

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Sufficient supplies secured...

also discussed the way forward for more effectively tackling and containing the spread of the infection across the UT.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department briefed the chair about the district-wise analysis of Covid-19 situation, present status of positivity rate, testing, and vaccination across the UT. He informed that around 59% of the targeted population has received the second dose of Covid vaccine.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor also reviewed the situation of Dengue in Jammu and directed the concerned officials for effective prevention efforts.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health informed the meeting that a central team is in Jammu to assess the on-ground situation in the UT.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SSPs, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

## J&K reports 151...

conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 3895864 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 6067 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1091 in isolation and 446559 in home surveillance. Besides, 3437707 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, only one fresh Covid-19 case was reported in Ladakh in the last 24 hours, officials here said.

A total of eight patients recovered on Friday bringing down the tally of active cases to 91. Seven patients were discharged from Leh after treatment, and one recovered in Kargil, a government official said.

The number of overall cases in Ladakh so far has been 21,006.

The Union Territory has registered one death and 44 cases since the beginning of this month with majority of the cases reported from Leh district.

The new case was detected in Leh, taking the district tally to 17,387, the official said, adding that compared to Leh, Kargil district has only recorded 3,619 COVID-19 cases since the outbreak of the virus last year.

Ladakh has so far registered 209 Covid-related deaths -- 151 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- while a total of 20,706 patients have recovered from the infection.

There are currently 87 active cases in Leh and four in Kargil. No death was reported from the UT on Friday.

## Murder of Sarpanch...

later-on succumbed to his injuries at SKIMS Soura," Court further accused.

The prosecution examined 28 witnesses in this case and after conducting a full dress trial for a period of more than six years, the court has found accused No. 3-Ghulam Ahmad Parray guilty in killing the deceased Abdul Rashid Wagay while other accused persons have been found involved in the rioting and unlawful restraint.

The U.T. of J&K was represented by Id P.P. Abdul Majeed while the accused persons were represented by Advocate Shuaib Ahmad Deewani.

## Omar, Mehbooba express...

corner of Srinagar, CRPF personnel have been pushed into marriage halls which is the only private space left for people here. Every day more draconian laws are brought in with the sole purpose of suffocating people into silence, she tweeted.

Meanwhile, Srinagar mayor Junaid Azim Mattu raised the issue with the divisional administration for exploring alternative options for housing the security personnel. He said the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was not consulted on the issue.

Have spoken to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pole Sb regarding the issue of SMC Community Halls being made available to the CRPF SMC wasn't consulted on this decision, he tweeted.

Mattu noted that community halls are integral to social and community functions, and are constructed in areas where people do not have huge houses and lawns.

They, hence, are a community necessity. A lot of money has been spent on their construction, upkeep and maintenance, he said.

The mayor said the Kashmir divisional commissioner has assured him that alternative options will be explored .

I have strongly urged for this. It is very important that community facilitation services are not hampered. It would be a huge inconvenience to people and also stigmatise law and order measures, he said.

Mattu maintained that CRPF personnel deployed in Srinagar should have decent and appropriate housing facilities, but community halls should be left for community services.

This is not a political issue - and should not be distorted as such, he added.

Public Relation Officer (PRO), CRPF, Abhiram Pankaj said additional troops

from within Kashmir Valley were deployed in the city in view of the requirement.

Rationalisation has happened. These troops have come from north and south Kashmir, he said.

Asked why the troopers were housed in community halls, the official said the places for accommodating the forces were chosen by the civil administration.

The CRPF is getting deployed at the behest of the civil administration. They put us into a place of their choosing, he added.

## Major relief to...

Cancer patients which were not incorporated earlier.

The Committee also suggested allowing clubbing of surgical medical packages in the (TMS) Transaction Management System. Yasin Choudhary asked members to submit detailed report for clubbing medical and surgical packages for onward submission to NHA.

CEO SHA also sought suggestions from all the members regarding inclusion of High-end Antibiotics and lifesaving drugs like immunoglobulins, Albumin etc.

Highlighting the importance of the Scheme for the people of J&K, Yasin Choudhary asked all the members to ensure its success for maximum benefit of people of J&K.

"This is a not a normal Scheme. All of us have to get our act together and ensure that people are benefitted in fair and transparent way," he said.

## India, France to...

to French President Emmanuel Macron.

The Indian embassy in Paris said France reiterated its commitment to fully support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and defence industrialisation, joint research and technology development in India across a wide range of advanced capabilities.

France's resolve to expand strategic cooperation with India came nearly two months after the unveiling of a new security alliance (AUKUS) by Australia, the UK and the US that had infuriated the French government.

The Indian delegation at the dialogue was led by Doval while the French side was headed by Bonne.

The French delegation included Admiral Jean-Philippe Rolland, the Chief Military Advisor to the French President.

Doval also met Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Florence Parly, Minister of Armed Forces, the embassy said in a statement.

It said the two sides discussed the global security environment, including current developments and long term challenges in the Indo-Pacific, the situation in Afghanistan, Africa, Southeast Asia and West Asia, the continuing challenge of terrorism and emerging threats in maritime, cyber and space domains.

The embassy said it was agreed that the emerging trends in global affairs reinforce the need for closer partnership between India and France, including in the UN Security Council and other UN forums.

It said the two sides will pursue these objectives through enhanced bilateral cooperation, deepening engagement in regional institutions and forums and jointly working with and assisting other countries in the Indo Pacific region.

"They agreed to strengthen bilateral defence and security partnership through enhanced intelligence and information sharing, operational cooperation, bolstering mutual capabilities, expanding bilateral exercises and pursuing new initiatives in maritime, space and cyber domains," the embassy said.

"France reiterated its commitment to fully support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and defence industrialisation, joint research and technology development in India across a wide range of advanced capabilities, based on long-standing cooperation and mutual trust," it said.

In the Strategic Dialogue and other meetings, France stressed its continuing commitment to the Indo-Pacific region as a "resident power", and partnership with India as a "major pillar" of its strategy for the region.

"Doval reiterated that France is one of India's premier global and Indo-Pacific partners," the embassy said.

It said the two sides reaffirmed the vision articulated by Modi and Macron, most recently during their meeting on the margins of the G20 Summit in Rome, that their strategic partnership has a vital role to play in advancing peace, stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region based on democratic values and a common belief in strategic autonomy and rule of law.

"India welcomed EU's Indo Pacific strategy and looked forward to French presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2022 as an opportunity to give further shape to EU's engagement in the Indo Pacific region, including in security, connectivity, sustainability and economic development," the embassy said.

Building on the successful India-France initiative on International Solar Alliance, the two sides stressed the need to accelerate cooperation in clean energy, including civil nuclear energy and green hydrogen, it said.

The assertion by France to deepen cooperation with India in the Indo-Pacific came nearly two months after the AUKUS deal.

Under the deal, Australia will get technology from the US and UK to build nuclear-powered submarines.

The alliance is seen as an effort to counter China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea.

France reacted angrily to the formation of the new alliance as it resulted in Paris effectively losing a multi-billion dollar deal to build 12 conventional submarines for

Australia. France was also upset over its exclusion from the alliance.

## Four arrested, dummy...

for questioning. He confessed his involvement in the commission of the crime, the spokesperson said.

On Wani's disclosure, his two associates Asif Ahmad Ahanger, a resident of Bonzanigam, and Bilal Ahmad Malik from Pethzanigam, were arrested, he said.

Police recovered a dummy AK-47 weapon, Rs 33,300 cash and three face covers on their disclosure from a shed constructed at Ahanger's orchard, the spokesperson said. During the investigation, it also came to the fore that the dummy weapon was made by carpenter Abdul Momin Shah, a resident of Pethzanigam, who was also arrested, he said. An investigation into the case is underway and more arrests and recoveries are expected to take place, the spokesperson added.

## Naming in 2011...

as one of the tools to misguide the people and to sow the seeds of communalism even in the Muslim majority pockets of Jammu Region ( DODA, Rajouri, Poonch, Banihal, etc) where they have not succeeded. There were some in NC and Congress who too internally worked with such policies. PDP leadership could almost speak openly whether in power or out of power. So what disturbed them was that Omar Abdullah's government had named all the PRs of Jammu Division irrespective of the religion, ethnicity, language etc as Dogra.

Many forces have been exploiting government of India in the name of disturbances / Kashmir dispute / Kashmir turmoil . Such forces would not like that the outside world knows that there is such a large DOGRA area of J&K as well (forming continuity with Dogriyat of Himachal Pradesh) where no one questioned the 1947 accession of J&K with India.

No doubt Sheikh Mohd Abdullah did start his public career with the socio economic welfare of the Kashmir Muslims but was surely not envy to the identity / progress of others. Later on Sheikh Abdullah's National Conference identified her interests also in non Muslims / as well as people outside Kashmir Valley. The Government led by National Conference had come up with the plan for issue of Dogra Certificates for the welfare and identity of the residents of J&K belonging to areas of erstwhile Jammu Province of the princely state of J&K outside Kashmir Valley.

Some did say that the orders issued by J&K Revenue Department headed then by Raman Bhalla were issued without the knowledge of CM Omar Abdullah. May be local pressures created from Kashmir centric elements / environment compelled the power centers to isolate Raman Bhalla. The local leaders of Jammu Division ( even from BJP) did not work that unitedly and logically on this subject . So no good political support was generated for Omar Abdullah from outside Kashmir Valley. Had it been not so Omar Abdullah would have surely stood against the pressures from 'separatist/ Kashmir centric leaders worth not consigning Dogra Certificate to files.

The Jammu Division leaders cannot simply skip their responsibility by saying that Omar Government had bowed before likes of Lt. Geelani. Such political gamesmanship sends wrong signals to world community. The then NC-Congress government surely needed support of all other parties to defeat the separatists and pseudo nationalist elements.

But with this the issue of Dogra Certificate should not have been shelved.

The people of Jammu Division should have regularly approached the revenue authorities for issue of Dogra certificate. And in case that was not to be issued in routine the government should be made to clearly come out with a order withdrawing earlier order stating that definition of Dogra as was made by Revenue Minister was misconceived and hence withdrawn.

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## Population control: Fresh...

counterproductive and leads to demographic distortions.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, the Centre had told the apex court that the family welfare programme in the country was voluntary in nature, which enabled couples to decide the size of their family and adopt family planning methods best suited to them, according to their choice and without any compulsion.

The PIL said the high court failed to appreciate that the right to clean air, drinking water, health, peaceful sleep, shelter, livelihood, and education guaranteed under Articles 21 and 21A of the Constitution could not be secured to all citizens without controlling the population explosion.

The plea in the high court had claimed that the population of India had marched ahead of China, as about 20 per cent of Indians did not have Aadhaar and therefore, were not accounted for, and there were also erores of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis living illegally in the country.

It claimed that population explosion was also the root cause of corruption, apart from being a contributory factor behind heinous crimes such as rape and domestic violence.

It also held population explosion responsible for pollution and the dearth of resources and jobs.

# Unveil faces of culprits behind land scam: Sawhney

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a recent statement, Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney urged authorities to initiate an immediate probe into the alleged land scam where several Revenue maps and documents of Sunjwan and Chowadhi villages in Bahu district of Jammu & Kashmir were discovered to be missing from records. Sawhney said that it is shocking that official records have gone missing from a Government office and if properly investigated, it could possibly unveil a huge land scam behind occurrence. The Government must take immediate and harsh steps to get to bottom

of the matter and find out who the culprits are, he asserted.

The senior leader further stated that it seems to be a well-planned and well-thought out fraud that has been going on right under noses of the concerned officials. He speculated that the disappearance of official documents from a government office cannot be work of some common man. "Definitely, the inquiry would bring up some big names involved in the matter. Only someone in a good position and with connections can misuse powers to make it possible. Guilty must be booked under the law and stringent punishments should be awarded to set an

example. Furthermore, if documents have been missing for quite some time, how were Fard-e-Intikhabhs for these Revenue villages were being issued and other related official work was carried on," he asked.

He urged administration to undertake a strict inquiry into the matter without wasting any time and take serious action against all who are involved. Whoever is responsible for missing revenue maps must be apprehended under the terms of the law and justice should be departed. Jammu & Kashmir should not be allowed to turn into a land of seams under an ignorant and selfish Government, Sawhney maintained.

# Excise, VAT reduced on petrol, diesel to help commoners: Raman

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K Executive Member Raman Suri today said, the reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by the Government of J&K UTand excise duty by Union Government speaks of the fact that how sensitive the government is towards common people and their issues. This drastic reduction in oil prices, he said, has not only silenced the critics but also established that the government is alive to people's issues.

Raman Suri said, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha went a step ahead and reduced the Value

Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by Rs 7, which gave a big relief to common masses. This move also helped the government to reduce public transport fare that was pinching people and this is going to act as a big support for common people.

Now that the petrol price has been reduced by Rs.12/litre and Diesel by Rs.17/litre in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the decision has elated common people and at the same time silenced the critics.

He added that this government is sensitive towards people's issues and acts accordingly. There was no point in taxing people if it was pinching their pockets, he said, adding that there are many other areas where

government can levy taxes for the benefit of masses. Appreciating Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha for taking a significant decision and further reducing taxes on petrol in addition to what the Centre on Wednesday had reduced, Raman said, the entire opposition and critics won't speak a word on this because it is in larger interest of the common masses.

Raman Suri said, while opposition was making hue and cry without a solution in sight, it was only those at the helm of affairs who cared to take a final call on the matter and controlled the prices of petroleum products. This quick response by PM Narendra Modi and LG Manoj Sinha are highly appreciable.



## Two injured in bike-car collision

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Two persons got injured in a car-bike collision at Nowshera on Saturday.

As per details, a collision took place between Tata Mobile (JK11-7570) being driven by one Harpal Krishan, son of Tara Chand, resident of Dandesar Bala and a motorcycle (JK-11C / 9370) at Bagnoti on Jammu-Rajouri road due to which two bike-borne persons, namely Keshav Kumar, son of Mohinder Lal, resident of Dandesar and Sumit Kumar, son of Vishvas Nath, resident of Bagnoti Nallah sustained injuries and were shifted to SDH Nowshera.

## Drug peddler arrested with 2 Kg Charas powder

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, police on Saturday arrested a drug peddler in Anantnag and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

As per details, Officers from Police Post Janglatmandi at a checkpoint established at Ashjipora Anantnag apprehended a drug peddler identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Akhoon, son of Nazir Ahmad Akhoon, resident of Bilal Mohalla, Janglatmandi Anantnag. During search, officers were able to recover 2 Kg Charas powder from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to Police Station, where he remained in custody. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Anantnag and further investigation started.

## JCB seized for illegal extraction of minerals

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HANDWARA: Police on Saturday seized a JCB involved in illegal extraction of minerals from Government land.

As per details, officers from Police Post Langate along with officials of Mining and Geology Department seized a JCB involved in extraction of minerals illegally extracted from Government land at Nallah Mawar. Accordingly a case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation started.

## Congress appoints JKPC Spokespersons

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After approval of high command, seven Congress leaders have been designated as Spokespersons of JKPC with immediate effect. They include Bashir Ahmed Magrey (Ex- MLA), Ashok Dogra (Ex- MLA), Deepika Singh Rajawat, Dr Rashid Chaudhary, Kapil Singh, Sahil Sharma and Amir Sheikh.

## DDC reviews functioning of RDD sector at Kulgam

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Saturday convened a meeting of officers to review the functioning of Rural Development Department.

During the meeting, officers briefed the chair regarding the physical and financial achievements made under different schemes including PMAY, B2V, SBM, MGNREGA and 14th FC etc

The DDC reviewed Block and Panchayat-wise performance made under various schemes and set the timelines for completion of various pending works.

While reviewing the implementation of PMAY-G, the ACD, Mohammad Imran Khan informed the DDC that out of 1715 set targets, 1296 units have been completed in the district under PMAY-G.

During the meeting it was shared that during the current fiscal 25.24 crore wages stand disbursed and currently the percentage of timely wage payment is above 98 percent.

It was also given out that under district Capex 840 works are allotted and 531 works have been taken up.

Officers while briefing about the status of B2V3 works informed that under B2V-3, there is authorization to

180 works and 100 works stand tendered while 77 work projects stands allotted and 20 works have been completed.

Under 14th FC out of 6166 approved works 3409 works were completed and the Percentage of expenditure stands 72.56 percent.

During the meeting, the DDC impressed upon ACD, DPO and BDOs to accelerate the pace of work in their respective areas by adopting innovative methods for effective implementation of schemes at the ground level.

He also directed to complete and submit revised and pending estimates within days for authorization.

