

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Three criminal laws...

of a developed India by 2047 -- the centenary of India's independence. The prime minister exhorted the police chiefs to think imaginatively to convey the emotional spirit behind the newly enacted laws to different sections of society. Modi underscored the need to reinforce the positive image of the police in citizens.

He advised the use of social media at the police station level for disseminating positive information and messages for the benefit of citizens.

He also suggested using social media for disseminating advance information on natural calamities and disaster relief.

The prime minister suggested organising various sports events as a way to strengthen the citizen-police connect.

He asked government officials to stay in border villages to establish better connect with the local populace as these border villages were the "first villages" of India.

Highlighting the success of India's first solar mission - Aditya-L1 and the swift rescue of 21 crew members from a hijacked vessel in the North Arabian sea by the Indian Navy, the prime minister said that such achievements show that India is emerging as a major power in the world.

He said the success of the Aditya-L1 mission is similar to that of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. He also exuded pride in the Indian Navy's successful operation.

Modi said in line with the improving global profile and increasing national strength of the country, the Indian police should transform itself into a modern and world-class police force to realise the vision of a developed India by 2047.

The conference deliberated on critical components of national security, including the newly enacted major criminal laws, counter-terrorism strategies, left wing extremism, emerging cyber threats, and worldwide counter radicalisation initiatives, an official statement said.

The prime minister also distributed the police medals for distinguished services at the three-day conference which concluded on Sunday.

The conference was also attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and top police officers of the country.

Like previous years, the conference was held in hybrid mode with more than 500 police officers of various ranks attending from different places across the country.

## INDIA bloc no...

ministers and ex-legislators, reached the party office to attend the meeting.

"(West Bengal Chief Minister) Mamata Banerjee is not ready to give any seat to the Congress and she, along with Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, (Bihar Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar, Akhilesh Yadav (SP), (Tamil Nadu Chief Minister) M K Stalin... all want to be the prime minister.

"It (INDIA bloc) is already in disarray and is being abandoned by its members. People do not want a weak prime minister, they want a strong PM and a decisive government, which only Modi can provide," Chugh said.

Asked about the opposition parties' allegations of misuse of central agencies, he said corrupt politicians who have swindled the public money have to face the law.

"The institutions of our country work independently and our government has zero tolerance against corruption. You need to have faith in law, judiciary and institutions," he said, adding the people involved in corruption are behind the recent attack on the Enforcement Directorate team in West Bengal.

On the consecration of the Ram Temple on January 22, he said the doors of temple are open for everyone invited for the historic event which is like 'Diwali' for devotees of Lord Ram across the globe.

"It is not a day to spread distaste. Under Prime Minister Modi, the restoration of the Ram Temple is taking place after 450 years, giving a blow to a narrative propagated by the Gandhi family over the past seven decades. They do not want construction of the temple and left no stone unturned to stall its progress," he said.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370, he said Jammu and Kashmir witnessed fast-paced development and restoration of peace after August 2019 as the BJP has zero tolerance towards terrorism, he said.

BJP President J P Nadda's scheduled visit to Jammu on Sunday was cancelled due to "bad weather", leaving hundreds of enthusiastic party workers disappointed.

Poor visibility at the airport forced cancellation of the BJP president's Jammu visit. He, however, held the meeting of the senior leaders through virtual mode.

Nadda was scheduled to reach Jammu on a day-long tour to chair an extended core group meeting of the BJP to discuss and finalize the party's strategy for the next Lok Sabha elections after paying obeisance at the historic Raghunath temple.

Raina also visited the Raghunath temple to inform the waiting workers about the cancellation of Nadda's visit.

"I salute the party workers who have turned up in large numbers both at the airport and at the historic Raghunath temple to accord a warm welcome to the party president despite inclement weather," he said.

**Suspended cop among...**

conducting enquiries under rules," the spokesman said.

He said the under-suspension constable has been removed from service in terms of Article 128 of J&K Civil Service Rules, as he had been absenting himself unau-

thorizedly for the last 10 months.

During his absence, he was also involved in a case registered last year at Kathua police station under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act after he was involved in firing and assault at an eatery, the spokesman said.

He said SPO Lal has been disengaged on the recommendation of the inquiry officer for being a habitual absentee, remaining absent for six months last year.

## Migatory birds transform...

Schools undertake visits to the Gharana with their students," Singh added.

Hundreds of people, mostly students and photography enthusiasts, throng the wetland during the winter to have a glimpse of the migratory birds.

"It is an ideal place for wildlife photography as you get the opportunity to shoot over 300 species of migratory birds, particularly Siberian cranes," Asvina, a student of Institute of Music and Fine Arts said.

"I love to photograph birds, animals and nature. I am very happy to be here as it is a paradise for bird lovers," Asvina said.

Similarly, Jammu University student Sakshi goes on to say that coming here is an opportunity to learn about various aspects of nature and birds.

"A good footfall of visitors was seen here. It has provided us an opportunity to come close to nature and shoot and learn about various aspects of photography," she said.

The GWCR surrounded by wetlands of Makwal, Kukdian, Abdullian and Pargwal, has more than 170 residents living in the Gharana village and is home to migratory bird species such as bar-headed geese, gadwalls, common teals, purple swamp hens, Indian moorhens, black-winged stilts, cormorants, egrets and green shanks flock during the winter, officials said.

Rohit Kumar of Punjab's Gurdaspur said, "I am astonished to see such a large number of bird species here. My maternal uncle had told me about migratory birds flying to Gharana so we came here to watch them," he said.

The wetland, which is located on the Indo-Pak border, has witnessed a rise in footfall with efforts in place to protect the avian guests. Fencing and other necessary construction work are being done to protect migratory birds and their winter habitat, the officials said.

"Several species of migratory birds, such as the Siberian crane, come here from abroad. We were happy to see various beautiful migratory birds coming here and flying in this area. They don't know about international borders. For them, this is a border-less world," Sidharth Kumar, a member of Farmers Produce Organisation (FPO), said.

Gharana, situated along the Central Asian Flyway, holds international recognition as an Important Bird Area (IBA), declared by BirdLife International (UK) and the Bombay Natural History Society.

Conservation measures, including scientific management interventions and a five-year management plan developed in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), aim to preserve the wetland, promote eco-tourism, and enhance its status as a crucial tourist destination, the officials said.

The administration is committed to safeguarding this vital habitat for migratory birds, they added.

## Amit Shah to...

also distribute appointment letters to the youths selected for different government jobs, the official said.

Shah had reviewed the security situation of Jammu and Kashmir with top functionaries of the central government and Jammu and Kashmir administration on January 2 in New Delhi.

In that meeting, he had instructed the strengthening of the counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed on complete elimination of terror eco-system.

While advising the security agencies for appropriate deployment in vulnerable areas in the Union Territory, Shah stressed that all due procedures should be adopted while dealing with counter-terror operations.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Army staff (CoAS) General Manoj Pande and top officials of intelligence and other security agencies attended that meeting.

## Five held for...

Kabban-Paddar (Kishtwar), Kshitiġ Bhutani of Delhi, Mahaver of Uttarakhand and Nepal residents Sagar Tamang and Gan Magar, who are presently living in Dehradun,- were arrested and the vehicle was seized.

A case under relevant sections of law was registered at police station Atholi and further investigation is on, the spokesman said.

**IAF's C-130J...**

terrain masking enroute, the exercise also dovetailed a training mission of the Garuda," the IAF said on 'X'.

The Kargil airstrip is located at an altitude of around 10,500 feet.

The defence ministry has also been focusing on enhancing infrastructure at almost all airfields along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), including the Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) as per operational requirements.

It is especially boosting infrastructure at the Daulat Beg Oldi Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) as well as the Nyoma airstrip.

The Daulat Beg Oldi ALG is located close to the LAC at an altitude of 16,700 feet and is known as the highest airfield in the world.

Temperatures in Daulat Beg Oldi drop up to minus 40 degrees Celsius during harsh winter months. The Nyoma airfield is located at a height of around 13,000

feet.

**'Kalash' from Ayodhya...**

to the people of the country for this honour and pray that peace and harmony prevails in Kashmir," one of the local devotees said after installing the 'kalash' in the Ram Temple. Special pooja was performed at the time of installation of the 'kalash' as devotees paid obeisance at the temple. The eighth-century Martand Temple is one of the oldest sun temples in India.

## Cold wave sweeps...

in Reasi district which serves as the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine, recorded a night temperature of 6 degrees Celsius, the official said.

Meanwhile, the Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of this season thus far as the bone-chilling cold wave conditions continued in Kashmir with the Mercury plunging more than five notches below the freezing point, officials said.

A thin layer of ice formed on the surface of the Dal Lake here and other water bodies in Kashmir due to the intense cold wave that is gripping the region, the officials said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of "Chilla-i-Kalan", a 40-day harsh winter period, when a cold wave sweeps the region and temperatures drop considerably, leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as water in pipes.

The chances of snowfall are the highest during this period and most areas, particularly the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

The Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius on Saturday night, down from minus 5.4 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

They said Qazigund recorded a low of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius, while in the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir it was 4.4 degrees Celsius on Saturday night, a notch down from the previous night.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, they said.

The minimum temperature in Kokernag town settled at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius and in Kupwara at minus 5.3 degrees Celsius.

People who live in houseboats at the Dal Lake had a tough time breaking the layer of ice over the water body to reach its banks. Water in pipes also froze in several parts of the Kashmir valley.

Kashmir has been going through a prolonged dry spell and a 79 per cent deficit in rainfall was recorded for December.

There has been no snowfall in most plain areas of Kashmir, while the upper reaches of the valley have received lesser than usual amount of snow. The meteorological department has forecast mainly dry weather till January 12.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31. However, the cold conditions will continue after that with a 20-day 'Chilla-i-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chilla-i-Bachha' (baby cold).

## Active COVID cases...

8 am. The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, 2023 but cases began to again increase after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

After December 5, a maximum increase in single day cases was reported on December 31, 2023 when 841 cases were reported, official sources said.

Of the total active cases, a large majority of these (around 92 per cent) are recovering under home isolation.

"The currently available data suggests that the JN.1 variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in the new cases nor a surge in hospitalisation and mortality," the sources stated.

India has witnessed three waves of COVID-19 in the past with the peak incidence of daily new cases and deaths being reported during the Delta wave in April-June 2021. At its peak, 4,14,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021. Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 4.5 crore people have been infected and over 5.3 lakh died.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website. According to the ministry, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country.

## Two wanted drug...

for their involvement in illicit drug trafficking and lodged in Bhaderwah district jail as per the order passed by Jammu Divisional Commissioner, a police spokesperson said.

A number of cases were registered against the 'wanted' duo in different police stations of the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range, he said.

Kumar was booked in three cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at police stations in Batote, Doda and Banihal between 2021 and 2023, Sohail was wanted in two cases registered under the NDPS Act at the Bhaderwah police station last year, the officer said. "Both the individuals being habitual offenders were a serious threat to the local youth and their detention under the PSA will act as deterrence to the criminals and drug smugglers still at large," he added. Acting tough against drug peddlers, the police have registered 24 FIRs under the NDPS Act against 30 offenders in Doda district, besides detaining five notorious drug smugglers under the PSA in 2023-24, the officer said.

# Modi Govt's welfare schemes empowered all sections: Baru

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP senior leader, Former JMC Councillor and BJP Parbhari district Nowshera-Sunderbani Sanjay Kumar Baru chaired ward-41 meeting to review upcoming party programmes especially Viksat Bharat programme chaired by Union Home Minister Sh.Amit Shah on Tuesday 09-Jan,2024 at Gulshan ground Jammu.

Sanjay Baru, while speaking in the meeting, said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has remained steadfast on its commitment for the welfare of the needy and neglected sections of the society. He said that PM Modi led government has initiated numerous welfare schemes to uplift the people who were left behind in the development



BJP senior leader Sanjay Kumar Baru chairing a meeting.

and even the basic amenities of life in these 70 years. Stressing that the people living in the remote rural pockets, the hilly areas and the border areas, have been the worst sufferers along with certain particular social classes like OBCs, SCs, women etc. who were used only as a vote bank by the family based political par-

ties of the nation, he said that it is only the Modi government's welfare schemes that gave fair representation and empowerment to all these sections in nine and half years of its government at the centre.

Sanjay Baru further said that BJP has practiced the spirit of equality and empowerment of every sec-

tion in the society in the letter and spirit. He said that the BJP cadre represents the spirit of social service through his/her daily actions, where every activity is directed towards the benefit of society and nation. He asked the party activists to devote themselves to the mission of PM Modi to achieve the target of equitable and prosperous nation.

Proceedings of the meeting was conducted by BJP Shakti Kendra Pramukh Bubesh Sharma

BJP leaders Jaideep Sanbyal, Jatin Sethi,K.L Sharma, Onkar Verma, Sanchit Sharma,Babu Ram,Jugal Sharma, Ashish Mangotra,Bachan Lal,R.S Manni,Kewal Sharma were present in the meeting.

# Chandrayaan-3 success connected with hearts of people: ISRO Chief

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: ISRO chairman S Somanath on Sunday said the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission connected with the hearts of the people and the successful soft landing on the Moon was a "moment of glory for Indians."

With India becoming the fourth nation to land on the Moon and the first to make a soft landing on the south pole of the lunar surface, he said, it was not a 'small accomplishment.'

"Chandrayaan-3 created an emotional exuberance in the

minds of youngsters, children and to people who study science and technology. We were able to showcase the whole of accomplishment to the entire country driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directives to make sure the success must go to everybody," he said. The secretary of the Department of Space made those comments during a session 'Unlocking the potential of Aerospace and Defence Sector through the Economy' organised on the lines of Global Investors Meet (GIM2024) by

the Tamil Nadu government here.

"See Chandrayaan-3 actually connected with the hearts of the people. We were able to do that. The landing on the Moon was not a scientific event for everybody. It was a moment of glory for entire Indians", he said.

Observing that the mission was developed entirely by India with 'home-grown' knowledge and 'technology', he said, "it is high end scientific accomplishment. We are the fourth to land on the Moon and the very first

to land on the South Pole. It is not a small accomplishment."

"Whenever I travel around the country, wherever I meet youngsters they say they want to join ISRO and everybody wants to be my astrophysicist. After Chandrayaan-3, there is a demand for core engineering courses," he added.

Somanath pointed out that even vacancies in engineering colleges were getting filled after Chandrayaan-3 mission success, since there is better demand for core engineering streams.

# Maldives suspends 3 deputy ministers after India strongly raises issue of derogatory remarks against Modi

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Maldivian government on Sunday reportedly suspended three deputy ministers for derogatory social media posts against Prime Minister Narendra Modi following a backlash with New Delhi strongly raising the matter with Male and the island nation's top opposition leaders slamming the ruling establishment over the row.

The three deputy ministers criticised Modi for his post on 'X' following his visit to Lakshadweep, inferring that it was an attempt to project the Union Territory as an alternative tourist destination to the Maldives.

Several Maldivian media outlets, quoting officials, reported that deputy ministers in the youth ministry, Malsha Shareef, Mariyam Shiina and Abdulla Mahzoom Majid, have been suspended over their posts. The row erupted on a day President Dr Mohamed Muizzu embarked on a week-long visit to China.

In New Delhi, official sources said the Indian High Commission in Male strongly raised the matter with the Maldivian foreign ministry.

"Our high commission in the Maldives had strongly raised and expressed concerns about the comments made in regard to the prime minister by certain ministers in the Maldives government with the foreign office today," said a source.

The disparaging remarks

by the ministers have drawn flak in India, with many celebrities urging people on X to explore domestic tourist destinations instead of going to the Maldives.

Several cine stars like Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar and cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar were among the celebrities who appealed to people to visit "Indian islands" and coastal destinations.

In social media posts, Kumar, cricketer Hardik Pandya, former players Venkatesh Prasad and Virendra Sehwag and others also condemned the "hateful" and "racist" comments on X by the three ministers.

There were also posts on social media claiming that some Indians are cancelling their scheduled trip to the Maldives in view of the row.

The Maldivian foreign ministry said the government is aware of "derogatory remarks" on social media platforms against foreign leaders and that the personal views do not represent its position.

"Authorities in Maldives on Sunday suspended three deputy ministers who have come under fire for their posts on 'X' in which they are seen verbally abusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India," the Atoll Times reported.

Sources said the Indian mission in Male took objection to the social media posts against the prime minister.

"The government of

Maldives is aware of derogatory remarks on social media platforms against foreign leaders and high-ranking individuals. These opinions are personal and do not represent the views of the government of Maldives," the Maldivian foreign ministry said in a statement.

It said the government believes that the freedom of expression should be exercised in a democratic and responsible manner, and in ways that do not spread hatred, negativity, and hinder close relationships between the Maldives and its international partners.

"Moreover, the relevant authorities of the Government will not hesitate to take action against those who make such derogatory remarks," it said.

Former Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih condemned the use of "hateful language" against India by Maldivian government officials on social media.

"India has always been a good friend to Maldives and we must not allow such callous remarks to negatively impact the age-old friendship between our two countries," he said.

Former president Mohamed Nasheed described the remarks the "leader of a key ally" as "appalling".

"What appalling language by Maldives Government official @shiina\_m towards the leader of a key ally, that is instrumental for Maldives'

security and prosperity. @MMuizzu gov must distance itself from these comments and give clear assurance to India they do not reflect gov policy," he posted on X.

Former foreign minister Abdulla Shahid also described the remarks against Modi as "reprehensible and odious".

"I call on the government to reprimand these officials. Public figures must maintain decorum. They must accept that they are no longer social media activists and that they are now entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the interests of the people and the country," he said.

"India is a time-tested friend and an unwavering ally. They have historically been the first to respond in our time of need. Our close relationship has been bound by mutual respect, history, culture and strong people-to-people relations," Shahid said.

Former sports minister Ahmed Mahloof too expressed concern over the row.

I am deeply worried about the escalating situation regarding the comments about our closest neighbour, he said "Indians boycotting the Maldives would have a huge impact on our economy. It would be hard for us to recover from such a campaign. I call on the government to swiftly take serious action to solve the issue as soon as possible," he said.