

# Dal Lake freezes as winter intensifies across Kashmir Valley

SRINAGAR, Jan 10 (ANI)

AS WINTER intensifies across the Kashmir Valley, a thin layer of ice formed on Dal Lake in Srinagar on Saturday. Meanwhile, a blanket of fog enveloped several other parts of India, including Agra, Moradabad, Patna, Mumbai, and New Delhi.

In Jaisalmer, locals are coping with the cold by warming themselves around bonfires. The region is experiencing dense fog and mist due to a western disturbance, covering all tourist spots. Tourists from across the country and abroad are enjoying the chilly weather, while severe cold has set in, and night temperatures have dropped noticeably this season.

The minimum temperature recorded is 4.5°C. The thick fog has also significantly slowed vehicle movement on national highways. According to the Indian Meteorological Department,



A municipal worker makes his way through a frozen layer of water in interior Dal Lake in the Kashmir Valley in Srinagar on Saturday. (R) An armed Special Operations Group personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police stands guard as tourists experience snow activities, at Guldanda in Bhaderwah. (PTI)

cold day conditions are expected in isolated areas of East Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, West Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh over the next two days.

Cold wave alerts cover isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh,

Odisha, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, North Interior Karnataka, and Rajasthan between January 10 to 14. A thin layer of fog enveloped the national capital on Saturday morning as cold wave conditions continued to grip the region, with tem-

peratures dropping to 5.4 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department. The air pollution levels also rose sharply. As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) surged to 361, falling under the "very poor" category until 7 am.

## 4 killed in car-bus collision in Punjab

HOSHIARPUR, Jan 10 (PTI)

FOUR men were killed and one was injured after the car they were travelling in collided with a Punjab Roadways bus on the Hoshiarpur-Dasuya road here on Saturday morning, police said.

The accident occurred due to poor visibility caused by dense fog, the police said. The deceased were identified as Sukhwinder, Sushil Kumar, Brij Kumar and Arun Kumar, all residents of the Chalet village in Himachal Pradesh.

The injured, identified as Amit Kumar of the same village, was admitted to the Civil Hospital in Hoshiarpur for treatment.

## 4 cops injured in accident in Rajasthan

JAISALMER, Jan 10 (PTI)

FOUR police personnel, including a station house officer, were injured after a bus collided with a police vehicle amid dense fog in the Pokaran subdivision of Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred near the Chacha village when a police team from Mohangarh was travelling to Pokaran for duty during a shutdown called in protest against alleged cow slaughter, officials said.

# Trump promises 'total safety' to oil executives investing in Venezuela

WASHINGTON, Jan 10 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Friday called on oil executives to rush back into Venezuela as the White House looks to quickly secure USD 100 billion in investments to revive the country's ability to fully tap into its expansive reserves of petroleum.

Since the US military raid to capture former Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, Trump has quickly pivoted to portraying the move as a newfound economic opportunity for the US, seizing tankers carrying Venezuelan oil, and saying US is taking over the sales of 30 million to 50 million barrels of previously sanctioned Venezuelan oil and will be controlling sales worldwide indefinitely.

Trump, as he opened the meeting with oil industry executives, sought to assure them that they need not be skeptical of quickly investing in and, in some cases, returning to South American country with a history of state asset seizures as well as ongoing US sanctions and the current political uncertainty.

"You have total safety," Trump



President Donald Trump wears a gift which he calls a 'Happy Trump' pin during a meeting with oil executives in the East Room of the White House on Friday. (AP/PTI)

told the executives. "You're dealing with us directly and not dealing with Venezuela at all. We don't want you to deal with Venezuela."

Trump added: "Our giant oil companies will be spending at least USD 100 billion of their money, not the government's money. They don't need government money. But they need government protection."

## I've saved millions of lives, says Trump to justify his recognition for Nobel Prize

WASHINGTON, Jan 10 (IANS)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said he deserved the Nobel Peace Prize for what he described as his role in stopping multiple major wars, including allegedly averting a potential conflict between India and Pakistan, arguing that no other leader had achieved comparable results.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said he had resolved conflicts that had persisted for decades and prevented new wars from escalating, often without military intervention.

"Look, whether people like Trump or don't like Trump, I settled eight wars," he said. Trump listed conflicts he said had been resolved during his leadership, emphasising their duration and scale. "Big ones, some going on for 36 years, 32 years, 31 years, 28 years, 25 years," he said. He singled out South Asia as one of the most dangerous flashpoints, claiming US intervention prevented escalation between India and Pakistan.

"Some just getting ready to start, like India and Pakistan, where already eight jets were shot out of the air," Trump said.

Trump said the scale of lives saved justified Nobel recognition. "I've saved tens of millions of lives," he said.

Trump said his approach focused on direct engagement and leverage rather than prolonged warfare. "These were major wars," he said. "These were wars that nobody thought could be stopped."

# US ambassador-designate Gor arrives in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (PTI)

**US AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE** Sergio Gor, known to be a key member of President Donald Trump's inner circle, has arrived

in New Delhi amid an unprecedented estrangement in ties between the two countries.

Gor, 38, was sworn in as the US envoy to India in mid-November. "Great to be back in

India! Incredible opportunities ahead for our two nations!" he said on social media. His arrival came as a fresh row erupted between two sides following US Commerce Secretary Lutnick's

claim that the proposed trade deal between the two countries couldn't be sealed last year as Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not make a telephone call to President Donald Trump.

# Taliban's Noor Ahmad Noor to take charge of Afghan Embassy in Delhi



NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (IANS)

**SENIOR** Taliban member Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor has arrived in New Delhi to take over as Charge d'Affaires at Afghanistan's Embassy, officials said on Saturday.

Noor Ahmad Noor has previously served as the Director General of the First Political

Department at Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

India and Afghanistan have witnessed a steady rise in their bilateral relations in the past few months, especially after the seven-day visit of the Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in October last year.

During this visit, Muttaqi had firmly asserted control over the Embassy here in New Delhi, indicating the Islamic Emirate's flag flying in front and behind him.

"This is our flag. We fought jihad under this. This is 100 per cent our embassy. All those who are working here... they are all with us," Muttaqi said in response to a question by IANS, pointing to the Islamic Emirate's flag

*(Contd on page 5)*

# India has progressed on many fronts, it must avoid middle-income trap: EAC-PM chairman

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (PTI)

**INDIA** has progressed on many fronts, and the country must avoid the middle-income trap and build on its achievements to create a society and economy that is prosperous and inclusive, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman S Mahendra Dev said on Saturday. Addressing the '104th SKOCH Summit', Dev

said that India has undertaken numerous reforms, including GST reforms, RERA, IBC, 100 per cent FDI in insurance private participation in nuclear energy, quality control orders, and ease-of-doing-business initiatives.

"India has progressed on many fronts. With the right allocation of resources across sectors, strong reforms, and efficiency-led growth, India can significantly increase its glob-

al economic share," he said. The eminent economist said that political stability, macro-economic stability, and a large domestic market are key strengths of India. "...India must avoid the middle-income trap and build on its achievements to create a society and economy that is prosperous, inclusive, and pro-nature," he said.

The Middle-Income Trap is a situation where a country's economic growth stagnates

after becoming a middle-income nation, unable to make the leap to high-income status, as seen in Latin America. Dev noted that structural transformation remains crucial as agriculture still employs 46 per cent of workers but contributes only 15 per cent of GDP. "Manufacturing employs only 11-12 per cent, with a 17 per cent GDP share. Increasing manufacturing and services is essential," he said.

# Have to do something with Greenland easy way or hard way: Donald Trump



WASHINGTON DC, Jan 10 (ANI)

**US PRESIDENT** Donald Trump again reiterated the claims of having to do "something" about Greenland, saying that if US doesn't take any action, Russia and China would spring in and that Washington does not want to have them as neighbours.

In the context of Denmark, he said that landing a boat 500 years ago in Greenland "doesn't mean they own the land".

The US President made the remarks while interacting with media persons during his meeting with the top oil and gas executives.

When asked about Greenland, Trump said, "We are going to do something on Greenland, whether they like it or not, because if we don't do it, Russia or China will take over Greenland -- and we're not going to have Russia or China as a neighbour. I would like to make a deal the easy way but if we don't do it the easy way, we're going to do it the hard way".

He added, "And by the way, I'm a fan of Denmark as well. They've been very nice to me. I'm a big fan but the fact that they had a boat land there 500 years ago doesn't mean that they own the land. We had lots of boats go there also. But we need

that because if you take a look at outside of Greenland right now, they are Russian destroyers, Chinese destroyers and bigger there are Russian submarines all over the place. We're not going to have Russia or China occupy Greenland and that's what they're going to do if we don't. We will do something with Greenland either the nice way or the difficult way."

(Contd on page 5)

## Greenland's party leaders reject Trump's push firmly for US control of island

NUUK, Jan 10 (AP)

**GREENLAND'S** party leaders have rejected President Donald Trump's repeated calls for the US to take control of the island, saying that Greenland's future must be decided by its people.

"We don't want to be Americans, we don't want to be Danes, we want to be Greenlanders," Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen and four party leaders said in a statement on Friday night.

Trump said again on Friday that he would like to make a deal to acquire Greenland, a semiautonomous region that's part of NATO ally Denmark, "the

easy way." He said that if the US doesn't own it, then Russia or China will take it over, and the US does not want them as neighbours.

"If we don't do it the easy way, we're going to do it the hard way," Trump said, without explaining what that entailed. The White House said it is considering a range of options, including using military force, to acquire the island.

Greenland's party leaders reiterated that "Greenland's future must be decided by the Greenlandic people."

"As Greenlandic party leaders, we would like to emphasise once again our wish that the United States' contempt

(Contd on page 5)

"We will do something with Greenland either the nice way or the difficult way because if we don't do it, Russia or China will take over Greenland, and we're not going to have Russia or China as a neighbour"