### **!!** Continuations from Page 1 **!!** Modi launches vaccination...

He asked people not to let their guard down even after taking the vaccine as only two weeks after taking the second dose, human body will develop necessary immunity against the virus.

During his speech, the prime minister also turned emotional as he spoke of the disruption the pandemic caused to people's lives, isolating victims of the coronavirus and denying the dead traditional last rites

In a choked voice, the Prime Minister also referred to sacrifices made by healthcare and frontline workers, hundreds of whom lost their lives to the viral infection.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had earlier this month approved Oxford COVID-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute, and indigenously developed Covaxin of Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use in the country, paving the way for the massive inoculation drive.

Modi also reassured the country about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines given approval by India for restricted emergency use.

"I want to tell the people of the country that only when our scientists and experts were convinced about the safety and effectiveness of both the made-in-India vaccines, only then they gave permission for their emergency use. That is why the people of the country should beware of any type of propaganda, rumours and misinformation," he said.

"Our vaccine scientists, our medical system and the process India follows holds a lot of credibility in the world...we have won this confidence due to our track record," Modi said.

His remarks come amid apprehensions being raised by opposition leaders, including some senior Congress leaders, about the process of approval to the Bharat Biotech vaccine.

"Indian vaccines compared with foreign vaccines are much cheaper and their use is also very easy. Even one dose of some foreign vaccines costs Rs 5000 and have to be kept at minus 70 degrees Celsius, while the Indian vaccines have been made with such technology that is tried and tested," Modi said.

These vaccines, from storage to transportation, are suited to Indian conditions, he said.

"These (made-in-India) vaccines will ensure a decisive victory for India against coronavirus," he asserted.

"India begins the world's Largest Vaccine Drive. This is a day of pride, a celebration of the prowess of our scientists and hardwork of our medical fraternity, nursing staff, police personnel and sanitation workers," Modi said in a tweet after the launch of the drive. In his remarks at the launch event, Modi also urged the country to show patience during the vaccination drive as it had shown till now in fighting the pandemic.

Normally, it takes years to make a vaccine but in such a short span of time, not one, but two 'made in India' vaccines are ready, Modi said, adding work on other vaccines is also progressing at a fast pace.

India getting two vaccines in such a short time is a testimony to the country's capability, scientific efficiency and talent, the Prime Minister said.

"Our vaccination programme is driven by humanitarian concerns, those exposed to maximum risk will get priority," he said.

In its fight against the pandemic, India took right decisions at the right time while keeping a vigil round the clock, he asserted.

On January 30, the first case of coronavirus was found in India. but even more than two weeks before that India had formed a high level committee, he said.

The country had issued its first advisory on January 17 and India was among first few nations that started screening at airports, Modi said emphasising the speed at which India acted to deal with the pandemic.

Modi also talked about evacuation of Indians stuck abroad, saying that at a time when many countries of the world had left their citizens stranded in China, India evacuated not only Indians but citizens of other countries.

The Prime Minister congratulated the countrymen for passing the challenge of discipline and patience during the 'Janata Curfew in March.

He pointed out that the exercise prepared the country psychologically for the lockdown. Morale of the country was kept high with the campaigns like 'taali-thali' and lighting of diyas, the Prime Minister added.

Asserting that India's response to the crisis has been acknowledged globally, Modi said it was an example of the integrated and unified response from centre, states, local governments, government offices, social bodies who performed efficiently in unison. According to the government, the shots will be offered first to an estimated one crore healthcare workers, and around two crore frontline workers, and then to persons above 50 years of age, folowed by persons younger than 50 years of age with as

tion sites to dispel any apprehensions about the vaccine. Vardhan said the two vaccines -- Covaxin developed by Bharat Biotech and Covishield from the Oxford/AstraZeneca stable manufactured by the SII. -- were a 'sanjivani', life infusing, in the fight against the pandemic.

A total of 1,91.181 beneficiaries were inoculated with COVID-19 jabs at 3,352 session sites across the country on the first day, the Health ministry said.

India has the second highest recorded cases of COVID-19 after the US. The caseload stood at 1.05.42.841 as on Saturday.

Health workers who got their first shots of Covaxin at AIIMS were made to sign a consent form that promised compensation in case of a "severe adverse event" related to the vaccine.

Covaxin has demonstrated the ability to produce antibodies against COVID-19 in phase one and phase two trials.

"However, the clinical efficacy is yet to be established and it is still being studied in phase 3 clinical trial," the form read.

Hence, it is important to appreciate that receiving the vaccine does not mean that other precautions related to COVID-19 need not be followed, it said.

In his address, Prime Minister Modi reminded people that two doses of the vaccine are very important and asked them to continue with masks and social distancing even after receiving the jabs.

Dawaai bhi, kadaai bhi, Modi said, asking people to guard against complacency and follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

Striking an emotional chord, Modi spoke of the disruption the pandemic had caused to people's lives, isolating victims of the coronavirus and denying the dead traditional last rites.

In a choked voice, he also referred to sacrifices made by healthcare and frontline workers, hundreds of whom lost their lives to the viral infection.

"Our vaccination programme is driven by humanitarian concerns, those exposed to maximum risk will get priority.

The shots are first being offered to an estimated one crore healthcare workers, and around two crore frontline workers, and then to persons above 50 years of age, followed by persons younger than  $50\,$ years of age with associated comorbidities

The cost of vaccination of healthcare and frontline workers will be borne by the central government

From the heights of Ladakh to coastal Kerala, there was an almost festive air at many hospitals and medical centres decorated with flowers, balloons and buntings. Prayers, and sweets and gift hampers too, were offered in several places. One video showed a vaccine box being garlanded as a nurse performed an arti'.

"It's a great day for humankind. I feel elated to get the first dose. said Bipasha Seth, a doctor at a private hospital in Kolkata

It's a big day, agreed state Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim.

We were in a state of depression for the last one year. From today, we will again relive our lives," he said.

In Gujarat, the drive began at 161 centres in the state where the vaccine jabs were administered to health workers almost simultaneously.

"I am honoured that my name has been selected for first dose of vaccine at this centre in Rajkot. I didn't have any apprehensions, said Ashok bhai, who drives a medical van and was among the first recipients in the state.

In Mumbai, JJ Hospital Dean Dr Ranjit Mankeshwar was among the first in the state to get the shot. The inoculation drive is taking place at 285 centres in Maharashtra.

Ranganath Bhojje, a worker at the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), kicked off the vaccination drive in the coastal state and said he was feeling rather lucky

In Madhya Pradesh, where healthcare workers were welcomed with flowers at some centres and doctors performed a puia' at a temple in Gwalior, a sanitation worker was among the first beneficiaries.

Tulsa Tandi, a 51-year-old sanitation worker was first in the queue in Chhattisgarh.

"Tulsa Tandi, a Swacchtakarmi (sanitation worker) at the Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Hospital Raipur since 2008, was the first person to get vaccinated in the state," state director for the National Health Mission Priyanka Shukla told PTI.

Tamil Nadu rolled out the COVID-19 vaccination drive at 166 sites across the state with a government doctor the first to be administered the shot.

And in Telangana, a woman sanitation worker received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a Hyderabad hospital to cheers and claps. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy and Telangana Health Minister Eatala Rajender formally launched the vaccination programme at the state-run Gandhi Hospital.

The drive to combat COVID-19 began in Kerala at 133 designated centres with prominent government doctors among the first batch of frontline workers to be administered the vaccine.

State Health Minister K K Shailaja said 13,300 healthcare workers will be covered in a single day.

for complacence until 14 days after the second dose is administered to them

Lt Governor termed the launch of vaccine for coronavirus eradication as a 'golden chapter in India's history' and said that the day is an important event that would be remembered for generations to come.

While detailing about the vaccination programme, Lt Governor said the government has identified 1294 private and 1177 government facilities along with 5400 vaccinators and 14,481 potential vaccinators across J&K. Besides, he said maintaining harmonized protocol, training, data management system, divisional and district level control rooms, call centers, the administration has also conducted two dry runs of Covid vaccine and 1053 session sites have also been identified for the smooth vaccination process

Giving further details about the vaccination drive, he said that in J&K, 28 lakh have been identified who will be given Covid vaccine in the first and second phase on priority.

Lauding the efforts of corona warriors, frontline workers, and other stakeholders, he appreciated their dedication and professional work ethics during the management of COVID-19 pandemic, and thanked them for braving difficult situations by endangering their own lives to save others'.

He said due to the untiring efforts of healthcare workers, J&K has performed better than many states and UTs of the country in terms of Covid management.

While complimenting the health workers, he said that a year ago, the scenario was different but today the situation is different as it is now, primarily due to the tireless efforts of COVID-19 warriors, more particularly that of medics and paramedics that gave us the breather:

Whenever there is mention of the pre-pandemic and post-pandemic period, the services of our frontline workers and corona warriors would be written in golden words, he said.

He observed that JK has only 2041 active cases with a recovery rate of 96.80 percent due to the dedication and hard work of health care workers.

He also thanked the people for their patience and said they extended great cooperation with administration during lockdown, resulting in preventing the spread of the pandemic to a large extent.

Also, Lt Governor urged the people not to fall prey to the propaganda during the vaccination drive, "as there will be efforts to spread rumors and doubts", and asked people to play their part to dispel any kind of misinformation regarding the vaccine.

Terming the testing as a game-changer, Lt Governor maintained that both tracing and testing were pivotal in restricting the spread, besides it also provided us an opportunity to enhance our capacity in the health sector exponentially.

He said that through 100% testing of inhabitants in containment zones, Swasthaya Nidhi app, intensive door-to-door health care survey, 24x7 call centres, and Sero-Survey, J&K contained the Coronavirus decisively.

Today when we are beginning the vaccination drive, it is important to mention here that from one testing lab, we have established infrastructure of 11 labs authorized by ICMR, 17 dedicated covid hospitals, 5708 Oxygen Supported Beds along with more than 1 crore reusable masks, 942 ventilators, and 442 ICU beds, Lt Governor said.

He said that indomitable will, better medical infrastructure, and a dedicated team helped to fight against the pandemic and saved many lives. The dedication exhibited during the last 10 months by healthcare workers and people alike is worth praising. With Dedicated Covid hospitals, testing labs, machinery, equipment, oxygen generation facilities, ventilators, healthcare facilities reached pinnacle as never seen before, Lt Governor maintained.

"I heartily thank the Prime Minister and extend best wishes to my team on the launch of this historic and largest vaccination drive dedicated to the service of mankind", he said.

The period of fear has ended and we are entering into decisive times with trust and hope, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary J&K. BVR Subrahmanyam remarked that with the all-out efforts of health workers, administration, and the people, the dread of Covid-19 pandemic has receded a lot and is on the verge of end.

He said that, from about 400 tests a day in the beginning testing. J&K's capacity was increased to 29,000 tests per day, adding earlier it was 1000-1500 positive cases a day, which has nosedived to just a hundred today. This shows the commitment of the health care workers who braved many challenges and difficulties by saving precious lives in the line of duty.

He hoped that with the commencement of vaccination and shortly all the people would be able to do all those activities normally again which they were doing prior to pandemic days.

While giving an overview of the vaccination drive across J&K, Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo stated that this is the largest vaccination drive of the world and J&K has devised an election booth type of strategy where those vaccinated would receive SMS after each dose and a certificate at the end of successful administration of whole cycle of vaccination. He informed that dry-runs and training of staff have already been completed in all the districts for carrying out this largest vaccination drive which commenced today.

Kupwara and Mohammad Hashim Malik of Baramulla.

#### Traffic restored on...

the country, was restored with the completion of the construction of the Bailey bridge.

Earlier, Chief Engineer, Project Beacon, Brigadier I K Jaggi said, "We have accomplished the completion of the vital bridge in just 60 hours. Traffic can ply on it as the trial run was successful on Saturday.'

Officials said the 120-foot-long bridge can carry 40 tons of weight and the BRO deployed men and machinery that worked day and night despite the severe cold for the completion of its construction.

"The trial run was conducted at 2.45 pm and traffic was allowed to pass in a regulated manner after giving some final touches and verification." the official spokesperson said.

Brigadier Jaggi said the material for the bridge was brought from different parts of Kashmir and Kishtwar district in 30 trucks.

Additional Director General of Police, Traffic T Namgyal, Ramban Deputy Commissioner Nazim Zai Khan, SSP, Traffic J S Johar and Project Director, NHA1 Parshotam Kumar also visited the spot.

The deputy commissioner lauded the BRO for erecting the bridge in a record time to restore traffic on the highway.

Meanwhile, a traffic department spokesperson said only the stranded vehicles, including trucks carrying essential commodities to Kashmir, were allowed to ply after the reopening of the highway.

"Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, one-way traffic shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu on Sunday. No vehicle shall be allowed in the opposite direction," he said.

The traffic on the highway plies alternatively from Srinagar and Jammu owing to the ongoing work of a four-laning project.

#### Five terrorist associates...

residents of the Gulshanpora area of Tral.

A laptop and a printer used for the preparation and printing of the threat posters have been seized from their possession, the spokesman said, adding, further investigation into the matter is in progress.

## Four IAS, eight...

Director, Industries and Commerce, Kashmir as Director, Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir; Mussarat-ul-Islam, KAS Director, Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir as Deputy Commissioner Ramban; Rajesh Kumar Shavan, KAS, Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation as Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, KAS, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag as Additional Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department; Imam Din, KAS, Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, J&K, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara; and Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, KAS, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri as Additional Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. He shall also hold the additional charge of Additional Secretary, Public Grievances

Shamim Ahmad, KAS, Special Secretary, Finance Department, shall hold the charge of Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation and Ram Savak, KAS, Director, Horticulture, Jammu, shall hold the charge of Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, J&K, in addition to their own duties, till further orders

#### 133 Sub-Inspectors...

Sunil Kumar Parihar, Aga Asgar Ali, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, Shahnawaz Teeli, Sudesh Kumar, Sajad Iqbal, Lateef Ahmad Dar, Rahul Mahaian, Mohd Abas Kumar, Sushil Choudhary, Ankuj Kumar, Mohd Rashad, Tribhawan Khajuria, Rajveer Singh, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir; Javaid Gulzar Bhat, Muddasir Nazar, Sarjan Ahmad Dar, Ravinder Kumar, Mohd. Abas Chak, Jai Paul Singh, Bilal Ahmad Khanday, Syed Owais Geelani, Zaheer Iqbal, H.M Shahnawaz Giri, Ab. Latief Shabnam, Naseer Ahmad Ahanger. Ashwani Kumar, Deepak Bharti, Maninder Singh, Kamal Preet Singh, Anil Kumar, Adil Bashir, Sandeep Charak, Sukhvir Singh, Syed Iqbal Rashid, Rohit Kumar, Pawan Kumar Dogra, Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani, Tawseef Habib, Mohd Naseer, Sheikh Sameer Altaf. Youg Raj, Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Niku Ram, Waseem Jahingir Shah, Masroor Ahmad Ganie, Sandeep Kumar, Bupesh Singh, Gowhar Ahmad Bhat, Naseer Ahmad Malik, Tariq Ahmad Wani, Vishal Manhas, Sameer Ahmed Batt, Chander Bushan, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, Sumit Magotra, Afaq Majid Wani, Vikas Hans Jaswinder Singh, Shakil Ahmed Manhas, Gulam Hussan Parray, Younis Khan, Ashaq Hussain, Arun Bhagat, Sajad Ahmad Parray, Tajamul Islam, Masoodul Hassan, Jasvinder Choudhary, Ashish Sagar: Askar Hussain, Karnail Singh, Mohd Iobal Bhat, Adil Ashraf Bhat, Wasim Ahmad Shah, Hussain Ahmad Mughal, Rakesh Sharma, Mudasir Hussain Zaroo, Ashish Choudhary, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Saqib Bashir, Muhsin Ahmad Dar, Novneet Verma, Deenak Thakur, Suman Sinch, Vishal Doora, Waseen Gull, Fayaz Ahmad Chachie, Parvaiz Ahmad Gogger, Kapil Manhas, Vikram Kumar Panjgotra, Towseef Ahmad, Altaf Rashid Kakroo, Imran Khan, Rajinder Khajuria, Mudasir Nazar, Sumeet Sharma, Vijav Sharma, Sunil Kalsi, Mukhtiar Ali, Sandeep Singh Bhau, Khalid Aslam Shah, Yash Paul, Surinder Singh Nagra, Subzar Ahmad, Tanvir Ahmad, Sikinder Singh, Vicky Thapa, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, Sohit Trikha, Vinay Gupta, Neelam Saini, Kunti Devi, Samsen Bhati, Vikram Singh, Kanchan Bala, Imran Bashir, Anil Kumar Jad, Sampaul Gill, Safder Hussain and Syed Mohd Maqsood.

#### comorbidities.

Cost of vaccination of healthcare and frontline workers will be borne by the central government.

# Nearly 2 lakh...

#### Health Minister Harsh Vardhan.

Kumar said many of the staff who were get the jabs were scared. So I went to my seniors and said I should be given the vaccine first. I wanted to prove to my colleagues that there is no need to be scared," he told PTI.

Injecting confidence in the people, several high profile persons, including AIIMS director Randeep Guleria, NITI Aayog member V K Paul, who is also head of an empowered group on medical equipment and management plan to tackle the coronavirus outbreak, Serum Institute of India(SII) CEO Adar Poonawallah, West Bengal minister Nirmal Maji, BJP MP Mahesh Sharma, who is a doctor by profession, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, Dr Prathap C Reddy and Chairman of Manipal Hospitals Sudarshan Ballal also received their first shot of the two-dose vaccine. Senior doctors received the first shot at many identified vaccina-

#### No complacence against...



Dr Shivani Malhotra getting her first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at GMC Jammu.

#### Man injured in firing at Jammu; 2 held STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 25-year-old man was critically injured on Saturday when he was fired upon by two people, who were later arrested along with a revolver, police said.

Happy Jamwal was shot at near main Chowk Paloura, due



o which he got injured and was taken to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital, a police officer said.

Soon after the incident, the family members of victim staged a demonstration outside Janipur police Station, demanding action against culprits, alleging that they attacked Jamwal after he refused to pay them money.

Police acted swiftly and arrested two accused. A revolver was also recovered from their possession, the officer said. As per police, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station

Janipur by Happy Singh, son of Malkait Singh, resident of Paloura, Janipur that he has been fired upon by two persons namely Sohan Singh and Hoshiyar Singh, sons of Sarwan Singh, residents of Paloura with an intention to kill him, when he was coming from Gym in Paloura.

On the information, a case vide FIR No 8/2021 under Section 307 and 341 of IPC and 34 & 3/27 of Arms Act was registered at Police Station Janipur and special teams of Police Station Janipur were constituted. A team led by SHO Janipur Insp Gurmeet Singh, after putting hectic efforts and with help of technical assistance, arrested both accused persons. Weapon of offence has also been recovered

#### Bootlegger nabbed with illicit liquor STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday nabled a bootlegger and recovered 53 bottles of illicit liquor from his possession.

As per details, a party from Police Station Kanha Chak headed by SHO Insp Vishav Pratap Singh during patrolling duty at Ghari road, rounded up a suspect namely Kulvinder Singh, son of Late Jaswant Singh, resident of Magnar District Poonch, at present Ghari. On search, 53 bottles of liquor were recovered from his possession. He was arrested on the spot and a case vide FIR 07/2021 under Section 48(A) of Excise Act was registered against him at Police Station Kanha Chak.

#### Girl found dead under mysterious circumstances STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: A girl was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Katra on Saturday.

As per details, locals on spotting body of a girl in Batu Nallah informed police, which shifted it to mortuary. The deceased has been identified as Mamta Devi, daughter of

# Police files chargesheet... active terrorist of the banned group operating in Doda belt and

had exfiltrated to Pakistan in 2009.

The 11 accused were registered in a case last year at Peer Mitha police station in Jammu under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms Act.

The case was investigated by a Special Investigation Team headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police Parupkar Singh. During investigation, over Rs 1.90 lakh and a cache of arms and ammunition were recovered from the accused, the spokesperson said.

Those arrested in the case include brother of Pakistani handler Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Mubashir Farooq Batt, Togeer Ahmad Batt, Mohammad Asif Batt, Khalid Latief Batt, Gazi Iqbal Batt, Tariq Hussain Mir; Farooq Ahmad Malik and Mohabbat Hussain (all residents of Doda) and Junaid Aziz Lone of Handwara area of

Suraj Ram, resident of Pouni. Police is investigating the matter.

#### Police recovers unidentified body, seeks people's help for identification STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday recovered an unidentified

non-muslim male body, age about 50 vears, from Allochibagh Srinagar. The body was later taken to hospital for autopsy and other medico legal formalities

Proceeding under section 174 CrPC has been initiated. After completion of all necessary legal formalities including COVID test & post mortem, the

body has been kept in mortuary at SMHS Srinagar. Anybody having any information regarding identity of body

may kindly contact Police Station Shergarhi on 9596770525, 9596770861 or Police Control Room Kashmir on 112

#### Traffic Police challaned 14 vehicles STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Traffic Police Nowshera has challaned 14

vehicles for different violations of MV Act. As per details. team of traf- $\operatorname{fic}$ Police  $\mathbf{under}$ the supervision of

# COVID-19: J&K records...

While five districts -- Bandipora, Doda, Rajouri, Reasi and Kishtwar -- did not report any fresh case, 13 other districts recorded fresh cases in single-digit figures, they added.

The number of active COVID-19 cases has dropped to 1,280 in the Union Territory, while 1,20,016 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The only death due to COVID-19 in the said period was reported from Kashmir division.

Sub Inspector Bodh Raj, laid traffic Nakas at different places and challaned 14 vehicles for violating traffic norms.

Sub Inspector Bodh Raj, while interacting with drivers asked them to strictly follow the traffic rules and keep documents of their vehicles up to date, failing which their vehicles can also be seized.

#### 4 peddlers held with nearly 44 Kg Charas STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/ANANTNAG/DODA: Four drug peddlers were arrested and nearly 44 Kilograms of Charas worth lakhs was recovered from their possession, police said on Saturday.

Sahil Mehra, Abhishek Dogra and Jagdev Raj were round ed up when they were found moving in a suspicious manner at Gharota area on outskirts of Jammu, a police spokesperson said. He said that 1.5 Kg of narcotic substance (Charas) was recovered from their possession and accordingly, they were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Meanwhile, Anantnag Police has recovered 42 Kg Charas from a house at Bonpora, Tukhan. Acting on specific information, a Police Party headed by SDPO Bijbehara along with Executive Magistrate Bijbehara raided a residential complex of Bilal Ahmed Dar at Bonpora, Tulkhan. During search, 42 Kg Charas powder concealed in two bags were recovered from the house. However, the accused person is at large and efforts are on to arrest him. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation in the matter has been initiated.

Doda Police also nabbed a drug peddler during a Naka and recovered 450 gm Charas from his possession. The accused has been identified as Aijaz Ahmed, resident of Udhyanpur, Doda