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Deepak Gupta told reporters here.

However, he said the federation would ensure regular supplies while working for five days from Monday to Friday.

We have taken this decision in the best interest of public safety. We will make it sure that the supply chain is not affected, Gupta said.

He said like in the past two waves of COVID-19, the federation has activated the three war rooms for supply of oxygen, ration and medicines and anyone in need of the these items should contact the concerned for the same.

According to reports from Leh, Ladakh has reported 164 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the total number of cases in the union territory to 23,700, officials said.

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

There was no death reported from the union territory on Tuesday, they said, adding that active cases rose to 965.

A total of 43 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh. The total number of cured patients is 22,513, they said.

Of the total 164 fresh cases from Union territory, 118 such cases were reported from Leh district and 46 from Kargil district, they said.

A total of 672 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said.

Modi to virtually...

year too like 2021, there will be no foreign head of state or government as the chief guest for the Republic Day event in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cases.

The first India-Central Asia Summit, the MEA said, is a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's "extended neighbourhood".

Modi paid a visit to all Central Asian countries in 2015. Subsequently, there have been exchanges at high-levels at bilateral and multilateral forums.

During this summit, the leaders are expected to discuss steps to take forward India-Central Asia relations to newer heights, the MEA said.

They are also expected to exchange views on regional and international issues of interest, especially the evolving regional security situation.

The summit is symbolic of the importance attached by the leaders of India and the Central Asian countries to a comprehensive and enduring India-Central Asia partnership, the statement said.

The inception of the India-Central Asia Dialogue at Foreign Ministers' level, the third meeting of which was held in New Delhi from December 18-20, 2021, has provided an impetus to India-Central Asia relations, the MEA said.

The participation of the secretaries of National Security Councils of Central Asian countries in the Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan held in New Delhi on November 10, 2021 outlined a common regional approach on Afghanistan, it said.

DGCA extends suspension...

international passenger flights from December 15, 2021.

Just a day later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the Civil Aviation Ministry and the DGCA to review its decision in wake of the rising concerns of the COVID-19 variant Omicron.

On December 1, 2021, the DGCA revoked its November 26 decision without saying how long the suspension of scheduled international flights continue.

J&K achieves milestone...

on coverage of all unvaccinated cases across the UT by ensuring Door-to-Door vaccination which substantially boosted vaccination numbers in the region.

As on date, besides achieving 100% double dose coverage of the citizens in the 18 years & above group, the UT administration has achieved 57% coverage of 1st dose in the 15-17 age group, besides administering 1,02,020 precaution doses.

MHA classifies J&K...

by MHA, Delhi, Chandigarh, Goa, Puducherry, Darda Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu are regular areas while Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been classified as hard areas.

Channi should quit...

the state that the Congress government has been patronizing liquor and sand mafias in Punjab. The chief minister should own moral responsibility of the case and resign from his post, Chugh demanded.

CRIME REPORT**Four drug peddlers held with over 4.7 Kg Charas****STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: Four drug peddlers were arrested with 4.7 Kg Charas and 4 gm heroin, worth over Rs 15.50 lakh in Reasi district, police said on Wednesday.

Steering ahead wheel of special initiative 'Ek Yudh, Nashe Ke Virudh', Reasi Police arrested four drug peddlers and recovered 4.77 Kg Charas worth Rs 15,00,000 & Chitta (Heroin) worth Rs 50,000 from their possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Katra during surprise raids, checking & frisking at different places, Naka Police check Post Nomain stopped a swift car (JK14 C-3967) coming from Jammu towards Katra, conducted thorough checking & frisking of vehicle & persons onboard and recovered 4.44 Kg Charas like substance and 4 gm Heroin (Chitta) from possession of two drug peddlers traveling in vehicle. The accused was identified as Amjad Khan, son of Sadiq Hussain and Mohd Ashraf alias Shongu, son of Babu, both residents of village Chamba, Tehsil Katra, district Reasi. Duo was arrested and FIR no. 10/2022 under sections 8, 20, 21, 22, 25 of NDPS Act Police Station Katra was registered against them. The vehicle was seized and both accused were arrested. Further investigations are going on to unearth forward and backward linkages of peddlers.

In Mahore area a special surprise Naka was laid at Malai Nallah by police party of Police Station Mahore. During checking of vehicles, police party noticed suspicious movement and intercepted two persons namely Sunil Kumar, son of Bansi Lal, resident of Sungal Tehsil Akhnoor and Sandeep Singh, son of Onkar Singh, resident of Majalta Teh Majalta, district Udhampur, who were on the way towards Mahore. During search, 12 Challis of Charas like substance weighing about 430 gm worth Rs 1,50,000 were recovered from their possession. Duo was arrested and FIR No 04/2022 under sections 8, 20 of NDPS Act was registered against them at Police Station Mahore. Reasi police has lodged four FIRs in a row with recoveries worth Rs 49.5 lakh including Rs 14.35 lakh as cash proceeds of crime.

Shailender Singh, SSP Reasi shared that under the drive Reasi Police achieved a major success and crossed mark of 254 arrests with registration of 208 FIRs of drug abuse since ending March 2021.

Singh, who is monitoring & reviewing each case every alternate day registered under NDPS Act, conveyed that police need quality investigations to improve conviction rates and bring accused to justice.



"Good work of SDPOs is being appreciated & team members are being rewarded frequently whereas weaknesses are also pointed out. Teamwork is bringing good noticeable results," he added. SSP expressed that drug addiction is a disease which is spoiling our future generations and to eradicate the menace from society we need support from all sections. People should come out to strengthen anti-Narcotics drive of Reasi Police. Efforts are also being put forth to rope in parents, families & friends of addicts in war against drugs abuse, he maintained.

17 bovines rescued; 3 smugglers arrested**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA/RAMBAN: Police on Wednesday foiled attempts to smuggle bovines by arresting 3 smugglers and rescued 17 bovines. As per details, a party from Police Post Mansar while performing vehicle checking duty at Naka Mansar, signaled a load-carrier auto (JK14H/4118) to stop. On seeing police, the driver accelerated the speed of vehicle and crossed Naka point, but was chased by alert cops and apprehended successfully after a few metres. During checking of vehicle, 3 cattle were found laden inside it, which were rescued. The accused identified as Gopal Sharma, son of Premu, resident of Jandrol, Ramban; District Udhampur was arrested and FIR No. 11/2022 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was registered against him at Police Station Samba.

Meanwhile, during intervening night of January 18-19, acting on specific inputs of transportation of bovines, a party from Police Station Batote at Nashri Naka intercepted a Truck (JK02AC8569). The driver was identified as Ranee Singh, son of Harneek Singh, resident of Ward No. 4, R S Pura, Jammu. During checking of vehicle, it was found laden with 12 bovines, which were rescued. The accused was arrested and FIR No 06/2022 under sections 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was registered against him at Police Station Batote.

In another similar incident, during routine checking at Naka Nashri, police party intercepted a load carrier (JK19 4928) driven by one Shakeel Ahmed, son of Gulzar Ahmed, resident of Takiya, Tethar, Ramban. During checking of vehicle, it was found laden with two bovines which were rescued.

The accused was arrested and FIR No 07/2022 under section 188 of IPC, 11 of PCA Act was registered against him in Police Station Batote. The overall arrests and rescue operation was conducted by police parties under command of Insp Ajeeb Singh SHO Batote, under supervision of Pardeep Singh Sen, DySP Hqrs Ramban with overall supervision of SSP Ramban, Mohita Sharma.

Narco-smuggler arrested with heroin**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Wednesday recovering 8.5 gm heroin from a narco smuggler.

As per details, a team of Police Post Pounichak led by Incharge Police Post Pounichak PSI Nitish Khajuria and ASI Dalip Singh, while on patrolling duty at Colonel colony area, rounded up a suspect who turned suspicious on seeing police, later identified as Satyam Bhagat, son of Pramod Kumar, resident of Colonel Colony Talab Tillo, Jammu.

On search, 8.5 gm heroin was recovered from his possession. The accused was arrested and FIR No 28 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Domana.

The arrest and recoveries were made under supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh.

Ladakh Admn sets...

AN-32 Kargil courier service have been made available online, a senior official told PTI.

This facility has been introduced for the convenience of the passengers so that they can book their tickets, from the comfort of their homes, keeping in view the Covid situation, he said.

The passengers can log on to the website <http://heliservice.ladakh.gov.in/airforce-plane-booking>

The first flight has been planned on Thursday for the sector Kargil-Jammu-Kargil, subject to fair weather, officials said.

Initially, on a trial basis, booking is available for January 20, and subsequently the other flights will also be available, they said.

The land of high passes, Ladakh is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and culture. It is the highest plateau of the sub continent and is famous for its scenic beauty.

"You will face the cold desert climate, especially from October-March. In winters, temperatures are extreme in Leh, dipping below freezing point. It remains closed for more than seven months, officials said.

During winters, roads in the entire region remain cut off from rest of the country. Winters in Ladakh are very harsh and temperatures can plummet to -30 degree Celsius at night, they said.

Our aim is to meet air connectivity requirements to promote tourism for economic development and employment generation, rescue and medical evacuation purpose, they added.

JSCL inks pact...

The officials said the project also comprises bank protection of River Tawi with broad salient features of construction of diaphragm walls, lower promenade, retaining wall, embankment construction.

JSCL is focused on improving the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology to create smart outcomes for citizens, they said.

The main components of the Jammu Smart City Projects are city beautification, solid waste management, IT-enabled infrastructure, road and park improvement, disaster and emergency management, and civic infrastructure development.

Al-Qaida's links...

our approach towards terrorism.

The September 11 attacks highlighted that the threat of terrorism is grave and universal and can only be defeated by the collective efforts of all UN member states, he said.

Tirumurti also said that terrorism in one place can directly impact peace and security in another.

Consequently, the era of classifying terrorists as your terrorist and my terrorist was over. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is to be condemned and there cannot be any exception or justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivations behind such acts, and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, he said, adding that the menace of terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group.

Tirumurti underlined that the global fight against terrorism is as strong as the weakest link in the global chain of member states, and the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee plays a very important role in identifying such weak links and strengthening them, including by facilitating necessary capacity building.

India on Tuesday also termed as dangerous the tendency of several UN members, driven by their political, religious, and other motivations, to label terrorism into categories such as racially motivated violent extremism and right-wing extremism, saying this will take the world back to the pre-9/11 era of labeling them as your terrorists and my terrorists.

Rains in Jammu...

Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on December 21 last year.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum 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 even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Frame clear-cut...

they have been in the recent past. Along with a clear-cut policy, a greatly improved security environment would be essential precursors to facilitate a return. We hope & pray that day is not far," Omar tweeted.

Aggressive COVID testing continue across Rajouri 5,436 samples collected; Rs 39,240 fine recovered from SoPs violators**STATE TIMES NEWS****RAJOURI:**

Continuing aggressive testing drive to avert the third COVID wave in the district, the Health Department Rajouri on Wednesday collected 5436 samples for testing here across the district.

People are also being motivated to get themselves tested for COVID if they feel any symptoms of coronavirus infection.

As many as 5436 samples were collected today from different health blocks of the

district out of which 85 tested positive. A fine amounting to Rs 39240 was imposed on 398 SOP violators. The entry points to the district have been plugged in and all the outsiders and International travellers are being tested before entering the district.

Special Joint COVID Control and Surveillance teams have also been constituted to strictly implement the COVID protocols.

unit, it was decided that the

DSHO and GM DIC would work in coordination to check the feasibility for the establishment of the said unit in the district.

The DDC also took a comprehensive review of the other schemes and programs being implemented by the department in the district.

He also asked the concerned officer to generate mass awareness among the public about their schemes and motivate them to avail the benefits of the same so that socio-economic conditions of the communities particularly farmers, nomads associated with livestock rearing would be improved.

STATE TIMES NEWS**RAJOURI:**

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on

Wednesday chaired a meeting of the concerned officers to review the functioning of the Sheep Husbandry Department.

Officers present in the meeting included CPO, Mohammad Khurshid and District Sheep Husbandry Officer (Dy Director) Rajouri, Dr Sarfraz Naseem Chowdhury.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed stock of

different schemes being implemented by the department in the district wherein the DSHO apprised the chair

about the same.

Taking stock of the intensive sheep development scheme (ISDS), the meeting was apprised that it aims to promote sheep and goat rearing by setting up rearing units to fulfill the mutton demand and supply which in turn helps to boost the employment opportunities and income of the farmers.

While reviewing the progress made under Tribal Sub plan, it was informed that 120 rearing units of sheep and goat were approved out of which 106 units have been established as of now.

Regarding the establishment of a wool processing

Kashmiri Pandit Sabha observes 'Holocaust Day'**STATE TIMES NEWS****JAMMU:**

To commemorate sad and unfortunate exodus of Kashmiri Pandit community from Kashmir on January 19, 1990, a zoom meeting was held by the Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) on 'Holocaust Day'. During the meeting, KPS members expressed utter disappointment over the fact that despite passage of 32 years, there is no light visible at the end of tunnel as all successive Governments failed to resettle beleaguered Kashmiri Pandits back in Kashmir. The members

recalled the unfortunate and ugly events of 1990, when community had to flee from their homes and hearths due to threat held out by terrorists and Pakistan sponsored Jihadis, who also embarked

Kashmiri Pandits back in Kashmir. The members