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### 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 large-scale 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 is hereby set aside.

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.

### 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...

harshest 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-Khurd' (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...

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### 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

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lowed by Rajasthan at 792,

Delhi 549, Kerala 486 and

Karnataka 479.

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 fatali-

ties, the data updated at 8 am

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lowed by Rajasthan at 792,

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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