

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

India needs to...

the RBI the rights to take decisions to curb inflation. The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) has also done some very good work on its mandate over the years, Modi said.

The government's efforts, including delivering on fiscal consolidation and active price monitoring, also helped in the cooling of inflation, he added.

Modi said inflation is at a "moderate level", despite the Covid pandemic or the challenges posed by wars in various countries.

India followed a path where it took care of both financial prudence concerns and also the requirements of the common man during the pandemic, he said.

At a time when many countries of the world are still struggling to come out of the shocks suffered during the pandemic, the Indian economy is creating new records, Modi said.

He said balancing inflation control and growth is a unique need for every developing country and urged everybody to study the right monetary tools to wrestle with this challenge.

The PM said the RBI can create a model and play a leadership role that will help the broader Global South.

Army opens fire...

suspicious movement of some persons believed to be terrorists was noticed in Keri sector during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the officials said.

They said troops fired at least four rounds to shoot down a Pakistani quadcopter soon after it entered Indian territory but it returned to the other side of the LoC in the face of firing.

Troops also fired a few rounds after detecting suspicious movement of some persons trying to infiltrate from across the border in Keri sector but they fled towards Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

A massive search operation has been launched to ensure there is no drone dropping or anything suspicious left behind by the suspected persons, the officials said.

The operation was continuing when last reports came in.

Security challenges in...

Army Commanders' Conference, the first for the year 2024.

The Army chief, Army vice chief and all Army commanders attended the brainstorming sessions as part of the conference on Monday, a defence source said.

The Army Commanders' Conference is being organised in a hybrid mode. The conference was held in virtual mode on March 28 and in physical mode from April 1-2.

"Geopolitical and security challenges in the Indian neighbourhood" were discussed during the conference, the sources in military establishment said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the army commanders conference on Tuesday during which the senior military leadership will also assess the overall security situation, the Defence Ministry had said in a statement on March 27.

The conference, with its wide scope, ensures the Indian Army remains progressive, forward-looking, adaptive and future-ready, it said.

It serves as a "pivotal forum for apex leadership of the Indian Army to brainstorm conceptual issues, review and assess the overall security situation".

It will lay down key priorities facilitating important policy decisions to chart the course for future direction, officials had said.

The Army's top leadership will engage in intensive brainstorming sessions on April 1. The sessions will be aimed at enhancing operational effectiveness, the importance of fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability and investing in training and development programmes to ensure readiness for future challenges, the statement had said.

New security mechanism...



DGP R R Swain inspecting the Parade at Kathua.

and order, and secure areas," the DGP said.

Drawing a comparison with security arrangements in Europe, Swain noted that when areas are secure, it eliminates the need for the security for the head of the force, allowing him to move freely.

He said that the police force aims to eliminate the need for individual security in the future but "that day has not yet arrived."

"So, we aim to balance the security setup. We deploy resources in such a way for law and order, investigation, interrogation, and securing areas, so that the need for individual security is minimised," the DGP said.

The Passing out cum attestation parade of 30th BRTC was held at Sardar Prithimandan Singh, Police Training School Kathua. Director General of Police was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

ADSGP M.K. Sinha, Garib Dass, Shri Vijay Kumar, Anand Jain, IGP PoS, PHQ, B.S Tuti, DIG Training PHQ, Sarah Rizvi, DIG Armed Jammu, Nisha Nathyal, DC Kathua, Rakesh Minhas, SSP Kathua, AIsG of PHQ, other serving and retired police officers and large number of families and friends of passing out trainees were present on the occasion.

The DGP welcomed the passouts in the J&K Police Parivar and congratulated them and their families. He appreciated and lauded the commitment of the Director SKPA, Udhampur Garib Dass and Principal SPS PTS Kathua Manjit Kour (SSP) for working with full zeal for the training of these police personnel. He appreciated the instructors for their tireless efforts in shaping the abilities, skills of the women police personnel. The DGP also praised the exceptional parade displayed by the passouts. After the parade, the DGP also witnessed demos of commando drill and silent drill presented by the pass out recruit women police personnel.

DGP, J&K, distributed the trophies and cash rewards to the best cadets of the batch. Recruit constable Sapna Kour 718/1st W/Bn. was declared All Round Best and 1st in Indoor best and was presented with trophies and cash reward of rupees one lakh for all round best position and rupees 75000 for securing 1st position in Indoor. Recruit Constable Shalu Bala 271/1st W/Bn. was declared 2nd All Round Best and was presented rupees 75000 cash reward and a trophy while recruit constable Pinky Kumari 598/1st W/Bn. was declared 3rd All Round Best and was presented a trophy and rupees 50000 cash reward. For securing 1st position in Outdoor recruit constable Deepu Kumari 544/1st W/Bn. was presented with a trophy and rupees 75000 cash reward while for securing 1st position in Range Classification recruit Constable Neerage Kundal 670/1st W/Bn. was presented with a trophy and cash reward of rupees 25000. Recruit Constable Asma Choudhary 400/1st W/Bn. 1st Parade Commander and Recruit Constable Sapna Kour 718/1st W/Bn. 2nd Parade Commander were presented rupees 5000 and rupees 3000 of cash reward respectively along with trophies.

Earlier Principal SPS PTS Kathua, Manjit Kour (SSP) in her address gave a detailed resume of the training imparted to these women constables. She also highlighted educational and technical qualification of the passouts. The vote of thanks was presented by DySP Administration Raghvir Singh.

Later the DGP, J&K, and other senior officers paid tributes to the J&K Police fallen heroes by laying wreaths at the martyrs' memorial. He also inaugurated Shaheed Manohar Lal Park. He along with other senior police officers planted saplings in the Park.

CS reviews admin's...



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Monday.

preparedness on part of the divisional administrations, as was done during 2023. He called for demarcation of safer zones for holding of langars and tentages for the pilgrims.

Dulloo also assessed the works to be done by the Rural Development Department (RDD) along with Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) to ensure adequate arrangements for sanitation during Yatra 2024. These included installation of requisite number of toilets/baths with provision of sufficient water supply, deploying sufficient number of sanitation workers & supervisors, carrying out scientific disposal of waste etc.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the measures to be taken by Health, Jal Shakti, PDD, Animal Husbandry, FCS&CA, Transport, IMD and Information departments in providing hassle-free services to the pilgrims. He even enquired from Telecom service providers and Disaster Management agencies about their preparedness to make this year's yatra successful.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, who is also CEO of the Shrine Board, threw light on different aspects and facilities being extended by the administration to the pilgrims during the yatra.

He apprised the meeting of the best practices to be emulated this year from Yatra, 2023. He also informed about the new measures to be taken on part of the administration for making this annual pilgrimage smooth and successful.

Mian Altaf named...

election, with various opposition parties, including arch-rival PDP, facing a formidable challenge in countering Altaf's widespread support base.

"There can't be any better choice than Mian (Altaf) Saheb for the Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri seat. He has never asked votes on religious lines and always kept all sections of the society together."

"I appeal to the voters of Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri parliamentary seat to come out in majority to make Mian saheb successful so that the voice of the people reaches Delhi," Omar said while announcing his name on behalf of party president Farooq Abdullah.

The function was held at the party headquarters.

The announcement saw several rejoicing moments in the Rajouri and Poonch areas and many of them saw 'Baba Nagri' coming to their area.

Altaf, expressing gratitude for the overwhelming support, emphasised that his leadership is shaped by the people's affection and his commitment to public service, reflecting on his family's legacy of religious leadership in Kashmir.

His great grandfather Baba Jee Sahib Larvi, his grandfather Mian Nizam Ud Din Larvi and his father Mian Bashir Ahmed Larvi were also religious figures in Kashmir. His father had declared him as 'Wali-e-Ahed' in 2017.

"I have nothing else to say. I have been working for the people in the past and I will continue to do that," Mian Altaf told PTI after his nomination for the seat was announced.

He said these elections were an uphill task keeping in mind the redrawn Lok Sabha constituency which now includes areas from South Kashmir as well as from Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region.

The 'Baba Nagri' is thronged by hundreds of people every day to meet him and seek his blessings.

Altaf survived a terrorist attack in 1995 that involved an IED explosion and gunfire by militants from Harkat-ul-Ansar (now known as banned Jaish-e-Mohammed). Following the incident, he was airlifted to Delhi for medical treatment and upon his return, he continued to stay at his ancestral village.

As the Anantnag constituency expands to encompass Rajouri and Poonch regions post-delimitation, the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections on May 7 are poised to be a significant electoral event in the region.

The NC, aligned with the opposition INDIA bloc, is set to contest three seats in the Kashmir Valley.

New criminal laws...

report (FIR) to the final delivery of judgment, every stage of a criminal investigation is slated to be recorded digitally under the purview of the proposed legislation," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said under the new laws, summons can now be issued electronically, and testimonies from the witnesses, experts, accused individuals and other parties may also be presented virtually.

He said, "This innovation eliminates the need for physical documentation and enables swift communication between law enforcement agencies, courts and individuals involved in legal proceedings. It will obviate the delay in bail orders reaching the jail authorities and in recording witness depositions."

"Similarly, the authorisation for presenting testimonies virtually opens up new avenues for participation in legal proceedings, allowing contributions to the process from remote locations," he said.

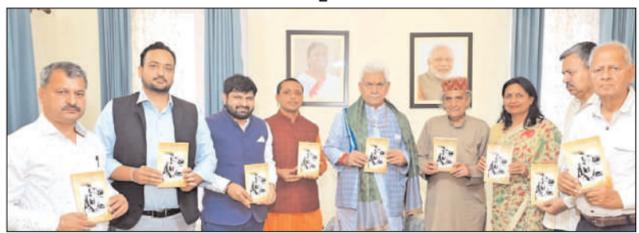
The chief justice of India had a word of caution as well.

"However, as we embark on a digital transformation, two significant concerns come to light. Firstly, while complete digitisation promises increased efficiency and accessibility, it also runs the risk of excluding individuals without internet access or technological proficiency, which remains a significant portion of India's population," he said.

There is a pressing need to ensure that the benefits of digitisation are equitably distributed and that mechanisms are in place to address the digital divide, he said.

"Secondly, particular attention must be paid to the digitalisation of foundational processes such as the filing of FIRs to streamline and trace back the sequence of events and enhance transparency from the outset," he said.

LG releases publication...



LG Manoj Sinha releases publication on the life of Sant Mauni Baba.

best wishes for his future endeavours.

Later, Ankush Gupta, Founder Jammu Startup Community, along with Atul Vinod Duggal, Film Maker called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

UPA government sabotaged...

raise their voice for the interest of the constituency represented by them respectively because they were more keen to keep their Kashmir-centric masters in good humour.

Dr Jitendra said that someday some historians and analysts will try to find an answer to this question as to why the Congress run governments at the Centre and the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir connived together to keep these two national projects on hold and to allow India's share of river water to flow into Pakistan.

Dr Singh recalled that as per the Indus Water Treaty 1960, which was accomplished by the Congress government led by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, it was decided that three rivers of Sathly, Beas and Ravi will be part of India's share of water; Ravi being the largest river. But the successive Congress governments including the UPA did not follow the commitment made by their own leader Nehru and the Congress leaders from this region also did not raise their voice.

It was only when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, he said, that this project was revived after nearly 30 years and now Shahpur-kandi project is almost fully functional whereas the Ujh project is going to start soon which was also announced by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat during his address at Kathua rally on 21st of March.

Vote for Modi and for the NDA government is also essential, said Dr Singh, to avoid the repetition of the era of appeasement and regional discrimination which the entire belt of Kathua and Billawar had to suffer for six decades.

Appealing for a vote for 400 plus for Modi and the BJP, Dr Jitendra said, whatever might the Congress leaders say outwardly, in their heart of hearts they are aware of the fact that even their workers and relatives are going to vote only and only for Modi.

Senior BJP leader Satish Sharma, BJP Hill District President Darshan Singh, BJYM President Udit Sharma, DDC members and PRIs, among others, accompanied Dr Jitendra Singh during the tour.

India bids farewell...

fostering a spirit of patriotism and resilience in younger generations. The tribute to Subedar Thanseia witnessed an overwhelming turnout from Army and civil fraternities, including comrades from the Assam Regiment, who came together to pay their respects. His legacy leaves an indelible mark on the Indian Army, Assam

Regiment and people of North East reminding us of the sacrifices made by our soldiers in the quest for peace and freedom.

India, while mourning his loss, celebrates Subedar Thanseia's extraordinary life and service. His contributions to our nation and his role in the Second World War will be remembered for his bravery, leadership, and unwavering commitment to duty.

Subedar Thanseia's story is not just a testament to the past but a continuing source of inspiration for the future, honouring the legacy of all Indian soldiers who have served with distinction. In remembrance of Subedar Thanseia, we are reminded of the courage and determination of those who have served before us, their stories shaping the foundation of our present and future. His memory will live on, a guiding light for generations to come, embodying the spirit of service and sacrifice that defines the best of humanity.

Emergency Landing Facility...

conduct of complex multi-faceted activities.

After this exercise, Jammu and Kashmir will be the first Union Territory to have operationalised an ELF. Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are the three states where ELFs are currently operational.

CEO reviews election...

officer Poonch, Mohd Yaseen Chaudhary, SSP, Yungal Manhas, Additional District Development Commissioner Sandesh Kumar Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, AROs, and all zonal and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

The meeting further deliberated on allocation of sufficient Human Resources, implementation of SVEEP plan at booth level, formulation of a comprehensive material management plan, efficient and secure route mapping and development of an extensive training program tailored for Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and designated nodal officers to ensure extensive preparation for the elections.

The officers were instructed to monitor various aspects of the election process through already established control rooms.

Further, the Chief Electoral Officer instructed the AROs for implementation of widespread awareness campaigns at booth level by engaging BLOs, sports personalities, government employees, youth icons, influencers and by organising sports events, rallies, competitions and door-to-door campaigns to increase public participation in the electoral process.

The Chief Electoral Officer also underscored the importance of guaranteeing Adequate Minimum Facilities (AMF) for the polling staff and the security personnel deployed for electoral duties on the Election Day. He instructed the appointed Welfare Officers to ensure availability of clean washrooms, drinking water, first aid and electricity, at their designated camping areas for their comfort and well-being while fulfilling their duties during the elections.

Kejriwal sent to...

will remain the CM no matter how long he is kept in prison.

Kejriwal is the fourth top AAP leader to be lodged in the Tihar Jail after his former deputy Manish Sisodia, ex-health minister Satyendar Jain and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

On Monday, AAP sources indicated that Kejriwal's wife Sunita, who virtually made her political debut at the INDIA bloc's "Loktantra Bachao" rally at the Ramlika ground a day earlier, is likely to assume a "significant role" in the party in the coming days.

Arvind Kejriwal was brought to Tihar at 4 pm and lodged in Jail Number 2, a prison official said, adding that he will be kept under watch for 24 hours.

"His medical examination was conducted. His sugar level was a bit low, but medicines were given to him as per our jail doctors' advice," said the official.

While Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, arrested in the same case, are lodged in Jail Number 1 and 5 respectively, BRS leader K Kavitha is in Jail Number 6. Jain, who is facing a different money laundering case, is in Jail Number 7.

While sending the chief minister to judicial custody earlier in the day, a city court noted the Enforcement Directorate's contention that his release could hamper the investigation in the case.

The chief minister was produced in the court of Special Judge Kaveri Baweja after his Enforcement Directorate custody came to an end.

"Since the investigation of the case is stated to be pending qua role of the arrestee, for unearthing the further proceeds of crime and identifying the other person who may be involved or connected, the accused is remanded to judicial custody till April 15," the judge said.

In its remand application, the federal agency accused Kejriwal of being "evasive" and "concealing information" during his questioning after his arrest on March 21.

It said the chief minister's statements were taken over a period of nine days and he was confronted with the statements of different witnesses, approvers and other co-accused. The plea listed "few of the glaring examples of evasive and misleading replies" given by Kejriwal.

"He (Kejriwal) stated that Vijay Nair did not report to him but to Aatishi and Saurav Bharadwaj and his interaction with Nair was limited," it said.

The statements of Nair, however, revealed that he stayed in a cabinet minister's bungalow and worked from the Chief Minister's camp office, the remand application said.

The ED claimed that Kejriwal first told the agency that N D Gupta, also a Rajya Sabha MP, is a member of the AAP's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) and has knowledge of the party functioning but later called the National Treasurer "confused".

Aam Aadmi Party leader Jasmine Shah alleged that the names of Atishi and Bharadwaj were being cited in connection with the alleged excise policy scam as the BJP thinks jailing only Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will not be enough to finish the AAP.

In a press conference on Monday, Shah asserted that Kejriwal will remain the chief minister no matter how long he is kept in jail as he has taken a constitutional oath to serve the people of Delhi.

"There is no trial yet, let alone conviction. It's his (Kejriwal's) constitutional right and duty because the chief minister is under the constitutional oath to serve the people of Delhi. Kejriwal will keep on being the Delhi chief minister no matter how long they keep him in jail," he asserted.

When Vijay Nair was arrested one-and-a-half years ago, he had said that he did not report to the chief minister and that he reported to Atishi and Bharadwaj, he said. "After 1.5 years, why is the ED raising this thing when it already has a written statement?" the AAP leader said.

Meanwhile, the BJP, which has been demanding Kejriwal's resignation, slammed the AAP for trying to raise the "bogy of victimhood" over the CM's remand and said the order of a court here to send him to jail was based on "concrete" evidence. Party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the Delhi government's status in the case is becoming "progressively clearer".

Taking a dig at the INDIA bloc rally organised Sunday at Delhi's Ramlika Maidan in support of Kejriwal and jailed former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, Trivedi said the leaders of various political parties who were facing corruption cases themselves had gathered there. "I would like to underline to those who tried to raise the bogy of victimhood that the court's order today is based on concrete evidence," he told the press conference. At the rally on Sunday, Sunita Kejriwal called her husband a "lion" who won't stay behind bars for long and read out her husband's message announcing six guarantees ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, which include free electricity for poor and full statehood for Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party national convener, who was arrested on March 21 and subsequently remanded to the ED custody by a Delhi court, faces allegations of direct involvement in a conspiracy related to the formulation of the excise policy favouring specific individuals. Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest is scheduled to be heard by the high court on April 3. The excise case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the liquor policy. Subsequently, the ED registered a case under the PMLA. Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court asked the Enforcement Directorate to submit its note to the special judge, dealing with the excise policy-linked money laundering case on the issue of CM Kejriwal "passing orders" while in custody. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora said the special judge is directed to pass an order, if required, in accordance with law. It clarified that it has not commented on the locus standi of the petitioner. The court disposed of a public interest litigation that sought directions to prevent Kejriwal from issuing orders in his capacity as the chief minister while in ED custody, contending that it was against the legal framework.

Sheyphali B Sharan...

after Neelam Kapur, Deepak Sandhu, Shakuntala Mahawal and N J Krishna.

Sharan succeeds Manish Desai, who superannuated as principal director general of PIB. Sharan had earlier served as the spokesperson of the Election Commission and the Finance Ministry.