RNI No.: 66908/96 Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

COVID+ve mothers deliver

healthy babies at MCH Jammu

Army patrolling team attacked, Subedar injured

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

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Lohri virtually with glee

MEET WITH CMs: Modi stresses on localised measures to contain COVID



PM Narendra Modi meeting with CMs and LGs/Administrators of States/UTs to review Public Health Preparedness to contain COVID-19 through video conferencing in New Delhi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked chief ministers to ensure minimum damage to the livelihood of common people and economic activities as they work to contain the coronavirus. while noting that its Omicron variant is infecting people many times faster than earlier variants.

"We have to be alert, be careful. But we also have to ensure that there is no panic

situation. We have to see that in this festive season, the alertness of people and administration is not lowered anywhere," he told chief ministers at a virtual meeting to review public health preparedness and the ongoing vaccination programme.

In his remarks at the meeting, the prime minister underlined the importance of vaccination and the need to further accelerate the 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme to achieve 100 per cent vaccina-

Irrespective of the virus variant, vaccine remains the only proven way to tackle the pandemic, and made in India vaccines are proving their superiority all over the world, he said.

"In order to defeat coronavirus we need to keep our readiness ahead of every variant. Along with tackling Omicron, we need to start preparing for any future variant from now itself," he

dose of vaccines to about 92 per cent of its adult population while 70 per cent received both doses, he noted.

It has also vaccinated nearly three crore adolescents within 10 days and this shows India's potential and its preparedness to deal with this challenge, Modi said.

With any stringent lockdown affecting a large area likely to hit the economy hard, Modi asked chief ministers and heads of governments at various union territories to focus more on local containment and maintaining the momentum in the economy.

Some states have imposed fresh curbs to check the virus spread.

Modi stressed that states should be in a position to provide maximum treatment to infected population in home isolation. For this, home isolation guidelines should keep on improving and be

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K records 1,996 new **COVID** cases, 5 deaths

Rapid antigen tests mandatory for entering Kashmir hospitals Status of Surveillance of COVID-19 in J&K (UT)

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 1,966 fresh coronavirus cases, raising the tally to 3,50,167, while five fresh deaths pushed the toll to 4,552, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 889 were reported from the Jammu division and 1.077 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

Jammu district recorded the highest of 434 cases, followed by 416 cases in Srinagar district, they

There are 7,932 active Covid cases in the union territory

The number of recovered patients was 3,37,683, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic rose to 4,552 as five fresh deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, they said.

In a related development, uthorities in Kashmir have

Cumulative till 13 January 2022 (upto 5:00 PM) S. No Category J&K (UT) Persons kept under home quarantin (incl facilities operated by Govt.) Persons Kept in Isolation 7932 Surveillance Completed 5020816 Persons under home surveillance 433935 No of Test Results Available till date 20079630 No of samples tested Negative 19729663 No of samples tested positive 350167 No of tests reported in last 24 hrs No of Active Positive Cases 7931 Kashinir 7.1 Active Positive 4082 3850 7.2 Recovered & Discharged 124555 213128 7.3 Deaths 2213 2339 4552 130850 219317

directed the hospital administrations in the valley not to allow patients and attendants enter the medical facilities without taking a rapid antigen test for COVID-19 in view of the surge in the number of cases.

that no patient/attendant is allowed to enter the hospital premises unless & until rapid antigen test (RAT) is undertaken and masks are put on the face by them properly,

trative control.

the circular said. However, in case of dire emergencies, the need-based protocols should be followed. the Director Health Services

"Besides, they will ensure

ORTHOPAEDIC OPD Team Dr. Avtar Singl

+91-962296505

Kashmir said. According to officials, the passengers will be allowed entry to Srinagar Airport only three hours before their flight departure as part of the measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 infec-

The regulation of the entry of passengers comes in view of some of the passengers entering the airport seven to eight hours before the flight departure time which leads to an increase in the crowd at the aerodrome. Singh

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Ladakh Admn grants Rs 5L each to kins of 14 soldiers martyred in Galwan Valley

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Ladakh administration granted Rs 5 lakh each as ex-gratia to the kin of 14 soldiers who were killed in Operation Snow Leopard in Galwan Valley along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Union territory, officials said on Thursday. As many as 20 Army personnel were killed in the operation while fighting Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh on June 15.

According to four orders issued by the Home Department of Ladakh, kin of 14 soldiers who laid down their lives fighting Chinese aggression in Galwan Valley were given Rs five lakh each

Indian Army conducting workshop for field commanders on negotiation, communication skills

STATE TIMES NEWS

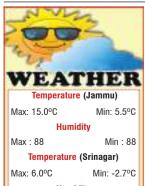
NEW DELHI: The Indian Army said on Thursday it was conducting a workshop for its field commanders on negotiation and communication skills so that they can deal with "dynamic and emerging challenges".

A delegation of the Indian Army officers is currently holding the 14th round of talks with its counterpart in the Chinese Army to resolve the border dispute in eastern Ladakh

The main focus of this round of talks is to carry forward the disengagement process at Hot Springs (Patrolling Point 15), military sources said

The Indian Army said on Thursday, Twitter on "Indian Army in its quest for excellence and professionalism, is conducting a workshop for Field Commanders in negotiation and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



as ex-gratia.

According to the order, the relief was given to Bikumalla Santhoshi wife of Col Santosh. Bikumalla Jageshwari Bai mother of Sepoy Ganesh Ram, Minu Kumari, wife of Sepoy Aman Kumar, Baby Devi, wife of Kundan Kumar, Mamta Orang, mother of Sepoy Rajesh Orang.

Ritee Devi, wife of Havildar Sunil Kumar, Kapra Hansda, mother of Ganesh Hansda, Sepoy Rumpa Roy, wife of Havaldar Bipul Roy, and Prakash Kaur, mother of Sepoy Gurtej Singh,

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: There was no

breakthrough in the 14th

round of talks between the

militaries of India and

China, and the two sides

agreed to maintain dia-

logue via military and

diplomatic channels to

work out a "mutually

acceptable resolution" of

The two sides said in a

ioint statement on

Thursday that they have

agreed that the next round of

border talks should be held at

Indian Army Chief General

M M Naravane had said on

Wednesday that India was

hopeful of resolving issues

the remaining issues.

the earliest.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 No breakthrough in India-China border talks

7 Pak terrorists among 14 killed in 8 ops in J&K during 12 days: DGP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Thursday said that 14 terrorists, including seven Pakistani nationals, have been killed in eight encounters in the union territory so far this year and asserted that anti-terrorist operations will be intensified to clear the region of terrorism.

The police chief paid tribute to police constable Rohit Chib who was killed during an encounter with terrorists in Kulgam district of south Kashmir on Wednesday. In the operation, Pakistan-ori-Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) terrorist Babar was

related to disengagement at

Patrolling Point 15 (Hot

Springs) in eastern Ladakh

The latest round of talks

took 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

in the 14th round of talks.



killed and five, including two civilians and three soldiers,

"This year, we have under-

were injured.

taken eight successful opera-

tions. As many as 14 terrorists have been killed in these operations. Among these 14 terrorists, seven Pakistani terrorists," Singh

NEET-UG counselling to begin from Jan 19

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said NEET-UG counselling will commence from January 19.

He extended his best wishes to students. "Dear students, coun-

selling for NEET-UG is being started by the MCC from January 19.

You all are the future of the country and I hope that all of you will give a new direction to your career with the mantra 'service is religion'. I extend my best wishes to all," Mandaviva tweeted.

Ultra killed in Kulgam hailed from Pakistan

SRINAGAR: The Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist killed in the encounter with security forces in Kulgam district has been identified as Babar Bhai of Pakistan who was active since 2018, police said on Thursday.

The encounter took place in Pariwan area of the south Kashmir district on Wednesday after the security forces launched a cordon and search operation following information about the presence of terrorists there.

Killed JeM #terrorist identified as Babar bhai of #Pakistan, active since 2018 in the areas of Shopian-Kulgam, Kashmir Zone Police said on Twitter. The police said an AK rifle, a pistol and two grenades were

recovered from the site of the encounter. A policeman was also martyred and five persons including

three soldiers injured in the encounter.

"One police personnel SgCt Rohit Chib attained #martyrdom, 03 Army soldiers got injured. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

told reporters.

The police chief further

said the terror modules ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

2 soldiers martyred in mysterious firing along LoC STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Two Army personnel were martyred in a mysterious firing incident along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Thursday, officials sources said. They said Army officials and police rushed to the

spot after the incident. A firing incident took place in the Hanjanwali area of Rajouri along the LoC in which two soldiers received injuries and later succumbed, the sources said.

They said investigation into the matter is on.

However, unconfirmed reports termed it a case of fratricide.

Arbitration can be set aside only if award is against public policy of India: SC

Health Services Kashmir, M

A Rather, asked all chief

medical officers, medical

superintendents, block med-

ical officers in the valley to

get COVID-19 SOPs/guide-

lines properly implemented

in all healthcare institutions

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: An arbitration award can be set aside only if the award is against the public policy of India, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said the award can be set aside under the Arbitration Act, if it is found to be contrary to the fundamental policy of Indian Law, interest of country, justice or morality or if it is

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Haryana

patently illegal.

Tourism Ltd against an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which



set aside a 2005 award passed by the arbitrator as well as the order passed by the Additional District Judge, Chandigarh.

Haryana Tourism Limited (HTL)had invited tenders/quotations for the

> supply of Aerated Cold Drinks at its Tourist Complexes and the tender submitted by Kandhari Beverages was accepted.

HTL later terminated the contract after dispute arose between the parties and the matter arbitrator.

was referred to the sole The arbitrator directed Kandhari Beverages to pay Rs 9.5 lakh while the counter

claim lodged by it

Total COVID-19 vaccine doses given in India crosses 155.28 crore

Ministry said.

More than 33,12,573 precaution doses have been administered so far to healthcare workers, frontline workers and those aged 60

age group so far.

Till 7 pm on Thursday, 63,92,572 vaccine doses were administered. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilathe day by late night.

The countrywide vaccinahealthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoculated in the first frontline workers (FLWs) started from February 2 last

19 vaccination commenced from March 1, 2021 for peospecified co-morbid condi-

aged more than 45 years ed to expand its drive by allowing everyone above

Vaccination for all people began from April 1, 2021. The government then decid-

venom at hate speech conclaves" across the country. He voiced concern over the "inflammatory and provocaspeeches" against Muslims at an event in Haridwar between December 17 and 19, 2021, and other such "hate speech conclaves"

of right-wing groups and said

'deplorable". "Recurring such open sedi-



tious and genocidal calls in the country are deeply disturbing," he said.

Censuring the government for allegedly turning a blind eye to the hate speeches, the NC president said the "criminal hush" in government circles raises a question that termed these speeches begs to be answered.

Abdullah said India being a signatory to the Convention

on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) under Article 3 C, which criminalises direct and public incitement to commit genocide, should act firmly against those who call for genocide of country's Muslims.

"These hate speech conclaves also fit a variety of crimes under Indian laws and are antagonistic to national integrity and peace. The prevailing blanket silence of the country's head and absence of any punitive action has emboldened such hate-ongers," he claimed.

Abdullah said he will be grateful if action is taken against those who have vio-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kashmir continues to reel under severe cold wave

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The intense cold wave conditions continued in Kashmir on Thursday as mercury settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, officials said here.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in Baramulla district, recorded a low of minus 11.0 degrees Celsius, marking the minimum temperature at or below minus 10 degrees Celsius for five consecutive nights, the officials said.

Pahalgam in Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

Srinagar, the summer capi-

tal of Jammu and Kashmir, also recorded sub zero temperature on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday as mercury settled at minus 2.7 degrees Celsius. officials

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius. The mercury at Kupwara

in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius The MeT office said the

weather is likely to stay largely dry over the next few Kashmir is currently under

the grip of the 40-day **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Max: 83 Min: 56

Sunset: 17:47 Hours

Sunrise: 07:34 Hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS tion of the final reports for NEW DELHI: The cumula-

tive COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 155.28 crore on Thursday with more than 63 lakh doses being given till 7 pm, the Union Health

and above with comorbidi-Also, 3,12,89,109 first doses have been given to beneficiaries in the 15-18 years

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: tion drive was rolled out on Conference (NC) president Farooq January 16 last year with Thursday expressed outrage over "incendiary remarks and phase. The vaccination of genocidal threats" being made against Muslims and other minority groups and demanded stern action The next phase of COVIDagainst those

ple over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

The 14th round of Corps Commander-level meeting was held on Wednesday at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the

> Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The joint statement said that the representatives from

Chinese side of the

the defence and foreign affairs establishments of the two sides were present at the talks.

There was a "frank and in-

depth" exchange of views for the resolution of the relevant issues related to the

Abdullah

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

National

"spewing

Farooq demands stern action against 'hate spreaders'