

!! 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. Sundeeep Chakravathy, 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.

IIM-Jammu develops...

the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

"We have developed a new gastroretentive sustained release capsule formulation IIM-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 IIM-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-IIM 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-IIM technology has been licensed to Viridis Biopharma Pvt Ltd in Mumbai for manufacture and marketing as nutraceutical products in India and abroad. IIM Director D S Reddy said he is delighted about the technology transfer of *Bergenia ciliata*-based IIM-160-SR in nutraceutical category to Viridis Biopharma and is looking forward to a fruitful collaboration between the research institute and the industry. "CSIR-IIM 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 a 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-IIM 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.

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 "a 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.

Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and other states with districts having low vaccination coverage.

Talking about the issue of rumours and misunderstandings about Covid vaccination, he said awareness is the only solution for this and asked the state officials to take help from religious leaders in this regard.

The prime minister noted that religious leaders are very enthusiastic about the vaccination campaign.

Recalling his meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican a few days ago, he called for a special emphasis on taking the message of religious leaders on vaccines to the public.

Speaking to the officials, he urged them to change gears from making arrangements earlier for taking people to the vaccination centres and getting them safely vaccinated to now administering vaccines door-to-door.

Modi urged the health workers to reach every house with the passion of 'har ghar tika, ghar-ghar tika' (vaccine at every doorstep).

He also urged the officials to work with the spirit of 'har

ghar dastak' (knocking on every door) to ensure full vaccination of both doses.

"Now we are preparing to take the vaccination campaign to each household. With the mantra of 'har ghar dastak', every household lacking the security net of a double dose of vaccine will be approached," he said.

The prime minister cautioned that while reaching out to every house, equal attention needs to be paid to the second dose along with the first dose of the vaccine.

"You will have to contact those people who have not taken the second dose despite the stipulated time on a priority basis...ignoring this has created problems for many countries in the world," he said.

He said Diwali is being celebrated after the important milestone of administering 1 billion doses and people should move forward with the resolve that they would celebrate Christmas after achieving new goals.

Immediately after returning from his visit to Italy and Glasgow to attend the G20 and COP 26 meetings, the prime minister held the review meeting which included offi-

cials of 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 practises 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 maximising 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.



Minor girl rescued in Anantnag, reunited with parents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: A minor girl from Assam, who had been lured to the Valley on pretext of providing employment in an apple processing unit, was rescued and reunited with her family in Assam. The minor girl had been lured to the valley on pretext of a job with an apple processing unit, but on reaching the location, she realised that she had been deceived and was forced to work as a domestic help. The girl managed to reach Railway Station Anantnag where Railway Police, taking cognizance of the matter, immediately contacted the Child Helpline, which produced her before CWC, who declared her as CNCP. District Child Protection Officer, Dr Peerzada Farhat ordered her repatriation to reunite her with family and accordingly LCPO, Anantnag was directed to accompany the juvenile to Assam. The girl has been reunited with her family.

Peerzada Farhat said that legal remedies are available for such cases and awareness campaigns are conducted about these issues at regular intervals. He reiterated that anybody with details of any such cases can approach District Child Protection Unit for any type of help.

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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: 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

destroyed rotten vegetables and fruits on the spot and removed unlawful encroachments from the footpaths.

Meanwhile, Weight Measuring Machines of the erring Vegetables/ Fruit sellers were also seized. Besides, an amount of Rs 38,800 was recovered as fine from defaulters/erring shopkeepers on the spot. Strict instructions were issued to defaulters for maintaining hygienic conditions and displaying rate-lists and other necessary documents at conspicuous places at their shops.

Rs 13,400 fine recovered from SoPs violators

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across the district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Wednesday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 13,400, thereby taking total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 62,89,150.

The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr, Suresh informed that as many as 1,685 persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district. As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 1,356 samples including 374 RT-PCR and 982 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 1,685 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

Six gamblers arrested, Rs 6,500 stake money recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: Police on Wednesday arrested 6 gamblers and recovered stake money amounting to Rs 6,500 from their possession.

As per details, acting on specific information regarding gambling activity, a team of Police Station Vijaypur raided a suspected location near Garh Mandi, Gurah Slathia, Vijaypur and arrested 6 gamblers along with stake money of Rs 6,500 and with a deck of playing cards. The gamblers were identified as Varinder Singh, son of Late Akmal Singh; Ashok Singh, son of Karan Singh; Kulbir Singh, son of Karan Singh; Surinder Singh, son of Late Rikhi Singh; Vinay Slathia, son of Nanak Singh and Tarlochan Singh, son of Mohinder Singh; all residents of Garh Mandi, Gurha Slathia Tehsil Vijaypur; District Samba. Taking cognizance of the matter, all the gamblers were booked under section 13 of Gambling Act at Police Station Vijaypur.