



### UNHCR should take note of atrocities on religious minorities in Bangladesh: ISKCON

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### Shradha Kapoor Spills The Beans On Her Appearance In Varun Dhawan's Bhediya 2

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## Intense cold wave grips J&K

Intense cold conditions prevailed across Jammu region and the valley today, with minimum temperature plummeting below freezing point at several places.

Jammu - the winter capital of J&K - witnessed severe cold last night and today. The picturesque Patnitop, a famous tourist destination in Jammu and several upper reaches of the region witnessed sub-zero temperatures.

Officials said Srinagar **Cont. on P9 >**

## Dar appointed TAC chairman for Vehicle Tracking Project

The government today reconstituted Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) for 'Project for Vehicle Location Tracking & Emergency Alert System'.

A government order said: "In partial modification of a government order, it is hereby ordered that Ashaq Hussain Dar, director incharge, NIELIT, shall be the chairman of Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) for the 'Project for Vehicle Location Tracking & Emergency Alert System'."

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## Fire breaks out at MLA hostel

A fire broke out at MLA hostel in Srinagar today, causing damage to a few rooms in the complex meant for housing legislators.

The blaze broke out from a room on the first floor of the four-storey building near the M A Road area around noon and soon engulfed the adjoining rooms too, officials said.

Officials said the fire engulfed three rooms on the first floor of the building, causing some damage to them.

The fire was immediately brought under control.

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## Civil Services (Main) exam results announced

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced the results of the Civil Services (Main) Examination 2024, conducted between September 20 and September 29, 2024.

Candidates who qualified, identified by their roll numbers, will advance to the Personality Test (interview) phase for selection to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and other Central Services (Group A & B).

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## Treasury officers asked to resolve discrepancies in RBDs

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 10**

The government has directed treasury officers to follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by PAG to address discrepancies in Reserve Bank Deposits (RBDs).

A finance department order issued in this regard said: "Standard Advisory Committee meetings are convened by RBI at regular intervals. One of the issues raised in the previous meeting pertains to reconciliation of RBDs."

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## First-ever strategic foreign policy dialogue

# India, EU to discuss geo-political challenges, Chinese belligerence

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** India and the European Union today agreed to hold the first-ever ministerial strategic foreign policy dialogue soon to jointly navigate an array of critical challenges including geo-political tensions and Chinese belligerence in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

The decision to institute the strategic dialogue was taken during a phone conversation between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart from the 27-nation bloc Kaja Kallas.

In a post on 'X', Kallas, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said it was agreed to hold the first ministerial strategic foreign policy dialogue soon.

The move to hold the dialogue comes months before India and the EU hold summit-level talks in New Delhi that is expected to see significant outcomes in

terms of deepening of co-operation in a range of areas such as security, digital public infrastructure and trade.

It is expected that the dialogue at the level of foreign ministers of the two sides will provide a platform to evolve joint strategies and forge deeper cooperation in confronting various geo-political challenges including from China, people familiar with the matter said.

"It was great talking to Dr S Jaishankar of India this morning. Global security challenges are interconnected. We will focus together to make progress on security, trade, digital and green transition," Kallas said.

"We agreed to hold the first ministerial Strategic Foreign Policy Dialogue soon," she added.

On his part, Jaishankar said: "Discussed developments in Europe, West Asia and Indo-Pacific. Look forward to an early meeting."

On the Jaishankar-

Kallas talks, EU Ambassador to India Herve Delphin said both sides committed to advance India-EU cooperation on a wide range of foreign policy and security issues of mutual interest.

The decision to institute the strategic dialogue is seen as a major move after the launch of India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in February last year.

Subsequently, both sides established three working groups under the TTC.

The first working group is on strategic technologies, digital governance and digital connectivity. The second one is on green and clean energy technologies and the third one is on trade, investment and resilient value chains.

The TTC is facilitating exchange of critical technologies relating to an array of domains including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and cybersecurity.

The TTC with India was

the European Union's second such technology partnership after the first one with the United States that was firmed up in June 2021.

The formation of the TTC followed the announcement on it by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on April 25, 2022.

India and the EU are also looking at forging deeper cooperation to ensure a free, open, inclusive and rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific.

In August last year, the EU Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Atlanta flagship, ITS Durand De La Penne conducted a joint activity at sea with the Indian destroyer INS Visakhapatnam in the framework of the EU's strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Operation Atlanta is a critical maritime security operation under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

## INDIA bloc MPs submit motion to remove Dhankhar

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** Opposition parties today submitted a notice to move a motion for removing Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar for allegedly conducting the House in a partisan manner.

Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Naseer Hussain submitted the notice to Rajya Sabha Secretary General P.C. Mody.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar is the ex-Officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The sources said about 60 Opposition MPs - including from the Congress, the RJD, the TMC, the CPI, the CPI-M, the JMM, the AAP, the DMK - have signed the notice.

However, they said top Congress leaders who hold constitutional posts have not signed the notice.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and the floor leaders of various Opposition parties are also not among the signa-



the sources said.

The notice, spearheaded by the Congress, comes in the wake of turbulent ties between Opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

"ALL parties belonging to the INDIA group have had no option but to formally submit a no-confidence motion against the learned Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the extremely partisan manner in which he has been conducting the proceedings of the Council of States. It has been a very painful decision for the INDIA parties to take, but in the interests of parliamentary democracy they have had to take this step," Congress general secretary (In-charge, Communications) Jairam

Ramesh posted on X. TMC MP and its deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha Sagarika Ghose said, "Signed by all and being moved today against Vice President. We do not have the numbers to win, but it is a strong message to fight for parliamentary democracy. Nothing against individuals, this is a fight for institutions."

The Opposition has been upset with Dhankhar over multiple issues, the latest being him allowing the members of the Treasury Benches to raise the Cong-Soros "link" issue in the Upper House.

The minimum required numbers for moving a motion to remove the Vice-President is 50.

Congress MP Digvijaya Singh had accused the Rajya Sabha Chairman of being partisan.

INDIA bloc parties had in August this year also considered submitting a notice for moving a resolution to remove the Vice-

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## Parl adjourned after ruckus over Adani, Congress-Soros links

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** Proceedings in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for the day on Tuesday following uproar over the Adani controversy and allegations linking Congress with Hungarian-American businessman George Soros.

As the Lok Sabha convened, Speaker Om Birla addressed the disruptions that have marred parliamentary proceedings in recent days. Emphasising the sanctity of the House, he said, "Our democracy reflects the hopes and aspirations of the people. Maintaining the dignity of this House is our collective responsibility."

However, opposition MPs resumed their protests as the Question Hour began, leading the Speaker to first adjourn the House until noon, and later for the day.

In the Rajya Sabha, members from both the Treasury and Opposition benches raised slogans to press their respective demands.

The Rajya Sabha also saw disruptions for the second consecutive day

with the treasury benches raising Congress's alleged connection with billionaire George Soros, and the Opposition rebutting the charges, demanding a debate on the BJP's alleged ties with industrialist Gautam Adani.

The House which met for

**Cont. on P9 >**

## The ruling BJP MPs have been trying to raise the issue of the alleged nexus between US hedge fund tycoon George Soros and Congress posing a threat to national security.

The House which met for

**Cont. on P9 >**

## Parl holy place, need to maintain decorum



**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** Expressing concern over pandemonium in the House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today told the protesting MPs that 'Parliament is a holy place and its decorum needs to be maintained'.

"Parliament is a holy

**Cont. on P9 >**

## Govt sets up panel to look into grievances against reservation policy

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 10**

The government today accorded sanction to the formation of a three-member cabinet sub-committee to look into grievances against the present reservation policy in the union territory.

The sanction for the formation of the sub-committee was given through an order issued by the General Administration Department.

According to the order, ministers - Sakina Masood

Itoo, Satish Sharma and Javed Rana - will be the members of the sub-committee.

The sub-committee will submit its report to the council of ministers headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah.

The chief minister last month said the cabinet sub-committee would be constituted to engage with all stakeholders on the issue of reservation in government jobs.

"A lot is being said about reservation. Our youth, especially those belonging to the open category, think

they are not getting their rights, but there are also those who have been brought into the reservation ambit who do not want any reduction in their rights," he said.

"So, the cabinet has decided to form a sub-committee, which will include three ministers, and the Cabinet has asked them to take a holistic view of the issue," he added.

Reservations have become a major issue in J&K following the central government's decision to add more communities to the

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## Cyber crimes, climate change new threats to human rights: Prez

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** The human rights discourse so far has been centred on the "human agency" as the violator is assumed to be a human but with AI entering our lives, the "culprit could be a non-human" but an intelligent agent, President Droupadi Murmu said on Tuesday.

In her address at an event hosted by the NHRC here to mark the Human Rights Day, the President also underlined that cyber crimes and climate change are "new threats" to human rights.



Human Rights Day is observed on December 10 every year to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The UDHR serves as a

global benchmark for the protection and promotion of human rights.

"As we progress into the future, we are confronted with emerging challenges. Cyber crimes and climate change are new threats to human rights," Murmu said.

The digital era, while being transformative, had brought with it complex issues such as cyber bullying, deep fake, privacy concerns and spread of misinformation, she added.

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## Ex-K'taka CM Krishna no more



**BENGALURU, DEC 10:** Former External Affairs Minister and Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna died at his residence early Tuesday morning.

The 92-year-old veteran politician was ailing for quite some time, a family source said.

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## Chief Secys of states told to follow top court's law on internet shutdowns: Centre to SC

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** The Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it had written to the state chief secretaries to follow the law laid down by the apex court on the issue of internet shutdowns.

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A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and P B Varale was informed by the Centre about the top court's judgement on internet shutdowns in Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India, the Apex

Court ruled that an undefined restriction of internet services was illegal and orders for internet shutdown must satisfy the tests of necessity and proportionality.

On Tuesday, the petition before the bench alleged shutting down of internet services in some states on account of preventing cheating in examinations.

"We have issued specific letters to the chief secretaries that there is a judgement of Anuradha Bhasin which lays down the law, please follow that law. Please ensure that it is not used outside the legislative

parameters that have been provided," said the counsel representing the Centre.

The lawyer said the Centre had filed its counter affidavit in the matter.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the petitioner, said it was a very interesting matter where internet shutdowns were being imposed by different states for preventing cheating in exams.

"There are multiple other ways in which cheating can be prevented," she said, "such internet shutdowns affect the economic activity

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## Oppn MPs protest in Parl premises with black 'jholas'

**NEW DELHI, DEC 10:** Several Opposition MPs today demonstrated over the Adani issue in Parliament premises, carrying black 'jholas' (bags) with caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani printed on it and 'Modi Adani Bhai Bhai' written on the obverse side.

This is the latest in the series of unusual protests led by the Congress daily ahead of the sitting of Parliament in the morning.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress general



secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MPs from the Congress, DMK, JMM, Left, among others, protested in front of the Makar Dwar

steps.

They were carrying black 'jholas' with caricatures of Modi and Adani printed on

**Cont. on P9 >**

## 50 Inspectors promoted as DSPs

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 10**

The government has ordered the promotion of 50 Inspectors as deputy superintendents of police (DSPs).

A home department order issued in this regard says: "Sanction is hereby accorded to the promotion of 50 Inspectors as DSPs with immediate effect."

The promotees are: Suhail Rashid, Pardeep Gupta, Mushtaq Ahmad, Mir Afaq Ahmad, Tsewang Dorjey, Tahir Yousaf, Mohammad

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## Farooq's support to Rohingyas vindicates BJP stand on NC's devious role: Kavinder

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 10**

Senior BJP leader and ex-deputy CM Kavinder Gupta today condemned NC president Farooq Abdullah's statement that promised basic amenities like water and electricity to Rohingya refugees.

Reacting to Farooq's remark that it was the government responsibility to provide water and electricity to the illegal foreigners, he said that the response of NC leader had not only revealed his party's clear



support for illegal immigrants but also vindicated the BJP's long-standing position that the NC was actively endorsing and supporting the settlement of illegal refugees in the region.

"This endorsement by NC is a direct threat to the

peace, security and tranquility of the region," Gupta said.

He reiterated that Rohingya refugees posed a serious security threat to the region. "Their settlement can prove detrimental to the social fabric and can lead to unrest in Jammu. BJP has always stood for the protection of the rights and interests of local population, and we cannot allow any political party to jeopardise the security of the local population by advocating for the welfare of illegal immi

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