

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Multi-tier security...

subversive elements at bay. The officials said the Maulana Azad Stadium has been taken over by the security agencies who conducted a thorough anti-sabotage check.

On February 17, Jammu District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya announced a temporary ban on the use of drones, paragliders and remote controlled micro-light aircrafts as a precautionary measure to counter possible activities by the terrorists and anti-national elements.

The order was issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code while responding to intelligence reports highlighting potential security threats.

"Effective immediately and continuing until February 20, the order imposes restrictions on the operation of drones, remote-controlled micro-light aircrafts, para-gliders, para-motors, hand gliders and hot air balloons within the (Jammu) district," the order said.

However, the order said exceptions to the ban include aerial surveillance conducted by the security forces during the VIP visits or with specific written permission from the district magistrate's office.

"Defence and Para Military Forces are exempted from these restrictions. Violation of this order is subject to punitive action under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code," the order read.

Given the prediction of isolated to widespread rains in Jammu for the next 24 hours, a BJP spokesperson said that necessary arrangements, including water-proof tents, have been erected to accommodate one lakh people who are expected to turn up for the rally from across Jammu and Kashmir.

Almost all prominent BJP leaders, including J&K unit president Ravinder Raina, have been making appeals to the people to join the rally, which is seen as a formal launch of the party's campaign for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, the meteorological department has predicted continuation of wet weather for the next three days.

Meteorological department officer in-charge S C Sharma said did not rule out rains welcoming Prime Minister Modi in Jammu.

"There is prediction of widespread rains at most places in Jammu plains for the next 24 hours followed by isolated rains on February 21 and 22 and February 24 and 25," Sharma told PTI.

Most places in Jammu and Kashmir have presently been experiencing wet weather since February 18.

While the higher reaches are experiencing snowfall, the plains, including Jammu city, were lashed by intermittent rains for the second day on Monday.

A traffic department official said that a dry run was carried out this afternoon from the airport to Maulana Azad road as restrictions and diversions have been placed on the ground to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city.

The officials said a total of 48 locations have been identified for the parking of the vehicles carrying people from different parts of the Union Territory to the venue of Modi's public rally.

The headquarters central pool security, Jammu, has also issued a detailed advisory for the general public participating in the public rally, asking them not to carry any bag, tiffin boxes, cameras, weapon, ammunition, sharp edged articles, cigarettes, lighters, umbrellas, any objectionable flag or any electronic gadgets amongst others. The mobile phones should be kept in switched off or silent mode, the advisory said and asked the participants to ensure their entry in the venue before 9.30 am and cooperate during frisking.

### PM to inaugurate....

Suraksha Yojana. Established at a cost of more than Rs 1,660 crore and in an area spanning over 227 acres, the hospital is equipped with facilities such as 720 beds, medical college with 125 seats, nursing college with 60 seats, AYUSH block with 30 beds, residential accommodation for faculty and staff, hostel accommodation for undergraduate and postgraduate students, night shelter, guest house, auditorium, shopping complex, etc.

He will also inaugurate various medical colleges and nursing colleges across the country. He will lay the foundation of many new medical colleges and various advanced health facilities, including critical care blocks and integrated public health labs, under the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

He will also dedicate to the nation advanced research labs and facilities of ICMR and various National Health Mission (NHM) projects.

To ensure the safety and quality of food consumed by millions of Indians, Modi will inaugurate advanced food safety infrastructure projects and facilities in multiple states. All these health projects with a total cost of Rs 11,391.79 crore will bring a wave of healthcare advancements and transform India's healthcare landscape, officials said. The projects will ensure quality, affordable, and accessible healthcare for all along with expanding medical education in the country.

The new medical and nursing colleges will nurture the next generations of doctors and healthcare professionals in the country. For a nation to truly progress, its citizens must be healthy, both physically and mentally, they said.

The new healthcare infrastructure projects and facilities will propel India towards a healthier, happier, and prosperous tomorrow.

Officials said that during the UPA, the Ministry of Health had a budget allocation of Rs 37,330 crore in 2013-14 while under the NDA, it increased to Rs 90,658.63 crore in 2024-25, marking a substantial rise of approximately 143 per cent.

### Govt helping farmers...

processing entrepreneurs to prioritise the mantra of "zero effect, zero defect" in their endeavours.

He highlighted the success stories of products such as Siddharth Nagar's kalanamak rice and Chandauli's black rice, which are now being exported in significant quantities, and pitched for collective efforts to take Indian food items to people across the world.

The prime minister encouraged entrepreneurs to form partnerships with farmers, underscoring the government's efforts in empowering small-scale farmers through farmer producer organisations and cooperative societies, which present opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.

"Benefit to farmers and agriculture is good for your business too," Modi told the investors. He also referred to the Bharat Ratna award to former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

"Just a few days ago, our government had the privilege of awarding Bharat Ratna to the messiah of farmers, Chaudhary Charan Singh," he said.

The award to Singh, the son of the soil of Uttar Pradesh, is an honour for crores of labourers and crores of farmers of the country as well, he added.

On Uttar Pradesh's pivotal role in driving the rural economy and agriculture-based economy of India, the prime minister called upon stakeholders to maximize the benefits of this opportunity.

He expressed confidence in the capabilities of the people of Uttar Pradesh and the efforts of the "double-engine government" in laying the foundation for the state's and the nation's progress.

Modi launched 14,000 projects across Uttar Pradesh worth more than Rs 10 lakh crore at the fourth ground-breaking ceremony here on Monday for investment proposals received during the UP Global Investors Summit.

The projects relate to sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energy, food processing, housing and real estate, hospitality and entertainment, and education.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and several industrialists and representatives of top global and Indian companies attended the event.

Modi's remarks on agriculture and rural economy came amid a protest by a section of farmers over their various demands.

Farmers from Punjab began their march to Delhi on February 13 but were stopped by security personnel at Shambhu and Khanauri points on Punjab's border with Haryana. Thousands of protesting farmers have been camping at the Punjab-Haryana border since as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the protesting farmers are demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, no hike in electricity tariff, and reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act of 2013.

### Govt begins massive...

The J&K Police was feeling the strain of manpower crunch stemming from the absence of recruitment at Constable level, which was affecting the operational readiness and delivery mechanism. The recruitment process will be conducted soon by the Services Selection Board, for the aspiring candidates to apply and participate in the upcoming recruitment process. This also reflects government's resolve of generating employment opportunities for local youth. As per break up of these 4022 posts, there are 1689 vacancies of Constables (J&K Armed/IRP), 100 of Constable SDRF, 502 of Constable (Telecom), 20 of Constable (Driver) and 22 posts of Constable (Photography) under the UT cadre while there are 1689 vacancies of Constable Executive Police in the divisional cadre including

1249 posts for Jammu and 440 posts for Kashmir.

### Lt Gen. M...

the bravehearts at the Dhruva War Memorial in Udhampur on relinquishing the command on Sunday.

An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa, Lt Gen Dwivedi was commissioned into 18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in 1984, a unit he later commanded.

"The General officer has had a unique distinction of balanced exposure of both Northern and Western Theatres," the Army said.

In his illustrious career spanning 39 years, he has held command appointments in challenging operational environments, spanning the length and breadth of the country.

He commanded his unit in Kashmir Valley as well as in Rajasthan.

Lt Gen Dwivedi was the Sector Commander and the Inspector General of Assam Rifles in an intense counter terrorism environment in the north east.

He commanded the Rising Star Corps with an operational role along the western borders.

Lt Gen Dwivedi commanded the prestigious Northern Army in an extremely challenging operational environment along both the northern and western borders, the Army said in a statement.

As Northern Army commander, he provided strategic guidance and operational oversight for planning and execution of sustained operations along the northern and western borders, besides orchestrating the dynamic counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

During this period, the General officer was actively engaged in the ongoing negotiations with China in resolving the vexed border issue, the Army said.

He was also involved in modernisation and equipping of the largest Army command of the Indian Army, where he steered the induction of indigenous equipment as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

The Army said that he synergised with people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for "convergent nation-building outcomes" and infrastructure development.

Besides the challenging command assignments, Lt Gen Dwivedi has tenanted important staff appointments in headquarters Armoured Brigade, Mountain Division, Strike Corps and Integrated HQ (Army).

"As Director General Infantry, he had steered and fast-tracked capital procurement of weapons for the three services, leading to significant and visible capability enhancement for our armed forces," the Army said.

As Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Information System and Coordination), the General officer gave impetus to automation and absorption of niche technologies in the Indian Army, it said.

Being a technology enthusiast, he worked towards enhancing the technical threshold of all ranks in the Northern Command and pushed for 'critical and emerging technologies' like Big Data Analytics, AI, Quantum and Blockchain-based solutions, it said.

The General officer has attended the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and Higher Command Course at Army War College, Mhow.

He was conferred 'Distinguished Fellow' in the coveted NDC equivalent course at US Army War College (USAWC) Carlisle.

He has an M.Phil in Defence and Management Studies in addition to the two Master's Degrees in Strategic Studies and Military Science including one from USAWC.

Lt Gen Dwivedi took over as Vice Chief of the Army Staff from Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, who now has been appointed as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command.

### AC restores 'Waiting...

draw up wait list within six months, for those select lists, which have been issued since earlier decision. However this shall be subject to the condition that such wait list(s) are drawn within validity period of the select list and resultant vacancies on account of non-joining of selected candidates have not been re-advertised.

The decision shall help in timely filing up of vacancies, with additional benefits such as avoidance of delays in re-referral of vacancies, reduction of time consumed in subsequent selections, and allow candidates to secure employment before attainment of upper-age limit.

### Uniting all communities for...

growth and presence in the Jammu region", Azad said.

Recognizing Gauri Shankar's significant influence in the Bani constituency, Azad expressed confidence in DPAP's electoral prospects with Gauri's inclusion.

Among others present on the occasion included General Secretary RS Chib, Provincial President Jugal Kishor Sharma, Sr DPAP leader Dr Tariq Azad, General Secretary Anita Thakur, General Secretary, Vinod Mishra, Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Vice President Adv.Ashok Sharma, State Secretary Sunita Arora, Hira Lal Abrol Secretary, Zonal President Choudhary Gharu Ram, Zonal GS Sheikh Zaffarullah, General Secretary ST Cell, Sobat Ali, Provincial General Secretary Vishal Chopra, Provincial Secretary Anoop Khajuria, Spokesperson Sanjay Manhas, Fatima Shikari and others.

### No Aadhaar number...

maintain the accuracy of the Aadhaar database, the authority had initiated an exercise for update of documents and Aadhaar information.

"In the course of activities undertaken to keep the Aadhaar database updated, intimations are issued from time to time to Aadhaar number holders. In this connection, it is clarified that no Aadhaar number has been cancelled," UIDAI said.

In case any Aadhaar number holder has any grievance they can submit their feedback to UIDAI, it said, promising that grievance will be duly addressed.

"In case any Aadhaar number holder has any grievance in this regard, they may submit their feedback to UIDAI at this link <https://uidai.gov.in/en/contact-support/feedback.html>. Any such grievance will be duly addressed," it said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday had alleged that the BJP-led central government "deactivated" Aadhaar cards of people in the state ahead of the Lok Sabha polls to stop them from availing of the benefits of various social welfare schemes.

Speaking at a public distribution programme here in Birbhun district, Banerjee had said her government will continue with the state-run welfare programmes irrespective of the beneficiaries not having an Aadhaar card.

"Be careful, they (BJP-led Centre) are deactivating Aadhaar cards. Several Aadhaar cards have been made inactive in many districts of Bengal. They are doing this so that people do not get benefits of schemes like 'Lakshmi Bhandar' through bank transfer and free ration before the polls," she said.

"My clear instruction to the chief secretary is to ensure that people are not deprived of the benefits even if they do not have active Aadhaar cards. People of Bengal need not be worried. I am there for you," the CM had said.

She alleged that Aadhaar cards of 50 people at Jamalpur in Purba Bardhaman district and several others in Birbhun, North and South 24 Parganas as well as in North Bengal have been "delinked".

### Farooq, Omar slam...

win his Rajya Sabha seat in 2015.

Azad gave an interview to a private television channel and claimed that NC leaders seek time with leaders in Delhi after 11 pm, which raises suspicion in the minds of people.

He also said there was a gossip in Delhi in 2019 that the Abdullahs had prior information that the provisions of Article 370 would be abrogated and that they were detained in accordance with their own wish.

Azad also accused Farooq Abdullah of playing the religion card to woo Hindu votes by visiting temples and singing "bhajans".

The interview was aired on Monday.

Farooq Abdullah asserted that the NC has stood and will always stand for secularism and said it was time Azad explained the real reason for breaking away from the Congress and forming his own party in Jammu and Kashmir.

"He has to clarify actually which side of the fence he was on. He has been enjoying every perk even after ceasing to be a member of the Rajya Sabha. The question is, how?" the NC leader asked.

The former Union minister said he, along with several other leaders, held a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

"Whatever we have to do, we do it in broad daylight. Why should one ask for time at night...?" Abdullah asked and described Azad's statement as childish and laughable.

Taking to X, former Jammu and Kashmir chief Minister Omar Abdullah said: "Wah bhai wah Ghulam Nabi Azad, so much bile today. Where is the Ghulam that was begging us for Rajya Sabha seats in J&K as recently as 2015?"

"Abdullahs knew about 370' yet we were detained for more than 8 months including under PSA and you were free, the only ex CM in J&K free after 5th Aug," he said in a post on X.

The NC vice-president chided the former Congress leader, pointing out that his father, Farooq Abdullah, was evacuated from a government bungalow when he

was not an MP.

"Abdullahs meet secretly' yet my father is the one thrown out of his government house when he wasn't MP and you are allowed to keep your ministerial bungalow?"

"Abdullahs say one thing in Kashmir and another in Delhi' yet PM cries for you in Rajya Sabha and criticises us in every speech. Let's not forget the Padma award for which you agreed to leave Congress and help BJP in Chenab valley. Who is azad and who is ghulam, time will tell and people will decide," he said.

Reacting to Omar Abdullah's post on X and taking a jibe at Azad, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "Did you seriously expect anything else from him? He is an absolute disgrace -- actually, always has been!"

### CB files chargesheet...

of over Rs 33 lakhs pertaining to GPF and 7th pay commission arrears of several employees had been committed by the then DDO and cashier, the spokesperson said.

He said the report of inquiry committee along with relevant documents was subsequently forwarded to Crime Branch, Jammu for action under law, and a case was registered under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act against the accused and his cashier for criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and fraud for in-depth investigation.

"The report of enquiry committee along with relevant documents was submitted by the then Director to the then Deputy Secretary to the Government, who forwarded the same to Crime Branch Jammu for action under law. Thus, Crime Branch Jammu registered a case FIR No. 4/2021 u/s 409,420,120-B IPC, read with sec 13 Prevention of Corruption Act against the said Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) and his Cashier (who is no more) for criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and fraud at Police Station Crime Branch Jammu and started in-depth investigation , which has been completed on merits, offences have been proved and charge-sheet filed today in the court of Special Judge Anti Corruption, Jammu", the spokesperson said.

### Landslides, shooting of...

were left stranded due to the sudden closure of the arterial road.

Despite incessant rains, authorities mobilised men and machines to clear the road of the debris to make it navigable, they said.

Authorities have advised people to avoid journeys on the highway till the road is cleared and weather improves.

Bhaderwah Superintendent of Police Vinod Sharma said the vehicular movement on Bhaderwah-Pathankot and Bhaderwah-Chamba-Himachal interstate highways was also suspended due to heavy snow accumulation at Padri-Galli, Guldanda, and Chattergalla pass in Bhaderwah.

While intermittent to moderate rains lashed the plains, including the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar, most of the upper reaches across Jammu and Kashmir got a fresh snowfall.

Following a heavy snowfall, particularly on the 30 km-stretch from Thanala to Khundi Maral on Bhaderwah-Chamba road, and 25 km-stretch from Thantera to Chhattar Galla pass on Bhadarwah-Pathankot National Highway, Doda district administration suspended all kind of traffic on both roads.

"It is snowing heavily and the hilly roads have become very slippery with apprehension of avalanches," Sharma said.

He appealed to all the tour operators and hoteliers not to guide any tourists to venture on these roads.

A couple of tourist vehicles got stuck in a snow storm in the Guldanda area and the travellers were rescued after hectic efforts by Border Roads Organisation and Police late Sunday night.

Officer In-charge, Meteorological department, Jammu, S C Sharma has predicted wet weather till February 25 except February 23 with widespread rain in the plains and snowfall in high altitude areas in the next 24 hours.

### Govt agrees to...

discuss threadbare our main demands: statehood for Ladakh, inclusion of Ladakh in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution and the constitution of the exclusive public service commission for Ladakh on February 24," according to a joint press release issued by the ABL and KDA.

The two organisations from Ladakh also decided to call off "for the time being" their plan to go on a hunger strike from Tuesday "in view of this significant development".

The meeting resolved to constitute a joint sub-committee for carrying forward the exercise to look into the details of the demands.

"We have, accordingly, set up the sub-committee with the following members: Thupstan Chhewang, Chering Dorjay Lakrook and Nawang Rigzin Jora, representing the ABL, and Qamar Ali Akhoon, Asgar Ali Karbalai and Sajjad Kargili, representing the KDA," the release said.

The two organisations conveyed the names of the sub-committee members to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla.

"All members of the sub-committee are in Delhi and we look forward to fruitful discussions at the next meeting," the release added.

The other demands of the delegation include two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and one for Leh) and job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory, sources said.

Ladakh currently has one Lok Sabha constituency.

Ladakh, which no longer has any Assembly constituency, was earlier part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, were abrogated on August 5, 2019 and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. According to the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, Jammu and Kashmir has been made a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly and Ladakh a Union Territory without an Assembly.

There were four representatives from Ladakh in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The BJP-led Centre assured the delegation from Ladakh in December last year that it was committed to fast-tracking the development of the Union Territory and meeting the aspirations of the people in the region.

The assurance was given at a meeting held with the HPC for Ladakh.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has formed the HPC for Ladakh under Rai's chairmanship with a mandate to discuss the measures needed to be taken to protect the region's unique culture and language, taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance.

The HPC has also been formed for the protection of land and employment, measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region, measures related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCCs) of Leh and Kargil and the constitutional safeguards that could be provided to ensure the measures and protection as mentioned above. Several organisations of Ladakh were demanding a separate Union Territory for the region for decades and the demand was fulfilled on August 5, 2019. The KDA and the ABL, however, in the recent past protested at different locations, including New Delhi, Jammu and Ladakh, highlighting their key demands.

## Police intensifies crackdown on human trafficking, four arrested

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday said that they have arrested four persons involved in human trafficking in Kashmir. A Police spokesperson said that on Feb 14, 2024, Police Post Soibugh received a call from a source regarding a non-local lady wandering aimlessly in the Arath area of District Budgam seeking help. Accordingly ,a Police team from Police Post Soibugh was deputed to the said place and recovered the said lady who was subsequently handed over to 'Sakhi One stop centre Budgam'.

He said on enquiry she revealed that she had been fraudulently brought to Kashmir by Zaitoon Bibi resident of Kolkata, West Bengal and Bashir Ahmed Mochi of Arath, Budgam.

She further revealed that the said persons sold her to one Parvaiz Ahmad Ganiece, son of Gh Mohd Ganiece, resident of Yall Pattan for a sum of one lakh and thirty five thousand rupees and forcibly married her to the said person, spokesperson said.

Accordingly, Budgam Police registered a Case FIR No 52/2024 under relevant section of law at Police Station Budgam and investigation was started.

"During the course of investigation four persons namely Bashir Ahmad Mochi, son of Ab Rehman Mochi, resident of Arath Budgam; Gh Hassan Najar, son of Wali Mohd Najar, resident of Arath Budgam; Parvaiz Ahmad Ganiece, son of GH Mohd Ganiece, resident of Yall Pattan; and Mohd Ramzan Ganiece, son of Ab Wahab Ganiece, resident of Hanjibugh Magam were found involved in the said trafficking racket and were subsequently arrested in the instant case," he said. He added that further investigations have been taken up.