

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Omar vows to...

We are hopeful that the prime minister will keep his promise made not to us, but to the people of J-K during the Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly polls that followed," Abdullah said.

"The elections saw huge participation of people. There were no complaints of people being forcibly taken to the booths. Rather, they went on their own and made the elections a huge success with the hope that the promises made to them, especially on restoring J-K's statehood, will be fulfilled," the chief minister said.

On the importance of SKIMS Hospital, Abdullah said it was built so that people of J-K do not feel the need to go to other tertiary care institutes such as the PGI or AIIMS.

"This hospital has served the people of J-K. Yet there are some weaknesses and shortcomings. The autonomy of SKIMS, along with its engineering wing, must be restored," Abdullah said.

CM addresses 42nd...

the region. He also emphasized the importance of medical tourism, expressing hope for infrastructure upgrade around SKIMS to make this vision a reality.

Chief Minister called for minimizing referrals to SKIMS by strengthening sub-district and district hospitals, thereby reducing the pressure on the Institute.

He expressed concern about administrative interference undermining SKIMS' functioning and pledged to restore its autonomy on a priority basis.

To further strengthen the Institute, the Chief Minister assured full government support to ensure patients receive top-quality healthcare. During the event, the Chief Minister e-inaugurated multiple facilities, including the Attendants Inn with washroom facilities at the emergency block, the Attendants Inn at the Maternity Hospital, the 4DCT Simulator at Radiation Oncology, and the Daycare Ward.

He also laid e-foundation stones for the Sports Ground, Transport Yard, and construction of more space for attendants.

Additionally, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Emergency Operation Theatre Block and commissioned the SKIMS Medical University Complex, further enhancing emergency and educational facilities.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected an exhibition organized by SKIMS, which showcased innovative contributions and success stories from various departments of the Institute.

On the occasion, he also released the Annual Report of SKIMS, highlighting the Institute's significant achievements and activities. Minister of Health & Medical Education, Sakina Masood Itoo, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing Sher-i-Kashmir's vision of establishing SKIMS as a world-class medical facility for the people of J&K.

Director SKIMS, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganai, provided a comprehensive overview of the Institute's contributions to public healthcare in his speech.

Other dignitaries present at the event included Minister of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, former J&K Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and several MLAs.

The event was also attended by Secretary Health & Medical Education Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, senior faculty members, former directors, and other staff members of SKIMS.

Modi to review Maha...

Kumbh will be held in January and February has been named Mahakumbhagar and notified as a new district by the state government.

Ahead of PM Modi's visit, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will conduct a comprehensive inspection of the arrangements on December 7 to ensure all preparations are on track for the grand spiritual event.

"In anticipation of PM Modi's visit, Mahakumbhagar and Prayagraj will be decorated in festive grandeur... Departments have been directed to beautify their offices and buildings with plans for illuminating government structures with facade lighting. Key intersections, roads, and parks will also be adorned elaborately," a statement said.

Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant has instructed to complete preparations, including projects slated for inauguration by PM Modi on time. "Preparations are progressing rapidly and will be completed within the stipulated timeframe," Pant said.

According to the statement, CM Adityanath's visit on December 7 will ensure all directives are implemented effectively. The Chief Minister will personally review the progress, emphasizing a clean and green Maha Kumbh.

"All departments and officials are fully prepared for the Prime Minister's visit. The PWD is swiftly completing the renewal of key roads, while the Prayagraj Development Authority and PWD are ensuring the timely beautification of major junctions and streets," the divisional commissioner said.

Fadnavis takes oath...

states were also present, including Yogi Adityanath, Nitish Kumar, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Mohan Yadav and Pramod Sawant.

Leading lights from Bollywood and India Inc, including Shah Rukh Khan and Mukesh Ambani, were among those present at the ceremony.

Fadnavis, 54, elected from Nagpur South West constituency, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor C P Radhakrishnan, who also swore in Shinde (60) and Pawar (65).

Fadnavis emerged as the frontrunner for the top post as he was the face of the BJP's campaign and led the party to victory in 132 seats in the 288-member House.

The BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP 'Mahayuti' coalition has a commanding majority of 230 seats.

Police had made special arrangements to accommodate the more than 40,000 party supporters who attended the oath taking ceremony, and a separate seating arrangement was made for the around 2,000 VVIPs, an official said.

More than 4,000 police personnel were deployed for security during the swearing-in ceremony, the official said. At least 3,500 police personnel and 520 officers were deployed for security arrangements, he added.

Meanwhile, as Fadnavis took oath as CM for the third time, his banker and singer wife Amruta called it a "beautiful day."

"This is a happy occasion and the sense of responsibility is greater," she said.

Police raids houses...

Kashmir Police have appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and share any information that can aid in the fight against terrorism.

Uproar in RS...

members are funding the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) which also focusses on India and has association with billionaire investor George Soros.

Trivedi also said that it was for the first time that the Russian government had claimed that there was foreign intervention in India's elections, with another government denying it.

As soon as he referred to the US attorney report, members of several opposition parties rose on their feet creating uproar in the House.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar intervened, saying, "we cannot allow the largest democracy to be made dysfunctional by 'deep state'. This House should be united in neutralising any trend or initiative that is dangerous to our sovereignty".

As the uproar continued, Dhankhar allowed Trivedi to complete his remarks and the BJP MP sought to know whether all these reports were coincidental or were deliberate. He also demanded a thorough probe into the matter and asked members to debate the issue thoroughly.

"I want to point out that the Russian government had stated that there is foreign intervention in India's elections. Never has such a thing happened in the country's history," he said.

"I want to ask the opposition whether all this is happening by default or nefarious design. If this is happening by default, then all MPs should only debate the issue and if it is deliberate, then there should be a thorough investigation," Trivedi demanded.

He also said that no foreign force can stall India's march towards progress and the country is moving forward with pride.

Amid the din, the Chairman then allowed TMC member Derek O'Brien to speak on the issue. As the uproar continued, the Chair adjourned the proceedings till 12 noon.

LS adjourned for...

claimed the Congress-led opposition had tried to derail Parliament proceedings following reports in a publication based on findings of the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) which had alleged links to the billionaire investor.

Congress members strongly objected to Dubey's remarks leading to an uproar in the House. As the protests continued, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm.

Similar scenes were witnessed when the House re-assembled at 2 pm.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said the opposition's behaviour was not

acceptable.

"They (opposition) came into Parliament wearing colourful clothes, and outside Parliament, they have started a fashion show wearing those colourful clothes. This lowers the dignity of Parliament and I condemn it. Such disruptions will achieve nothing; it won't fetch votes," Rijju said.

He was referring to leaders of several INDIA bloc parties wearing black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adami Ek Hai" and "Adami Safe Hai".

As the protests continued, BJP member Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair, adjourned the proceedings till 3 pm.

Dubey alleged that the US-based investor, investigative media platform OCCRP and the Congress were trying to derail India's success story etched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP member claimed the Congress had sought to derail Parliament on various issues published by OCCRP, including the Pegasus spying row, questioning the efficacy of vaccines against COVID-19 developed in India and the Hindenburg reports.

Dubey said several opposition leaders raised the issues flagged in media reports, many of which were published on the eve of Parliament sessions in India.

Congress members were up on their feet protesting against Dubey as he tried to put questions to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Amid the din, the Speaker called Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi to raise the issue of violence in Sambhal. Gogoi tried to counter the allegations levelled by Dubey leading to uproar in the House.

Gogoi asserted that Gandhi was in favour of peace and accused the BJP of spreading untruths.

Govt establishes CM's...

integrated online grievance portal linked to the existing Samadhan Portal, enabling citizens to register, track, and resolve grievances. The Information Technology Department has been directed to implement this integration within 15 days.

Additionally, the office will adopt a hybrid communication approach, employing both online methods such as social media, helplines, and grievance portals, alongside offline methods including public interactions and district-level meetings. The Chief Minister's Secretariat will finalize the staffing and other operational modalities of the new office. This initiative aims to improve governance and strengthen the bond between the administration and citizens by addressing grievances effectively and incorporating feedback into policymaking and service delivery," the order reads.

Police, BSF conduct...

Rural Brijesh, and SDPO Domana Mudassir, along with BSF authorities, actively participated in the operation to ensure the security and management of the border region.

The primary focus of the patrolling was to review the security and border management grid across several villages situated along the Chicken Neck Border. These included Gardkhal, Malabella, Sohan, and Kanachak, areas that are strategically significant for border security.

In addition to assessing the security framework, the team took the opportunity to meet with local residents to improve police-public coordination and to discuss the importance of timely information sharing with the police.

The authorities emphasized the role of the local community in maintaining vigilance and fostering better communication to enhance the overall security in the region.

The patrolling team also conducted checks on critical Nallahs, rivers, canals, and Sua, which are vital for monitoring cross-border movement and ensuring that no illegal activities are taking place in these water bodies and natural barriers.

This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the security apparatus and maintain a strong border management system, especially in sensitive areas like the Pargwal sector along the Indo-Pak boundary.

Army soldiers open...

suspected location was strengthened, the officials said.

There were no casualties in the Army firing, they said.

According to the officials, a search operation was launched at first light on Thursday and it was underway when last reports were received.

Meanwhile, a rusted mortar shell was found in an open field in the Surankote area of Poonch district, officials said.

The mortar shell was noticed by villagers of Haril and subsequently a joint party of police and the Army rushed to the scene, the officials added.

They said the mortar shell was being defused by experts of the bomb disposal squad.

Three women among...

relevant sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Arms Act has been registered at Bishnah police station against the accused and further investigations are underway, the officer said.

He said that the police remains committed to eradicating the drug menace and urges the public to report suspicious activities to the nearest police station or post.

CJ lays foundation...

Wani, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag, Showkat Ali Lone, President, District Bar Association Anantnag and other judicial officers, senior members of Bar and officers from the district administration.

The foundation stone ceremony was followed by a program, which featured addresses by several dignitaries.

In his presidential address, the Chief Justice underscored the judiciary's pivotal role in upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the rights of the common man. He spoke about the significance of a robust judicial system, supported by modern infrastructure, in delivering timely and effective justice.

The Chief Justice appreciated the collaborative spirit displayed by the local judiciary, administration and bar in making this project a reality. He reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment towards serving the people and expressed optimism that the new court complex would pave the way for an improved justice delivery system in the district.

In his welcome address, Tahir Khurshid Raina, Principal District & Sessions Judge Anantnag, extended warm regards to all present and emphasised the transformative potential of the new court complex. He expressed hope that the upcoming facility would serve as a beacon of justice and alleviate infrastructural constraints currently faced by the judiciary in Anantnag. He highlighted the collective efforts of the judiciary, bar and administration in realizing this vital project, calling it a step towards better service delivery.

Justice Vinod Chatterjee Koul lauded the efforts made in enhancing legal infrastructure in Anantnag. He stressed the importance of such projects in ensuring justice, thereby instilling confidence among the people.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Showkat Ali Lone, President, District Bar Association Anantnag, who expressed deep gratitude to Chief Justice and other dignitaries for their continued support in strengthening the legal framework in the region.

The program was moderated by Muzamil Ahmad Wani, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Anantnag.

2 houses in...

seven Marlas, Khasra No. 1347 min, situated at village Melhoora. Both the properties are valued Rs. 50 lakhs.

The relevant entries have been made in revenue records by the revenue authorities and notice for the sale and transfer of the attached properties has been duly served under the provisions of the UA(P) Act. The attachment is linked to Case FIR No. 94/2024 of Police Station Zainapora and was executed in the presence of a duly constituted Police team and the Executive Magistrate, ensuring full compliance with legal protocols.

This action represents a significant milestone in the ongoing investigation into unlawful and subversive activities in the region. It highlights the firm commitment of police to neutralize threats to national security and maintain peace and order.

Book-Sellers Association delegation meets Dy CM to highlight challenges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the Jammu Book-Sellers Association, headed by Ruchi Chouhan Khan, met with the Deputy Chief Minister to discuss the pressing issues

faced by local book-sellers. The President of the Association, Nishal Anand, briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on how the influx of outsiders has disrupted the market and made survival increasingly difficult for local traders.

Anand explained the challenges posed by Jammu's geographical location, which limits competitiveness. He raised concerns about violations of Clause 143 of the Financial Regulation Act, which exempts books and periodicals from tender processes. Despite this, some colleges are issuing Expressions of Interest (EOI), inviting outsiders to bid and pushing local traders to the sidelines.

Anand also highlighted that principals are permitted to purchase books up to ₹10 lakhs without advertisements under the same regulations. However, some institutions continue to call for tenders, adding to the challenges for local traders.

General Secretary Nderpal Singh requested the Deputy Chief Minister to curb the interference of outsiders, who offer heavy discounts exclusively on their own publications, creating unrealistic expectations for discounts on other publications. This, he said, makes it impossible for local book-sellers to compete, causing significant financial losses.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Deputy Chief Minister for his patient hearing and presented a token of appreciation.

Prominent members of the Association present in the meeting included Harbinder Singh, Narinder Singh, Vibhav Gupta, Lutfur Rehman Azad, Piyush Vaid, Sanjay Anand, and Sanjay Sharma.

The Association hopes that the Deputy Chief Minister's intervention will lead to policy changes that safeguard the interests of local book-sellers and ensure the sustainability of their trade.



IGNOU opens online portal for re-registration for January 2025 session

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has started the process of online portal for re-registration for January 2025 academic session. The re-registration is meant for already registered/enrolled learners who are eligible to register for next year or semester.

To enroll in the next year or semester, learners need to fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration January 2025 form by the submission deadline which has been fixed for 31st January, 2025. The students who did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can still apply for re-registration for January 2025, provided the minimum programme duration is achieved and programme validity has not expired.

The learners can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2025 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in. The direct link for online re-registration is https://onlinereg.ignou.ac.in/ which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online >> Re-registration" on IGNOU website home page.

In case any learner has forgotten his/her User ID or password or has changed the registered mobile number at later stages and is not able to log in to re-register, he/she must approach the Regional Centre or drop a mail on rejammu@ignou.ac.in with the request to reset the password.

In case online payment made by any learner does not get updated, do not make the second payment immediately. Learners must wait for a day, check the payment status and then decide further course of action. Learners are advised not to wait for the last date for submission of re-registration form since the servers get heavily overloaded towards the last date of online submission due to huge rush.

"Learners must exercise due caution in making online transactions and as far as possible must use their own card/net banking to make payment and in case the learners are using third-party services (cybercafé or some other outlet) for submission of re-registration form, they must ensure that the courses have been correctly chosen and payment of programme fee has been made successfully. Do not forget to obtain a printout of the form submitted and payment confirmation", said Dr. Jai Prakash Verma, Regional Director.

Power cuts affecting day-to-day life of people: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Stating that the Power Development Department (PDD) has started imposing power cuts in these winters, Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader & former Vice Chairperson, said that business and people from all walks of life are badly affected in Jammu and Kashmir due to prolonged curtailments.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that the prolonged power cuts have a wide range of negative effects, depending on their duration. Industrial/manufacturing units are badly hit, perishable goods in stores and homes spoil without refrigeration, hospitals and patients reliant on electric medical equipment are at risk, students, housewives, aged persons too are affected. Loss of heating or air conditioning can lead to health issues, especially during extreme weather; spoiled food due to lack of refrigeration can lead to food poisoning, poor lighting increases risks of accidents, internet and telecommunication services may be unavailable in absence of regular power supply. Machinery involved in monetary transactions too come to halt, thus adding to the word of the people. Referring to the recent directions from Chief Minister to the Power Development Department to minimize distress power cuts, Balbir Ram Rattan, said that Omar Abdullah has rightly pointed out that people are ready to accept planned curtailments, but unexpected and prolonged power cuts are difficult for them to tolerate. Balbir said that despite the fact that every year in peak summers and winters, the PDD has to curtail supply of electricity, still the decision makers at the helm of affairs have not formulated a concrete policy to ensure no power cuts to provide relief to the public. The situation in rural areas is worst and the farmers are helpless as they cannot run the water pumping machines and irrigate agriculture fields during the crop seasons. To check prolonged power cuts involves not only fixing immediate issues but also better infrastructure, backup systems, and renewable energy solutions, are to be created, he said.



Man held with country-made pistol

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was arrested and a country-made pistol was recovered from him here on Thursday, police said. Harjinder Singh alias "Kaka", from Chak Jandran village of Arnia, was intercepted by a patrolling team near Balol bridge on ring road near Miran Sahib, a police spokesman said. He said that Singh was subjected to frisking after he acted in a suspicious manner, leading to the recovery of a 'desi katta' (country-made pistol) along with a live round. A case under relevant sections of the Arms Act has been registered against him and further investigation is underway, the spokesman said.

Night chill intensifies as Kashmir reels under sub-zero temperature

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Cold conditions intensified in Kashmir on Thursday as the minimum temperature settled below the freezing point across the Valley, with a few places experiencing the season's coldest night, officials said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar dropped to a season's low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday, compared to the previous

night's minus 2 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The city registered a low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius on November 28 as well.

Qazigund -- the gateway town to the Valley in south Kashmir -- recorded a low of minus 2.7 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature at popular tourist destination Pahalgam settled at minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, the lowest so far

this season.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg registered a low of minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara reeled at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag at minus 1.4 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The Met department said the weather would stay generally dry till December 7, and a further fall in night temperature is expected while the days would be warmer.

There is a possibility of light rain over a few plain and hilly areas in Jammu division, and light rain/light snow over a few places in the higher reaches during late night on December 8 to the morning of December 9, the Met office said.

The weather would remain dry from December 10-14, while there is a possibility of light rain/light snow over isolated places from December 15-16, it said.