

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Modi to virtually...

473.25 metres, including a 120-metre viaduct and a 94.25-metre central embankment.

Currently, the railway services in Jammu and Kashmir are managed by the Firozpur Division of Northern Railways.

Regarding the inauguration of train services to Kashmir from Delhi, the Commissioner of Railway Safety will conduct statutory inspections and final trials on January 7 and 8.

With the phased commissioning of train services, the Railways is expected to complete 255 km of the 272-kilometre USBRL project, leaving only a small stretch between Katra and Reasi to be finished by December.

LG, CM extend...

who exemplified truth, honesty and loyalty to his people.

He remarked that the Guru's ideals and values continue to inspire people across the world and will be cherished by generations to come.

On this auspicious occasion, the Chief Minister prayed for peace, prosperity and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir, hoping that the spirit of the day would foster harmony and unity among all communities.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo also extended her warm greetings, underlying that the life and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji have been source of inspiration for millions. She added that his vision of unity, peace and harmony continues to guide and inspire many to work for the betterment of society as a whole.

The Minister also wished that this auspicious day brings joy, prosperity and peace to everyone across Jammu and Kashmir.

4 killed, 2...

contacted Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Rajesh Kumar Shavan immediately after receiving the report about the accident.

"Rescue teams have been put into action. I am regularly receiving the updates," he said.

CM secures approval...

the urgency of housing aid under PMAY-G to help the families rebuild their homes and return to normalcy.

In this regard, the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development (Rural Housing Division), has formally communicated this approval to the Secretary of the Department of Rural Development, UT Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the communication, up-to 85 houses (including 7 earlier PMAY-G beneficiaries) have been allocated under the special project for the financial year 2024-25.

Attack on Hotel...

of their criminal act," the MLA has told police.

The trouble began late on December 31, 2024, when a dispute erupted over a hotel bill. Witnesses say the criminal minded Aggarwal brothers refused to pay and began verbally abusing the staff. The hotel's employees, including the manager, tried to defuse the situation, but tensions escalated when the brothers left, only to return with a group of accomplices to attack hotel manager and staff.

In the ensuing chaos, the manager suffered severe head injuries, and another staff member sustained facial fractures, necessitating urgent medical intervention. The attack was described as brutal and premeditated, leaving the local community in shock.

Initially thought to be aiding the Aggarwal brothers, the accomplices have now turned against them also as they have also to face legal action for attacking innocent hotel staffers. Sources close to the investigation reveal that the accomplices were misled for participating in the attack. "We were called to help resolve a minor issue. Instead, we were used to commit a crime," one accomplice reportedly told investigators, adding, "On reaching hotel, Mohit and his brother forced us to attack and beat hotel staff."

The police has registered FIR (1/25) against the Aggarwal brothers, their known accomplice Arun Choudhary, and others under multiple sections of the IPC, including assault and grievous injury. A senior officer leading the investigation assured that everyone involved will face law.

"The Aggarwal brothers and their accomplices initially believed their influence would shield them. But the law is clear-no one is above it," the senior police officer said. He also confirmed that more arrests are imminent, with all accomplices set to be booked for their roles in the attack.

Civil society groups and hospitality unions have rallied in support of the injured hotel staff. "These employees were simply doing their jobs. What happened to them is an affront to every hardworking individual in our community," said a union leader.

Several organizations have called for a social boycott of the Aggarwal family. "We need to send a clear message that no amount of money or influence can protect those who break the law," said a spokesperson for a prominent citizen of the area.

The fallout from the hotel attack has left the Aggarwal brothers isolated and facing the combined weight of public fury and legal action. As the police deepen their investigation, the brothers' attempt to use their influence has backfired spectacularly, turning even their allies against them. The case now stands as a critical test of the justice system's ability to uphold the law, regardless financial status.

Amid mushrooming growth...

certificate from the JDA and without securing approval for the layout plan of the colony from the competent authority such as the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) or the JDA under the provisions of the Control of Building Operation Act, 1988.

Sharma added that the JDA has repeatedly issued public notices to inform the general public not to purchase plots, houses or flats in illegal colonies where colonizers or developers have not secured the necessary CLU permissions or layout approvals from the competent authority.

"Through this notice, the public is strongly advised to verify that colonizers or developers have obtained the CLU certificate as well as approval for the layout plan of the colony from the competent authority before purchasing any plots," the JDA vice-chairman said.

He also urged prospective buyers to inquire with the JMC or JDA to confirm whether the colonizers have received the requisite permissions.

In a related development, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed the Building Operation Controlling Authority (BOCA) to file a comprehensive supplementary affidavit detailing the commercial activities in the Gandhi Nagar housing colony in Jammu. This area is designated primarily as a residential zone under zoning laws.

The directive, issued by Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, calls for BOCA to provide a detailed list of all shops or commercial establishments operating in the colony and to clarify whether these activities comply with the Master Plan and Bye-laws or violate residential zoning rules.

The court's directive highlights the large-scale conversion of residential areas in Gandhi Nagar into commercial establishments and illegal constructions in violation of building permissions and lease deed agreements.

Fresh snowfall in...

leading to flight delays and diversions.

Snowfall was witnessed in several areas of Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara districts in north Kashmir and some parts of Budgam and Ganderbal districts in central Kashmir in the morning, the officials said.

Srinagar city and some areas in south Kashmir received snow late in the evening, they said.

The summer capital stayed in the grip of an intense cold wave with a maximum temperature of just 1.5 degrees Celsius recorded on Sunday.

The mercury has stayed below two degrees Celsius for the past 48 hours as the maximum temperature on Saturday was 1.2 degrees Celsius.

The night temperature in the valley fell with Kokernag town in South Kashmir freezing at minus 8.1 degrees Celsius, the officials said on Sunday.

In Srinagar, the mercury settled at a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 2.2 degrees, the Met said.

Gulmarg, a tourist resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 2.2 degrees.

Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, registered a minimum of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, logged a minimum temperature of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius while Konibal in Pampore town recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees.

Kupwara in north Kashmir registered minus 2.8 degrees Celsius while Kokernag

in south Kashmir recorded minus 8.1 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the harshest period of winter -- that began on December 21. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30. It is followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd (small cold)' and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha (baby cold)'.

Prakash Purab of...

saw the participation of people from diverse backgrounds. Prominent religious figures, including Parcharak Bhai Mandeep Singh Mureed, Bhai Sukhpreet Singh Hazuri Ragi from Sri Darbar Sahib, and Bhai Gurbachan Singh Hazuri Ragi from Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, recited Shabad Kirtans emphasizing the higher values of life and communal harmony championed by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. They also highlighted the Guru's role in protecting the weak and voiceless. Local Ragi Jathas and preachers participated, reciting Gurbani Kirtan and shedding light on the life and teachings of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj. S. Satinder Singh Parcharak also besides throwing light and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh discussed the contemporary relevance of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's messages.

S. Ranjeet Singh Tohra, President of DGPC Jammu, besides throwing light and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh expressed gratitude to the administration, including the Civil and Police officials, PHE, JMC, and PDD departments, for their support and arrangements during the Nagar Kirtan on January 3rd and the day's program.

The event's stage was managed by the General Secretary of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu. A vote of thanks was presented by S. Ranjit Singh Tohra, President of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu.

S. Balvinder Singh, Vice President, extended warm greetings on the occasion of Parkash Purab of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, emphasizing the universal relevance and acceptance of his teachings. Singh expressed disappointment over the Sikh police trainees at PTC Udhampur not being permitted to attend the Parkash Purab and urged the authorities to address such issues with utmost priority.

Among the political figures present were S. Narinder Singh (MLA South), S. Charanjit Singh (Ex-MLC), S. Ranjod Singh Nalva (President Minority Morcha), S. Balyinder Singh (Vice President Minority Morcha), S. Karan Singh Wazir (Chairman All J&K Transport Welfare Association), S. Ranjeet Singh and S. Harasis Singh (President and General Secretary Tankers Association), S. Jatinder Singh and Gaurav Kapoor (Senior leaders NC), Adv. S. Baldev Singh (Vice President). S Parfulat Singh, S Ajit Singh, S Rajinder Singh Sudan etc.

All other members of DGPC, including S. Jagpal Singh (Treasurer), S. Ravvir Singh (Joint Secretary), S. Harjeet Singh and member DGPC and Incharge Dharan Parchar Committee, S. Balvinder Singh, S. Tejinder Singh, S. Avtar Singh, and S. Karan Singh Bali, all ,members of DGPC Jammu were also present at the event.

No welfare scheme...

of development can come in," Modi said, hitting out at the AAP.

He said the AAP government was a "disaster" that had struck Delhi, and any more responsibility given to the "AAP-da" means punishment for the people of Delhi.

The "AAP-da" government does not have any vision to develop the national capital, and that is what lotus (the BJP's poll symbol) is going to bloom in the city and the BJP would usher in change, the prime minister said.

"We want to make Delhi such a world capital that reflects the vastness of India's heritage. It should be the centre of new global systems. This can happen only when the BJP government works both at the Centre and state (Delhi)," he told the 'Parivartan Rally'.

Modi also accused the AAP government of spreading fear that a BJP government in Delhi would discontinue several welfare schemes launched by the AAP.

The AAP government is currently providing free electricity, water, bus rides for women and pilgrimage for the elderly. The AAP also says its government work in the health and education sectors are an example for others to follow.

The prime minister asserted a new BJP government would implement with renewed vigour central schemes that, he claimed, have been stalled by the AAP government.

Hours after Modi's accusation, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal held a press conference and said the BJP is seeking votes by abusing him.

The prime minister said the Centre has been developing highways in Delhi, expanding the Metro network, starting the Nam0 Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System, and running big hospitals.

"However, the moment you step out of a Metro station, you can see potholed roads, overflowing sewers. Some areas are such that even auto and cab drivers refuse to go due to long traffic jams," he said.

"In the past 10 years, Delhi has witnessed a state government that is no less than an 'aap-da (disaster)'! Delhiites have realised this. Only one voice is ringing in Delhi -- 'Aapda nahi sahenge, badal kar rahenge (will not tolerate disaster; will bring change)," Modi said.

He pointed out that several BJP state governments are running special schemes for women.

If the BJP is voted to power in Delhi, he said, its government will ensure women find it easier to run their households, daughters and sisters are safe and get opportunity for good education and jobs, people's incomes and savings go up and their life becomes comfortable.

For this, a BJP chief minister is needed, he said, hinting the party may promise some financial assistance to women before the polls.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party has already announced that if it returns to power, it will give Rs 2100 monthly aid to women.

"I have full confidence that the people of Delhi will rein in the corrupt and anti-development AAP-da and give an opportunity to the BJP to make the city a modern, 21st century capital," he said.

The PM told the rally he had come to Rohini to make a special request to the people of Delhi to give the BJP an opportunity for their own and the city's bright future. Only BJP can develop Delhi, he said.

The prime minister said when the people of Delhi were grappling with the COVID-19, struggling to find medical oxygen and medicines, the entire focus of the "AAP-da people" was on building their own "Sheesh Mahal (palaces)".

"They made a huge budget for the 'Sheesh Mahal'. This is their truth... They do not care about the people of Delhi. That is why every Delhiite today is saying... 'we will not tolerate AAP-da, we will being change'," he said.

He also accused the AAP government of wasting a decade fighting with the Centre. "We are in the 21st century and 25 years have passed. Two or three generations have entered their youth. The next 25 years are very important for Delhi. The next 25 years will see India emerge a developed nation. We all will be stakeholders in this journey," Modi said. The national capital should be a part of this glorious journey, he added.

"In Delhi, people blessed the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections and now, in the assembly polls, are set to bless the BJP. This is a golden opportunity to win the heart of Delhi and free it of disaster ('aapda')," he said.

Earlier in the day, Modi inaugurated several projects worth Rs 12,200 crore.

He inaugurated a 13-km section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor from Sahibabad in Ghaziabad to New Ashok Nagar here.

CB charge-sheets 17 accused including three bank officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch (CB) has submitted challans against 17 accused including three Bank officers for criminal breach of trust, misappropriation of huge money , frauds and forgery.

According to an official statement, the CB completed investigation and proved offence of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of big amount against main accused the then Branch Manager Citizens' Co-operative Bank Vijaypur Rajiv Bali of Jammu and two more Managers of the same Bank and resubmitted challan against them as per court directions.

Among other accused against whom investigations were completed in different cases and challans filed included two property dealers of Jammu namely Mohd Ramzan and Mohd Sadiq , former ASI of IRP , former government school Teacher , Punjab Armed Police official Sukhwinder Singh of Raja Sansi Amritsar. Seven separate challans against 17 accused have been produced in courts of law in Jammu , Poonch and Kathua.

The accused belong to Punjab, Haryana, U.P , Jammu, Rajouri,Poonch and Samba.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh said that challans of cases FIR 25/2015 , FIR 12/ 2019 ,FIR 43/ 2020 , FIR 31/2021 , FIR 24/2023, FIR 28/2023, and 92/2023 have been produced in the courts of law for judicial determination.

PIL regarding dilapidated condition of JMC's cattle pound at Nagrota DB directs JMC, Petitioner-NGO to file response to Affidavit of Outsourced Agency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Jammu Bench) comprising the Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M.A. Chowdhary in the much publicised PIL No.25/2017 filed by an NGO-SAVE (Save Animals Value Environment), working for the cause of animals through its Chairperson Devinder Kaur Madaan alias Rumpy Madaan seeking better management of Animals at Cattle Pound, Seri Khurd (Nagrota) has directed the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and the petitioner (NGO-SAVE) to file their response to the affidavit filed by outsourced agency i.e. Go Raksha Samiti through Raj Kumar.

When this PIL highlighting dilapidated condition of Cattle Pound/Goshala came up for hearing, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan and Mohd. Zulkarnain Chowdhary reminded the Division Bench about the recent visit of Commissioner, JMC alongwith Jt. Commissioner (H&S), Animal Welfare Officer and Incharge Cattle Pound on December 4th, 2024 and after inspection, the Commissioner, JMC in para 7 of his status report dated December 21st, 2024 highlighted major deficiencies in the running of Cattle Pound by the outsourced agency i.e. Go Raksha Samiti of Raj Kumar. The Division Bench after going through the said lapses/deficiencies had in the open court expressed its deep anguish/displeasure and warned that in case corrective measures are not initiated before next date then the Division Bench would be constrained to cancel the contract of the outsourced agency.

At this stage, Advocate Muneesh Sharma caused appearance for outsourced agency and submitted that on January 1st, 2025 he has filed an affidavit to apprise the court that appropriate steps have been taken on the lapses pointed out in para 7 of the status report filed by the Commissioner, JMC, after his spot inspection. The Division Bench remarked that the said affidavit is not before the court, however, Advocate S.S. Ahmed conceded that he has received a copy of the same.

The Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan directed the Registry to scan the affidavit filed by Advocate Muneesh Sharma appearing for the outsourced agency. The DB further directed that a copy of this affidavit be supplied to Advocate Harshvardhan Gupta appearing for JMC and he was further directed to file the latest status report before the next date of hearing.

Advocate S.S. Ahmed at this stage also requested the Division Bench that he would also like to file his response on behalf of NGO-SAVE and the court allowed his prayer. Advocate Dheeraj Sharma appeared vice Advocate Naved Gul for the Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India, New Delhi.

Rajouri police takes action against illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police has taken stringent action against illegal mining activities in the district. Several vehicles and JCB Excavator were seized during the operation, and penalties were imposed on violators as per legal provisions.

A JCB excavator (Model 215) was seized for illegal mining, and a fine of Rs. 1,32,600 was imposed.

Additionally, the following vehicles were seized for their involvement in illegal mining: Tractor Registration No. JK11F-7823 driven by Asif Aijaz; Vehicle Registration No. JK11G-7435 driven by Tariq Hussain and Vehicle Registration No. JK20C-2144 driven by Harman Sharma.

Rajouri Police remains committed to safeguarding natural resources and warns individuals against engaging in such illegal activities. Operations to identify and take action against violators will continue in the interest of environmental protection.

Five of family dies of suffocation; CM expresses grief over loss of lives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a deeply tragic incident in the Pandrethan area of Srinagar, a family of five, including a father, mother, and their three children, died due to suffocation caused by heating equipment.

The heart-breaking incident occurred in the early hours, and the family was found unconscious inside their rented accommodation.

According to initial reports, neighbours grew concerned after noticing that the family's house remained quiet and motionless throughout the morning.

Suspicious of the situation, the neighbours alerted the authorities. Emergency response teams and police quickly rushed to the spot.

Upon their arrival, the five family members-two adults and three children-were found unresponsive. They were immediately transported to a nearby hospital, but despite all efforts, they were declared dead.

The authorities suspect that the deaths were caused by suffocation due to malfunctioning or improper use of heating equipment, which is common during the harsh winter months in Kashmir.

The tragic loss of life has sent shockwaves through the community, leaving the neighbors and local residents in deep sorrow.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of five family members.

The Chief Minister conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved relatives, praying for strength and patience to help them cope with this irreparable loss.

While praying for the departed souls, the Chief Minister urged people to exercise utmost caution while using heating gadgets during the harsh winter months.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to government-issued advisories on the safe use of heating equipment to prevent such tragic incidents.

CS Uttar Pradesh, Resident Commissioner of J&K in Delhi visit Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, Manoj Kumar Singh and the resident commissioner of J&K in Delhi Dr Rashmi Singh visited Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan to have obeisance at the lotus feet of Mata Bhaderkali.

Manoj Kumar Singh and his better half Dr Rashmi Singh were welcomed in the traditional KP style by the ladies folk of Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust.

On reaching the premises of Mata Bhaderkali, Manoj Kumar Singh and Dr Rashmi Singh inaugurated the plantation drive initiated by the trust for beautification of the whole complex. Both the dignitaries planted a few ornamental plants in the Bhaderkali complex .

It is pertinent to mention here that Dr Rashmi Singh has contributed immensely in establishing this socio-cultural & religious centre at Phalai Mandal, Thalwal Jammu. Manoj Kumar Singh chief Secretary and his wife Dr Rashmi Singh took part in pooja which was performed amid reciting of Vedic hymns under the guidance of Jai Krishan Khar.

Padma Shri Kashi Nath Pandita, and Kuldeep Khuda Ex DG were also present as guests of honour.

On behalf of Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust Padma Shri Kashi Nath Pandita demanded that one medical seat and one PG medical seat in each medical college be kept reserved for displaced KP students in the state of U.P in analogy with the states of Karnataka, Uttarakhand, H P and Punjab. The memorandum regarding reservation of MBBS and PG medical seats was presented by Padma Shri Kashi Nath Pandita and Sanjay Pandita trustee of MBAT.

Manoj Kumar Singh chief secretary of U.P state assured the audience present there that steps will be taken for reserving one medical seat and one PG seat in all the Government and private medical colleges for the displaced students of KP community very soon.

Manoj Kumar Singh chief secretary U.P invited all to come to Priyagraj for Kumbh Mela which shall be a life time experience for the pilgrims of J&K.

Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust, Thalwal Jammu felicitated Manoj Kumar Singh, chief secretary of U.P Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust presented a special citation to Rashmi Singh for her invaluable contribution and for her help both quantitatively and qualitatively for leading the undertaking project of Mata Bhaderkali to an objective oriented target exponentially.

The citation was presented to Dr Rashmi Singh by the general secretary Ashok Ji Kaw. Dr Rashmi Singh while speaking on this occasion got emotional and expressed her delight in seeing the grand welcome from Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust. She was all praise for the MBAT trust. All the executive members & trustees of our trust find paucity of words to owe gratitude to both Manoj Kumar Singh and Dr Rashmi Singh. Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina, a religious scholar gave a religious discourse on the occasion. He gave significance of various Kali mantras and emphasized the need to recite Kramakali strotra on a daily basis.

Dilip Pandita president MBAT, Chand Organising Secretary MBAT , Dr. Sushil Watal a religious scholar, Hira Lal Bhat a social activist and Vijay Kumar a shavaite scholar also spoke on the occasion.

Kuldeep Khuda gave a vote of thanks while the stage was efficiently compered by Ajay Bharti Ji who apprised the chief guest about the vision of Mata Bhaderkali Trust in establishing it in a huge socio- cultural and religious centre.