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Cross border terror...

in the terror launch pads across the border.

"The combined intelligence inputs suggest 350 to 400 terrorists on the other side at the launch pads or in various training camps. This threat has in no way receded. We have to remain alert. A threat on the western front is very much there and cannot be ignored," he said.

On the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Gen Naravane said a 'whole of government' approach has led to progressive improvement in the security situation.

"Efforts to give an indigenous hue to terrorism, by setting up a facade of proxy terror Tanzeems, have failed miserably. Inimical elements, re-energised their attempts at disrupting peace in the valley by targeting minorities, and non-locals.

However, we have been able to counter these challenges," he said.

Asked whether demilitarisation on the Siachen glacier is possible, the Army chief suggested that it all depends on Pakistan.

"We are not averse to demilitarisation of Siachen glacier. But the precondition for that is to acceptance of the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL). Pakistan has to accept it," he said.

Gen Naravane said both sides have to sign on the dotted lines before any kind of disengagement takes place. Pakistan has been opposed to accepting the AGPL.

Asked about drones being used by terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir, he said it is a threat and armed forces are seized of the challenge.

He said the drones are being used primarily to transport ammunition and drugs.

"We are well seized of the issue...Union Home Ministry is very much alive and countering it," he said.

India, China hold...

Chinese team was to be headed by South Xinjiang Military District Chief Maj Gen Yang Lin.

The Indian side is expected to insist on 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 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.

The fresh talks are taking place days after India hit out at China for building a bridge across Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh and said it is in an area that has been under illegal occupation of that country for around 60 years.

Last week, India also described China's renaming of some places in Arunachal Pradesh as a "ridiculous exercise" to support "untenable territorial" claims, asserting that the state has always been and will always remain an "inalienable" part of India.

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 LAC in the sensitive sector.

PM's security breach...

and the Punjab government which set up two parallel inquiry panels to probe the security breach.

"On the previous date of hearing, it was also brought to our notice that the state of Punjab has constituted a committee to carry out a thorough probe into the lapses that occurred during the Firozepur visit of the hon'ble prime minister," it said.

The committee comprised a former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and principal secretary, Home Affairs and Justice, government of Punjab, it said.

It was urged on that since the lapses in the breach of security of the prime minister are being seriously attributed to the authorities of Punjab, the constitution of an enquiry committee by the state was nothing but an abortive attempt to become a judge in its own cause, it said.

The apex court also took note of rival submissions of the Punjab government that show cause notices have been issued by the panel, set up by the Centre, to various functionaries of the state government including its Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.

"The show cause notices required the officers to respond within 24 hours as to why disciplinary action under the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969 should not be initiated against them for their omissions and commissions," it noted while setting up the Justice Malhotra panel.

On January 5, Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Firozepur after which he returned from Punjab without attending any event, including a rally.

The top court's order has come on the plea of an organisation, Lawyers Voice, seeking a thorough investigation into the breach in Modi's security in Punjab to ensure there is no such incident in the future.

Over 60,000 acres...

of 'Kacharai' (grazing land) and 1314.11 kanal (164.2 acres) of common land has been retrieved from encroachers till date.

Bhatnagar directed the Revenue department to create a dashboard for continuous and effective monitoring of removal of encroachments on government land.

He asked the officers to devise a mechanism under which no retrieved patch of land is re-encroached and also advised them to prioritise the commercial chunks of land to be retrieved first followed by others.

The Advisor also enquired about the process of digitisation of land records, expunging of illegal entries, reconstructing the missing records afresh and progress of revenue courts, the spokesman said.

Bhatnagar called for a comprehensive report on all the cases pending in the courts besides the timeline showing progress registered, so far.

The spokesman said the meeting was informed that digitisation of land records for Srinagar and Jammu is in its final stage and slated to be completed in February.

CRIME REPORT

SRTC bus derails near Sudh Mahadev, narrow escape for passengers

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A bus of Jammu & Kashmir Transport Corporation (JKTC) went out of bridge near Sudh Mahadev Mandir in Udhampur district. The front tyre of bus went outside a bridge, located on Lahti-Chineni-Marg, making passengers to scream.

According to sources, there were more than 40 passengers in bus (JK02Y0704) which was heading towards Chenani from Lati. The incident occurred as bus went out of control due to a slippery road conditions.

Suspected drone activity spotted in Kanachak at city outskirts

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces launched a massive search operation after some drone activity was spotted in Kanachak belt near International Border (IB) in city outskirts on Wednesday. As per police officials, "Locals from village Dhab in Sandhwan area noticed some drone activity on Tuesday night and reported matter to authorities. Acting swiftly, joint teams of police and BSF carried out a search operation in area but found nothing. Searches were also carried out with the first light this morning.



The work on updation of 'Jamatbandi' in remaining districts is going to be completed in this month followed by digitisation of the same immediately in a decentralized manner, he said.

Regarding the settlement and digital survey of all 6,850 revenue villages, the spokesman said the draft survey manual has been prepared and the project management module is also under process.

The meeting also dealt in detail with the proposed roadmap for online services to get revenue extracts besides integration of mutation and registration system for real-time updation of revenue records without any extra encumbrance, he said.

With addition of about 127 slots a week in favour of each sub-registrar, the process of registration of properties has become quick and easy, the spokesman said.

He said around 60 percent increase in registration of properties through these offices has been made this year as compared to the previous year.

The registrations in 2021 were calculated at 65,626 in contrast to only 39,039 registrations made in 2020, the spokesman said.

J&K records 1,695...

tested positive for the virus. However, everyone is under quarantine as per protocol and reports of mild to no symptoms while being constantly monitored and supported by the medical unit. The IIT Jammu campus is currently under sanitisation, the statement added.

It said most of the students had left the campus for semester break in December. Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 41 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 22,727, while the number of active cases in the Union Territory has reached 406, officials said.

The Union Territory has recorded 222 coronavirus-related deaths -- 164 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

No death was reported from Ladakh on Tuesday, the officials said.

On the bright side, 32 more patients recovered from the infection and were discharged from hospitals in Ladakh, pushing the count of recoveries to 22,099, they said.

Thirty-three of the fresh COVID-19 cases were reported from Leh district and eight from Kargil district, they said.

A total of 372 sample reports in Ladakh tested negative for the infection in the last 24 hours, they said.

Leh accounts for 383 of the total number of active cases in Ladakh, while Kargil district has 23 such infections.

IIT Jammu will conduct all classes online and the staff and the faculty members will continue to work from home until further instructions. We are comforted to report that 100 percent of our community is vaccinated to fight the virus, it said.

Meanwhile, the Covid Task Force on Wednesday met here under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta and reviewed the public health response and various mitigation measures being put in place for effective containment and mitigation of the infection in Jammu and Kashmir.

Observing that Omicron is being perceived as less dangerous than the delta variant responsible for the second wave, the chief secretary appealed to the public to raise their guard and remain cautious and vigilant to the infection since it has a high rate of transmission and can infect a larger group of people over shorter periods.

JSCL inks pact...

to time as well as provide information about various agencies and commercial establishments regarding their business and promotional activities, the officials said.

In the imminent future, they said these standalone advertisement spaces could be scaled up to variable message displays (VMDs) also.

"These ad panels will not only disseminate information but also enhance revenue. The project is being executed by JSCL under Jammu Smart City Mission and after the completion, the project will be handed over to Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC)," Lavasa said.

She said the project will help JMC to improve municipal revenue, which will be utilised for the welfare of the public.

Several initiatives have already been taken under the aegis of JSCL to improve the urban experience of the population including tourists.

These include installation of wayfinding signages, establishing of WiFi zones, improving the drainage scenario in the city, improvement of junctions/rotaries, roads developments, and establishment of the heritage trail, among others.

Active COVID cases...

or migrated so far. Maharashtra recorded the maximum number of 1,281 cases followed by Rajasthan at 645, Delhi 546, Karnataka 479 and Kerala 350.

An increase of 1,33,873 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

Meanwhile, noting the "significant surge" in COVID-19 cases in the country, the Centre has written to all states and UTs urging them to direct departments concerned to ensure adequate buffer stock of medical oxygen for at least 48 hours and reinvigorate oxygen control rooms.

The Union Health Ministry said the emerging scenario calls for immediate measures by states and UTs to ensure optimal availability of medical oxygen at all health facilities.

In a letter to states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that private health facilities providing oxygen therapy services may be assessed and their medical oxygen infrastructure capacities need to be explored.

A possible strategy and mechanism to leverage the private sector in times of peak of demand can be explored, he advised.

Bhushan said all the health facilities should have adequate inventory of oxygen cylinders along with back-up stocks and robust refilling systems. It should also be ensured that these cylinders are filled and kept ready.

"All districts should ensure that oxygen concentrators supplied to them are fully functional. Their proper up keep and maintenance need to be ensured," he said.

Bhushan asked states and UTs to ensure optimal use of all oxygen delivery equipment and devices, and deployment of adequately trained HR at all facilities.

CS asks H&ME...

delta variant and as such requires ardent mitigation and containment measures from an early stage, preferably when the positivity rate breaks out the 10% benchmark.

Observing that Omicron is being perceived as less dangerous than the delta variant responsible for the second wave, the Chief Secretary appealed to the public to raise their guard and remain cautious and vigilant to the infection since it has a high rate of transmission and can infect a larger group of people over shorter periods. "It remains the social and moral responsibility of every citizen to be responsible for themselves and those around them; they must exercise due diligence against any symptom of infection in the interest of their family members as well as that of society.

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Electricity wires stolen from houses

As per details, locals of Trikuta Nagar police, on a tip-off laid a Naka in the area and intercepted a pedestrian. During search, 1.5 Kg Ganja was recovered from possession of accused, identified as Manoj Kumar, resident of UP. He was arrested and a case was registered against him.

As per details, locals of Trikuta Nagar lodged a complaint with police that thieves decamped with electricity wires from outside their houses. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

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