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**Sports give us...**

achieve the impossible. Sports gives us dreams and provides the strength and courage to fulfil those dreams," he further added  
The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization on its endeavour to promote sports.  
"I often say one thing that the best performance of any sportsperson is not for any other player or team but he plays to overcome his own limitations," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the initiatives like Kashmiri Pandit Premier League will provide a vibrant platform to the players to hone their abilities and overcome their limitations. It will also help in developing a good rapport among the members of Kashmiri Pandit community living in different parts of the country, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated his commitment towards the welfare and empowerment of Kashmiri Pandit Community.

"Kashmiri Pandit community is a living example of the ideals and values of sacrifice, resilience, determination and nationalism enshrined in our culture. I am truly proud of their accomplishments at national and international arena," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"I see Kashmiri Pandit community as a ray of light for the bright future of the country," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised that we must follow the vision of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi' and ensure that every youth is included in, and harnessed to, the process of development.

"We are one of the world's oldest civilizations and have an exceptionally young demographic profile. This opens up for us the possibility of a demographic dividend. It is potentially the single most important comparative advantage we enjoy which could be leveraged to catapult India to the front ranks of human civilization," he said.

He further called upon the youth to stay connected with their social & cultural roots and selflessly serve the society.

"I have great faith in the youth of Jammu Kashmir. It is our collective responsibility to provide them with the necessary opportunities and handholding and empower them to contribute to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Anil Bhat, President, Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization shared the future endeavour of his organization to organise a similar tournament in Kashmir as well.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Dr. Arvind Karvani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K; senior officials of UT and Police Administration, prominent citizens, sportspersons and members of Lalitaditya Sports, Education and Health Organization were present.

**CM urges officials...**

CM that 90% of the water supply across the valley has been restored, with efforts underway to address the remaining 10%. The Divisional Commissioner of Jammu reported that power and water supply in Jammu districts remain unaffected, while the Chief Secretary confirmed steady progress in restoring electricity feeders and assured that district hospitals are functioning smoothly.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of ensuring 100% attendance of doctors and paramedical staff at all district and sub-district hospitals to effectively manage emergencies.

Special instructions were issued to the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to coordinate with airport authorities to assist stranded tourists and to provide transportation, if required.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir assured that sufficient stocks of essential commodities, including food and other civil supplies, are available in all districts.

Commending officials for their efforts, the Chief Minister urged them to remain vigilant, proactive, and responsive to the needs of the people during this challenging period. He emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and uninterrupted services to mitigate the impact of the snowfall on the public.

**Omar inspects facilities...**

his government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services across Jammu & Kashmir and addressing critical gaps to meet public needs.

He assured that steps would be taken to resolve the issues raised by the hospital administration. Chief Minister directed the hospital authorities to strictly enforce the duty roster for medical and paramedical staff to ensure uninterrupted services to avoid inconvenience to patients.

During his visit he was accompanied by his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and other concerned officers.

**241 overage aspirants...**

filed a chargesheet against 33 people on November 12, 2022.

Disposing of the application filed by 241 overage unemployed graduates seeking one-time age relaxation, the CAT Jammu bench directed the JKSSB to allow the applicants to participate in the process of selection to the posts of sub-inspector notified last month.

The bench also directed that the participation of the applicants shall be at their own risk and responsibility, and their results shall be kept in a sealed cover pending further orders from the tribunal.

The lawyers representing the applicants argued that public employment is a national wealth and all eligible candidates have a fundamental right of consideration to participate in a competitive examination but in the instant case, the maximum age for participation has been restricted to 28 years and 241 applicants before the tribunal became overage because of the "inaction on the part of the indenting department (Home Department) as the advertisement was issued after the lapse of more than three years from the last selection process", Ahmad said.

He said they also highlighted a 2005 government order which directed all administrative secretaries of the J&K government to refer the vacancies every year up to January 15 to the J&K Public Service Commission and JKSSB.

Ahmed said the bench was also informed of a previous order passed by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh directing the JKSSB to allow the petitioners to participate in the process of selection at their own risk and responsibility.

**Heavy snowfall disrupts...**

Stuck in snow, while many sulked, some chose to allay their hardships by playing cricket inside the out-of-bounds 8.5-km Navyug Tunnel in Kashmir.

Heavy snowfall has stranded hundreds of commuters on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. Many spent the night inside their vehicles in the freezing temperature and demanded a fast reopening of the arterial road.

The cold, however, failed to dampen certain sturdy spirits who warmed up with a good game of cricket inside the Navyug Tunnel that connects Banihal town in Ramban with Qazigund.

A video of the scene showed up on social media and was shared widely.

Six people stranded amid heavy snowfall on the Mughal Road in Poonch district were rescued by police, officials said.

On Friday night, two vehicles going from Shopian to Surankote got stuck in the snow at Chattapani, leaving their occupants stranded in challenging weather conditions, police said.

They said a police team rushed to the spot and successfully evacuated all of them to safety in a swift rescue operation.

Police advised commuters to exercise caution and stay informed about weather conditions when travelling in snow-prone and high-altitude areas.

In south Kashmir, heavy to very heavy snowfall was recorded in the plains, while central Kashmir's plains received moderate snowfall.

The plains of north Kashmir received light to moderate snowfall, the officials said. Srinagar recorded about eight inches of snow, while neighbouring Ganderbal recorded about seven inches. Sonamarg, a famous tourist destination, recorded around eight inches of snow, the officials added.

The Zojila axis along the Srinagar-Leh highway received about 15 inches of snow, they said. Areas in Budgam district received 7-10 inches of snow, while the plains in Anantnag district recorded around 17 inches.

The upper areas of the south Kashmir district received over two feet of snow, the officials said.

The tourist town of Pahalgam recorded 18 inches of fresh snowfall.

Areas in Pulwama district recorded 10-15 inches of snow, while neighbouring Kulgam received 18-25 inches and Shopian recorded around 18 inches of snowfall, the officials added.

In Bandipora district of north Kashmir, the plains recorded four inches of snow, while the higher reaches, including Gurez, received 6 to 10 inches of snowfall.

Areas in Baramulla district recorded 4-9 inches of snow, while the famous ski resort of Gulmarg received about 15 inches of snow, the officials said.

Kupwara plains received 1-2 inches of snow, and its upper reaches recorded 2-3 inches.

Even though the snowfall was welcomed by locals and tourists, it threw normal life

out of gear.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) was closed for traffic due to snow, the Traffic Department officials said.

They added that clearance work was being hampered due to heavy snowfall at the Navyug Tunnel.

Men and machinery are on the job, and commuters are advised to avoid travel until the weather improves and the road is cleared, the officials said.

Train services on the Banihal-Baramulla section were suspended due to heavy snow accumulation on the track, the railway officials said. Efforts to clear the track are underway, they added.

Air traffic to and from Srinagar was also affected as flight operations at the airport were suspended due to snowfall, the airport officials said.

"Due to bad weather conditions, all flights at Srinagar Airport have been cancelled. No flight operations could take place at the airport since the morning owing to the inclement weather," officials added.

Passengers are advised to contact their airlines for updates, they said.

Clearance operations are ongoing, the runway has been cleared, and operations can resume only after the weather improves, the officials said.

Flight operations have been affected at the airport since Friday evening.

While authorities launched snow clearance operations at the respective district headquarters, most of the main roads and roads to hospitals were cleared of snow, but many interior roads were still blocked, the officials said.

Due to slippery conditions, motorists were facing difficulties in driving, they added.

The snowfall also affected power supply in several areas of the valley, the officials said. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was monitoring the situation.

"In Kashmir region, 41 feeders at the 33 KV level and 739 feeders at the 11 KV level are down. None at the 132 KV or 220 KV levels. Restoration work is underway, and more than 90 per cent of feeders are expected to be up and functional by evening today. I'm in regular touch with the PDD team to monitor the situation," Abdullah said in a post on X.

Kashmir University postponed all its examinations scheduled for Saturday due to the inclement weather. Fresh dates for the postponed exams will be notified separately, the University said.

**CB files charge...**

Crime Branch's Special Crime Wing, Jammu for in depth investigation and was entrusted to Insp. Ashok Bazaz (I/O of the case) for thorough investigation.

The IO has very professionally investigated the case and the final charge sheet was produced in the court of Electricity Magistrate Jammu for judicial determination, Parihar added.

"Pertinently, three more FIRs of similar nature registered in different Police Stations of Jammu i.e. Akhnoor, Bakshi Nagar and Janipur, had also been transferred to Crime Branch, Special Crime Wing Jammu, out of which, two have been challaned by the same IO," Parihar said, adding that the total amount involved in all these cases is approximately Rs. 70 lakhs.

**Former PM Manmohan...**

as Singh was cremated according to Sikh rituals.

Before Singh's mortal remains were consigned to flames, the security forces gave a salute of three volleys of small arms and the buglers sounded the "Last Post" as a mark of honour for the former prime minister.

At the Nigambodh Ghat, a sense of deep grief united the assembly featuring Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers and senior Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the foreign minister of Mauritius, Dhananjay Ramful, were among the foreign dignitaries who paid tributes to Singh, who served as the prime minister from 2004 to 2014.

Singh (92) died on the night of December 26.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also paid their last tributes to the former prime minister and laid wreaths on his mortal remains.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and the chiefs of the tri-services also laid wreaths on the former prime minister's mortal remains.

Several chief ministers, including Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), Revanth Reddy (Telangana), Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh) and Atishi (Delhi), besides Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, also attended the last rites of Singh.

Former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel were also present, apart from All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretaries K C Venugopal, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Surjewala and several former Union ministers.

Among the first ones to place a wreath on the mortal remains of the late prime minister was his political mentor, Sonia Gandhi, to whom he deferred his entire life even at the cost of criticism by political rivals. It was Sonia Gandhi who, after powering the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) to victory in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, stepped back from the prime minister's chair, nominating Singh to lead the coalition.

The quintessential economist went on to steer the nation for the next 10 years, a period that saw him end India's nuclear apartheid by pressing ahead with the Indo-US civil nuclear deal, despite resistance from the Left Front that was giving support to the UPA from outside.

In a show of uncharacteristic firmness in 2008, Singh risked his government over the deal after the Left withdrew support. He faced and won a no-confidence vote in the Lok Sabha.

Entering the Rajya Sabha in 1991 as a member from Assam, Singh remained in the House of Elders till April 2024. His last innings in the Upper House was from Rajasthan, the only other state he ever represented besides Assam.

Singh died of age-related complications at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, the acute tertiary-care public establishment where the former prime minister always got admitted whenever he faced medical complications.

Sources close to the family said "Akhand path" would be held at Singh's residence on January 1 and its "bhog" would be held on January 3. They said the Antim Ardas and kirtan for Singh would be conducted at the Gurdwara Rakab Ganj in the evening of January 3.

Earlier in the day, Singh's body, placed in a flower-bedecked casket and carriage, was taken from his 3, Motilal Nehru residence in Lutyens' Delhi to the headquarters of the Congress party, which he represented in Parliament for 33 long years.

At the party office, Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra paid rich tributes to their leader; as did thousands of Congress workers who had gathered to catch a last glimpse of Singh.

The former prime minister's final journey then started from the AICC office to the Nigambodh Ghat, where the procession reached around 11:30 am. A large crowd had gathered at the AICC office as well as at the Nigambodh Ghat.

The vehicle carrying the mortal remains of Singh left his residence a little before 9 am. The procession moved forward amid chants of "Manmohan Singh Amar Rahe". A number of Congress workers and leaders, along with hundreds of Singh's well-wishers, walked along chanting "jab tak suraj-chand rahega, tab tak tera naam rahega".

Demands for honouring Singh with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the country, were also raised during the procession.

Draped in the tricolour, the flower-bedecked casket was placed on a raised platform at the ghat, where leaders cutting across party lines laid wreaths on Singh's mortal remains.

Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur and one of their daughters also laid a wreath on his body at the AICC headquarters. The three daughters of Singh -- Upinder Singh, Daman Singh and Amrit Singh -- along with other relatives, were present.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also accompanied the procession, sitting alongside Singh's relatives in an Army truck just ahead of the casket carrying the former prime minister's mortal remains. Later, Rahul Gandhi was also among those who carried Singh's body to the pyre.

Earlier, a row erupted over a memorial for the former prime minister, with the Congress demanding that Singh's last rites be performed at a place where a memorial could be built later. The party also alleged that the government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was "deliberately insulting" the first Sikh prime minister of the country in not doing so.

After the matter of a memorial to Singh took a political colour, the government clarified that a decision to build one had already been conveyed to Kharge by the Union home minister after Friday's Cabinet meeting.

A government statement also said the funeral could be held as the process of setting up a trust and allotting land for the memorial could take a while.

Kharge had written to Modi on Friday seeking a memorial for Singh. Several sections of the society also urged the government to confer Bharat Ratna on the late economist-prime minister.

A seven-day national mourning is being observed as a mark of respect to the former prime minister during which the national flag will be flown at half-mast across the nation, the Union home ministry has announced.

**SIM card retailers checked in Jammu region**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Police conducted a series of comprehensive inspection drives of SIM card vendors across all districts of Jammu.

The drive aimed to ensure strict adherence to regulatory guidelines and curb the misuse of SIM cards for unlawful activities.

Special teams were deployed to inspect SIM card retailers and dealers, verifying their adherence to prescribed guidelines for issuing SIM cards.

The inspections focused on KYC compliance, record maintenance, and compliance with regulations issued by the Department of Telecommunications.

In district Poonch, Police inspected multiple vendors and checked their documentation processes in subdivisions Poonch, Surankote, Mendhar, Mandi, and Gursa.

In district Kishtwar, police observed that recharge/inventory registers were not maintained by vendors, and they had no available data concerning lost, damaged, or fraudulent SIM cards. Similarly, intensive verification drives were conducted in 20 locations across district Reasi.

District police Udhampur conducted drives in the Kud, Ramnagar, Rehambal, Udhampur city, and Basantgarh areas. Rajouri Police conducted comprehensive inspections in Rajouri city, Thanamandi, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kandi, and Kalakote.

During the drive, the records were thoroughly scrutinized to verify the customer verification processes.

In Samba, district SSP directed second-hand mobile sellers and repair technicians in Ramgarh, Ghagwal, Bari Brahmana, and Vijaypur to maintain proper transaction records, including customer identities.

In Ramban, surprise checks were made at Banihal, Ramban, Batote, Gool, and Chanderkote, and vendors were sensitized about the importance of maintaining accurate records. In Jammu, strong action has been taken against those selling SIM cards against fraudulent IDs.

These include areas under the jurisdiction of police stations in Khour, Kanachak, Domana, Nagrota, Bahu Fort, Gandhi Nagar, Bishnah, Bakshi Nagar, Nowabad, City, and Akhnoor. Similarly, police stations in Kathua, Lakhampur, Bani, Basohli, Billawar, Rajbagh, and Hiranagar in district Kathua and Gandoh and Bharderwah in district Doda have registered cases against those selling SIM cards against fraudulent IDs.

This exercise was conducted to take stock of the inspection drives and underscored the emphasis on the series of instructions mandated for PoS vendors.

These include CCTV installation at the outlets, electronic billing of sales, re-verification for all old SIM cards, a ban on pre-activated SIMs, and maintaining comprehensive records of SIM sales, recharges, and duplicate SIM issuance.

All district units in the Jammu zone have routinely sensitized the vendors about the SIM issuance process that includes a series of steps- Issuance of cards upon biometric Aadhaar verification of both the vendor and customer, physical presence of the customer during the issuance, SIM activation upon confirmation via an alternate number, absence of sales incentives, and registration of a police report for re-issuing lost SIM cards.

**Drug peddler nabbed with 200 grams of cannabis**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: In its ongoing drive against drug smuggling and peddling, Poonch Police has achieved another success by arresting a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Mendhar. Approximately 200 grams of cannabis (charas)-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Acting on specific inputs, a police team of PS Mendhar set up a vehicle-checking naka near Hakeem Morh, Mendhar. During the operation, a suspicious youth was intercepted, and a search led to the recovery of the contraband substance.

The accused has been identified as Raja Ahmed-ullah Khan, son of Habib-ullah Khan, resident of Gohlad, Tehsil Mendhar, District Poonch. He was immediately arrested, and the contraband was seized. A case under FIR No. 240/2024, U/S 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Mendhar, and investigations are underway.

**Theft case worked out; two arrested, stolen property worth Rs 40,000 recovered**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Continuing its drive against antisocial elements and criminals Doda Police has worked out a theft case involving stolen property from a temple.

Reports revealed that on the written complaint of one person namely Amit Singh, son of Dharam Singh, resident of Kudrela Thore Tehsil Batote District Ramban who is priest of Kali Mata Temple at 9th Kms Assar regarding theft of some ornaments after break opening the lock of temple.

In this connection, case FIR No. 54/2024 U/S 331 (4)/305 BNS was registered at PS Assar and the investigation set into motion.

Acting swiftly on the complaint, a Police team from PS Assar swung into action and after getting some clues through reliable sources and other resources, Police team rounded up (02) suspects namely 1-Salman Ahmed, son of Ashiq Hussain, resident of Kishtwar and Akhter Hussain, son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Thathri who during questioning confessed their involvement and on their disclosure the stolen items of temple were recovered from their possession. The investigation of the case is going on for its logical conclusion.

**CCIU Doda traces, recovers 45 smartphones**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Continuing its efforts to extend services to the General public and address their grievances, Cyber Crime Investigation Unit Doda received various complaints about missing of mobile phones and after hectic efforts, the Cyber Crime Investigation Unit of Doda Police with the technical help of CEIR Portal & ESU Doda traced and recovered 45 lost mobile phones whose estimated value is around Rs.8,40,090 from different states/UTs of the country like Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh etc.

SSP Doda handed over the recovered mobile phones to their rightful owners at District Police office Doda.

SSP Doda appealed the general public to take utmost care of their mobiles as they contain personal data and there is every possibility of misuse of Mobile Phones.

Upon receiving their missing/lost mobile phones, the owners felt elated and expressed their gratitude towards the District Police Doda for their arduous effort in tracing their missing mobiles.

**SSB postpones OMR based examination scheduled today**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The J&K Service Selection Board has postponed the OMR based examinations for the posts of Junior Stenographers/Junior Scale Stenographers (Shift I) and Steno-Typists (Shift II).

Scheduled to be held on December 29, 2024, the said examination shall now be held on December 31, 2024 in view of the inclement weather conditions.

According to a notification issued here on Saturday by the Controller of Examinations J&K Service Selection Board (SSB), the timings for the examinations, examination venues and shifts of the examinations shall remain same. Besides, admit cards already issued shall remain valid for these examinations postponed for December 31, 2024.

**Tributes paid to martyr Sham Singh on 28th anniversary**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: In order to remember valiant and supreme sacrifice of Forest Martyr Sham Singh, rich tributes were paid. In this occasion a symbolic plantation was carried out at native village Dhore, Panjoor Dinga Anb. Paying tributes educationists Madan Singh, Sahib Singh and number of other spokesperson exhorted masses to follow the path shown by late Sham Singh while protecting green wealth by sacrificing his precious life while performing his duty and boldly objecting to illicit cutting of trees by unscrupulous, anti social elements. Family members of Martyr Harbans Singh, Major Singh, Harnam Singh and Nagar Singh also present and expressed their gratefulness to all and sundry for paying tributes to Martyr Sham Singh.

