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**News in Brief**

**Cold wave sweeps Kashmir, Ladakh**

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Dec 05 :** An unabated cold wave is sweeping through the valley and Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir with temperatures settling below freezing point. The minimum temperatures dropped several notches below freezing point, the Met said, adding "The night temperatures are likely to drop further in the coming three to four days as the weather is likely to remain dry during this period." It was minus 3.0 in Srinagar, mi-

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**Two army men injured in cross-LoC fire in Uri**

**NJNS**  
**Srinagar, Dec 05 :** An army soldiers were injured in cross border shelling in north Kashmir's Uri town of Baramulla district on Wednesday. An official said that Pakistan army fired at Indian positions along the LoC in Kamal Kote sector of Uri today morning. "Two army men were injured in the cross-border firing," he said. The injured soldiers were identified as Naik M willan and Sepoy Wishva Nath no 2619096-M of army's 8 RR.

**NIA produces three Kashmiri students in Punjab Court**

**Chandigarh, Dec 05 :** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) produced three persons believed to be members of Ansar Ghazwat ul Hind including cousin of group commander Zakir Musa in a special court on Tuesday under tight security, Indian Express reported. Yousef Rafiq Bhat, is a cousin of Kashmir-based militant leader Musa who is wanted by the forces in the state. The court ordered the accused, including Zahid Gulzar, a resident of Awantipora, and Mohammad

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**HRD ministry withdraws Kashmiri translations under 'Bhasha Sangam' following row**

**New Delhi, Dec 05 :** The HRD ministry has withdrawn the Kashmiri translations of certain sentences under its "Bhasha Sangam" initiative following a row. Last week, the ministry's Department of School Education and Literacy had initiated the "Bhasha Sangam", a celebration of linguistic diversity, with an aim to familiarise every child with simple dialogues in all the 22 languages under Schedule 8 of the Constitution. The row

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# VVIP chopper case accused, extradited from Dubai, 'will spill secrets of politicians he served': PM Modi



**Sumerpur, Dec 05 :** Hours before campaigning to end in Rajasthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a stinging attack on the Congress leadership, accusing party chief Rahul Gandhi and his family of corruption and crediting his government for catching Christian Michel, the middleman in the VVIP chopper scandal who was brought late last night from Dubai. PM Modi described him the 57-year-old British national who is alleged to have acted as a middleman for someone who had served many politicians. "We have brought back the middleman. He used to pay kickbacks... Now he will spill the beans, wait and see who all will be named". PM Modi also re-

**AgustaWestland chopper case Highlights: Christian Michel sent to 5-day CBI custody**

**New Delhi, Dec 05 :** A Delhi court Wednesday sent Christian Michel, the alleged middleman in the Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal, to five-day CBI custody. Michel was extradited to India from Dubai late Tuesday night. On his arrival in India, he was taken to the CBI headquarters for questioning. 54-year-old Michel was among the alleged middlemen who brokered the chopper deal and who, investigators

(Cont. on Page 2)

**PM Modi latching on to Christian Michel for smear campaign against opposition: Congress**

**Hyderabad, Dec 05 :** The Congress on Wednesday said the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were "latching" on to Christian Michel, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper deal who was extradited to India from Dubai, for a "smear campaign" against opposition leaders. Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, in a statement, alleged that facing "imminent defeat" in state polls, Prime Minister Modi and the BJP government were seeking to "weave a web of lies" and construct a "mesh of deception to hoodwink" the people of India in the chopper case. Michel, the alleged middleman in the politically-sensitive Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal, was brought to India late on Tuesday night following his extradition by the UAE. In his rally in Rajasthan on the last day of campaigning before the state elections on Friday,

(Cont. on Page 2)

**Action initiated against officials after pictures of roofless polling station went viral**

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Dec 05 :** Authorities in Rajouri district initiated action against three officials after some pictures of a school building without a roof, which served as a polling station for the 7th phase of Panchayat elections in a remote village, went viral on social media, officials said Wednesday. The polling station, which was set up at a government primary school at mountainous Kerikotecharwal village in

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**Security forces use strong intelligence network, CCTV surveillance to thin ranks of militants**

**NJNS**  
**Srinagar, Dec 05 :** A strong intelligence network and the surveillance of militants on cellphones and closed circuit television (CCTV) footage has helped the government forces kill a record number of over 245 militants this year and arrest several over ground workers (OGWs) in Kashmir. The number of militants killed this year as well as in 2017 was one of the highest. The security forces have also arrested

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**Pak PM's statement has rekindled hope, augurs well for people of JK: Farooq**

**NJNS**  
**Srinagar, Dec 05 :** National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday welcomed the positive approach of Pakistan's leadership on resolving long pending issues with government of India. Dr Farooq Abdullah who was speaking at the annual day celebrations of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences at SKICC, Srinagar said that the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent

(Cont. on Page 2)

**RBI keeps interest rates unchanged, retains GDP growth projection at 7.4%**

**Mumbai, Dec 05 :** Following a three-day meeting, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee (MPC), led by RBI Governor Urjit Patel, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent on the back of a fall in crude oil prices and lower-than-expected inflation. The reverse repo rate was also kept unchanged at 6.5 per cent. Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank lends to other banks. This is for the second time in a row that the cen-



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**14-year-old missing Hajin boy surfaces on social media holding AK-47**

**NJNS**  
**Srinagar, Dec 05 :** A 14-year-old teenager from Hajin town in North Kashmir's Bandipora district has surfaced on the social media holding an AK-47 and a knife. The teenager identified as Mudasar Rashid Parray, a resident of Khankah Mohalla, had gone missing from his home on August 31, after an encounter took place at Parray Mohalla in which three LeT militants were killed. His family had made appeals via video



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**Burglars take away ATM containing Rs 3.6 lakh in Kathua**

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Dec 05 :** An ATM, loaded with over Rs 3.60 lakh cash, was stolen Wednesday in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. A case has been registered, police said, adding they have launched a manhunt to find the machine and nab the culprits. The burglars took the Chhan Rorian village route along the Jammu-Pathankot highway in early hours of Wednesday and decamped with the ATM, a police officer said.

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**CBI vs CBI: Verma, Asthana fighting like cats, exposed agency to ridicule, AG tells SC**



**New Delhi, Dec 05 :** The Supreme Court has posted on Thursday further hearing in CBI director Alok Verma's plea against Centre's decision to divest him of duties and sending him on leave in view of graft allegations against him. The centre on Wednesday told the apex court that the fight

between two top officers of the CBI - Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana - in public exposed the premier probe agency to ridicule. Verma and his deputy, CBI special director Rakesh Asthana, were sent on leave by the Centre after a feud between the two came out in public, with both levelling serious accusations of corruption against each other. Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the centre, said it was essential for the government to step in when the two top officers of the CBI were "fighting like cats". "Government of India was watching with amazement as to what the top officers were doing, they were fighting like cats, "news agency quoted him as saying. "Dispute between CBI Director and Special Director was pulling down integrity and respect of the premier institution. Our main aim is to see that confidence of the public in this premier institution (CBI) is restored," he told the bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi. The apex court on Nov 29 had said it would first consider whether the gov-

**'Was not at the spot': Bulandshahr mob violence accused claims police frame-up in video**



**Lucknow, Dec 05 :** Yogesh Raj, the main accused in the Bulandshahr violence in which a police inspector and a youth were killed, claimed he had not even been at the spot when the clashes broke out but the police were trying to frame him. In a video shared on instant messaging app Whatsapp, Yogesh Raj, who has shaved off his moustache and beard and swapped his kurta and stole imprinted with 'Jai Shri Ram' for a pink shirt, alleged that the police were projecting him as a dreaded criminal. The Bajrang Dal's dis-

Almighty and He will give me justice," he said in the video. The video drew the opposition's renewed attack on the Yogi Adityanath government for its failure to nab Raj even while his video was being circulated with impunity. While four accused have been arrested, Raj heads the list of 28 people named in the FIR lodged by police after the Monday's violence. Inspector general of police, Meerut range, Ramkumar said, "We are after him." Reports of alleged cow slaughter from Mahaw village, near

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