

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! India has kept..

has emerged as the first responder in its immediate vicinity to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief measures. Indias commitment to maritime security has also been great, reflecting the changes in the ability of others to contribute. By strengthening the maritime domain awareness, we are making the ocean below safer for the entire world. On terrorism, our efforts have contributed to a larger awareness of different facets, the minister said. The FATF (Financial Action Task Force) has become a more important forum and black money was today firmly on the agenda of the G-20 even as the world no longer sees it as a law and order and order issue, he explained.

Terrorists may try..

Vijay Kumar along with IG CRPF Charu Sinha with the District Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) and CAPF commanders regarding ground situation and specific deployment requirements for conduct of the upcoming event. Advisor Bhatnagar appreciated J-K Police and other forces in maintaining peace, stability and law and order in the UT and reiterated the importance of maintaining a close watch on the inimical elements. Bhatnagar stressed the need to maintain real-time coordination between forces and security agencies for the peaceful conduct of the elections.

Do you support..

and Kashmir parties whose demands have drawn some support from the Congress. He noted the "anti-national" views of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, who had favoured China's support for Article 370's restoration, and PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, who had said she would not raise the national flag if the separate flag of Jammu and Kashmir is not restored, and sought to know the Congress' stand over them. Prasad said women were earlier deprived of property rights in the union territory if they married outside and anti-corruption laws, reservation for the disadvantaged sections of society and various other "humanist" central laws were not implemented in the region and accused the Gupkar alliance of working to push Jammu and Kashmir towards "narrow conservatism".

"If a Muslim or Hindu girl from Jammu and Kashmir married a boy from outside, then she would have no right in the property of her father. We have changed it and restored her right to property," he said.

The alliance of about 10 regional parties have demanded restoration of Article 370, a demand supported by some senior Congress leaders, including P Chidambaram.

Earlier, while targeting the Congress over its ties with the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also had a go at its leader Rahul Gandhi over comments of the likes of former US president Barack Obama to RJD leader Shivanand Tiwari and Congress' Kapil Sibal.

When Obama got to know him (Rahul) in four-five days, then it is obvious that those who interact with him almost daily would also have realised what he is, Patra told reporters.

Congress leaders were praising him while carrying a burden of "100 tonnes of stone" on their chest, and now they feel suffocated, he said.

"The BJP had been saying so for long. Now a friend of Congress like Shivanand Tiwari is saying that he is a non-performing picknicking president," Patra said.

Tiwari had on Sunday questioned the campaign run by the Congress and also had taken a swipe at Gandhi for not spending much time electioneering in the state.

Sibal is part of a group of leaders in the Congress who have demanded an overhaul of the party's organisation.

Targeting the tie-up of the Jammu and Kashmir parties, known as 'Gupkar Alliance', the BJP spokesperson described it as 'unholy', saying that it is aimed at opposing the implementation of laws duly passed by Indian Parliament.

"This Gupkar Alliance wants exactly what Pakistan and anti-India countries want. Pakistan has gone to every forum and spoken against the removal of Article 370. The Gupkar Alliance says the same thing," Patra said.

CBI takes over..

The third case has been registered in connection with FIR 6/2014 of Vigilance Organisation, Jammu (now Anti-Corruption Bureau, UT of J&K), earlier registered against a private person, resident of Gandhi Nagar, Jammu; unknown Officers / Officials of Revenue Department, Jammu; unknown Officers / Officials of JDA & unknown others on the allegations that the Revenue officers/officials of Jammu District had entered into a criminal conspiracy with the said private person and conferred ownership rights with regard to land measuring 05 Kanal and 02 Marlas (approx.) comprising in Khasra No. 781 situated at village Deeli Tehsil and District Jammu. It was further alleged that the accused in pursuance of criminal conspiracy hatched among themselves had illegally regularized the said state land without existence of any entry in revenue record and issued NOC in favour of the beneficiary for construction of commercial building over the land. The investigation in these cases has been started.

Heavy snowfall in..

temperatures dipped in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab following rains. Heavy snowfall and landslides in the Union Territory forced closure of the important Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban and authorities in Kashmir have issued an avalanche warning for four districts - Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla and Ganderbal.

The Himalayan shrines of Kedarnath and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand closed for the winters amid heavy snowfall in the upper reaches of the state.

Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 25.8 degrees Celsius, the lowest this season so far, following rains under the influence of a Western Disturbance.

However, the minimum temperature rose to 16 degrees Celsius, the highest since October 22, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

IMD officials attributed the drop in the maximum temperature and the increase in the minimum temperature to the presence of clouds in the region under the influence of the Western Disturbance.

Until now, Delhi had been witnessing a trend of low minimum temperatures this month due to the absence of cloud cover.

Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground.

The minimum temperature is likely to drop below the 10 degrees Celsius mark by Friday, according to the IMD.

The department said that as the Western Disturbance withdraws from the region, the wind direction will again change to Northwesterly.

Cold winds from hilly regions, which have received a fresh bout of snowfall, will start blowing towards the national capital, an IMD official said.

Many places in Haryana and Punjab received rains, causing a dip in the mercury, the meteorological (MeT) department said, adding that a few places, including Chandigarh, received showers on Monday morning as well.

Places that received rains on Sunday included Gurgaon, Pathankot, Jalandhar, Patiala, Ludhiana, Panchkula, Sonapat, Gurgaon, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Jind and Hisar. Isolated places in Haryana were also lashed by hailstorms.

The minimum temperature in the two states dropped by a few notches after the rains,

department officials said.

Upper Himalayan areas, including Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Auli and Harsil, of Uttarakhand received the season's first heavy snowfall, intensifying cold conditions across the state.

Snowfall began on Sunday night and continued till Monday morning, according to officials.

Heavy snowfall delayed the departure of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Uttarakhand counterpart Trivendra Singh Rawat for Badrinath after they had offered prayers at Kedarnath temple and attended a ceremony for the closure of its portals for winter.

Himachal Pradesh's tourist hotspots Kufri and Manali received the first snowfall of the season, the MeT department said.

Kufri received 7 cm snowfall whereas Manali in Kullu district received 2 cm in the last 24 hours, Shimla MeT Centre Director Manmohan Singh said, adding that Sangla recorded 25 cm snowfall, Gondla 20 cm, Khadrula 18 cm, Kalpa 5.6 cm and Keylong 4 cm.

Besides, several other areas of the state including its capital Shimla experienced 21.6 mm rainfall.

The tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Keylong was recorded as the coldest place in the state at minus 3 degrees Celsius, the weatherman said.

While Kalpa recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, Kufri's minimum temperature settled at zero degree Celsius. Dalhousie and Shimla recorded a low of 0.6 and 3.6 degrees Celsius respectively, Singh added.

In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have rescued 10 people, including two women and a child, after they were trapped in heavy snowfall at the high-altitude Sinthan pass, a defence spokesperson said.

The rescue operation was carried out late Sunday night after information was received about a group of civilians stranded at Sinthan pass that connects Kishtwar district of Jammu region with Kashmir's Anantnag, he said.

The rescue team, comprising army and police personnel, walked for five hours along the National Highway 244 in zero visibility conditions during the night and brought the stranded people to Sinthan ground where they were provided with food and shelter, the spokesperson said.

Heavy snowfall in the Union Territory also affected traffic on major roads.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the only all-weather road connecting Kashmir with rest of the country, was closed for traffic following snowfall around Jawahar Tunnel and landslides from the hillocks at several places in Ramban district, officials said.

The alternate link between the valley and rest of the country, Mughal Road, also remained closed for the third day as high-altitude areas experienced snowfall, while plains of Jammu and other parts were lashed by rains since Sunday afternoon, the officials said.

Light rain, which was triggered by the Western Disturbance, was recorded in a few areas of eastern Rajasthan since Sunday and Bari in Dholpur and Mandrayal in Karauli both received 4 cm rainfall.

Sarmathura, Dholpur; Sapotra (Karauli) recorded 3 cm while a few other places received below 3 cm rains, according to the MeT department.

The temperature last night was recorded at 12 degrees Celsius in Jaisalmer and 19.2 degrees Celsius in Kota.

Nitish gets CM's..

installation of a puppet government" despite its leader Tejashwi Yadav receiving the invitation. The party reiterated its allegation that votes were tilted in favour of the NDA with the help of plant officials posted in assembly segments where the contest was close.

The BJP appeared to have extracted its pound of flesh, walking away with seven berths in the council of ministers, two more than the JD(U), and also keeping for itself the post of the Speaker of the assembly which has remained with the chief minister's party in the last decade and a half.

"Congratulations to @NitishKumar Ji on taking oath as Bihar's CM. I also congratulate all those who took oath as Ministers in the Bihar Government. The NDA family will work together for the progress of Bihar. I assure all possible support from the Centre for the welfare of Bihar," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

The BJP has dropped as Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, a veteran leader who later on came to be seen as an alter ego of Kumar, much to the resentment of party hard liners.

While the fate of Modi, who is a member of the state legislative council, remains unclear, the party has handpicked two of its low profile MLAs Tar Kishore Prasad and Renu Devi for the Deputy CM's post.

Both took oath as ministers and sat on the dais alongside Kumar. Since deputy chief minister's is not a constitutional post, their elevation will come into effect with a cabinet resolution and subsequent gazette notification.

Kumar, on his part, sought to steer clear of the speculations around his former deputy and replied curtly when approached with queries by journalists, saying "This is the BJP's decision. You should pose your questions to the BJP leadership".

A section in the media sought to highlight Modi's absence at the BJP headquarters here when Shah visited the premises and got a rousing welcome by party cadre exulting over its impressive performance in the assembly polls.

The former deputy chief minister, though, had received Shah and Nadda at the airport and later turned up at the swearing-in ceremony besides coming out with a flurry of tweets congratulating his former boss and other newly inducted ministers.

However, the generational shift in the Bihar BJP, where leaders like Union MoS for Home Nityanand Rai are emerging as the new power centres, was evident.

Nand Kishore Yadav and Prem Kumar, both multiple term MLAs from their respective constituencies who always held ministerial berths whenever the BJP has been in power, did not make it this time.

However, Nand Kishore Yadav is all set to become the new Speaker, informed sources in the BJP said.

The 14 ministers sworn in today seven from BJP, five from JD(U) and one each from HAM and VIP reflect the "social engineering" that has been the cornerstone of the saffron party-led alliance's strategy for expansion in the Hindi heartland.

While four of them belong to the upper castes, the traditional support base of the BJP, three are Dalits and the remaining from the often disorganised but numerically powerful sections of the other backward classes (OBC) and extremely backward classes (EBC).

Notably, two ministers Bijendra Prasad Yadav (JDU) and Ram Surat Rai (BJP) belong to the Yadav caste, traditionally the supporters of the RJD whom the BJP has been aggressively trying to wean away from Lalu Prasad's party.

Besides Renu Devi, who belongs to the EBC group Nonia, Sheela Kumari Mandal, an OBC from the JD(U) is the other woman minister who made a successful electoral debut in the recently held polls.

The Dalits faces include Ashok Choudhary, who held a ministerial portfolio in the previous government and is the JD(U)'s state working president, Santosh Kumar Suman, whose father Jitan Ram Manjhi is a former chief minister and HAM president, and Ram Prit Paswan, a senior BJP leader from Madhubani in north Bihar.

No Muslim figured among the ministers, an omission which may provide the opposition with some cannon fodder to train guns at Nitish Kumar whom it has often accused of capitulating before the BJP in his quest for power.

From the Vikasshree Insaan Party the inductee is its founding chief Mukesh Sahni who plunged into politics a couple of years ago after giving up a career as a set designer in Bollywood. Sahni's party has won four seats though he made the cut despite having lost.

The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan boycotted the ceremony claiming the public mandate

in the elections was against the NDA but it was altered by "fraud".

"The RJD boycotts oath-taking ceremony of this puppet government. The mandate is for a change, and against the (ruling) NDA. The peoples verdict has been changed by the rulers order," the RJD alleged in a tweet.

Other members of the opposition alliance include the Congress, CPI, CPI-M and CPI-ML.

"Best wishes to Shri Nitish Kumar ji on his nomination as the chief minister. I hope he will accord priority to Bihar's aspirations over his personal lust for the chair," RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav tweeted.

The NDA won 125 seats in the 243-member assembly against 110 clinched by the opposition Grand Alliance to pave the way for a fourth successive term for Kumar in office but with diminished clout following a debilitating slide in the number of JD(U) lawmakers that came down to 43 from 71 in 2015.

The drastic fall in the number of JD(U) MLAs, as was expected, saw the BJP, which hitherto played a second fiddle to Kumar, drive a hard bargain and walk away with a larger share in the ministerial pie, and looks set to pocket the Speaker's chair as well.

COVID-19: 390 fresh..

officials said. Srinagar district recorded the highest of 112 cases, followed by 97 in Jammu. There are 5,588 active cases, while 95,824 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. The Union Territory reported eight COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours, of which three from Jammu and five from the Kashmir valley.

Will Congress restore..

having perpetually compromised the Dogra pride. He accused NC and Congress of not only unleashing oppression against Dogras but also putting behind the bars the tallest Dogra of our times, namely Pandit Prem Nath Dogra.

Dr Singh said, Congress and National Conference are trying to sell the name of Maharaja Hari Singh to the new generation of Jammuites who, they think, may not be fully abreast with history. But, it is on record that Congress led by Jawaharlal Nehru and National Conference led by Sheikh Abdullah were responsible for the humiliating ouster and banishment of Maharaja Hari Singh, he said.

The politically expedient opposition leaders, said Dr Singh, have conveniently come to the conclusion that the Dogras of Jammu do not read their own history and can, therefore, be easily manipulated by opportunistic rhetoric. He asked the Congress and the National Conference, which had ruled Jammu & Kashmir for over half a century, to come out with a White Paper to explain as to how the number of employees in the J&K government services as well as the Civil Secretariat had systematically and progressively declined over the years.

Dr Jitendra accused these political parties of not only physical discrimination against the Jammu region but also leading a psychological warfare resulting in mental enslavement of the people of Jammu region. He said, for the first time, people in every region of Jammu & Kashmir have begun to experience the feeling of being equal citizens and not being subservient to any other region.

PM urges people..

country was also moving in the same direction and added that a law against triple talaq was made, while new sectors were opening up for women.

"Women today are getting opportunities in the armed forces and the new education policy will create new opportunities for them," he said.

Modi said that the Bhakti movement led by seers pushed and strengthened the freedom movement in the country, and now it was time to push the 'vocal for local' campaign.

He said that seers of India always showed the path of peace, non-violence and harmony to the world and humanity, and the world gets inspiration from these messages.

"Therefore, the world is once again looking at India," he said.

Speaking on the life and works of the Jain seer, Modi said he was a visionary saint who had compassion for everyone and he visited different parts of the country to work for education and women empowerment.

Why J&K DDC..

and Sarpanches going to polls in the Phase-I on November 28, there has been an equally enthusiastic response. While 360 candidates have filed papers for the Sarpanch seats, as many as 1,761 have jumped into the fray for the Panch seats. This is in sharp contrast to the voters' as well as the contestants' mood and morale in all elections held in the valley after the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections of 2014.

As the militants and the separatists reclaimed their base, particularly on the ideological front, during Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's and Mehbooba Mufti's PDP-BJP coalition regime in 2015-18, neither of the Chief Ministers looked willing to conduct the much-delayed Panchayati and the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections.

Polling was never held for the Anantnag-Pulwama Lok Sabha seat that fell vacant after Mehbooba took over as CM after Mufti's death in January 2016. It was cancelled indefinitely as the interim election on the Srinagar-Budgam Lok Sabha seat-that had fallen vacant due to the resignation of PDP's Tariq Hamid Kara-witnessed widespread violence in April 2017.

Even after the breakdown of Ms Mufti's government, both the Panchayati as well as the ULB elections in 2018 witnessed a dismal voter turnout in the valley. There were single or no candidates in many of the constituencies. As many as 13,000 seats, mostly in Kashmir, remained vacant in the Panchayat elections when neither the voters nor the candidates demonstrated enthusiasm for a host of reasons including the threats from terrorists and the boycott by the NC and the PDP.

Obviously the Government of India has a remarkable stake in the success of the first elections being held after its drastic interventions and transformations in August 2019. The valley parties are in the fray as their absence would have given monopoly to the BJP and the Apni Party in all the 20 DDCs which have the stream of the Block Development Council (BDC) chairpersons already dominated by the BJP; the independents leaning towards the BJP and the Congress. The third stream of MLAs will be automatically filled with the Assembly elections as and when held in J&K.

Smooth and successful DDC elections with a massive turnout would also deflate the anti-Indian narrative of 'lockdown, suppression of rights and disempowerment of the Kashmiris' sustained in the foreign press over the last 16 months.

India's daily COVID-19..

The government's efforts to continue to maintain high levels of comprehensive testing have resulted in bringing down the net positivity to sustained low levels.

The recovery rate has improved to 93.27 per cent as the total recovered cases have surged to 82,49,579. The ministry said that 78.59 per cent of the recovered cases reported in a span of 24 hours are from 10 states and union territories.

Delhi saw the greatest number of recoveries as 7,606 confirmed cases recovered. Kerala registered 6,684 daily recoveries while West Bengal followed by reporting 4,480 new recoveries. Over 76 per cent of the new cases have been reported from 10 states and UTs.

As much as 78.85 per cent of the 435 new deaths are concentrated in 10 states and UTs. About a fifth, 21.84 per cent of new fatalities reported are from Delhi which reported 95 deaths, overtaking Maharashtra. Maharashtra reported 60 fatalities, which is 13.79 per cent of the new fatalities, the ministry said.

Fourteen states and UTs have death per million higher than the national average of 94 and 13 states and UTs have a case fatality rate higher than national average, the ministry said.

Retired Subedar among two die, 3 injured in mishaps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A retired Subedar among two persons died while three others got injured in separate road mishaps here on Monday.

As per details, 75 years Kartar Singh, resident of Machine Domana, was hit by a mini-bus in Domana area, while crossing a road, due to which he got injured. He was shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead. Meanwhile, two cars collided head-on in Jhajar Kotli area, due to which three persons got injured and were shifted to hospital for treatment. The injured were identified as Abdul Shabir, Gafoor Ahmed and Razia Bibi, all residents of Doda.

In another incident, Kimti Lal, son of Kartar Chand, resident of Kabir Nagar, who was driving a car, was hit by a truck in Bari Brahmana area, due to which he got injured. He was immediately shifted to hospital where doctors declared him as brought dead.

4 gamblers arrested, stake money recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Bari Brahmana Police on Monday arrested 4 gamblers and recovered stake money amounting to Rs 52,470 from their possession.

Acting on specific information regarding gambling, a team from Police Station Bari Brahmana raided a gambling spot under its jurisdictional area near Birpur and arrested four gamblers along with stake money amounting to Rs 52,470

and playing cards.

The gamblers were identified as Raju Ram, son of Raghu Ram; Gulab Singh, son of Jagdish Singh; Sunil Kumar, son of Jattu Ram and Tarsem Lal, son of Ram Chand, all residents of Birpur, Bari Brahmana. All the gamblers were booked under section 13 of Gambling Act at Police Station Bari Brahmana.

Theft case solved, 2 accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to solve a theft case by arresting two accused involved in commission of crime besides recovering stolen property from their possession.

As per details, Police Station Parimpora on October 24, 2019, received a complaint from Uzair Yousuf, son of Mohammad Yousf Malik, resident of Heaven Colony Eidgah Srinagar that some unknown persons entered his MI Service Centre located at Qamarwari near Shah Cinema and decamped with mobile phones, laptops etc.

Accordingly, a case FIR No. 343/2019 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Parimpora and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation, a Special Investigation Team was constituted under supervision of SDPO West head-

ed by SHO Police Station Parimpora along with DO Police Post Qamarwari and DO Police Post Bemina. During investigation, the SIT questioned many suspects and two suspected persons, identified as Mohd Sadat Hussain, son of Mohd Abdullah Hussain resident of Faridabad (Haryana), at present Palpora Noorbagh and Abdul Rehman Sheikh, son of Qurban Ali Sheikh, resident of Taimur Nagar Delhi, at present Tengpora, Srinagar revealed their involvement in commission of crime. On their disclosure, 12 mobile phones of Xiaomi brand and 3 laptops of different companies were recovered. Both the accused persons have been arrested and shifted to Police Station Parimpora, where they remained under custody.

Two drug peddlers arrested, contraband substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against drug dealings, Kulgam Police arrested two drug peddlers including a woman and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

As per details, a party headed by SHO Police Station Kulgam under supervision of DySP HQRs Kulgam raided a residential house belonging to Ghulam

Kulgam. During search of house, 2.5 Kg of Charas was recovered from possession of two persons, including a woman, who were identified as Ghulam Mohammad Laway and his wife Shameema, both residents of Chawalgam Kulgam. Both the accused were arrested and shifted to Police Station Kulgam, where they remained under custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR number 280/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kulgam and investigation has been initiated.

3 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Geology and Mining Department team on Monday conducted a surprise visit to Mansar and seized three vehicles, involved in illegal mining.

The Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rohit Khajuria has imposed 144 CrPC in river belt area to restrict movement of mining mafia.

According to reports, a team of Geology and Mining Department headed by District Mining Officer Samba, Kulwant Singh Bhuu visited Mansar and found some vehicles involved in illegal mining. The team swung into action and seized three vehicles, involved in illegal mining at Mansar.

Unidentified body found

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: An unknown body was found near MH Chowk in Udhampur on Monday.

As per details, locals on seeing a body near school at MH Chowk informed police, which shifted it to mortuary for identification.

