

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Army Chief carries...

Poonch in the Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine terrorists in separate encounters.

### Two Judicial Officers...

2020, the J&K High Court's collegium had recommended the names of these two judicial officers. Subsequently, on September 1, 2021, the Supreme Court Collegium had approved these names for elevation as judges of the High Court. With the appointment of two judicial officers as judges, the strength of judges in the top court of J&K and Ladakh has gone upto 13, which has a sanctioned strength of 17 judges.

### Efforts to check...

activities such as vector-control activities (bio-larvicide fish, spraying and fogging) and information education and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) activities," an official spokesman said.

On-the-spot visit was conducted to the areas having a high number of reported cases. Radio talks to increase awareness among the masses regarding preventive measures have been aired periodically by senior officers of the department, the spokesman said.

In collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), he said, thermal fogging has been conducted to kill adult mosquitoes in Jammu urban areas.

Similar activities were carried out in Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said 10 sentinel surveillance hospitals with diagnostic facilities are functional to treat dengue patients.

"Keeping in view the upsurge of cases, 155 beds have been dedicated for dengue patients at Government Medical College (GMC) in Jammu and all district hospitals and new GMCS in Doda, Kathua and Rajouri, the spokesman said.

### Take stern action...

peace mission in J&K. With regard to the upcoming winter, the DGP directed the officers to mobilize their resources so that the Personnel deployed in remote and snow bound areas don't face any problem.

The DGP stressed upon the officers to ensure synergy at different levels to make the efforts more fruitful. He said that the supervisory officers should regularly brief deployments in their respective areas to bring further improvement in the day-to-day functioning.

He said that Pakistan and their agents are always in search of an opportunity to disrupt prevailing peace.

Stressing for counter strategies and preventive measures, he emphasized upon the officers to remain extra alert and take appropriate counter measures to prevent evil attempts of terrorists.

He directed the officers to intensify the operations against terrorists/ terror support network and directed the officers to augment the security of vulnerable places.

Accompanied by IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, the DGP was received by senior officers of South Kashmir and was given guard of honour on his arrival at DPO Anantnag.

The DGP then chaired officers meeting which was attended by DIG South Kashmir Rane, Abdul Jabbar, DIG CRPF Anantnag, D.P.Uphaday, DIG CRPF Awantipora B.S. Negi, SSP Anantnag, Ashish Kumar Mishra, SSP Kulgam Dr. G.V. Sundee Chakravarthy, SSP Pulwama Ghulam Jeelani Wani, SP Shopian Amritpal Singh, SSP Awantipora, Mohd Yousif, CO 183 Bn. CRPF Pulwama R.D

Jeony, CO 130 Bn. CRPF Hilal Feroz, CO 40 Bn. CRPF R.W Dawa, CO 18 Bn. CRPF B. AK Chorasiya, 2 I/C 14 Bn. CRPF Vijay Kumar and other senior officers of South Kashmir.

The officers apprised the DGP regarding the security measures put in place to meet the possible security challenges and ensure the safety and security of the people.

### IAF approves Group...

official sources said on Wednesday.

The rank has been approved and he will get it once a laid down procedure is completed, they said.

Explaining the process, they said any official after getting a new rank, is able to wear it once there is a vacancy for the position.

Varthaman downed a Pakistani jet on February 27, 2019 when the neighbouring country launched retaliation against India for the Balakot airstrikes a day before.

The strike by India's warplanes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot and the Pakistani Air Force's subsequent retaliation the next day triggered fears of a war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

The most visible face of the confrontation was Wing Commander Varthaman whose capture by Pakistan after downing his MiG-21 fighter triggered the most serious military crisis between the two neighbours in decades.

Before his jet was hit, Varthaman downed the F-16 fighter of Pakistan. Varthaman was released on the night of March 1 by Pakistan.

He had suffered injuries while ejecting from his MiG-21 Bison during the aerial combat.

Later that year, he was conferred with the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest war time gallantry medal.

### Pakistan refuses use...

the flight, officials said. Officials said the flight, which operates four times a week, did not face any issue when it used Pakistan airspace between October 23 and October 31.

There was no immediate statement or comment from Go First on the matter.

This is the first service between Jammu and Kashmir and the UAE after 11 years. Air India Express had started a Srinagar-Dubai flight in February 2009 but it was discontinued after some time due to low demand.

Reacting to Pakistan's action, former J&K chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah tweeted "very unfortunate. Pakistan did the same thing with the Air India Express flight from Srinagar to Dubai in 2009-2010. I had hoped that @GoFirstairways being permitted to overfly Pak airspace was indicative of a thaw in relations but alas that wasn't to be."

Blaming the Centre, PDP chief and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti tweeted "puzzling that GoI didn't even bother securing permission from Pakistan to use its airspace for international flights from Srinagar. Only PR extravaganza without any groundwork."

Inaugurating the flight, Shah had said the commencement of Srinagar-Sharjah services would boost tourism.

"There are many people from Srinagar and Jammu who are settled in the Gulf countries. There are many tourists who want to come from the Gulf countries to Jammu and Kashmir. The tourism of J-K is going to get a big boost with the commencement of Srinagar-Sharjah flights," he added.

The Srinagar-Sharjah flight duration is around 3 hours if the Pakistan airspace is used, however, with Islamabad refusing to allow the flight through its airspace, it will be nearly an hour longer, raising fuel and ticket costs.

The Pakistan government, however, allowed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's spe-

cial flight to Italy to use its airspace on Friday to attend the G20 summit. His return flight from Italy was also allowed to use the Pakistan airspace on Wednesday, officials said.

### IIIM-Jammu develops...

the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

"We have developed a new gastroretentive sustained release capsule formulation IIIM-160-SR for management of pain in rheumatoid arthritis from Bergenia ciliata, which is one of the most important medicinal herbs in India that grows wild in the temperate Himalayas from Kashmir to Bhutan," the institute said in a statement.

It said IIIM-160-SR is a unique formulation that protects bergenin from the intestinal environment by retaining the capsule in the stomach.

"The gastroretentive feature along with sustained release property of the formulation results in improved plasma exposure of bergenin in Sprague Dawley rats, it said, adding the patent for the formulation has been filed in India, the US, Canada and Europe.

As part of its earlier work, CSIR-IIIM had performed a systematic study on this botanical lead for its anti-inflammatory, antiarthritic as well as for anti-nociceptive activity in various cellular and animal models.

"The safety profile of the lead has been demonstrated in regulatory toxicology studies, and the institute has also secured a patent on the product. The product is aimed at managing the pain in rheumatoid arthritis via its dual activity against pain as well as inflammation, it said.

The CSIR-IIIM technology has been licensed to Viridis Biopharma Pvt Ltd in Mumbai for manufacture and marketing as nutraceutical products in India and abroad. IIIM Director D S Reddy said he is delighted about the technology transfer of Bergenia ciliata-based IIIM-160-SR in nutraceutical category to Viridis Biopharma and is looking forward to a fruitful collaboration between the research institute and the industry. "CSIR-IIIM is also continuing working on development of phytopharmaceutical drugs from this plant. Phytopharmaceuticals is a new class of drugs from plant source and in India it has great potential owing to its great strength in Indian System of Medicine and having a very unique biodiversity, he said. He said phytopharmaceuticals drugs would prove to be very beneficial in the years to come as it is balanced approach which combines traditional wisdom of Indian System of Medicine and scientific development and validation using modern science. Viridis Biopharma Managing Director Ashit Vora said pain management in arthritic conditions are long-term chronic issues faced by a large section of ageing population and there is a dire need for safe alternative therapies.

Supplementation with evidence-based science supported nutraceutical/dietary supplements will be well accepted in the marketplace, he said.

Viridis is excited to partner with CSIR-IIIM and bring this novel Bergenia ciliata based product to market for improving the health and quality of life of a large segment of individuals suffering from various arthritic conditions.

### Govt cuts excise...

India has taken a significant decision of reducing Central Excise Duty on Petrol & Diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 respectively from tomorrow. Prices of petrol and diesel will thus come down accordingly," an official statement said.

Farmers have, through their hard work, kept the economic growth momentum going even during the lockdown phase and the massive reduction in excise on diesel will come as a boost to them during the upcoming Rabi season, it added.

In recent months, crude oil prices have witnessed a global upsurge. Consequently, domestic prices of petrol and diesel had increased in recent weeks, exerting inflationary pressure, it said.

## J&K reports 99 COVID cases, Ladakh 8

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and

Kashmir recorded 99 COVID-19 cases and zero daily deaths due to the disease on Wednesday, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 3,32,457, officials said.

Eighteen of the cases are from Jammu division and the rest from Kashmir division, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 48 new cases, followed by Ganderbal with 12.

There are 946 active cases in the union territory at present, while the number of recoveries stands at 3,27,172, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic stands at 4,438.

There were 49 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the union territory currently, the officials added.

### BJP holds meeting at Kishtwar to discuss organisational, political issues

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: BJP State

General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Kaul, chaired a meeting of BJP activists from booths to district level at Kishtwar, wherein discussions were held related to party activities and the pro-people initiatives taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government.

Prabhari Kishtwar Munish Sharma, State Secretary Tariq Keen, District President Pardeep Parihar, Parliamentary Constituency General Secretary Organization Vipin, Seh-Prabhari Majeet Razdan, District General Secretary Organization Harbans Singh, Gulab Chand, Lalit Kumar and District Body, Mandal Presidents, State Executive Members, Morecha Presidents and other senior leaders were present in the meeting.

Ashok Kaul, while addressing the meeting, said that BJP has become a party which has its supporters and members in every area of all the regions of Jammu & Kashmir. More and more people are getting associated with BJP as they are convinced by the policies and programmes of PM Narendra Modi-led government at the centre. The people are also appreciable of

Meanwhile, eight more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Ladakh, taking the tally to 20,979, while the number of active cases in the Union Territory reached 81, officials said.

Ladakh has registered 208 coronavirus-related deaths -- 150 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. No new Covid-linked fatality has been reported in Ladakh, the officials said.

Three coronavirus patients in Leh were discharged from hospital, bringing the recovery count to 20,690, they said.

All of the fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in Leh, while 475 samples in Ladakh tested negative for the disease, the officials said.

Leh accounts for 76 of the total active novel coronavirus in Ladakh, while the remaining five such cases are in Kargil district, they said.

## COVID vaccination drive needs to be taken door-to-door now: PM

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the COVID-19 vaccination drive needs to be taken door-to-door now and stressed the importance of completing the inoculation by taking the second dose.

Cautioning against any laxity after surpassing the milestone of 1 billion vaccine doses, Modi said "new crisis can come" and quoted a saying to assert that one should not underestimate "diseases and enemies as they should be fought till the very end".

He called for equal attention to taking the second dose of the Covid vaccine, noting that whenever the cases of infection start decreasing, the feeling of urgency among people decreases.

Modi made the remarks as he interacted with district magistrates of over 40 districts spread across

**DLSA Udhampur holds awareness event on elimination of Child Marriage**

### STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In Connection with Pan India Awareness and Outreach Campaign launched under the aegis part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", the Para Legal Volunteers of District Legal Services Authority Udhampur organized series of awareness programmes on elimination of Child Marriage in remote areas.

They educated the people about the bad consequences of Child Marriage and advised the people to refrain from this evil practice. They also informed them about the legal consequences for those indulging in the early marriage of their wards.

**Govt renames LAWDA as J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority**

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday re-named the Lakes And Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) as Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA).

As per a notification issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department, the government has renamed the Authority in exercise of powers conferred by subsection (1) of Section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 (Act XIX of 1970) for all purposes of the said Act.

**Market checking team recovers Rs 38,800 fine from erring traders**

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHITWAR: A joint Market checking team on Wednesday recovered Rs 38,800 fine from erring traders during a daylong drive conducted in view of upcoming festival Deepawali and Urs Shah Asrar-Ud-Din Sahib. The intensive market checking was conducted by designated market enforcement team, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Akhtar Hussain Qazi on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Sharma.

A team of officers comprising Tehsildar, Pramod Kumar, Assistant Controller Legal Metrology, Food Safety Officer, Incharge TSO, Team of Municipal Committee and Police Party inspected quality and rate-lists of vegetables, fruits, sweets and other essential commodities. The team also

identified districts with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of Covid vaccine.

During the meeting, the district magistrates gave an account of the issues and challenges being faced in their districts, which has resulted in low vaccination coverage, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

They highlighted issues like rumours resulting in vaccine hesitancy, difficult terrain, challenges created due to prevailing weather conditions in recent months, it said.

The officials also presented an account of the steps that have been taken by them till now to overcome these challenges and also shared good practices adopted by them which has led to increase in coverage.

During the interaction, the prime minister also discussed the issue of vaccine hesitancy and the local factors behind it in detail.

He discussed a wide array of ideas that can be implemented for ensuring 100 per cent vaccination coverage in these districts.

Modi spoke about maximizing community engagement

through religious and community leaders, the statement said.

He exhorted all officials to ensure that the country widens its vaccination coverage by the end of the year and enters the new year with renewed self belief and confidence. At the meeting, the Union Health Secretary gave an overview of the vaccination coverage in the country and also an account of balance vaccine dose availability in the states.

The official also talked about special vaccination campaigns being run in the states to further improve vaccination coverage.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister thanked the present chief ministers and said that their attention will encourage the district to work with more determination.

Modi said in this biggest pandemic of the century, the country faced many challenges, but added that "one special thing in the country's fight against Corona was that we found new solutions and tried innovative methods".

He urged the administrators to work more on new innovative ways to increase vaccination in their districts.

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