5 Shiv Sena urges implementation of UU excise policy in letter and spirit

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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh Police intensifies crackdown on human trafficking, four arrested



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Multi-tier security for PM Modi's visit to Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A multi-tier security setup has been put in place and traffic advisories issued for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu on Tuesday, officials on Monday

Modi is scheduled to address a public rally at Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir during his visit on February 20, they

The officials said the prime minister will also launch multiple development projects, including for education, railway, aviation and road sectors, worth Rs 30,500 crore.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), he will also distribute appointment letters to about 1.500 newly recruited government employees of Jammu and



Kashmir and interact with beneficiaries of various schemes as part of the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu' programme.

"A multi-tier security setup has been put in place across Jammu for the Prime

draw the amendments made

Minister's visit to the city of temples. The major focus of heightened security arrangements remains the venue of his public meeting and adjoining areas," a senior police officer told PTI.

had been sounded along the borders, while the border and highway grids were further strengthened with the officers asked to intensify patrolling and checking of vehicles to keep He said that a high alert

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PM to inaugurate 6 AIIMS in next six days

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate six new AIIMS, including the ones in Samba in Jammu and Kashmir and Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh, in the next six days, officials said on Monday.

He will dedicate to the nation the AIIMS in Samba listrict at an event in Jammu on Tuesday and five inRajkot, others Mangalagiri, Bathinda, Rae Bareli and Kalyani at a programme in Rajkot in Gujarat on February 25.

The AIIMS Jammu, the foundation of which was laid by Prime Minister Modi in February 2019, is being established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt helping farmers to take agriculture on a new path: Modi

LUCKNOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that his government was help ing farmers to take agriculture on a new path, and laid focus on natural farming and millets.

Addressing an event in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, the prime minister emphasized the importance of working towards a common goal of having Indian food products on dining tables across the globe.

His remarks came amid a protest by a section of farmers over their various demands such as a legal guarantee for minimum support price for

"We are assisting and encouraging farmers to take our country's agriculture on a new path," he said.

He emphasised the focus on natural farming and millets. "This is the right time for investment in superfoods like millets," he said.

He cited the emergence of largescale natural farming along the

#ArmyCommander

exhorted all ranks to remain

banks of the Ganges in Uttar Pradesh, which not only benefits farmers but also helps preserve the purity of sacred rivers. The prime minister appealed to food

AC restores 'Waiting List' provision for government recruitments

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Administrative Council (AC)which met here on Friday under the Chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor approved re-consideration of its earlier decision dated 07-09-2023 and restored provisions for drawing up of wait lists in recruitment to public

Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari. Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meet-

The AC decided to with-Govt agrees to discuss demands

for Ladakh's statehood, inclusion

in 6th Schedule, say groups

NEW DELHI: The Centre

agreed on Monday to discuss

threadbare the demands for

Ladakh's statehood, the

inclusion of the Union

Territory in the 6th Schedule

of the Constitution and the

setting up of an exclusive

public service commission

for the high-altitude region.

The agreement was arrived

at a meeting held here

between the High Powered

Committee (HPC) for

Ladakh headed by Minister

of State for Home

Nityanand Rai and a 14-

member delegation of the

Apex Body of Leh (ABL)

and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), represent-

ing various organisations of

the Union Territory. "The

WEATHEI

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meeting decided to

Max: 21.0°C

Max: 74

Max: 9.0°C

Max: 99

STATE TIMES NEWS

out in the J&K Civil Services Decentralization Recruitment Rules, 2010 earlier in terms of S.O 496 of 2023, J&K, Appointment of Class-IV(Special Recruitment) Rules, 2020 vide S.O497 of 2023, J&K Competitive Combined Examination Rules, 2018 vide S.O498 of 2023 and also Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, in the Business Regulations of JKPSC/JKSSB, and other rules/regulations in any other department/ serv-

It was also decided to grant one time exemption recruiting agencies to

ice ab-initio.

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Lt Gen. M V Suchindra Kumar assumes charge of Army's Northern Command

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar assumed charge as the general officer commanding-in-chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Command of the Army on

He succeeded Lt Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, who has assumed the charge of the vice chief of Army staff and is the frontrunner to become the Army chief when incumbent General Manoj Pande retires on May 31. "Lt Gen MV Suchindra



Suchindra Kumar

Kumar assumed the command of #DhruvaCommand and paid homage to the



#Bravehearts #DhruvaWarMemorial.

focused on operational preparedness and continue working with utmost zeal and enthusiasm," the Additional Directorate General Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army posted on X. Lt Gen Dwivedi headed t

Northern Command more than two years after taking over its charge on February 1, 2022. He laid a wreath to honour supreme sacrifice of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt begins massive recruitment drive to strengthen J&K Police tised, which shall result in

STATE TIMES NEWS

The \mathbf{Home} Department has referred 4022 vacancies of Constables in J&K Police, to Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), as a reaffirmation of govern-

constabulary in the vital security force unit of the UT Police. This will greatly help in reinforcing the capability of law enforcement to effectively address various securi-

strengthening of ranks of

Home Deptt refers 4022 vacancies of J&K Police Constables to SSB

enforcement agencies and

Pertinently, the posts of Constable in J&K Police were last advertised in the year 2019 and now about 4022 posts are being adver-

ment's commitment towards ty challenges and maintain

strengthening the law peace and order. ensuring the safety and security of people of the region.

This initiative w contribute towards enhancing the overall security apparatus of Jammu & Kashmir, but shall also open doors of

employment opportunities

for the local youth.

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Farooq, Omar slam Azad for claiming Abdullahs were consulted before abrogation of Article 370

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Conference hit out at former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday for his comments that NC chief Faroog Abdullah and his son, Omar Abdullah, were consulted before the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, saying he has "stooped so low" by making "baseless and senseless alle-

Farooq Abdullah, who is

the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, said it was a sad day to see "Azad stooping so low in his political utterances only to remain in the political circuit. A leader like him should not be circulating what he himself has termed gossip". The veteran leader, who has been the Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir thrice, reminded Azad about the support he got from the NC to

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No Aadhaar number has been cancelled. says UIDAI

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Monday said to keep the Aadhaar database updated, intimations are issued to Aadhaar number holders from time to time, but no number has been cancelled.

Aadhaar, as the most commonly used digital identity, is used to avail of numerous subsidies, benefits and services, UIDAI said on its website adding that to

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STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Chairman

"On assuming command,

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday reiterated that his party is uniting every segment of the society to ensure inclusive progress and holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

overwhelming "The response and enthusiasm of the people towards the DPAP reflects their trust in the party's commitment to transparent and accountable governance", Azad said while welcoming the renowned



Nabi Azad addressing public gathering at Bani on Monday.

social activist Gauri Shankar from Bani constituency in the Democratic Progressive

Azad Party.

He reiterated his commit-

people with honesty and diligence, further strengthening the party's foothold in the region.

Azad lauded Shankar's selfless efforts in providing free medical assistance to individuals regardless of caste or religion.

"This dedication to serving humanity embodies the values DPAP stands for, making Gauri Shankar an invaluable addition to the party. His decision to join DPAP reflects a significant step forward in the party's

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Landslides, shooting of stones force suspension of traffic on Jammu-Srinagar NH

JAMMU: The traffic on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained suspended on Monday after landslides and shooting of stones from hillocks at over half-a-dozen places Ramban district rendered it unnavigable, and rains and snowfall lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir for the second day, officials said.

Two interstate highways were also closed as a precautionary measure in view of fresh snowfall in the upper reaches of Bhaderwah in Doda district, the officials

Min: 68 Sunset: 18:18 Hours A traffic department offi-Sunrise: 07:10 Hours cial said the traffic on



highway was suspended around 9.30 am following landslides triggered by heavy rains in Dalwas, Mehad-Cafeteria. Chamalwas. Shalgadi and Gangroo.

Shooting stones from the

hillocks were also reported

bridge, Marog and a few other places during the day, the official said, adding, the highway was still closed for vehicular traffic when last reports Hundreds of passengers

were received.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches, rains in plains of Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Snowfall in higher reaches, including Gulmarg skiing resort, and rains in plains lashed Kashmir on Monday as precipitation is likely to continue in the valley over the next 48 hours, officials said.

Gulmarg skiing resort in Baramulla district, which is schedaled to host the fourth Khelo India Winter Games from Wednesday, has received around 1.5 feet of fresh snowfall over the past 24 hours, the officials said.

Snowfall was also reported from Kupwara, Handwara and Sonamarg areas of the valley.

The rest of the valley, including Srinagar city, has been ashed by moderate to heavy rains since Sunday. Srinagar has received 12.4 mm rainfall over the past 24

ours while Qazigund received 12.8 mm rains. Pahalgam (18.6 mm), Kupwara (42.7 mm) and Kokernag 8.0 mm) also received substantial rains over the same period. The Jammu region has also been lashed by rains, which has forced the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to mudslides at two places in Ramban district.

CB files chargesheet against Govt official in embezzlement case

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday filed a chargesheet here against a suspended government official for his alleged involvement in the embezzlement of Rs 33 lakh from accounts of withdrawal of GPF and seventh pay commission arrears of employees, an official said.

The chargesheet was filed in the court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu against the then Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) in Geology and Mining Department Aijaz Mir, who is presently under suspension in the case filed in 2021, a spokesperson of the Crime Branch, Jammu said.

He said the case refers to a complaint filed by the then Drill Operator Grade-2 S L Bhat with the then Director, Geology and Mining Department alleging that his sanctioned General Provident Fund (GPF) had

money was credited in the account of the DDO. The then Director constituted a high-level enquiry committee which revealed that a serious financial embezzlement to the tune

been released but he had not

received them, instead the

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