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News in Brief

Weather improves across J&K
NJNS
Jammu, Feb 08 : After widespread rain and heavy snowfall, weather across Jammu and Kashmir improved on Friday.

An official of the MET department said, "the western disturbance that caused rain and heavy snow is moving out. The weather has already improved and we are expecting further improvement during the next 24 hours."
Heavy snow in the Kashmir Valley over (Cont. on Page 2)

Sopore Police solves burglary case, stolen items recovered
NJNS
Srinagar, Feb 08 : Police in Sopore solved a burglary case and recovered the stolen items. A written complaint was lodged by one Mehraj Ahmad Malla son of Mohammad Akbar Malla resident of Botingoo Sopore in Police Station Sopore which stated that during the intervening night of 30/31 January 2019, some unknown persons had stolen a Genset and water motor from his computer institute Matta build- (Cont. on Page 2)

22 families evacuated from avalanche prone areas
NJNS
Srinagar, Feb 08 : Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday evacuated 22 families from an avalanche-prone area in Gund area of Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district to safer places after heavy snowfall.

In view of the heavy snowfall and apprehension of snow avalanche at Khan Mohalla in Gund in Ganderbal district, police launched an evacuation process under the supervision of Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Kangan, Tahir Ahmad. After strenuous (Cont. on Page 2)

Kargil shuts to press for opening of Kargil-Skardu road
NJNS
Srinagar, Feb 08 : Shutdown is being observed on Friday in Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir to press for opening of Kargil-Skardu road.

The call for shutdown was issued by Anjuman Jamiyat Ullma Isna Ashriya Kargil (AJUIAK). All business units, government offices, court and even LAHDC Secretariat remained closed today.
President (AJUIAK) Hujjatul Islam Wai Muslameen Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi thanked (Cont. on Page 2)

J&K Administration Creates Separate Division for Ladakh



Jammu, Feb 08 : In a major decision, the Jammu and Kashmir administration Friday created a separate division for Ladakh, which was part of the Kashmir division till now.
Ladakh will now have a separate divisional commissioner and an inspector general of Police (IG) with a full administrative (Cont. on Page 2)

and revenue division at par with Kashmir and Jammu divisions, an order issued by the administration said. "Ladakh created as a separate administrative and revenue division. Jammu and Kashmir will have three divisions - Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir," it said. The administration has sanctioned creation of a separate administrative and revenue division comprising Leh and Kargil districts, with its headquarters at Leh, the order said. It has also ordered constitution of a committee under chairmanship (Cont. on Page 2)

Omar promises two more for Chenab valley, Pir Panjal if voted to power

Jammu, Feb 08 : National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday said he will grant status of division to Chenab valley and Pir Panjal region if his party was voted to power in the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir later this year.
The former chief minister was reacting to state government's decision to grant status of division to Ladakh region, consisting of Leh and Kargil districts. (Cont. on Page 2)

Jawahar Tunnel avalanche: Seven bodies recovered, three rescued alive

Jammu, Feb 08 : Seven persons died while three others were rescued alive from the site of an avalanche that buried a police post near the Jawahar Tunnel in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Srinagar-Jammu highway last evening.



Anantnag Deputy Commissioner of Police Mohammad Younis Malik said on Friday that a joint team of the State Disaster Response Force, police and fire and emergency services rescued three people alive from the debris of the avalanche.
Ten persons comprising six policemen, two fire service personnel and two prisoners were buried after the avalanche hit the post last evening.

The state received heavy snowfall and the Valley was cut off from the rest of the country for the second day on Thursday. Another avalanche had hit a house in Sanbradi Magam village in Kokernag area of southern Anantnag district in the evening, killing one person.
"Rescue teams are trying their best to reach the site," the police had tweeted on Friday morning.
"Strong wind and accumulation of snow on the path are making it difficult albeit the teams are nearby the site."

Mayawati has to deposit money used for erecting her statues, BSP symbol's elephant: SC

New Delhi, Feb 08 : The Supreme Court Friday said it was of the tentative view that BSP chief Mayawati has to deposit public money used for erecting statues of herself and elephants, the party's symbol, at parks in Lucknow and Noida to the state exchequer. The remarks were made by a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said. The bench, also comprising justices Deepka Gupta and Sanjeev Khanna, posted the matter for final hearing on April 2.
The bench made it clear the tentative view was expressed by it as the matter will take some time for hearing. "We will have it for final disposal on April 2," the bench said.

'Flogging a dead horse,' Nirmala Sitharaman tells Lok Sabha on Rafale



New Delhi, Feb 08 : Hours after Rahul Gandhi attacked PMO for "parallel negotiations" in Rafale deal, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dismissed the charges and said the Congress was "flogging a dead horse." In her (Cont. on Page 2)

Head of Rafale negotiating team slams selective use of MoD note

New Delhi, Feb 08 : Air Marshal SBP Sinha, who headed the Rafale negotiations from the Indian side, has slammed the bid by an English daily to malign the procurement process.
"It was very surprising for me to know that in the article printed to- day a note within MoD has been used to malign this procurement by concealing facts, the remarks of the defence minister are not there," SBP Sinha told news agency. Manohar Parrikar asked defence secretary to sort out is- (Cont. on Page 2)

Govt orders minor reshuffle in state bureaucracy

Jammu, Feb 08 : The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered a minor reshuffle in state administration. An order issued by the general administration department (GAD) said the following transfers and postings are hereby ordered with immediate effect: "Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS (JK:1988), presently on leave, is posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Finance Department. Raj Kumar Goyal, IAS (JK:1990), Principal Secretary to the Govern- ment, Home Department, is transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Government, Technical Education Department, relieving Secretary to the Government, School Education Department of the additional charge of the post," the GAD order read. It said Raj Kumar Goyal, IAS will also hold the additional charge of Principal Secretary to the Government, Floriculture, Parks & Gardens and Information Departments, (Cont. on Page 2)

Gujjars relaunch quota agitation, block railway tracks in Rajasthan



Jaipur, Feb 08 : Several members of the Gujjar community held a "We want 5% reservation. Government hasn't responded to my request. So, I am going to do an agi- (Cont. on Page 2)

SC seeks response from Centre on fresh plea against 10 pc quota to general category poor

New Delhi, Feb 08 : The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Centre on a fresh plea challenging its decision to grant 10 percent reservation in jobs and admissions to general category poor candidates. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi also made it clear that there shall be no stay on the decision to grant quota to general category poor candidates. The apex court, which had earlier issued notice to the Centre on similar petitions, Friday ordered tagging of the fresh plea of Tehseen Poonawalla with (Cont. on Page 2)

Jammu-Srinagar highway closed on third straight day

Jammu, Feb 08 : The strategic 300 km-long Srinagar-Jammu highway road remained closed for the third consecutive day on Friday due to heavy snowfall and landslides, police said.
No traffic was allowed on the highway on Friday due to multiple avalanches in the Banihal area and landslides in the Ramsoo-Ramban area.
Avalanches that occurred between Qazigund and Jawahar Tunnel those are yet to be cleared, traffic department officials said. Incessant rain in Ramsoo-Ramban triggered landslides at Panthal, Anokhi Falls and Battery Chashma.
Fearing that the restoration of the highway could take at least three more days, the divisional administration has ordered rationing of petrol and diesel in the valley.
An order issued by Baseer Ahmad Khan, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir has directed petrol pumps not to supply more than three litres of petrol per vehicle per day and just 10 litres of diesel to commercial vehicles (Cont. on Page 2)

PM Modi says first time a CM sat on dharna to protect fraudsters, Mamata hits back



Jaipaur, Feb 08 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday assailed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the recent sit-in she staged against the attempted questioning of Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar by the CBI in the Saradha chit fund scam case.
Addressing a BJP rally in North Bengal's (Cont. on Page 2)

Jaipaur district, the Prime Minister said it was for the first time that a chief minister had staged a dharna to protect the fraudsters who looted lakhs of poor people.
"People want to know Didi, why are you afraid of the chit fund case investigation? Why are you sitting on dharna for those involved in tampering with evidence?" Modi asked, adding that "this chowkidar will spare neither the perpetrators of chit fund scams nor those protecting them."
As the pitch of the Lok Sabha election intensifies, (Cont. on Page 2)

People should be wary of 'mahamilavat': Modi on Oppn alliance

Raipur, Feb 08 : Taking potshots at the attempts to cobble up a mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) against the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday asked people to guard against the 'mahamilavat' (highly adulterated) regime if his party was voted back. In his maiden public rally after BJP lost power in the state last year, Modi said top Congress leaders were embroiled in legal tangles.
"Most members of the (Gandhi) family are either out on bail or have obtained anticipatory bail," the Prime Minister said, during the rally at Kodatarai in Raigarh district. "I have come amidst you to get a new mandate for a new India," Modi said. Voters have to be on guard against the 'mahamilavat', he added. India's poverty has started to decline due to efforts of the BJP-led Government, Modi said. By opting out of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the Congress Government in Chhattisgarh has deprived poor of healthcare, Modi said.

MoU Signed between J & K Bank and JKSCSTBC Development Corporation

Jammu, Feb 08 : J&K Bank today entered into a MoU with the SC, ST, BC Development Corporation at Jammu. The MoU was signed by Bank's Vice President Government Business Shujat Andrabi and Managing Director, SC, ST, BC Development Corporation Ravinder Kumar Bhat in presence of staff of the corporation and senior officials of the bank.
Under the MoU, the Bank has conferred the "Most Favored Client" status to the corporation for its exclusive dealings with respect to all banking related services and the corporation has reciprocated by extending "Preferred Banker" status to J&K (Cont. on Page 2)



Bank. Managing Director of the Corporation R.K. Bhat in his welcome address apprised that the Advisor to the Governor who is also the Chairman of the Board of the Corporation while approving the signing of MOU, appreciated the step of the Com- (Cont. on Page 2)