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**Parliament winter session ends:****Om Birla meets MPs**

adjournment. With this, the 19-day-long Winter Session, which had 15 sittings, formally came to an end. Several key Bills were passed during the session, and the Lok Sabha recorded a productivity of 111 per cent, reflecting what the Speaker described as strong legislative engagement by members. Addressing the Upper House, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan read out a summary of the legislative and other business conducted during the session before the National Song was played. Radhakrishnan also criticised disruptions during proceedings, saying, "The conduct of members during the Minister's reply yesterday, which included protesting and tearing of papers, was unbefitting of the House." Opposition parties continued to oppose the VB-G RAMG Bill even after the session ended. They also staged a protest outside Parliament, while Trinamool Congress MPs continued their demonstration on the steps near the House entrance. Overall, the House functioned for around 92 hours during the Winter Session, achieving a productivity of 121 per cent. During this period, 58 starred questions, 208 Zero Hour submissions and 87 special mentions were taken. The Winter Session of Parliament began on December 1. Adjournment sine die, Latin for "without a day," means that a House is suspended indefinitely without fixing a date for its next sitting.

**During sixth session of 18th Lok Sabha,****productivity was 111 percent: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**

150th anniversary of the national song, "Vande Mataram". The House discussed the subject for 11 hours and 32 minutes, during which 65 Members participated. Similarly, the issue of "Electoral Reforms" was discussed on 9 and 10 December for approximately 13 hours, with the participation of 63 Members.

The session also witnessed the admission of 300 starred questions, of which 72 were answered orally, and 3,449 unstarred questions. A total of 408 matters of urgent public importance were raised during Zero Hour, and 572 issues were addressed under Rule 377. On December 11, 150 Members raised their matters during Zero Hour. During the Session, 35 Statements were made under Direction 73A and a total number of 38 Statements, including two Statements given under Rule 372 and one Statement by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. A total of 2,116 papers were laid on the Table of the House. A total of 41 reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committees associated with various Departments were presented in the House.

Regarding Private Members' Resolution, 137 Private Members' Bills were introduced on December 5. On December 12, a Private Members' Resolution by Shafi Parambil was withdrawn after discussion, with the House's permission.

Lok Sabha Secretariat stated that, "On 2 December, His Excellency Mr. Shalva Papashvili, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, along with his parliamentary delegation, was received and accorded a warm welcome by the Parliament of India during his official visit."

**Indian knowledge system offers solutions to many modern-day problems: LG Sinha**

The contemporary relevance of traditional wisdom, the Lieutenant Governor said. India's ancient knowledge systems offer a blueprint for a successful modern world while ensuring the well-being of all. He said these systems provide a roadmap for sustainable development and innovation, and present a holistic framework to effectively address issues such as climate change, thereby helping build a sustainable future. The Lieutenant Governor stressed the importance of the youth embracing India's civilisational values. He urged the young generation to inculcate ancient ideals and values in present-day life to contribute meaningfully to nation-building and global well-being. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to the editor of the "Kartavya Marg" and everyone associated with the publication. He applauded Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust for its commitment and dedicated efforts towards promotion of India's ancient knowledge traditions, folk culture, astrology, and Vedic sciences, while fostering moral awareness, and cultural pride within society. He said the complete knowledge system rooted in the Vedas and encompasses a holistic worldview will offer solutions to modern challenges.

"Our ancient texts like Vedas and Upanishads are a treasure of knowledge in mathematics, medicine, physics, botany, chemistry, arts and humanities. Various philosophical and scientific insights are profoundly relevant today to build a resilient society," the Lieutenant Governor said. He emphasized that the endeavours like "Kartavya Marg" play an inspiring role in connecting the younger generation with their traditions and cultural heritage. He said the young generation must identify ancient values and ideals in our present-day life.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Indian culture, ethics and values help in navigating complex challenges and cultivating virtues to promote harmony and oneness in the society. "Our ancient knowledge system and embedded wisdom offer a blueprint for a successful modern world while ensuring the well-being of all, roadmap for sustainable development and innovation and a holistic framework to effectively deal with issues like climate change to build a sustainable future," the Lieutenant Governor said. Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, informed that the annual publication is brought out in Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Dogri, ensuring that its message of knowledge, culture, and values reaches readers from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Members of the Trust, including Prof. Sharat Sharma, Dr. Vishav Gupta, Rajeev Sharma, Vinay Agrawal, Vinay Jamwal, Nigam Gupta, Rakesh Gandotra, Naresh Raina, Lucky Sharma, Pradeep Sharma, M.L. Verma, Dr. Vivek Arya, Yoginder Singh, and Satish Jandval were present on the occasion.

**Three hooked in fake Railway Job Scam as EOW Kashmir files chargesheet**

(EOA) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in FIR No. 08/2025 before the Hon'ble Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Beerwah, Budgam, against three accused persons for their alleged involvement in a fake Railway recruitment scam. The chargesheet has been submitted under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 120-B of the IPC, reads a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

It reads, the accused have been identified as Abdul Hamid Sheikh S/o Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Sheikh R/o Chewdara, Beerwah, Budgam; Adil Shah S/o Abdul Rashid Shah

R/o Sonwar, Srinagar A/P Zewan, and Mufti Ghulam Hassan Kumar S/o Mohammad Ashoor Kumar R/o Hib-Dangerpora, Sopore A/P Rutsuna, Beerwah, Budgam. The statement further says, the case originated from a written complaint received from Mufti Ghulam Hassan Kumar S/o Mohammad Ashoor Kumar R/o Hib-Dangerpora, Sopore A/P Rutsuna, Beerwah, Budgam, wherein the complainant alleged that Abdul Hamid Sheikh and Adil Shah had provided him with fake appointment letters purportedly issued by the Railway Recruitment Board, New Delhi. The forged job letters carried fabricated seals and signatures of the DGN, Northern Railway, Paharganj, New Delhi.

"Upon receipt of the complaint, a detailed probe was initiated by EOW Kashmir. During the course of investigation, it was prima facie established that the accused persons had conspired with each other, lured victims on the pretext of providing government jobs, and extracted substantial sums of money. Verification of the appointment letters confirmed them to be fake and forged."

"During the course of investigation, the complainant Mufti Ghulam Hassan Kumar was also found to be involved in the commission of the said offence. Investigation revealed that Mufti Ghulam Hassan Kumar had himself taken money from other victims on the false pretext of providing them employment and had further issued fake job orders to them. His role surfaced during the probe, establishing his active involvement in the fraudulent scheme and conspiracy along with the other accused persons."

The statement reads as, based on the facts, circumstances, and evidence collected during the investigation, the First Report under Section 173 Cr.PC has been presented before the Hon'ble Court for judicial adjudication."

"The EOW Kashmir of Crime Branch Kashmir has reiterated its commitment to curb economic offences and safeguard innocent citizens from fraudulent job rackets," it reads.

**MHA clears promotions of IPS officers in****J&K segment of AGMUT cadre**

approved the promotion of 10 IPS officers of the J&K segment to the Selection Grade (Level-13) with effect from January 1, 2026. Those promoted include Ashish Kumar Mishra, Nagpure Amod Ashok, Gurinder Pal Singh, Altaf Ahmed Shah, Bakar Hussain Samoon, Azad Ahmad Bhat, Ranjit Singh Samyal and Mohammad Yaseen Kichloo. Chandan Kohli, currently on central deputation, has been granted proforma promotion to selection grade.

Besides, six IPS officers have been promoted to the Junior Administrative Grade (JAG, Level-12). Those promoted to JAG include Bisnu Qazi, Tanuahi Sahil Samra, Anayat Ali Choudhary, Nikhil Borkar and Mohita Sharma.

**MHA clears promotions of IAS officers in****J&K segment of AGMUT cadre**

Shakeel-ul Rehman Rather, Pradeep Kumar, Rahul Sharma, Narinder Bal, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat and Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu have been promoted to Selection Grade w.e.f. 01.01.2026.

Dr Shah Faesal and Sheikh Arshad Ayub—who are currently on central deputation—have also been granted promotion to Selection Grade on proforma basis.

Three IAS officers posted in Jammu and Kashmir have also been promoted to the Junior Administrative Grade. The officers include Ayushi Sudan (Deputy Commissioner Samba), Bilal Mohiuddin (Deputy Commissioner Budgam and Minga Sherpa (Deputy Commissioner Baramulla).

**CAT raps School Edo Dept over transfer of 70% disabled lecturer, orders ramps in all schools**

from residence, and disability-related safeguards under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and relevant government office memorandums on exemption from routine/rotational transfers for persons with disabilities.

During the hearing, the Tribunal sought assistance from the Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education Kashmir. The respondents' counsel and the officer, in fairness, acknowledged in open court that the institution where the applicant has been posted does not have a ramp for persons with disabilities. The Tribunal observed that accessibility is integral to fundamental rights and noted the obligations of authorities to comply with the government's mandate on accessibility in educational institutions.

Issuing notice, CAT granted the respondents four weeks to file a detailed response. Meanwhile, it directed that the applicant's representation be disposed of on merits within the same period and ordered the Personnel Officer to personally monitor compliance, including by coordinating with the competent authority. The Registry was also directed to serve the order on top UT functionaries, including the Chief Secretary and senior officials of the School and Higher Education departments (JN).

**Red Fort blast: NIA to grill Naseer Bilal for 7 more days: Soyab remanded to 5-day judicial custody**

were barred from covering the proceedings. The accused were produced before Principal and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra who allowed the probe agency to quiz Naseer in its custody for seven more days, while Soyab has been remanded to judicial custody till December 24. An official spokesperson for the NIA had earlier said the agency arrested Soyab, a resident of Dhauj in Haryana's Faridabad, for allegedly providing logistical support to "terrorists" Umar-un-Nabi before the Delhi terror bomb blast. NIA arrested Dr Naseer Bilal Malla in Delhi on December 9, calling him a key accused in the conspiracy. According to the NIA investigations, Naseer had knowingly harboured Umar-un-Nabi by providing him logistical support. He is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack, the agency stated earlier on December 9. The NIA has already arrested nine people, including three more doctors Dr Muzammil Ganai, Dr Adeel Rather, Dr Shaheen Sayeed and religious preacher Maulvi Ifran. Two others, Amir Rashid Ali, and Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish, have also been arrested. On December 19, NIA arrested the ninth accused in the case, Yasir Ahmad Dar, a Jammu and Kashmir resident and allegedly a close associate of Umar-un-Nabi. An active participant in the conspiracy, Dar had allegedly taken an oath to carry out self-sacrificial operations, the agency said. Umar-un-Nabi was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10.

**Rain, snowfall likely to end dry spell in J&K** temperature of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, down from minus 3.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Srinagar recorded minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, compared to 0.2 degrees Celsius on Thursday, while Srinagar airport registered

minus 3.4 degrees Celsius against 0.0 degrees Celsius the previous day.

Pampore and Shopian recorded minus 3.5 degrees Celsius each, compared to minus 1.8 degrees Celsius and minus 1.5 degrees Celsius respectively a day earlier.

Baramulla recorded minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, down from minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded minus 2.8 degrees Celsius compared to minus 1.0 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

Gulmarg recorded 1.0 degrees Celsius, slightly lower than 1.6 degrees Celsius recorded the previous day. Pahalgam recorded minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, compared to 0.4 degrees Celsius earlier.

Kokernag recorded 0.5 degrees Celsius against 1.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday, while Kulgam recorded 0.9 degrees Celsius, down from 2.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 9.9 degrees Celsius, lower than 11.0 degrees Celsius a day earlier, while Jammu airport recorded 11.1 degrees Celsius compared to 11.5 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

Banihal recorded 3.5 degrees Celsius against 5.7 degrees Celsius, and Jalandhar recorded 2.3 degrees Celsius compared to 5.0 degrees Celsius earlier.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 3.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Met officials said the next 24 hours are expected to remain largely dry, with only isolated chances of precipitation at a few places. From the evening of December 20, cloudy weather is likely to set in across the region, followed by rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches.

According to Met officials, December 21 may witness fairly widespread rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches, particularly in north Kashmir. Upper reaches of north Kashmir are likely to receive snowfall, while the plains of Kupwara may receive 2 to 3 inches of snow. Srinagar is likely to receive 1 to 2 inches of snowfall during the period, they said.

Met officials said parts of central Kashmir may also witness similar weather conditions, with snowfall in isolated areas. They added that another weak western disturbance is likely to affect the region around December 22.

The officials said weather conditions are expected to remain mostly dry but cloudy from December 22 to December 24. Thereafter, dry weather is likely to prevail across Kashmir till December 28.

They advised people, especially those travelling to higher reaches, to remain cautious during the period of expected snowfall.

**Anti-State, Anti-Village: Rahul Gandhi Blasts VB-G****RAM G Bill One Day After Parliament Passage**

battle over rural employment policy in India, just hours after the bill replaced the long-standing "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)."

Gandhi, who serves as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, took to his social media platform post-aye in the legislative chamber and the manner in which it was cleared by lawmakers. "Last night, the Modi government demolished twenty years of MGNREGA in one day," he wrote, arguing that the new bill fundamentally weakens the rights-based rural employment guarantee that MGNREGA provided. Gandhi alleged that the VB-G RAM G Bill turns a demand-driven scheme into a rationed programme controlled centrally from Delhi and strips rural workers of genuine leverage.

In his post, Gandhi said MGNREGA had been transformative for rural India by giving labourers bargaining power, which in turn helped reduce exploitation, improve wages, and curb distress migration while supporting the creation and revival of rural infrastructure. He warned that by imposing limits on work, an embedded moon commission, and a denial of jobs, the new bill would hurt the very people it claims to help — especially women, Dalits, Adivasis, landless labourers and the poorest communities. Gandhi highlighted how MGNREGA had acted as a social safety net during the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing crises from falling into hunger and debt.

Gandhi also criticised the legislative process, accusing the government of "bulldozing" the bill through Parliament without proper scrutiny. He noted that the Opposition's repeated calls to refer the bill to a parliamentary standing committee had been ignored and argued that a law that "rewrites the rural social contract" deserved expert consultation and public hearings before enactment.

The VB-G RAM G Bill, which was passed amid noisy protests from opposition parties and staged demonstrations by the Parliament complex, replaces the 2005 MGNREGA framework with a new statutory guarantee tied to rural employment and livelihood missions. While the government maintains that the updated law will strengthen and modernise rural livelihoods and align them with broader development goals, critics contend that it dilutes the rights-based nature of MGNREGA, undermines job guarantees, and increases central control.

Opposition parties such as the Trinamool Congress and others have continued to voice their dissent, accusing the central government of bypassing consensus and disregarding concerns from various corners over the bill's implications for rural communities. Gandhi's office has vowed continued resistance, with indications of plans to mobilise nationwide protests in response to what the Congress terms an "attack on the rural poor's last line of defence."

The bill now awaits the President's assent, and political tensions over its implementation and potential impact on livelihoods and rural communities are expected to intensify in the coming weeks as both supporters and detractors mount their campaigns.

**Over 17,000 street vendors benefit under****PM SVANidhi in J&K: Rs48 cr disbursed**

a total of 17,315 street vendors in Jammu and Kashmir are registered as beneficiaries under this scheme.

The data further reveals that loans amounting to 750.83 crore have been approved in favour of these vendors. So far, 748.18 crore has already been disbursed, which depicts a high disbursement rate in the Union Territory. The Ministry said, "Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) play a key role in identifying eligible street vendors through surveys conducted under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihoods and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, or through verification of applications submitted on the PM SVANidhi portal."

After the verification is completed, eligible vendors are provided with Certificates of Vending, identity cards or Letters of Recommendation (LoR). Then their loan applications are sent to banks and other lending institutions for approval and disbursement. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) also facilitate vendors through handholding, mobilising applicants and coordinating with banks to ensure loans are released promptly. For effective implementation of the scheme, the Union

Government asked the State and UT administrations, including Jammu and Kashmir, to regularly monitor the performance of ULBs and lending institutions. Pertinently, SVANidhi was introduced to offer affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to help them restart their businesses and pave a way for self-sufficiency.

**Searches launched in several villages of Rajouri after****reports of suspicious movement**

joint teams of the 49 Rashtriya Rifles, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Special Operations Group cordoned off the area during the midnight hours," the sources said. The operation was resumed with the first light of day, with aggressive searches underway in areas including Behroze Gali, they said.

**Free ration, LPG cylinder promises to be fulfilled****within 6 months: Minister Satish Sharma**

in snow-bound and high-altitude districts," the Minister said, adding, "Essential commodities have been dumped across all winter zones. There will be no shortage even during extended highway closures."

He also shared that the department has initiated the procurement of 20 mobile testing laboratories for district-level quality checks. "Each district will have a mobile lab vehicle to monitor ration and food quality. Strict action will follow against adulteration," he said, referring to recent issues involving raw meat and eggs. Admitting that resource limitations remain a challenge, the minister said, "We inherited several problems and expectations have multiplied a thousandfold in the past decade. Despite limited funds, we are working with honesty and fairness. Justice will be done."

On the issue of pending ration cards and split families, Sharma said discrepancies are being addressed. "We have requested the Centre to extend special concessions to J&K given its unique geography. Split families, widows and other deserving groups are genuine cases and we are committed to their inclusion," he said.

He said the department's Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) are being streamlined to ensure that posts created are absorbed swiftly. "Many employees have worked hard for years. I will personally ensure justice is done to the first three districts by January," Sharma said, adding that it was a commitment of the Omar Abdullah government to deliver fairness and merit-based progress.

He also appreciated the Chief Minister's support and Delhi's assistance, saying, "Our Chief Minister is positive and determined. Without Delhi's support, it would have been difficult. We expect liberal funding ahead similar to the progressive aid seen during Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure."

The minister said coordination with the Punjab government is ongoing to address inter-state food supply issues, which were delayed earlier due to administrative and logistical hurdles.

He said winter sports and tourism are being revived as part of J&K's broader development vision. "We are introducing downhill cycling, water sports and skiing in Sonmarg. The aim is to turn youth passion into profession and to light drags through sports," he said.

Highlighting the government's wider developmental approach, Sharma added that the administration is also working on the solarisation of 200 units including shrines, construction of new playgrounds and supporting tourism-based employment.

**Finance Minister likely to present Union Budget 2026-27****on Sunday, February 1: Govt source**

unprecedented. Former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha notably presented the budget on a Sunday, February 28, 1999, in a historic session that also shifted the presentation time from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m., ending a long-standing British colonial-era tradition. Weekend budget presentations have occurred more frequently on Saturdays, such as in 2001, 2004, 2015, and 2016.

The Indian Parliament has a history of holding Sunday sessions for important ministries or urgent legislative business. For example, on May 13, 2012, both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha convened to mark the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament. During the September 2020 Monsoon Session, Parliament met on both Saturdays and Sundays to make up for lost time due to the COVID-19 pandemic—a rare instance of routine weekend sittings. Additionally, in 1977 and 1991, the Rajya Sabha held special Sunday sessions to decide on the extension of President's Rule in certain states while the Lok Sabha was dissolved.

Market analysts and taxpayers are closely monitoring the PAC's upcoming decision. If the Sunday budget presentation is confirmed, it is anticipated that the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will hold special trading sessions to react promptly to the Finance Minister's announcements, ensuring real-time market adjustments.

**Delegation of Shree Mata Vaishno Devi****Sangharsh Samiti Meets Union Health Minister****J.P. Nadia: Assurance of Early Resolution**

the people of Jammu over the seat-allocation issue and its serious socio-legal and regional implications. The concerns were articulated firmly yet constructively, highlighting the expectations of the people of Jammu from an institution established under the revered name of Shree Mata Vaishno Devi.

Shri J.P. Nadga gave a patient and attentive hearing to the delegation. He acknowledged the gravity of the issue and assured the delegation that the party and the Union Government are fully sensitive to the concerns. The Hon'ble Minister categorically assured that the matter would be examined with due seriousness and that a resolution would be arrived at very shortly, keeping in view the legitimate aspirations and sentiments of the people of Jammu.

The delegation comprised: Col. Sukhvinder Markotia (Retd.), Convener, Shree Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti; Shri Purshotham Dhadihich, President, Sanatan Dharm Sabha, Jammu & Kashmir; Shri Abhishek Gupta, State Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad; Shri R.K. Chibbar, Member Advisory Committee POJK Sewa Samiti.

Advocate Deepank Sharma. The Shree Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti expressed satisfaction over the constructive response of the Union Health Minister and reiterated its resolve to pursue the issue in a lawful, democratic, and principled manner until a just and acceptable solution is achieved.

The delegation from the Sangharsh Samiti also met with Jugal Kishore Sharma, the Lok Sabha MP from Jammu, and Sat Sharma, the Rajya Sabha MP and state BJP president. Both MPs assured the Sangharsh Samiti that their demands would be raised at the appropriate forums for resolution. The delegation also met with the Delhi-based members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and apprised them with the situation.