

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!  
SSB played key...

Card, CAPF e-Housing, barrack construction, and scholarships for personnel and their families.

Shah lauded the SSB for promoting self-employment among the youth of border areas by providing them with training, empowering border communities while ensuring national security.

The Home Minister also recognised the SSB's contributions to disaster relief operations, noting their selfless service during floods and landslides in saving lives.

Earlier in the day in a post on X, Shah said the force has made national security and public service paramount through its sacrifice and valour.

"On the foundation day of the Sashastra Seema Bal, I pay my tribute to all the immortal martyrs of the Force and extend my best wishes on the Foundation Day to all the personnel and their families," he posted.

"@SSB\_INDIAhas made national security and public service paramount through its sacrifice and valour. The efforts of the brave SSB soldiers dedicated to border security and surveillance to prevent crimes and illegal infiltration in the border areas have been commendable. The brave soldiers of the Sashastra Seema Bal are continuously contributing to nation-building by simultaneously accelerating development work in the border areas along with the security of the country," he wrote on X.

**Parliament's session ends...**

Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju laid the blame on the door of opposition, especially the Congress, saying their continuous protest despite an earlier agreement to allow Parliament to run was the principal reason behind the low productivity.

He said all parties must reflect on what is a matter of great concern, adding that as the minister in-charge of parliamentary affairs he will continue to reach out to opposition leaders.

During the Session, five bills were introduced in Lok Sabha, which passed four of them. The Rajya Sabha passed three bills. A special session was also held in the 'Samvidhan Sadan' to commemorate the Constitution Day on November 26.

If Thursday's pushing and shoving involving MPs of rival parties, which left two BJP members hospitalised and led to a police case against Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, was the low point of the Session, a spirited discussion on the "Glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India" for two days in each House reflected the best of parliamentary debate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sharp denunciation of the Congress, especially the Nehru-Gandhi family, for its "mutilation" of constitutional values was heard by opposition benches in the Lok Sabha without any serious disruption, and so was Home Minister Amit Shah's reply to the debate in Rajya Sabha.

However, opposition parties seized on a couple of sentences of Shah's reply to accuse him of insulting B R Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution, and launch protests inside and outside Parliament.

The BJP-led NDA MPs led counter protests, accusing the Congress of slighting Ambedkar and ignoring his legacy during its long decades in power.

As Modi led Shah's defence and counterattack on the Congress, both sides turned up political heat, which blew up in an ugly spat on Parliament's premises on Thursday. Both sides lodged police complaints against each other, and an FIR was registered against Gandhi, blamed by the BJP for injuries to two of its MPs.

Speaker Birla warned all parties against holding protests at the entrance, the site of the spat on Thursday, of Parliament.

Opposition parties have filed notices for breach of privilege against Shah in the two Houses, while the BJP did the same against Rahul Gandhi.

Rijiju told reporters that it is now up to the respective Chair in the two Houses to take a call on the matter.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said his party's performance in Parliament was "100 per cent" as it raised all relevant issues, including the charges in the US against the Adani group, but the government ran away from debate.

Incidentally, it was the government's readiness to hold a discussion on the Constitution which had broken the early deadlock in Parliament as the Congress stuck to its demand for a debate on the Adani row.

While the opposition INDIA bloc was a divided House with parties like the Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress not agreeing with the primacy given to the Adani issue by the Congress, they rallied together over Shah's comments.

The highlight of the Session's legislative agenda was two landmark bills -- the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth) Amendment Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill -- to give effect to the mechanism of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and assemblies.

It was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 17 and was referred to a 39-member Joint Committee of Parliament on Thursday.

Singalling the deepening divide among different stakeholders in Parliament, opposition parties submitted a notice to move a motion of no-confidence against Dhankhar, but it was dismissed by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who slammed it as an act of impropriety, being severely flawed and drawn in haste to mar the Chairperson's reputation.

At least 60 opposition members had signed the notice on December 10 for removal of Dhankhar from his post, alleging he was "biased" and they did not have trust in him.

**Former Haryana CM...**

A party spokesperson said Chautala had hicups in the morning and collapsed in his house. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died.

The eldest son of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, the five-time chief minister headed the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), a party founded by his father.

Tributes for Chautala poured in from across the political spectrum, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing anguish at his passing and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Sukhbir Singh Badal describing it as a "huge personal loss".

The Haryana government declared a three-day state mourning from Friday. It has also declared Saturday, when his funeral will be held, as a public holiday.

National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah expressed grief at the passing of former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, recalling his immense contributions to public service and pivotal role in Indian politics.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed his grief at Chautala's death, the National Conference said in a post on X.

"Recalling his immense contributions to public service and his pivotal role in Indian politics, they conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, the Indian National Lok Dal, and his admirers. They prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the family during this difficult time," the party said.

**Decks cleared for...**

Sabha and the Rajya Sabha separately amid protests by the opposition on certain parts of Union Home Minister Amit

Shah's remarks on B R Ambedkar.

The two 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) bills, including one requiring an amendment in the Constitution, lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections and were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday after a fiery debate.

"The government agreed that the matter is very important and it relates to the reformation of the election process of our country, so we agreed to include most of the prominent political parties," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters here.

He said there was no limit on the size of the Joint Committee of Parliament and pointed out that one parliamentary panel examining centre-state relations had 51 members.

"The resolutions have been passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha today and the Speaker will issue the formal order of constitution of the Joint Parliamentary Committee," Rijiju said.

Among the 39 members of the Committee, 16 are from the BJP, five from the Congress, two each from SP, TMC and DMK, and one each from the Shiv Sena, TDP, JD(U), RLD, LJSP(RV), JSP, Shiv Sena-UBT, NCP-SP, CPI(M), AAP, BJD and YSRCP.

The NDA has 22 members and 10 are from the opposition INDIA bloc. The BJD and the YSRCP are not members of the ruling or the opposition coalition. The BJD is yet to spell out its stand on simultaneous polls, while the YSRCP has backed the move.

As per the resolution moved by Meghwal, the Committee has been asked to submit its report to the Lok Sabha by the first day of the last week of the next session.

However, considering the importance of the measure, the Committee could get extension in tenure as required.

**Anti-terror ops...**

he/she may submit or record his/her statement before the concerned Magistrate within 7 day from the date of publication of this release so that the requisite enquiry may be concluded.

**CB files charge...**

the investigation and produced the Challan in the court of CJM Kathua on December 19, 2024."

Pertinently, after taking the money, the accused had fled away, but Insp Ashok Bazaz put in sincere and hectic efforts and finally arrested the accused who was later released on bail by the orders court.

Both the cases have been investigated and challaned under supervision of SSP Crime Branch (SCW) Jammu Sanjay Parihar and guidance of Dr. Sunil Gupta IGP Crime J&K.

**Gen Rawat's chopper...**

mentioned the aircraft as "Mi-17", date "08.12.2021" and the reason cited was "HE(A)" or "human error (aircrew)".

The defence ministry informed the Committee that 34 inquiries have been conducted into these accidents during the period.

"The ministry also informed that the recommendations by these Inquiry committees review the process, procedure, training, equipment, culture, operations, maintenance and administration holistically with intent to prevent recurrence of an accident," the report said.

The ministry further informed that "all remedial measures stipulated by Chief of the Air Staff remarks are binding and actioned". "Most have been actioned while a few are under implementation," it added.

**SC orders states...**

India of over 2.25 hectare was 2,01,503 before 2017.

The latest ISRO data, which is of 2021, shows the figure has increased to 2,31,195, it noted.

"Now these figures have to be checked on ground. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and the guidelines issued thereunder prescribe that the next step after identification of such wetlands is what is called ground truthing, which is the term given to the actual inspection of these wetlands by a team constituted by the state for that purpose," it said. The court observed the step was however neglected by almost all states, except the Punjab to some extent. "As regards demarcation of these wetlands all states have done almost nothing up till now," the bench said.

The top court said ground truthing and the demarcation of wetland boundary was the next step which each state and UT had to carry out through the wetland authority in coordination with nodal department concerned under the rules.

"It is a statutory function which has been assigned to them under the Rules. We, therefore, direct each of the state/UT wetland authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021," the bench said on December 11.

The exercise was ordered to be done expeditiously, but within three months.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati assured the court the Centre of monitoring each of state and file an affidavit before the next hearing. Advocate Akash Vashishtha, appearing for intervenors Manu Bhatnagar and Vikrant Tongad, submitted that apart from the 2,31,195 wetlands over 2.25 hectare in size identified by ISRO, there were 5,55,557 wetlands of 2.25 hectare. The top court directed its Registrar General to send the complete list of all 85 Ramsar sites to the high courts which should treat the affidavit as a suo moto PIL and ensure the sites within their jurisdiction were properly maintained.

A Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance

The matter was posted on March 25, 2025.

The top court was hearing a PIL by bird enthusiast Anand Arya, advocate M K Balakrishnan and NGO Vanashakti.

**Crackdown on noise pollution, 5 modified Bullet motorcycles seized**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu Police on Friday launched a crackdown on modified silencers of Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles in the city to address residents' growing concerns over noise pollution.

Five Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles fitted with unauthorised silencers were seized by the police, officials said.

These motorcycles were reportedly causing excessive noise and disturbing the peace in the area.

"This action comes after numerous complaints from local residents affected by the loud noise generated by these modified vehicles," an official said.

Authorities stated that similar enforcement drives would be conducted across other areas of Jammu's rural zone. They also plan to target individuals and businesses involved in selling and installing these illegal silencers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

"The use of unauthorized modifications, particularly to silencers, is a violation of the Motor Vehicles Act. Such alterations not only contribute to noise pollution but also compromise the bike's efficiency and pose potential safety hazards," the official added.

Police have urged vehicle owners to avoid making such modifications, warning that strict penalties will be imposed on those found violating the regulations.

2,200 cases of violence against Hindus, other minorities in Bangladesh: Govt

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A total of 2,200 cases of violence against Hindus and other minorities have been reported in Bangladesh this year till December 8, and India's expectation is Dhaka will take necessary measures to ensure their safety, the government said on Friday.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh gave the information in a written response to a query in Lok Sabha, citing data from minority and human rights organisations.

In Pakistan, the number of cases of violence against Hindus and other minorities in Pakistan this year stood at "112 till October 2024," the MoS said.

The corresponding figures for 2022 were 47 in Bangladesh and 241 in Pakistan, while in 2023 the figures were 302 in Bangladesh and 103 in Pakistan, according to the data he shared.

The minister said the Indian government has urged "Pakistan to take steps to prevent religious intolerance, sectarian violence, systemic persecution and attacks on minority communities and ensure their safety, security, and well-being."

He added, "India continues to highlight the plight of minorities in Pakistan at appropriate international fora."

Cases of violence against Hindus and other minorities in other neighbouring countries (except Pakistan and Bangladesh) is "nil," the minister said.

Singh was asked about the total number of cases of violence against Hindus and other minorities reported in neighbouring countries during the last three years,

country-wise and year-wise; and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the ministry to protect minorities, including diplomatic interventions and relief measures.

The Union minister in his response also said the "government has taken serious note of these incidents and shared its concerns with the government of Bangladesh."

"India's expectation is that Bangladesh will take all necessary measures to ensure safety and welfare of Hindus and other minorities. The same was also reiterated during the visit of the Foreign Secretary to Bangladesh on December 9, 2024," he added.

The High Commission of India in Dhaka "continues to monitor the situation" related to the minorities in Bangladesh "closely," the Minister of State for External Affairs said.

"The primary responsibility for the

protection of life and liberty of all citizens, including minorities, rests with the government of the country concerned," he said.

Ties between India and Bangladesh came under severe strain after deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to leave the country in the face of a massive anti-government protest in August.

Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus came to power days after Hasina took shelter in India.

He heads Bangladesh's interim government as its Chief Advisor.

Relations between the two nations deteriorated further in recent weeks over attacks on the Hindus and the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das.

"Several incidents of desecration and damage to Hindu temples and deities in Bangladesh have been reported in the past few months," Singh said.

"The government of India has expressed its concerns about such incidents, including the demolition of Jagannath Temple in Bangladesh, attack on a Puja mandap in Tantibazar, Dhaka and the theft at the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple at Satkhira during Durga Puja 2024," he added.

Kashmir shivers ahead of 'Chillai-Kalan'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: A day before the harshest winter period in Kashmir, 'Chillai Kalan', temperature plunged several degrees below freezing point across the valley, with Srinagar witnessing its coldest night of the season so far, officials said on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, slightly down from minus 6 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

The night temperature on Thursday was 4.2 degrees below the season's normal, they said.

The biting cold conditions led to the freezing of water supply lines in many areas and the fringes of water bodies, including the Dal Lake, they added.

The prolonged dry spell in the city and other areas in the plains has exacerbated ailments like cough and common cold, the officials said.

In South Kashmir, Pahalgam, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, registered a low of minus 8.2 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, the weather office said.

It said Gulmarg, a tourist spot popular for skiing, logged a minimum of minus 6 degrees Celsius, a degree down from the previous night.

A hamlet on the outskirts of Pampore town, Konibal, was the coldest weather station in

the valley as the minimum settled at the low of minus 9.2 degrees Celsius, the office said.

The minimum temperature in Qazigund -- the gateway to Kashmir -- was minus 7.6 degrees Celsius, minus 6.5 degrees Celsius in Kupwara in north Kashmir and minus 5.8 degrees in Kokernag of south Kashmir minus, the weather department said.

The meteorological department has predicted a mainly dry weather till December 26 with a possibility of light snowfall in higher reaches of the valley on the night of December 21-22.

It said light snow over few higher reaches is also possible from the night of December 27 to the morning of December 28.

However, the minimum temperature is likely to fall further in the valley and there will be a cold wave at isolated to scattered places during the next few days, the department said.

**Tashi Namgyal passes away**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

LEH/JAMMU: Tashi Namgyal, the Ladakhi shepherd credited with alerting Indian troops about Pakistan's intrusion in the Kargil sector in 1999, passed away in Aryan Valley. He was 58 years old.



Namgyal had attended the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas earlier this year in Drass, accompanied by his daughter Tsering Dolkar, a teacher:

"Fire and Fury Corps pays tribute to Mr Tashi Namgyal on his sudden demise," the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps wrote on its social media handle X.

The Army further said, "A patriot passes. Braveheart of Ladakh - Rest in Peace."

The tribute highlighted his invaluable contribution to the nation during Operation Vijay in 1999, saying it "shall remain etched in golden letters".

"We offer our deep condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it added.

Namgyal passed away in Garkhon, located in the Aryan Valley of Ladakh.

The Ladakhi shepherd was celebrated for his critical role in alerting the Indian Army about Pakistani infiltration during the 1999 Kargil conflict.

While searching for his missing yaks, Namgyal spotted Pakistani soldiers in Pathan attire digging bunkers atop the Batalik mountain range in early May 1999. Realising the gravity of the situation, he promptly informed the Indian Army, a timely warning that played a pivotal role in shaping India's military response.

The ensuing Kargil War, fought between May 3 and July 26, 1999, saw Indian troops mobilising swiftly, thwarting Pakistan's covert mission to sever the Srinagar-Leh highway.

Namgyal's vigilance proved instrumental in India's victory, earning him recognition as the heroic shepherd whose alertness turned the tide of the conflict.

DPAP Jammu Central Zone VP joins BJP along with supporters

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a setback to the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), founded by Ghulam Nabi Azad, its vice president for the Jammu Central Zone joined the BJP on Friday, accompanied by scores of supporters.

Welcoming Kamalpreet Singh into the party, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Sat Sharma said, "The BJP is the only party in the world that has ensured respect for every person and community, with a focus on peace, progress, and development."

Singh, along with more than 100 supporters, mostly from the Sikh community, joined the BJP at its headquarters in the presence of Sharma and National Secretary and legislator Dr Narinder Singh.

Sharma also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recognition of the sacrifices of the Sikh community and the Sahibzadas, particularly through the announcement of Veer Bal Diwas.

He shared the story of Veer Bal Diwas, paying tribute to the ultimate sacrifices of the Chaar Sahibzadas, while recalling the horrific 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which he described as "the dark gift of Congress to innocent people."

"Congress only cared for itself and even awarded Bharat Ratna to their special individuals, while denying this recognition to personalities like Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar," he said.

GDC Baramulla hosts Innovative Entrepreneurship Bootcamp



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

B A R A M U L L A : Government Degree College (GDC) Baramulla, in collaboration with the ATAL Incubation Centre (AIC) of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) and the Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship (II&E) Cell, organized a one-day Innovative Entrepreneurship Bootcamp.

Held at the college's New Conference Hall, the event aimed to bridge the gap between academia and industry while fostering entrepreneurial talent in the region.

The program began with Dr. Syed Muthahar Aaqib, Coordinator ARIIA II&E at GDC Baramulla, who stressed the importance of developing an entrepreneurial mindset among students to address issues like unemployment and underutilized regional resources.

Prof. Mohammad Shafi Lone, Principal of GDC Baramulla, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the need for collaboration between academia, industry, and incubation centers to unlock Jammu and Kashmir's entrepreneurial potential.

Dr. Humaira Qadri, Convenor of the II&E Cell, outlined the bootcamp's objectives, aiming to equip participants with the skills needed to transform innovative ideas into successful ventures. She also shared inspiring stories of GDC Baramulla's incubators who have become successful entrepreneurs.

Dr. Abdul Rounf Bhat, NIRF and IPR Activity Coordinator, introduced the ATAL team and welcomed the keynote speaker, who delivered insights on innovative entrepreneurship.

While searching for his missing yaks, Namgyal spotted Pakistani soldiers in Pathan attire digging bunkers atop the Batalik mountain range in early May 1999. Realising the gravity of the situation, he promptly informed the Indian Army, a timely warning that played a pivotal role in shaping India's military response.

JU organises lecture under Ranganathan Lecture Series on "RFID Technology in Libraries"

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dr. Jivesh Bansal from Panjab University, Chandigarh delivered an enlightening lecture on the "RFID Technology in Libraries."

The lecture was held in Department of Lib and Inf Sc. Emphasizing the pivotal role of RFID technologies in the Library, Dr. Jivesh highlighted the implementation of RFID Technology in the Panjab University library.

In addition, how their library has evolved through various phases, adapting to technological advancements and societal changes. Dr. Jivesh made students aware

of the functions and functionality of RFID Technology and how this technology is improving the efficiency of library professionals with library operations.

Prof. Sangita Gupta Head and Dean expressed her appreciation for Dr. Jivesh's insightful presentation, noting its relevance in understanding the RFID technology in libraries.

The lecture was attended by faculty members (Dr. Meghna Dhar, Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh, and Dr. Reenu Arti Thakur), scholars, and students. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Meghna Dhar.