggest mobile handset manufacturer and the number one country in the world in digital transactions," he said.

Underlining that India is the fastest-growing economy in the world for the last two years, Trivedi hit out at the Congress and other opposition parties for attacking the Modi government over US President Donald Trump's remarks after Operation Sindoor.

"Trump had also said that the conflict between India and Pakistan is 1,000 years old and that Kashmir is linked to that. It's indeed a 1,000-year-old fight. Pakistan's missiles are named after Ghazni, Babar and Gori. But did they ask why?" he said.

"For those intellectual sons of Maceaulay and Marx whose minds are completely filled with 'M-factor', the meaning of which I am confident you can figure out with your intelligence... So, the answer to that too is an 'M-factor', which means Modi," Trivedi added in a tongue-in-cheek remark.

# SC asks Centre to consider revising wage ceiling for Employees Provident Fund Scheme

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider taking a decision within four months on the revision of wage ceiling for the Employees Provident Fund Scheme (EPFO) which has not been revised in the last 11 years.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar passed the order on a plea filed by activist Naveen Prakash Nautiyal claiming that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which administers social security schemes for employees, currently excludes from coverage those whose wages exceed Rs 15,000 per month.

Advocates Pranav Sachdeva and Neha Rathi, appearing for the petitioner, said the wage revision has not taken place in over a decade despite the fact that the minimum wage notified by the central government and by various states is more than the EPFO wage ceiling of Rs 15,000 per month.

Sachdeva said this has deprived the majority of workers of the benefits and protection of the EPFO scheme, which is essentially a social welfare scheme.

The petitioner has submitted that those employees who earn more than the wage ceiling are excluded from availing the EPFO scheme.

The bench disposed of the plea filed by Nautiyal and asked him to make a representation to the central government within two weeks along with a copy of the order which will be decided by the central government

within four months.

Nautiyal's plea said it is seeking enforcement of fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21 and for directions regarding the arbitrary and irregular revision of the wage ceiling under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, framed under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

It said the wage ceiling has historically been revised inconsistently, sometimes after 13-14 years, without any fixed periodicity or linkage to relevant economic indicators such as inflation, minimum wages, per capita income or consumer price index.

"This erratic approach has resulted in the exclusion of large sections of the workforce, contrary to the object of providing social security to employees in the organised sector. The Public Accounts Committee of the 16th Lok Sabha and the EPFO's own Sub-Committee (2022) have both recommended periodic and rational revision of the ceiling, but despite approval by the Central Board (EPF) in July 2022, the Central Government has not acted upon these recommendations," it said.

The plea said that the revision of the wage ceiling over the last 70 years has not been consistent with any of the metrics—minimum pay of the central government employees, income tax exemption limit, annual growth rate in per capita net national income, minimum wages and annual inflation rates.

**IN THE COURT OF ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT), JAMMU**

CNR No. JKJM2009752023 File No. 698/2023  
Date of Institution 29.12.2023 Date of Order: 15.12.2025  
The JK Gramin Bank, a body corporate constituted under Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976 read with notification dated 30.06.2009 issued by Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India, having its Head Office at Narwal, Jammu and one of its Branch Office amongst others at Paloura, Jammu through Siddharth Goswami S/O Sh. Mahesh Chander Goswami, Assistant Manager at present in the service of the bank and authorized Power of Attorney Holder of the Bank.

**VS**

1. M/S Gurdikpa Traders Prop. Naresh Kumar S/O Lt. Sh. Babu Ram, R/O W. No. 31, Vikas Lane Ext. Talab Tilo Jammu. 2. Sh. Babu Ram R/O W. No. 31, Vikas Lane Ext. Talab Tilo Jammu. 3. Ravi Kumar Thapa S/O Sh. Ramesh Lal R/O W. No. 21, Vikas Lane Ext. Talab Tilo Jammu.

Legal heirs of defendant no.3

Sh. Shalika Kumari W/O Lt. Sh. Ravi Kumar Thapa R/O Near Lucky Baba Mandir, Ext. Vikas Lane Ext., Talab Tilo Jammu. Sh. Ananya Thapa D/O Lt. Sh. Ravi Kumar Thapa R/O Near Lucky Baba Mandir, Ext. Vikas Lane Ext., Talab Tilo Jammu. Through her mother (Guardian) Shalika Kumari and Sh. Vianshi Thapa D/O Lt. Sh. Ravi Kumar Thapa R/O Near Lucky Baba Mandir, Ext. Vikas Lane Ext., Talab Tilo Jammu. Through her mother (Guardian) Shalika Kumari.

Defendants

CORAM: Aarti Mohan  
UID No. JK00131

**Notice**

Whereas the above titled suit for grant of recovery/s sub-judice before this Court wherein the next date of hearing is fixed on 17.02.2026.

Whereas this court is satisfied that Service of legal heirs of deceased/defendant no.3 named above whose service is not possible by ordinary mode. Therefore through the medium of this proclamation the above named legal heirs of deceased/defendant no.3 are hereby informed and called up to appear before this Court in person or through duly authorized counsel to answer all material question pertaining to the suit on the next date of hearing if the date fixed for hearing is declared as Public Holiday the matter be taken up on the next day.

Take notice that in case the above named legal heirs of deceased/defendant no.3 FAILS TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COURT on the next date of hearing the matter will be heard and determined in the absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this court today on 15.12.2025.

Sd/-  
Aarti Mohan  
Additional District Judge,  
Commercial Court, Jammu