

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! MEET WITH CMs...

strictly followed, he added and noted that tele-medicine facilities will also help a great deal.

The way the central and state governments had adopted a pre-emptive, proactive and collective approach in previous waves, the same is the mantra of victory this time as well, the prime minister said.

"The more we can limit the corona infection, the less the problem will be," he added.

"The sooner we give precautionary dose to frontline workers and senior citizens, the stronger our healthcare system will become," he said.

Modi asserted that it is very important to safeguard the economy and the livelihood of common people while framing Covid containment strategies.

"There should be minimum damage to the livelihood of the common people, economic activities, and the momentum of the economy be maintained. It is very important to keep these things in mind while making any (containment) strategy," Modi said.

"So it would be better to focus more on local containment," he added.

Modi said 130 crore people of India will surely emerge victorious from the coronavirus pandemic with their collective efforts.

The doubts that were there earlier about Omicron are slowly getting cleared now, he noted.

The Omicron variant is infecting the general public many times faster than the earlier variants, he added.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister noted that India's battle with the pandemic of 100 years has now entered its third year. Hard work is our only path and victory is our only option. We, 130 crore people of India, will surely emerge victorious against Corona with our efforts , he said.

The sooner the precaution dose is given to the frontline workers and senior citizens, the more the capacity of our healthcare system will increase, he said, stressing the need to counter any misinformation about vaccines or the practice of wearing masks.

Modi lauded the states for using the Rs 23,000-crore package given to them to revamp the health infrastructure. Under this more than 800 paediatric units all over the country, 1.5 lakh new ICU and HDU beds, more than five thousand special ambulances, more than 950 liquid medical oxygen storage tank capacity have been added.

An official statement said chief ministers thanked Modi for his leadership during the successive waves of COVID-19, especially for his support and central funds for boosting health infrastructure in states.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai talked about the spread of cases in Bengaluru and measures taken to contain it, while his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee spoke of possible increase in cases in the state due to upcoming festivities and highlighted her administration's preparation to tackle it.

Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin said the state stands together with the Centre in the fight against the new wave, while Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren talked about misconceptions in some rural and tribal areas that have caused some difficulties in the vaccination programme.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath talked about steps being taken to ensure that no one is left out of the vaccination drive, while Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi thanked Modi for fund and infrastructure support, especially in meeting oxygen requirements, the statement said.

The meeting came on a day India logged 2,47,417 new infections, the highest in 236 days, taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,63,17,927, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also attended the meeting, with officials sharing the latest updates on the pandemic situation.

J&K records 1,996...

asked the passengers to cooperate with the security staff in maintaining the access control at the airport.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 122 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 22,649, while the active cases in the union territory have shot up to 502, officials said.

Twenty six patients were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the total number of recoveries to 22,125, they said.

Of the 122 fresh cases, 111 were reported from Leh district and 11 from Kargil

district, they said.

With these, the total number of active cases in Ladakh has gone up to 502 -- 468 in Leh and 34 in Kargil district.

Ladakh has recorded 222 Covid-related deaths -- 164 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic. No fresh case death was reported, they added. Another 1,029 sample reports in Ladakh were tested negative, the officials said.

7 Pak terrorists...

and their networks helping terrorists are also being eliminated.

"The elimination of these terrorists are going on at a fast pace. In these operations, seven terrorists who had come from Pakistan to engineer terror have been eliminated," he said.

He said people heaved a sigh of relief in 2021 as there have been largescale elimination of terrorists. "We will clear this land of terrorism so that people live in an environment of peace," he added.

After a wreath-laying ceremony, Chib's mortal remains were cremated at Jogi Ghat here.

The DGP appreciated his work in the special operation group (SoG). "He had volunteered to join SoG. He was recruited in 2011. He was doing excellent work. Three years ago, he got a special out-of-turn promotion one-rank above others," the DGP said.

Singh said Chib led from the front in the operation without caring about his personal safety, but was hit by a bullet.

Despite being injured, he played a big role in neutralising the top terrorist, the DGP said.

"Unfortunately he succumbed to his injuries.... We are proud of him for fighting bravely in the operation," he said.

Ultra killed in...

02 civilians also got minor injuries. 01 #terrorist of #terror outfit JeM killed. #Operation continues," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar, had said on Twitter.

An Army spokesman said the operation was launched based on HUMINT (human intelligence) about the presence of terrorists in the area and the security forces had to exercise maximum restraint since the area had civilians even as the terrorist opened fire and lobbed a grenade.

Suspect houses were cordoned as the security forces were carrying out house to house searches. At about 8.45 PM, while searching a house, a terrorist opened fire with AK and lobbed a grenade.

"Since the area and house had civilians, the security forces exercised restraint to first evacuate the civilians. In the process one JKP Constable was mortally wounded, three soldiers and two civilians were injured, the spokesman said.

He said the injured, including the civilians, were evacuated to Army's 92 base hospital here, including the evacuation of one of the civilians by an Army helicopter.

All the injured are stable, he added.

Ladakh Admn grants...

were given the remuneration.

Manju Devi, mother of Sepoy Jai Kishore Singh, Laxmi Mani Soren, wife of Naib Subedar Nuduram Soren, Malati Pradhan, mother of Sepoy Chandrakanta Pradhan, Dharma Devi, mother of Sepoy Chandan Kumar, and Rehka Singh, wife of Naik Deepak Singh, were also given the relief, the order issued by Additional Secretary (Home Department) Tashi Dolma said.

Arbitration can be...

claiming Rs 13.92 lakh was dismissed by the arbitrator.

Kandhari Beverages thereafter filed objection petition Additional District Judge, Chandigarh under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act against the award passed by the arbitrator.

The Additional District Judge dismissed the appeal/objection petition after which it filed further appeal before the high court under Section 37 of the Arbitration Act.

The high court allowed the said appeal by entering into the merits of the claim and has quashed and set aside the award passed by the arbitrator as well as the order passed by Additional District Judge, Chandigarh.

The apex court said the high court has exercised the jurisdiction not vested in it under Section 37 of the Arbitration Act. In view of the above and for the reasons stated above, the present appeal succeeds. The impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court is hereby quashed and set aside. The award passed by the arbitrator and the order passed by the Additional District Judge under Section 34

of the Arbitration Act overruling the objections are hereby restored, the bench said in January 11 order. An award can be set aside only if the award is against the public policy of India, it said.

No breakthrough in...

LAC in the western sector (Ladakh border), it said.

The two countries agreed that both of them should follow "the guidance provided by the state leaders" and work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest, according to the statement.

"It was noted that this would help in restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations," it mentioned.

The two countries also agreed to consolidate on the previous outcomes and take effective efforts to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector including during winter, it said.

"The two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest," it mentioned. The two sides agreed that the next round of the commanders' talks should be held at the earliest, the statement said.

Along with Hot Springs, India has been talking with China about a quick disengagement on all the remaining friction points including resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok. Last week, India 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 last year, India and China had 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 13th round of talks had taken place on October 10 last year and it had ended in a stalemate 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 eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

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.

Kashmir continues to...

harshes winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan', which began on December 21. It is a period when cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies as well as the water supply lines.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31, but the cold wave continues with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khur'd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Farooq demands stern...

Genocide Convention. "Urgent action is needed, otherwise it will embolden those who spread hatred, thereby vitiating the atmosphere. It will inevitably result in further alienation of the minorities which is not in the interest of India," he said.

The NC MP from Srinagar demanded that the groups and individuals "spewing hate" be taken to task. "It is high time that the government stops emboldening these hate-mongers with its inaction and establishes rule of law," he said.

Total COVID-19 vaccine...

18 to be vaccinated from May 1 last year.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from January 3 this year for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

India began administering precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers, frontline workers including personnel deployed for election duty and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10 amid the country witnessing a spike in coronavirus infections fuelled by Omicron variant of the virus.

Indian Army conducting...

communication skills to enable them to deal with dynamic and emerging challenges it faces everyday in the discharge of its multifaceted roles."

Active COVID cases in country highest in 216 days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India logged 2,47,417 new coronavirus infections, the highest in 236 days, taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,63,17,927 which includes 5,488 cases of the Omicron variant, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday. The country saw a single day jump of 620 cases of the Omicron variant, the highest so far, taking the total tally of such cases to 5,488, out

of which 2,162 people have recovered or migrated so far.

The active cases have increased to 11,17,531, the highest in 216 days, while the death toll has climbed to 4,85,035 with 380 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. Maharashtra recorded the maximum number of 1,367 cases of Omicron variant followed by Rajasthan at 792, Delhi 549, Kerala 486 and Karnataka 479.

The active cases comprise

3.08 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate decreased to 95.59 per cent, the ministry said.

A total 2,57,299 coronavirus infections were reported in a single day on May 21.

An increase of 1,62,212 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on

August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

Nomination of LA Mayor as US envoy to India cleared

■ AGENCY

WASHINGTON: A key Congressional panel has voted in favour of the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Eric M Garcetti to serve as the US Ambassador to India. US President Joe Biden nominated Garcetti as his ambassador to India in July last year. If confirmed by the Senate, Garcetti, 50, would replace Kenneth Juster, who served as the US Ambassador to India during the Trump administration. Juster was appointed as a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in July. Besides Garcetti, the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday endorsed 11 other ambassadorial nominations, including Amy Gutmann to be the US Ambassador to Germany, Donald Armin Blome to be the Ambassador to Pakistan and Joe Donnelly to be the envoy to the Holy See.

Entry time for passengers restricted at Srinagar airport amid COVID surge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: 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 infection, officials said on Thursday.

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.

Passengers are requested to please come to the airport only up to three hours before flight departure time, Director, Airport Authority of India (AAI), Srinagar airport, Kuldeep Singh said

here.

He said the entry to the airport shall be given only up to three hours before flight from Thursday.

The time of entry to the airport is maximum three hours before flight departure. This is necessary to control the congestion at the airport because we want to reduce the chance of infection, he said. Singh asked the passengers to cooperate with the security staff in maintaining the access control at the airport. The director said some passengers were entering the airport seven to eight hours before the time of their flight which increases the crowd at the airport and also increases the risk of infection.

Covid disease is spreading

very fast. The infection is more in crowded areas. All our passengers are requested to please maintain social distance at the airport and also wear mask at all times. We follow the rule of 'No Mask No Entry'. There is a fine of Rs 500 if any passengers remove their mask, he said.

Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday witnessed a 50 per cent jump in daily Covid cases as the union territory recorded 1,695 fresh cases of coronavirus.

Out of the fresh cases, 812 were from the Jammu division and 883 from the Kashmir division of the union territory. Jammu district recorded the highest of 438 cases followed by 320 cases in Srinagar district.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Taking on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra over the alleged rape of a mentally challenged minor girl in Congress-ruled Rajasthan, the BJP on Thursday

said the incident exposes the hypocrisy of the opposition party which talks about women empowerment in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

A ghastly crime of the rape of a differently abled minor girl has been reported from Alwar but perpetrators of the crime have not been arrested by the state government, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said.

While the Congress was busy celebrating Priyanka Gandhi's birthday, girls in Rajasthan were seeking justice for the ghastly crime, he told reporters.

A mentally-challenged minor girl, found

in a distressed state with injuries in private parts in Alwar, was operated on at a hospital in Jaipur on Wednesday, the Congress leader's birthday.

"On the one hand, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Uttar Pradesh says 'ladki hun lad sakti hun' (I am a girl and I can fight) but, on the other, girls in her party-ruled Rajasthan are expressing their anger by saying 'ladki Hun, tum par bhadki hun' (I am a girl and furious with you)", Bhatia said.

The BJP, its spokesperson said, is playing the active role of an opposition in the state and has been seeking justice for the girl.

Stating that there is "widespread outrage" amongst people in the state against this crime, Bhatia said it exposes the hypocrisy of the Congress".

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sought a report from the director general of police on the Alwar incident and asked for a thorough investigation, official sources told PTI.

The girl, about 14 years old, had been missing from her house for several hours before she was spotted lying on a road near Tijara Fatak at around 9 pm on Tuesday.

She was bleeding and was admitted to the district hospital from where she was referred to the JK Lone hospital in Jaipur. The injury was deep and it took nearly two-and-half hours to operate, hospital superintendent Arvind Shukla said.

Prima facie it appears to be a case of rape but anything conclusive can be said only after the report of medical jurist, police said.



Three theft cases worked out, 3 nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/ SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday worked out three theft cases by arresting three accused and recovering stolen property.

As per details, SSP Rajouri Mohammad Aslam said that FIR 07/2022 under sections 457, 380 IPC was registered at Police Station Rajouri on January 5, 2022 after theft at place in which accused decamped with some valuables. SSP added that during investigation of case, police team headed by SHO Rajouri Fareed Ahmed, name of a suspect came to fore who was detained for questioning. The accused identified as Mohammad Showkat, son of Mir Mohammad, resident of Khari Karmara Poonch confessed his crime during questioning. The stolen property, including one inverter battery, one 10 KVA stabilizer, one has cylinder, two inverters, four electric heaters, two polar heaters, two thermos, one water collar, two Trey, three bowls, six tea cups, eight saucers, one spoon, six glasses, four switch boards, seven curtains, one curtain pipe, two towels, electric wire etc were recovered from rented accommodation of accused in Chowkian Palma village.

Meanwhile, Rajouri police solved another case of theft within six days recovering Rs 1,54,000 stolen money from the possession of accused. Senior Superintendent of Police Rajouri, Mohammad Aslam said that FIR 10/2022 under sections 457/380 of IPC was registered at Police Station Rajouri after an incident of theft took place in a bar /wine shop located at Jawahar Nagar on intervening night of January 6-7. A team headed by SHO Rajouri, Fareed Ahmed started investigation and zeroed-in on some suspects during which a suspect namely Zaheer Abbas alias Billa, son of Mohammad Latief, resident of Dagani Nowshera confessed his crime during questioning. The accused is involved in several other cases of thefts.

Budgam Police also solved a theft case within 24 hours by arresting the accused and recovered stolen property worth lakhs of rupees. Police Station Budgam received a complaint from one Mohammad Hussain Malla, resident of Paller Budgam wherein he stated that gold ornaments worth Rs 1.5 lakh were stolen by some unknown person/persons from his house. Accordingly, FIR number 12/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation started.

During course of investigation, many suspects were called for questioning and during questioning one of suspects namely Ajaz Ahmed Rather, son of Showkat Ahmad Rather, resident of Dangerpora Sumbal Bandipora confessed his involvement in crime. On his disclosure, stolen property including 4 gold rings & 10 ear-rings were recovered. He was arrested and shifted to police station where he remained in custody.

Rs 29,600 fine recovered from SoPs violators

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocol across district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Thursday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance.

The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 29,600 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 80,24,100. The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

Man found hanging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: A man was found hanging in his house in Jagti, Nagrota on Thursday.

As per details, locals informed the police that a quarter is locked for the last many days due to which become suspicious Acting on complaint, police entered the quarter and saw a man hanging with ceiling. The body was shifted to morgue for autopsy and was identified as Ashok Kumar, son of Kashi Nath, resident of Jagti. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Man booked for raping 16-yr-old daughter, getting her pregnant

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was booked for raping his daughter in Gangval area on Thursday.

As per details, a woman from Bihar presently staying in Gangval area lodged a complaint with police that her husband has raped her 16-year old daughter and now she is pregnant. Acting on complaint, police took statement of victim in which she accused her father of the crime. Police has registered a case against accused and started investigation.

Army patrolling team attacked, Subedar injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARI BRAHMANA: An army patrolling team was attacked with stones by unknown men in Bari Brahmana area, due to which a Subedar got injured. As per details, army lodged a complaint with police that one of their teams was carrying out patrolling in Babol Nallah where some unknown men attacked them with stones and also snatched phone from the Subedar. In attack, Subedar Rajpal Singh got injured and was shifted to hospital for treatment. On receiving complaint, police has registered a case and launched manhunt to nab accused persons, which are likely from Kathua and Pathankote.

Father-son booked for fraud

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A father-son duo was booked for fraud in Bakshi Nagar on Thursday.

As per details, a man lodged a complaint with police that a father-son duo took money from him for a work which was not done by them and now they are not returning back the money. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

