

**02 Minor landslide hits new track to Vaishno Devi shrine; 18,000 pilgrims offer prayers**

**03 Prakash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh celebrated with religious fervour**

**10 JKPS Kunjwani launches e-newsletter of 'Hub of Learning'**

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## Major lapse in PM's security in Punjab, massive row erupts



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI/FEROZEPUR/CHANDIGARH:** In a "major security lapse", Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur on Wednesday after which he returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a rally.

The Union Home Ministry directed the state government to file an immediate report, saying it did not ensure the required deployment, while Home Minister Amit Shah said that such

dereliction of the security procedure during the prime minister's visit is totally unacceptable and accountability will be fixed.

The incident triggered a major political row as the BJP alleged the ruling Congress in Punjab "tried to physically harm" the prime minister, while other parties too attacked the state government over the law and order issue.

On the defensive, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi at a press conference denied there was any security lapse or political

**Channi, Sidhu caused security threat to PM, both playing in ISI hands: Chugh**

**CHANDIGARH:** BJP national General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday blasted the Congress government in Punjab for engineering a security threat for Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was going to address a public meeting in Ferozepur.

Chugh said it's a matter of shame for the Channi government for not allowing the prime minister to address the public meeting.

Chugh squarely blamed Channi and Punjab PCC president Navjot Sidhu for joining hands with subversive and anti-national forces to foil the democratic right of the prime minister and the BJP to address public meetings.

Chugh said it was responsibility of the Congress government to ensure law and order for the PM's visit but entire Punjab is hanging its head in shame today.

The prime minister, he said, had been always thinking of welfare of farmers and it was with due respect to them that he decided to repeal the agriculture laws.

"But Channi and Sidhu are dancing to the tune of Pakistan ISI. Time has come for Punjab to wake up to nefarious designs of the two", Chugh added.

motive behind it and said his government was ready for an inquiry.

In Delhi, Congress' chief



spokesperson Randeep Surjewala hit back at the BJP, claiming

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**Vivek Bhardwaj given addl charge of Chairman BOPEE**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** The J&K UT government on Wednesday gave additional charge of Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) to Vivek Bhardwaj IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Health and

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**Tech PA to EC among 2 JKAS Officers transferred**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** The J&K UT Government on Wednesday transferred two JKAS officers. Kishore Singh, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted

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**Govt issues avalanche warning Heavy rain, snow disrupt life in J&K; Jammu-Srinagar NH closed**

**37 flights cancelled due to snowfall in Kashmir**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU/SRINAGAR:** The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir witnessed heavy rain and snow on Wednesday. The Valley recorded widespread light to moderate rain and snow throughout the day on Wednesday.

According to MET Centre, Srinagar, heavy rainfall is expected during January 7 and January 8. Orange weather warning has been issued for Jammu and Kashmir. As travel for Light Motor Vehicles on NH 44 has become dangerous due to slippery road conditions and shooting stones, the Jammu Traffic Police has restricted the movement of vehicles. No



Vehicle will be allowed beyond Nagrota for NH 44.

The Traffic Police City Jammu has appealed to general public, not to travel on NH-44A due to heavy rains, snowfalls, shooting stones at Ramban sector. The higher

reaches of J&K have received moderate to heavy snowfall and have become vulnerable to avalanches. "People residing in these areas are requested to take precautions and

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**NC questions delimitation panel's recommendations**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** Termining the Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir Act "constitutionally suspect", the National Conference (NC) questioned the Delimitation Panel's recommendations for the union territory, especially its rationale behind increasing six seats in Jammu division against one in Kashmir region.

In its reply to the commission, the NC said there were question marks over the panel's constitutional propriety, especially when the party along with several others, had

approached the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's 2019 action of revoking the special status of the erstwhile state and bifurcating it into the Union territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The party said the commission was formed because of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which was under judicial scrutiny, and on which the apex court is yet to deliver its order.

The panel's recommendations were born out of an act which is "constitutionally suspect", it said. According

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**3 JeM terrorists killed in Pulwama encounter**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** Three Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists, including a Pakistani national, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation

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**J&K Govt signs MoU with LuLu Group to set-up food processing, logistics hub in Srinagar**

**Sinha inaugurates J&K promotion week at LuLu Hypermarket, Dubai**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**DUBAI:** The J&K Government on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LuLu Group to set up a food processing & logistics hub in Srinagar, in the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and LuLu group Chairman, Yusuff Ali MA.

This historic agreement was signed by Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, J&K UT, Ranjan Prakash Thakur and Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director,



LG Manoj Sinha during MoU signing ceremony with LuLu Group in Dubai.

**LuLu Group.** Lieutenant Governor,

Manoj Sinha also inaugurated Jammu & Kashmir pro-

motion week at the LuLu Hypermarket, Dubai.

Lt Governor said the MoU with LuLu group will further expand Jammu Kashmir-Dubai collaboration and Jammu Kashmir-LuLu Group partnership.

"Relations between India and UAE are long-standing & deep rooted. People-to-people contact and trade have seen momentum in the recent years under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the

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**J&K records 418 fresh COVID cases, Ladakh 32**

**Leaves of health officials in Jammu division cancelled**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** While Jammu and Kashmir recorded 418 fresh COVID cases on Wednesday, taking the infection tally to 3,42,419, while no new death due to the virus was reported in the Union Territory, the leave of health officials in the Jammu Division has been cancelled in view of sudden surge.

Out of the fresh cases, 311 were from the Jammu division and 107 from the Kashmir division, they said.

The number of daily positive cases has doubled in the last 24 hours as 199 cases were detected on Tuesday.

Reasi district recorded a maximum of 156 cases fol-

**Complete restrictions in J&K from 9 PM to 6 AM**

**JAMMU:** Following the increase in number of COVID-19 cases in the entire J&K, the UT government has ordered that there shall be a complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire UT of J&K from 9:00PM to 6:00AM till further Orders.

According to an order issued by Chief Secretary as Chairperson State Executive Committee, "In continuation to the Covid-19 containment measures Ordered under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, vide Government Order No. 01-JK (DMRRR) of 2022 dated 02-01-2022 and in reference to the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, J&K (Chairman State Executive Committee) along with the

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lowed by 109 cases in Jammu district.

There are 1,819 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recov-

ered patients was 3,36,070, the officials said.

The death toll in the Union Territory was 4,530

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**Should taxpayers pay for politicians to offer freebies to win elections?**



**JAMMU:** In the run up to the upcoming assembly elections in five states across the country, the political spectrum has entered into an alarming competitive mode to announce freebies for voters to woo them and to win the polls. Less than promising moon, the 'professional' politicians are ready to offer anything and everything, of course at the expense of the Indian taxpayer, as also at the cost of compromising the democracy. Had the freebies been just for the votes only, it could somehow be tolerated as a lesser evil but the disastrous dimensions this concept has attained is sadly reflected by what happened on the

highway leading to Ferozepur this afternoon when the so-called protesting farmers put in jeopardy the security of the Prime Minister. Such a dangerous modus operandi is manifestation of the freebies the Punjab government has announced to win the elections. The Congress led government has already disbursed Rs 5 lakh compensation each of 400 families of those killed during the farmers' protests apart from jobs to 152 to next of kin. The Punjab government has also announced release of funds amounting to Rs 1,200 crore to clear loans up to Rs 2 lakh under the existing debt waiver scheme of about 1.09 lakh small and marginal farmers. Such concessions have emboldened a particular section of society to such an extent that they can resort to tactics having serious ramifications on the

security of the nation.

Ironically, the freebie culture got a big boost by the self-styled anti-corruption crusader Arvind Kejriwal, who won Delhi after announcing free power and other concessions. At the strength of the freebies and not because of its performance, Aam Admi Party is emerging as a force to reckon with even outside the Union capital.

The question arises as to how long and how far shall politicians go in pursuit of their ambitions under the garb of democracy. The Election Commission remains a mute spectator to open and brazen acts of corruption, not only by vote seeking political parties but also by those who are in the cradle of governance. Nobody is asking as to whose money is it they are using to pamper their

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**COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT**

Help us to help you

The number of cases of new strain of COVID-19 variant OMICRON has been rising in our country as well as J&K (UT). The variant is highly transmissible and spreads very quickly.

Call Toll Free No. **104** → If you are feeling any symptoms → to find out where u can get tested / vaccinated.

**# DON'T WAIT GET FULLY VACCINATED**

**Do's**

- Always wear mask in public
- Practice frequent hand washing. Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Maintain at least 6 feet (*Do gaz ki doori*) distance in hospitals, malls, market places, restaurants, public transport, etc.
- Cover your nose and mouth with handkerchief/tissue while sneezing and coughing
- Throw used tissues into closed bins immediately after use
- Keep number of guests minimal if social events cannot be postponed
- If you see any symptom promptly self-isolate and get your self tested

**Don'ts**

- Visiting crowded or public places or large gatherings
- Non-essential social, commercial, religious, cultural, sporting events, etc.
- Non-essential travel
- Have a close contact with anyone, if you're experiencing cough and fever
- Touch your eyes, nose and mouth
- Spit in public

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES**

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