

### Poor electoral participation of overseas Indian voters in 2024 Lok Sabha polls: EC

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### Kriti Sanon Recalls Breaking Down During Bhediya Promotions: 'I Started Crying'

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### NH reopens as weather improves

Following improvement in weather, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway last night reopened after remaining shut for a day due to accumulation of snow on both sides of Jawahar Tunnel.

Jammu witnessed heavy rains on Friday while it was cloudy on Saturday. The upper reaches, including Patnitop, Bhaderwah valley and Jawahar Tunnel area of Banihal witnessed heavy snowfall.

As there were snow piles

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### KU defers exams because of snowfall

The Kashmir University has postponed all exams scheduled for Monday in view of the heavy snowfall in the valley.

The information was shared by the varsity in a statement on Sunday.

The varsity spokesperson said fresh dates for the postponed papers would be notified later separately.

Kashmir received heavy snowfall on Friday and Saturday, resulting in some areas of the valley getting cut off.

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### Katra remains shut for 5th day

Katra, the base camp for the holy Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage in Jammu, remained shut for the fifth consecutive day today in protest against the proposed ropeway project connecting the town with the Sanji Chat in Trikuta Hills.

BJP MLA Baldev Raj Sharma threatened to sit on hunger strike if those detained were not released within 24 hours.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, which has called for the shutdown, announced that all activities in Katra town would remain suspended.

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### Bumrah 200 Test wickets: First bowler with below-20 average



MELBOURNE, DEC 29: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Sunday became the second fastest Indian along with Ravindra Jadeja to complete 200 Test wickets and the first bowler ever to reach that milestone with a sub-20 average during the fourth day's play of the fourth Test against Aus

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### Russia to scrap missile moratorium after treaty breakdown with US

MOSCOW, DEC 29: Russia will scrap a moratorium on the deployment of intermediate and shorter range nuclear-capable missiles because the United States has deployed such weapons in various regions around the world, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday.

Russia's move, long signalled, will kill off all that remains from one of the most significant arms control treaties of the Cold War, amid fears that the world's two biggest nuclear

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### 'Worst' aviation disaster in South Korea

## 179 killed as plane veers off runway, bursts into flames

SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA), DEC 29: In one of the country's worst aviation disasters, a passenger plane today burst into flames after it veered off a runway at a South Korean airport and slammed into a concrete fence when its front landing gear apparently failed to deploy, killing at least 179 people.

The National Fire Agency said rescuers raced to pull people from the Jeju Air passenger plane carrying 181 people at the airport in the town of Muan, about 180 miles south of Seoul. The Transport Ministry said the plane was a 15-year-old Boeing 737-800 jet that was returning from Bangkok and that the crash happened at 9.03 am local time.

Of the total 181, 179 people died in the fire and two were rescued, the fire agency said.



Emergency workers pulled out two people, both crew members, to safety, and local health officials said they remained conscious. The fire agency deployed 32 fire trucks and several helicopters to contain the fire. About 1,560 firefighters, police officers, soldiers and other officials were also sent to the site, it said.

Footage of the crash aired by South Korean television channels showed the Jeju Air plane skidding across the airstrip at high speed, apparently with its landing gear still closed, overrunning the runway and colliding head-on with a concrete wall on the outskirts of the facility, triggering an explosion. Other local

TV stations aired footage showing thick plumes of black smoke billowing from the plane, which was engulfed in flames.

Lee Jeong-hyeon, chief of the Muan fire station, told a televised briefing that the plane was completely destroyed, with only the tail assembly remaining recognizable

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## Stay vigilant against internal, external foes: Rajnath to Army

### Says India not 'lucky' on security front

MHOW (MP), DEC 29: Termed India a 'not very lucky' nation on security front, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today called upon Army soldiers to always keep a sharp eye on internal and external enemies who he said were always active.

"Taking the security scenario into account, Bharat is not a very lucky country because our northern border and western border continuously face challenges," he said while speaking to Army person-



nel at the more-than-two-century-old Mhow cantonment in the Indore district of Madhya Pradesh.

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### Manmohan Singh's ashes immersed in Yamuna



NEW DELHI, DEC 29: The ashes of former prime minister Manmohan Singh were today immersed in the Yamuna river near the Majnu ka Tila Gurdwara by members of his family following Sikh rituals.

The ashes were collected from the Nigambodh Ghat

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## Constitution has stood every test of time: Modi

### Says Maha Kumbh's message is banishment of hate from society

NEW DELHI, DEC 29: Asserting that Constitution had stood every test of time & lauding it as 'our guiding light', Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that 'Maha Kumbh's message is unity and banishment of hate from society'.

Speaking in his monthly Mann Ki Baat broadcast, Modi noted that the next Republic Day will mark the 75th anniversary of the implementation of the Constitution.

"It is a matter of immense pride for all of us. The Constitution which its makers gave to us has stood every test of time. It is our guiding light, our guide," he said.

Modi said he reached this position in life because of the country's guiding document.

He asked people to visit the website constitution75.com which, he said, has been launched to link citizens with the con-



stitutional heritage and legacy.

They can read the Constitution in different languages, ask questions and upload their videos leading to its preamble, he said.

His government, Modi said, has launched yearlong activities since the Constitution Day on November 26.

Opposition parties, especially the Congress, have accused his government of weakening the Constitution, a charge vehemently denied by the ruling BJP.

Modi has constantly highlighted

his government's efforts to strengthen constitutional values and spirit and has, in turn, accused the main opposition Congress of subverting the country's guiding document whenever it was in power.

He described the upcoming 'Maha Kumbh' as the "Maha Kumbh of unity" as he asked people to return from the grand religious congregation with a resolve to banish hate and division from the society.

He said, "Maha Kumbh ka sandesh ek ho pura desh (Message from

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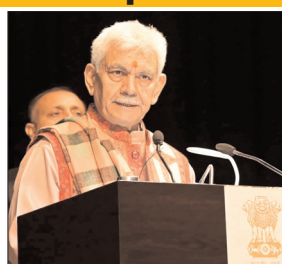
## LG Sinha gives 7 resolutions to educational institutions

### Asks them to adopt new technologies

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 29

LG Manoj Sinha today gave seven resolutions to the educational institutions of J&K, asking them to adopt new technologies in education, and focus on both knowledge & values.

"The prime objective of school education is to ignite the intellectual capacity of children," he said in his address at the annual day function of a private school



here.

The LG called upon educational institutions to adopt new technologies in education, and focus on both knowledge & values, and to stimulate students' intellectual capacity.

"The future of a nation is decided in school campus. The overall goal of our education system is to provide unique opportunity to every unique personality so that they can create something new and contribute to nation building with their unique talent," the LG said.

He emphasised the role of teachers and educational institutions in developing a conducive environment to boost the confidence of students and motivate them to

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## Holiday calendar for 2025: Sheikh Abdullah's birthday not in list

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 29

The government today notified its official holiday calendar for 2025, encompassing a wide array of religious, national and regional observances but excluding ex-CM Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's birthday from the list.

GAD issued two orders in this regard. One order gives details of the holidays to be observed in government offices and educational institutions of the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir

in 2025. Another order says: "In exercise of the powers conferred by the explanation of section 25 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Central Act 26 of 1881), the government of Jammu & Kashmir hereby declares the days as public holidays during the calendar year 2025."

However, the exclusion of Sheikh Abdullah's birthday and July 13, 'Martyrs' Day', from the list has drawn attention, as the leaders of National Conference - the ruling party - had promised to restore these

holidays, which were previously removed by the LG administration.

With the government making the list of holidays public for the year 2025, the omission of these days raises questions on the powers of the elected government which shares power with LG.

The JNC had earlier proposed reinstating these holidays.

The 2025 calendar celebrates the region's cultural and religious diversity, featuring holidays such as Guru Gobind Singh's Birth

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### Russia shot down plane, says Azerbaijan Prez

NEW DELHI, DEC 29: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said Sunday that the Azerbaijani airliner that crashed last week was shot down by Russia, albeit unintentionally, and criticized Moscow for trying to "hush up" the issue for days.

"We can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down by Russia. We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done," he told Azerbaijani state television.

Aliyev said that the airliner, which crashed Wednesday in Kazakhstan,

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## Rolling out new Criminal Laws, CAA major tasks of MHA in 2024

NEW DELHI, DEC 29: Replacing the century-old criminal laws with a new set of legislations for introducing a modern and technology-driven criminal justice system, rolling out the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act and fire-fighting to check unabated violence in Manipur kept the Union home ministry busy in 2024.

Assisting the Election Commission in holding the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir without major incidents and bringing down the violence in Naxal-affected states

and northeastern region are the other key highlights of the country's crucial ministry.

While the population enumeration exercise Census continues to be on hold for past four years as no decision has been taken by the ministry as to when it will be carried out, the ministry created five year districts in Ladakh and renamed Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Sri Vijaya Puram during the year.

The three new criminal laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Na-

garik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam - replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively. The new laws came into effect from July 1.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who piloted the legislations, said the new laws would give priority to providing justice, unlike the colonial-era laws that gave primacy to penal action.

"These laws are made by Indians, for Indians and by

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## Kavinder describes PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' as beacon of inspiration

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, DEC 29

Senior BJP leader and ex-deputy CM Kavinder Gupta today hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest edition of Mann Ki Baat, describing it as a beacon of inspiration and a reflection of the government's unwavering commitment to national development and public welfare.

He highlighted how 'Mann Ki Baat' had become a transformative platform



for connecting with the people of India, bringing to the forefront stories of innovation, courage, and collective achievements from all corners of the country.

"The prime minister's words resonate deeply with the aspirations of every citizen. Through Mann Ki

Baat, PM Modi has successfully bridged the gap between the government and the people, making governance participatory and inclusive," Gupta remarked.

He appreciated Modi's encouragement to the youth to lead India's progress. "Our youth are the torchbearers of India's future, and the PM's message today is a clarion call to harness their potential in building a self-reliant India," he said.

Gupta urged the citizens

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### Pak soldier killed, 11 injured in firing by Afghan Taliban

ISLAMABAD, DEC 29: A Pakistan paramilitary soldier has been killed and 11 others injured in firing by the Afghan Taliban forces at the border posts of Pakistan troops, days after strikes by Pakistan targeted the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) militants.

According to defence sources, the Afghan troops resorted to "unprovoked fire on multiple Pakistani border posts" in the Upper Kurram district.

They fired at posts in Ghozgarhi, Matha Sangar, Kot Raha and Tari Men

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## 60 pc of terrorists killed in 2024 were Pakistanis: Army

NEW DELHI, DEC 29: Notwithstanding the economic issues faced by it back home, the Pakistan Army is fully backing the terrorist infrastructure as 60 per cent of the terrorists killed in Jammu and Kashmir this year were Pakistanis.

The local recruitment of terrorists in the Pakistan-sponsored terror groups was also very low as only four locals joined these groups this year, Army officials said.

In different encounters and operations, security

forces were able to eliminate around 75 terrorists at different places in the UT, including the otherwise peaceful Jammu region and the valley along with the gunfights that took place during infiltration attempts by terrorists along the Line of Control, they added.

Notably, Pakistan has traditionally been seen as one of the biggest hubs for exporting terrorists to almost all parts of the world with main focus on India.

Islamabad has tried to give a strong push to terrorism in the Jammu region

since last year but the activities of Pakistani terrorists in Jammu region, including the districts in Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua and Reasi, were curbed with additional deployment of troops and filling up of the vacuum created after the withdrawal of the Uniform Force of Rashtriya Rifles from there for the China border deployments.

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi and Northern Army Commander Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar have

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