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COVID: 706 new...

gone up to 340, officials said.

The Union Territory has recorded 221 Covid-related deaths -- 163 in Leh district and 58 in Kargil district -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

No death was reported in Ladakh on Sunday, the officials said.

Thirty patients have recovered from the disease, taking the number of those cured to 22,000, they said.

There are 349 active cases in Ladakh -- 316 in Leh and 24 in Kargil.

Meanwhile, authorities on Monday sealed several coaching centres in Bandipora district for allegedly flouting COVID-19 norms, officials said.

A joint team of officers inspected several coaching centres in the town to review the implementation of Covid appropriate behaviour, an official spokesman said.

The team comprising officers of education and health departments sealed several coaching centres that were operating in violation of the government orders. The in-person teaching has been banned till further orders to safeguard the lives by preventing the further spread of COVID-19. Coaching Centres Association of Kashmir (CCAK) has expressed disappointment over the administration's decision to close the coaching centres in the wake of the increase in coronavirus cases. It said whenever there is even a slight increase in Covid cases, the education sector becomes the first casualty. Meanwhile, a famous restaurant namely Casino situated at Purani Mandi was also fined for not following COVID-19 SoPs.

MHA seeks more...

extension from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Since, the home ministry could not frame rules within six months of the enactment of the CAA, it sought time for the committees -- first in June 2020 and then four more times.

The fifth extension came to an end on Monday.

"We have approached the parliamentary committees seeking more time. Hopefully, we will get the extension," a home ministry official told PTI.

The Central government has already made it clear that the Indian citizenship to the eligible beneficiaries of the CAA will be given only after rules under the legislation are notified.

The objective of the CAA is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities like Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Those from these communities who had come to India till December 31, 2014, facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants and given Indian citizenship.

After the CAA was passed by Parliament, widespread protests were witnessed in different parts of the country leading to deaths of nearly 100 people in police firing and related violence.

SC to set-up...

SSP by the central government's committee saying you are guilty...

Please hang me and my officers if we are guilty but please do not condemn us unheard, the state's law officer said, adding that an independent committee will be set up as he apprehended that the state officials will not get fair hearing before the Centre's panel.

The committee's inquiries were put on hold, where have these show cause notices come from, Patwaria asked and this led the apex court to express its displeasure.

The bench referred to the state government officials being issued show cause notices despite the panels being asked to hold their hands till January 10, and asked what purpose would remain for the court to intervene.

"Your show cause notice is totally self-contradictory. By constituting a committee you seek to enquire if there was a breach and then you hold state Chief Secretary and the DGP guilty. Who held them guilty... The state and the petitioner want a fair hearing and you cannot be against a fair hearing. So why this administrative and fact-finding enquiry by you at all, the bench asked.

The show-cause notices were issued before the order of the court, the Solicitor General replied, adding that the central government's panel may be allowed to inquire into the lapses, and a report would be submitted to the bench.

Moreover, the show cause notices were based on admitted non-compliance of statutory schemes, Mehta said and referred to various provisions of the 'blue book' relating to the SPG, the Prime Minister's security and the role of the local police.

The bench then said that both the committees should be permitted to continue with the inquiries.

"Asking them to reply within 24 hours, after our order...it is not expected of you," the bench said.

"To say it is not expected of you", is a bit harsh under the circumstances, Mehta said, adding that the Prime Minister's security is of paramount importance.

We are not undermining the importance of the security of the Prime Minister... We are taking up the matter with all seriousness. Please do not be under the impression that we are not giving the importance, the bench said.

There is a breach and the state too has admitted it, but the other issues are questions of facts and they have to be seen by independent persons, the bench said.

CRIME REPORT

Three drug peddlers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs from society, Police on Monday arrested 3 drug peddlers in Baramulla & Ganderbal and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Baramulla, a party of Police Station Pattiyan under the supervision of SDPO Pattiyan Nawaz Khanday at a checkpoint established at Jheel Bridge Hanjiwara, Pattiyan intercepted a suspect identified as Zahoor Ahmad Malla, resident of Kripalpora Payeen, Pattiyan. During checking, 110 gm Charas besides, cash amounting to Rs 5,780, believed to be proceeds from sale of narcotics, was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remained in custody.

Meanwhile in Ganderbal, a party from Police Post Nagbal at a checkpoint established at Bakura crossing intercepted 2 suspicious persons, who on seeing Police tried to escape from the spot but was chased and apprehended tactfully by cops. The accused were identified as Gh. Jaleena Bhat, son of Ab Rashid Bhat, resident of Bakura and Gh. Mohammad Wani, son of Asadullah Wani, resident of Ladhermar Chowk, Pulwama. During checking, officers recovered 150 gm Charas from their possession. They were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered in respective Police Stations and further investigation started.

Rs 5,300 fine realized from SoPs violators in Ramban & Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Ramban/Poonch: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across the districts Ramban and Poonch, the Enforcement teams on Monday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. In Ramban, enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 1,300 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs. 79,63,100. The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

Meanwhile, On the directions of SSP Poonch Rohit Baskotra, a team of Police led by DySP Headquarter Nawaz Choudhary along with Naib Tehsildar Haveli Maroof Khan visited different places in Poonch town, Main market and took strict action against COVID-19 norms violators. During the drive, Police fined 20 persons and imposed fine of Rs 200 per person for not wearing face masks at various public places.

4 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Samba: Police on Monday foiled an attempt to smuggle bovines by rescuing 4 bovines and seized vehicle involved in crime.

As per details, acting on an information received from reliable sources regarding illegal transportation of bovines from Nanak Chak area, a party of Police Post Supwal intercepted a Load-Carrier Auto near Choudhary Crusher, Nanak Chak Samba which was moving towards Srinagar.

During checking, 4 cattle were found laden inside vehicle without any permission which were rescued. However, driver managed to flee from the spot. The vehicle used for transportation of bovines was seized and FIR No. 07/2022 under section 188 IPC, 11 PCA Act was registered at Police Station Samba.

Suicide attempt averted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Kishtwar: Police on Monday saved a precious life of a woman by preventing her

If you want to take disciplinary action against the state officers then what remains for this court to do, the bench asked.

If the court felt that the show-cause notices pre-empted the final outcome, then inquiry proceedings may be put on hold till the Central committee inquires and give the report to the bench, Mehta said.

He referred in detail to the provisions of the "Blue Book" for PM's security and said that several breaches of the scheme of the rules are established such as the PM's convoy had proceeded on the road after taking clearance from the DGP and moreover, the warning vehicle did not warn about the blockade.

There was a complete failure of intelligence and violation of protocols, he said, adding, It has to be continuously communicated that there is a clear road and if there's a blockade, stop them 4 km away. Here the warning car of the state was travelling along with the cavalcade. There was complete intelligence failure." PTI SJK.

2 terrorists killed..

encounter after terrorists opened fire on the security forces.

A police spokesperson said the slain two terrorists belonged to proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter. They have been identified as Imad Muzaffar Wani resident of Arigam Pulwama and Abdul Rashid Thoker resident of Hissanpora.

As per police records, both the killed terrorists were categorized terrorists. They were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities. Besides, terrorist Imad Wani was involved in attack on police personnel Mushtaq Ahmad Wagay of Pulwama on December 19, 2021 in which he got seriously injured. While as, killed terrorist Abdul Rashid Thoker before joining terrorist ranks was working as terrorist associate and was also involved in attack on a civilian at Chitragram in which said civilian got injured.

Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

Regarding the incident, the spokesperson said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in PS Bijbehara, Anantnag and investigation has been initiated.

LG launches precaution...

in the fight against the global pandemic, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor was informed by the senior health officials that as per the directions, all necessary arrangements have been made for administering the precautionary dose to eligible population through walk-in and pre-registration mode.

Pertinently, on December 25, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a precautionary dose of vaccination for healthcare and frontline workers as well as those above the age of 60 years who have comorbidities.

The vaccination drive for the 15-18 year age group which was launched on January 03 this year is going on smoothly across the UT.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Choudhary Mohammad Yasin; Mission Director NHM; Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman, Director General, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization; Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal & Dean GMC & AHs, senior health officials were present on the occasion.

J&K Bank launches...

the scheme parameters, MD & CEO also directed the participants to work in close coordination with each other for effective implementation of the scheme. "Overall recoveries must continue alongside and gain momentum across our operational geographies to improve Bank's bottom-line as the financial year is closing in quite fast", he added.

Earlier, giving an overview of the NPA Scenario in the banking industry President, Syed Rais Maqbool dwelt upon the Bank's NPA position and explained the need for coming up with SOTS-2021. He said, "In view of the Bank's NPA position, SOTS-2021 has been devised to provide an enabling environment to the operative levels to effect recoveries", adding, "The scheme is valid for 30 working days for which the sanction or otherwise will be conveyed within 7 working days of the receipt of application with a maximum repayment period of six months."

"To encourage faster payments of OTS amount, 5% incentive on OTS amount will be given to those paying the amount within one month from the date of sanction as well as those paying within two months can avail 2% of the OTS amount as incentive", he said.

He expressed hope the operative levels will perceive it as an opportunity and will cover all the eligible borrowers under the scheme.

A detailed power-point presentation covering all the features of SOTS-2021 was made on the occasion. Notably, all the accounts classified as D3 and Loss Assets with an outstanding amount of more than Rs 15 lakhs and up to Rs 5 Crore as on September 30, 2021 shall be eligible. As per the terms and conditions of the scheme, other cases include the eligible ones pending before Courts / DRTs besides the cases wherein the Bank has issued notice under various sections of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI-2002).

India looking forward....

at 9:30 am, they said. "Indian side is looking forward to constructive dialogue to resolve the balance friction areas," a source said.

to commit suicide.

As per details, Atholi Police during Naka at Layee Padder on noticing a woman (name withheld) moving towards Chenab river to commit suicide, acted swiftly and rescued her in time, when she was about to jump into river. This timely action by Kishtwar Police led by SHO Atholi Insp Vikas Jasrotia and his team saved a precious life. An enquiry into the matter has been initiated and action as envisaged under law will follow accordingly.

Two gangs of vehicle-lifters busted; 2 arrested, 13 vehicles recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Bari Brahma/UDHAMPUR: Police on Monday busted two gangs of vehicle lifters by arresting 2 accused and recovering 13 vehicles.

As per details, a team from Police Station Bari-Brahama during investigation of a two-wheeler (scooty) theft case registered under FIR No. 245/2021 under section 379 of IPC at Police Station Bari-Brahama during 2021, detained a suspect



namely Shiv Dayal, son of Rajinder Kumar, resident of Teli Basti, Bari Brahma. On sustained interrogation, suspect confessed his involvement in theft. The stolen scooter without registration number was also recovered along with one more scooter Activa 5G stolen from some other place with Registration number PB08EH/2533. On further interrogation, the suspect revealed name of his associate who is involved with him in theft cases. Acting on information, police conducted raid at a house of one Shani Gujjar, resident of Kikri Morh, near Purmandal Morh and recovered 9 stolen motorcycles and an Alto car from his Kullah. However, accused Shani managed to escape before arrival of Police party. The recovered vehicles include Pulsar 220 (JK02BS/6178, Chassis No. MD2A13EZGCF33031, Engine No. BKZCGF49832); Super Splendor (Chassis No. MBLJA05EWG9K39113, Engine No. JA05EGHH9G3631); Pulsar 125 CC (bearing registration No. JK02CQ/5003, Chassis No. MD2B64BX2LRF11635, Engine No. BHXRLF68057); Discover 135 CC (bearing registration No. JK02AJ/4165, Chassis No. MD2DSJNZZPCF88154, Engine No. JNGBPE97461); Splendor plus (registration No. JK12B/8640, Chassis No. MBLHAW12MHE04265, Engine No. MA11EDMHE33106); Pulsar 150 (registration No. JK02AD/3495, Chassis No. MD2DHDJZZNCF44303, Engine No. DJGB-NF60651); Splendor (Chassis No. MBLHA10AME41M06035, Engine No. HA10EJE4M06896); Hero Honda Splendor plus (Chassis No. MBLHA10EZBHC15047, Engine No. HA10EFBHB15484); Apache 180 cc (registration No. JK12B/5980 Chassis No. MD634KE4X82G94495, Engine No. OE4GA2304805) and an Alto car (JK02N/5775). Further investigation is going on to ascertain their involvement in other theft cases. People of the area have appreciated the action of Samba Police.

The whole operation was carried out by a team of Police Station Bari-Brahama led by SHO Insp Rajesh Sharma, under the supervision of SDPO Bari-Brahama, Nihar Ranjan and overall supervision of SSP Bari-Brahama.

Meanwhile at Udhampur, based on a written complaint received from Neetu Nargotra, wife of Ajay Nargotra, resident of Barrian, a team of Police Station Bari-Brahama led by SHO Insp Rajesh Sharma, under the supervision of SDPO Bari-Brahama, Nihar Ranjan and overall supervision of SSP Bari-Brahama.

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Meanwhile, Reasi Police arrested another drug peddler and recovered heroin from his possession. A team from Police Station Reasi during surprise checking and frisking at Baradarai, after noticing some suspicious movement, chased and apprehended one notorious drug peddler Ganesh Kumar, son of Prabhu Dyal, resident of Bara Dari, Seela, Ward-4, Reasi and recovered 1.13 gm banned drug heroin from his possession. FIR No 02/2022 under sections 8, 21, 22 of NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Reasi. The accused was arrested and banned drug was seized for further investigation to unearth forward and backward linkages.

It is learnt that major focus of the talks will be on disengagement in the Hot Springs area. The Indian side is expected to press for disengagement as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points including resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok. The 13th round of talks had taken place on October 10, 2021 and they ended in a stalemate.

Both sides failed to make any headway in the talks with the Indian Army saying after the dialogue that the "constructive suggestions" made by it were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor it could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

In their virtual diplomatic talks on November 18, India and China agreed to hold the 14th round of military talks at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

H