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Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

## Sufficient supplies secured to support COVID vaccination: LG

### 2nd dose inoculation reaches 59 pc in J&K



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing COVID situation in J&K.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday described vaccination as the main line of defence, saying sufficient supplies have been secured to support inoculation.

"Efforts should be made to maximise uptake", observed the Lt Governor while reviewing the Covid situation in J&K during a series of meetings with the members of the Covid Task Force, Deputy Commissioners, and SPs.

The Lt Governor set the timeline of one week for 100% coverage of the over-

due 2nd doses.

Emphasizing on the need to take effective and quick actions to minimize Covid-19 impacts, the Lt Governor termed rapid asymptomatic testing and contact tracing as important tools to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Test, Trace, and Isolate mechanism remains critical to the district's plan for tackling the pandemic, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed the DCs, SPs and Health department to strictly enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour in

Hospitals, Shopping complexes and other public places. He passed specific directions to the Health Department for monitoring all the relevant data on a regular basis for swift action.

Instructions were also issued to the concerned officials to ensure that restrictions on the public gatherings continue, besides declaration of Red zones and micro containment zones in areas registering surge in positive cases on priority.

While appreciating the efforts of the District Administrations for making tremendous efforts in the fight against Covid on various fronts, the Lt Governor observed that the good practices must be replicated by other districts as well for a better outcome.

During the meetings, the Lt Governor sought District-wise feedback on various critical aspects of covid management, and implementation of the directions passed in the previous meetings.

The Lt Governor directed the DCs to regularly monitor the functionality of the oxygen plants in their respective districts and get the audit of OGP's done for operational readiness.

The meeting **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

J&K reports 151 new COVID cases, Ladakh 1

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 151 new positive cases of COVID, 16 from Jammu division and 135 from Kashmir division, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 332911.

Moreover, 69 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 16 from Jammu Division and 53 from Kashmir Division.

According to daily Media Bulletin, out of 332911 positive cases, 1091 are Active Positive (123 in Jammu Division and 969 in Kashmir Division), 327380 have recovered and 4440 have died; 2177 in Jammu division and 2263 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 16431710 test results available, 332911 samples have tested positive and 16098799 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 41,649 COVID tests have been

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## Search ops for terrorists extended to Khabla forest area, Rajouri road briefly closed



Highway closed for vehicular movement after search operation launched in Rajouri.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The main road connecting Rajouri to Thanamandi was briefly closed for traffic on Saturday as security forces extended the ongoing search for a group of terrorists to the Khabla forest following information about their suspected movement in the area, officials said.

The counter-insurgency operation in Surankote and Mendhar forest in Poonch district and Thanamandi in Rajouri district entered the 27th day on Saturday.

While the operation to track down the terrorists in the forest belt of Poonch-Rajouri was underway, the security forces received information about the suspected movement of terrorists in the vast forest area of Khabla along the Mughal Road in the early hours of Saturday, the officials said.

An operation was jointly launched by the Army and the police in the forest area

of Khabla but there was no contact with the suspected terrorists, they said.

In view of the operation, the traffic on the Rajouri-Thanamandi road was suspended as a precautionary measure for the safety of commuters, the officials said.

Nine soldiers, including two Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), were martyred in two separate encounters with the terrorists on the first day of the search operation in

Surankote forest on October 11 and in Mendhar forest on October 14.

A Pakistani terrorist, Zia Mustafa, who was shifted from Kot Bhalwal Central Jail, Jammu to Mendhar on police remand for questioning in connection with the operation, was killed when the security personnel accompanying him to identify a hideout in the Bhatti Durrian forest in Mendhar came under fire from the hiding terrorists on October 24.

## Omar, Mehbooba express strong objection to using community halls as security barracks

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: NC vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir had regressed to such an extent that community halls built during his tenure as chief minister of the erstwhile state were being used as barracks for security forces.

My Government built community/marriage halls & demolished bunkers in Srinagar. It's disappointing to see the security situation in the city has now regressed so far that new bunkers are being constructed & the marriage halls are being used as

barracks for security forces, he wrote on Twitter.

His remarks came after reports of a few community halls or marriage halls being taken over by the CRPF here. The security forces' presence has been strengthened in Srinagar following a recent spike in militant attacks.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also lashed out at the government over the move, and said every day more draconian laws are brought in with the sole purpose of suffocating people into silence.

After placing security bunkers at every nook &

**CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Murder of Sarpanch: Bandipora court sentences 8 persons to imprisonment

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BANDIPORA: A local Court on Saturday sentenced eight accused to imprisonment who were found guilty in killing of a Sarpanch in Hajin area of Bandipora district in 2014.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Bandipora, Mohammad Ibrahim Wani sentenced the main accused to 10 years imprisonment with a fine of Rs 30 thousand while six accomplices to the crime were also sentenced to three year and one month imprisonment. A lady was also sentenced to six months imprisonment.

The other accused persons, namely Shakeel Ahmad

All the persons were convicted last week after they were found involved in the killing of Sarpanch, Abdul Rashid Wagay of village Kathpora Hajin.

The main accused Ghulam Ahmad Parry, a resident of Kathpora has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and fine of Rs 30,000 after being found guilty under Section 304-II RPC. He was further sentenced to three years for offences punishable u/s 341 RPC. The sentences imposed shall, however, run concurrently.

The other accused persons, namely Shakeel Ahmad

Khan, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, M Sultan Parry, Showkat Ahmad Parry, Firdous Ahmad Parry, Feroz Ahmad Parry were found guilty under sections 147 and 341 RPC and were sentenced to imprisonment of three years and one month.

The court has further ordered that the period of imprisonment undergone by the accused persons during the investigation/trial of the case shall be set off against the sentence imposed.

The case dates back to November 2014 when the deceased Abdul Rashid

Wagay, a Sarpanch accompanied by his two PSOs had gone to the shop of accused Shakeel Ahmad Khan and demanded a gas cylinder from him.

Court observed that on refusal of giving gas cylinder by Shakeel Ahmad Khan, an altercation had taken place between the deceased and Shakeel Ahmad Khan. "Later-on, other family members of Shakeel Ahmad Khan joined in the fight and during the fight, the deceased was hit on his head by a blow of bat given by accused Ghulam Ahmad Parry who

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## Policeman main suspect in Arnia double murder case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A policeman has emerged as the main suspect in indiscriminate firing that left two people dead and as many injured in the outskirts of Jammu, officials said on Saturday. Police raided multiple locations to arrest him along with another associate who is also a former policeman. Sabar Chowdhary and Arif Chowdhary were found dead and two others - Babar Chowdhary and Parveen Kumar - critically injured in Salehar area of Arnia in R S Pura on Friday following a shooting incident.

SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli immediately constituted

a special investigation team (SIT) to probe into the incident and bring the culprits to book.

After initial investigation, Constable Bhopinder Singh emerged as the main accused who had fired indiscriminately from his service rifle on the four people following a brawl over some issue, the officials said. Singh was accompanied by his former colleague constable Sadeeq and both of them fled the scene after the shooting, they said, adding multiple teams have been formed to arrest the accused who are on the run. The officials said Singh has been placed under suspension.

## Population control: Fresh plea in SC seeks to make states, UTs as parties

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking to make states and Union Territories as parties in a PIL that has sought certain steps, including two-child norm, to control the country's growing population.

The plea filed by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay said population explosion is the root cause of many problems, including the excessive burden on natural resources of the country.

Upadhyay had filed the PIL challenging a Delhi High Court order that dismissed a plea seeking certain steps, including two-child norm, to control the country's growing population.

The Centre has earlier told the SC that India was unequivocally against forcing family planning on its people and any coercion to have a certain number of children was

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## Four arrested, dummy weapon recovered in extortion case at Budgam

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Four people were arrested while a dummy weapon was recovered in connection with an extortion case in Budgam district, police said on Saturday.

Police received a complaint on August 23 this year from Tawseef Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Rawatpora Khag, alleging that he and his neighbour Saqib Ahmed Dar were stopped by some masked persons on their way home in the evening a day earlier. They were shown a weapon and thrashed, while Bhat was robbed of a cash amount of Rs 1,50,000, a



Extortionists in police custody.

police spokesperson said. During the course of the investigation, a suspect, identified as Feroz Ahmad Wani, a resident of Pethzanigam, was called

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## India, France to expand defence, security partnership

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: In a significant move, India and France agreed to strengthen defence and security partnership by enhancing intelligence and information sharing, bolstering mutual capabilities, expanding military drills and pursuing new initiatives in maritime, space and cyber domains.

The two countries resolved to expand the defence ties at a meeting of India-France strategic dialogue in Paris on Friday that was co-chaired by NSA Ajit Doval and Emmanuel Bonne, the Diplomatic Advisor

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## Major relief to patients; SHA approves 90 unspecified cases

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: In a major relief to patients, State Health Agency (SHA) J&K on Saturday approved 90 unspecified cases like Pacemaker implantation, Endovascular treatment, CRTD to the beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Executive Officer State Health Agency, Yasin Mohammad Choudhary.

Others who attended the meeting included Head of Dept Cardiology, SKIMS, Dr Hilal, HoD Cardiology

Super Specialty Jammu, Dr Sushil, HOD, GMC Jammu, Radiation Oncology Dr Ashutosh, other HODs and in charges of tertiary care hospitals, administrator SKIMS Dr G N Yatoo, representative of NHA and Officers of SHA. The representative of Bajaj Allianz insurance also attended the meeting.

The officials, experts and other stakeholders related to the scheme were also present in the meeting.

The decision of extending these unspecified cases was taken after SHA received these cases from empanelled

Healthcare Providers related to various specialities. As per the guidelines of unspecified cases issued by NHA, Medical Committee has discretion to take the decision on these cases.

To bring more efficiency in the operation of scheme for greater good of patients of J&K, SHA would launch new Health Benefit Packages 2.2 with revised rate of 409 packages.

CEO SHA also stressed on suggestions from all stakeholders for incorporation of newer therapies/medicines for treatment of

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## Naming in 2011 whole of Jammu Division as Dogra Sambhag disturbed some conservative 'Kashmiri' leaders

**DAYA SAGAR**

J&K Revenue Department had ordered for issue of Dogra certificate vide Order No. Rev.(LB) 69 of 2011 dated: March 25, 2011 to people belonging to Jammu Division of J&K. Dogra Sambhag is known for its warrior inheritance. The order had to face 'serious' objections as made by some 'subjects of J&K'. What was there in Dogra Certificate that disturbed some Kashmir Valley leaders? Dogra certificate Mein Aesa Keyaa Hai Jis Se Geelani Aur Mehboob Baig Jaesae Log J&K Kee Ekta Ke Liyae Etnae Chintit Ho Geyae The? Etna Jaroor Tha Ki Dogra Certificate se Oon Logoan Ko Jaroor Dhakka Lga Thai Jo Jammu division Ko Hindu Aur Muslim Bahul Elakoan Mein Bantna Chahtae Hain.

To be brief the Dogra Sambhag/region is bound on the north by the Pir Panjal Range of the middle Himalayas, in the south by Punjab, on the east by Ladakh and is bordering Pakistan.

Jammu Division Dogras though traditionally more inhabited the Shivalik range of mountains but they are spread over whole of Jammu region. Majority are followers of Hinduism but a large number of Jammu

Dogras believe in Islam as well. The first Param Vir Chaktra of Swantra Bharat was also awarded to a Dogra from today's Himachal Pradesh PVC Major Som Nath Sharma. Demands have been regularly made over last one decade for honoring the descendants of family of atleast the first Param Vir Chaktra decorated soldier of Swantra Bharat Maj Som Nath Sharma, a Dogra, with Permanent Resident of J&K Status and for naming the Srinagar International Airport as PVC Maj Som Nath Sharma International Airport Srinagar, it is hoped that what the earlier J&K State Government could not do will surely be done the present J&K UT Government under President Rule.

Some people in Kashmir Valley including the separatists like late Ali Shah Geelani objected to issue of Dogra Certificate. No objections to the issue of Dogra Certificate came from any part of Jammu Division / Region. So strangely some so called main stream leaders and even a National Conference Member Parliament too stood with the 'objectors'. Even the Middle East's English language daily Arab News said on 8 April that March 25th Dogra

Certificate order of J&K Government may stir unrest in Kashmir. But the leaders from Jammu did not stand that firmly with Omar Abdullah Government that was under the pressures of Kashmir centric leaders.

With pressures mounting the then Omar Abdullah led NC-Congress Government issued another Order under No.. Rev (LB) 82 of 2011 Dated: April 7, 2011 informing that Dogra certificate would be issued to those who wanted to apply for jobs in security forces for some relaxations in recruitment standards. It all did not end there. It was on April 22, 2011 that Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order under the signatures of Director (Personnel) Ajay K Singh ordering that the relaxation in chest and height, which was earlier applicable to Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh regions of J&K would now be applicable to residents of entire J&K State. And J&K Government referring the MOHA orders in principle withdrew the orders of March 25, 2011 on April 28, 2011.

The leaders from Kashmir valley so often talk of Kashmiriat and Kashmiri interests. They do not see

any dangers to integrity of J&K when they see J&K only in 'Kashmiriat'. But when the then revenue Minister in NC lead NC-Congress J&K Government Raman Bhalla talked of DOGRA identity as whole Jammu Division, the Kashmiri leaders saw dangers to J&K.

How funny some Valley leaders were even quoted as having said that Dogra Certificate was intended to divide J&K on Communal / ethnic lines. Whereas Raman Bhalla had clarified that all the residents of Jammu Division (Jammu Province of erstwhile J&K State of Maharaja Hari Singh) whose elders were residents of J&K in 1944 are Dogras irrespective of the religion, ethnicity, even dialect but still the Kashmiri leaders echoed their objections.

It was not the job opportunities that disturbed some Kashmir Valley leaders. It was the definition of Dogra that had disturbed not only Sayeed Ali Shah Geelani but some Kashmir centric leaders even from so called main Stream parties who had succeeded in exploiting the innocent people of Kashmir valley in the name of Kashmiriat and Religion. The separatist leaders have used religion

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
 Max: 27.5°C Min: 12.1°C

Humidity  
 Max: 74 Min: 65

Temperature (Srinagar)  
 Max: 14.5°C Min: 5.2°C

Humidity  
 Max: 92 Min: 68

Sunset : 17:37 Hours  
 Sunrise : 06:55 Hours