

# How city was made safe, on ground and in skies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Security forces put their best foot — and equipment — forward to turn the Walled City into a fortress as PM Narendra Modi unfurled the Tricolour on Tuesday.

More than 8,000 armed personnel from Delhi Police's Special Cell, Special Protection Group, National Security Guard and Indian Army Special Forces kept watch over Red Fort. Their efforts were complemented by about 300 cameras. Drones from Army and NSG helped security personnel keep an eye on the skies even as patrolling on ground was relentless.

Special armoured vehicles from the counter-terror force were deployed with machine guns to prevent any low-level air strike. Mobile squads were placed along the route of the Prime Minister and other dignitaries. Every vehicle on the route was stopped for checking even as 500 CCTV cameras bolstered confidence.

Two high-precision, face-recognition cameras were put to full use. Powerful eno-

Anindya Chattopadhyay



**WE'RE WATCHING YOU:** More than 8,000 armed personnel from Delhi Police's Special Cell, SPG, NSG and Indian Army Special Forces kept watch over Red Fort

ugh to spot a housefly in a 5km radius, these cameras were taken on hire by Delhi Police from their Mumbai counterparts at Rs 50,000 each per day. Teams from Army's aviation unit hovered over

Red Fort on Cheetah choppers to keep an eye on low-flying objects, including kites.

A team of sharpshooters from NSG, along with spotters, were positioned on high-rises around the fort. Snipers were positioned on two light helicopters. Specialised units, including quick reaction teams, SWAT and bomb and dog squads, were deployed along with commando units of Delhi Police, forming a joint patrolling team.

A supervisory team, led by senior Delhi police officers, was constituted to scan entry and exit of every visitor. Air defence systems, including quick-reaction heavy machine guns, were positioned along the ramparts to shoot down low-flying objects.

Traffic police formed a multi-tier cordon around central Delhi where every vehicle entering the zone was scanned. Movement of heavy vehicles was banned a day earlier. Vehicles on nearby routes were let in only after parking stickers were shown. Areas around Rajghat were also kept out of bounds.