

Orange alert issued, heavy snowfall, rain likely in 3 HP dists; key roads hit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: Weather dept has issued an orange alert for heavy snow and rain in Chamba, Kangra, and Lahaul-Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh, even as most roads in Lahaul-Spiti and parts of Kinnaur and Chamba remained blocked on Sunday. Shimla meteorological centre has forecast light to heavy snowfall and heavy rain in Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, and Sirmaur districts. Thunderstorms and lightning are also expected in the mid and low hills of the state.

A massive avalanche struck near Spiti Valley's Gue village, stopping just 200m short of ITBP camp on Sunday. Another avalanche near Jahlma village in Lahaul on Saturday blocked the flow of the Chenab river. In Lahaul-Spiti, electricity could not be restored in many areas even after three days. In Kullu district, the highway to Manali was reopened on Saturday afternoon.

The entrance to Atal Tunnel, which was blocked after an avalanche, was cleared of snow on Sunday. Shimla-Kinnaur high-



Army personnel rescue BRO workers who got trapped under snow following the avalanche that struck on Feb 28

way, which remained blocked at several points, is expected to be cleared by Monday morning. Bharmour-Kharamukh road in Chamba district and most roads in Pangi sub-division also remained blocked on Sunday.

A 40-year-old patient in need of urgent medical care was airlifted from the snowbound Pangi area of

Chamba to a hospital in Manali on Sunday. Villagers carried the patient on a makeshift stretcher from Dhanala village to the helipad.

A landslide hit a car, injuring four occupants on Chandigarh-Manali highway near Pandoh in Mandi district on Sunday afternoon, besides leading to a major traffic jam on the highway.