

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! LG launches COVID...

of Covid vaccine to the 15-18 age group. A robust action plan has been prepared for the vaccination drive starting from today, an official spokesperson said.

The COVID-19 vaccination drive for the children in the 15-18 years age group will be carried out across the Union Territory. Online and walk-in registration, besides other required facilities are made at the vaccination centres.

School Education Department has also been asked to encourage the children to get vaccinated.

Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor JMC; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; senior health officials and students in large number were present during the launch of the vaccination drive.

Later in a tweet, the Lt Governor said, "COVID-19 vaccination starts for children aged 15-18 years in J&K. My humble request to the young friends to get vaccinated. Vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic."

The teenagers, who have turned up to get the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine, were excited and expressed a hope to get back to their schools soon.

"I was waiting for the day to get my dose of the vaccine as the pandemic forced us to stay back at our homes most of the time over the past nearly two years. We want to get back to the school as soon as possible," Harmanjot Singh, a student of Class 11 of a private school, said.

On December 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the inclusion of the 15 to 18 age group in the nationwide Covid immunisation programme from January 3.

Eligible teenagers will be administered Covaxin as it is the only vaccine with Emergency Use Listing (EUL) for the 15-18 age group, and it is also recommended by the 'COVID-19 Working Group' of the National Technical Advisory Group on immunisation.

The children taking the vaccine were kept under observation for 30 minutes and would be given the second dose after 28 days.

Parents accompanying their children also expressed satisfaction over the drive and possible resumption of offline classes.

2021 saw much...

the political spectrum of Kashmir, have nearly disappeared from the horizon and civil administration does not approve any requests for large assembly while heavy deployment of police and paramilitary troops ensure that no spontaneous demonstrations break out.

Political observers feel that the large-scale use of UAPA and Public Safety Act against dissenters has led to calm, which might be temporary in the long run.

The assessment has been proven right as Kashmir's police chief IGP Vijay Kumar listed managing the funeral of veteran separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani as one of the major achievements in the year-end media briefing.

The administration headed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha seemed to have got the grip of the situation in the union territory as it successfully managed the fall out of the death of Geelani in September.

Given the popularity of the separatist leader, Geelani's death was expected to bring his followers out on the streets. It might have very well happened but the authorities sealed off some roads for few days and snapped internet services for about a week to ensure it did not happen.

With armies of India and Pakistan agreeing to a ceasefire long the Line of Control (LoC) in February, the guns along the border areas fell silent. As security forces eliminated most of the top leadership of the militants in Kashmir, many would have believed that the situation was almost peaceful in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, things took a dramatic turn in October as the ultras started targeting unarmed civilians including those belonging to minorities.

Nearly a dozen persons were killed by the militants, the security forces upped their operations but in the process questions were raised on the genuineness of the encounters.

One such encounter -- that took place at Hyderpora in November -- drew national and international attention after it came to light that at least two of the three locals killed in the operation were not linked to militancy.

For the first time since abrogation of Article 370, the police were forced to return the bodies of slain men they had dubbed as underground workers of terrorists. In the wake of Covid outbreak, the police started burying the bodies of militants in remote areas of north Kashmir with only close relatives of the deceased allowed to take part in the final rites.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah finally visited Jammu and Kashmir -- more than two years after the repeal of Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and reorganising of the erstwhile state into two union territories.

Shah's visit came in the backdrop of rising civilian killings by militants who hit back at soft targets after suffering major setbacks at the hands of security forces earlier in the year.

The home minister's visit was high on symbolism as he addressed several constituencies during his extended four-day visit to the union territory.

His visit to the residence of a slain Muslim police officer, followed by a meeting with the families of those cops, political workers and ordinary civilians who fell to the bullets of the militants during year was a clear message to the nationalist forces that the government will not let them down even after they are gone.

Shah sought to boost the morale of paramilitary forces as he spent one night each in a BSF camp (in Jammu) and a CRPF camp (in Pulwama area of Kashmir). He also paid tributes to the 40 CRPF jawans who were killed in the suicide bomb attack at Lethpora in Pulwama district in 2019.

While Shah's visit was aimed at reviewing the security situation and plugging the loopholes, the political class back home feel the graph of the security situation was going downwards.

After over two years of curbs, the political activity seemed to pick up towards the last quarter of the year with mainstream political parties like National Conference, People's Conference and new-entrant Apni Party holding rallies and workers' conventions across the union territory.

While PDP also did the same in Jammu region, it failed to get permission from authorities most of the time when it tried to hold similar events in the valley.

The politicians believe that the easing of curbs on political activity was due to the government's realisation that it cannot hold down dissent by force too long.

"It was due to the farmers' agitation that the government has relented a bit but the activity is still nowhere near it should be in a vibrant democracy," veteran communist leader M Y Tarigami said.

National Conference spokesman Imran Nabi Dar added that the results of District Development Council elections were also in part responsible for the lifting of curbs.

"There was a general realisation following the DDC elections that they cannot put down dissent by force for too long. People will speak whenever they are given a chance," Dar said.

He said dissent was an important part of democracy "but it has been criminalised in Jammu and Kashmir".

Both the political leaders felt that 2021 was disappointing but they were hopeful for the coming year.

"This year was full of disappointments as none of the expectations were fulfilled. The expectations were raised by the assurances given by the Prime Minister during the all party meeting in Delhi. Contrary to bridging the gaps, the gulf is widening at all levels," Tarigami said.

The Communist leader said while the Prime Minister accepted that there are distances between Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, there have been no conciliatory steps.

"Look at what is happening in villages and the city as well. Distances have increased and hearts have broken due to the widening gap. Instead of reaching out, the beaten tracks are followed. Harsh laws are used to silence the society including media," he added.

Dar said the gravity of the situation can be gauged from the fact the dissenting works of local media are disappearing from their archives.

They might be disappointed with 2021 but the political class of Jammu and Kashmir is hopeful of a better year ahead. It is evident from the second rung leaders changing parties and other events which usually take place before an election.

J&K records 176...

recorded a maximum of 57 cases followed by 46 cases in Jammu district.

There are 1,498 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,35,774, the officials said.

The death toll in the Union Territory due to the disease was 4,530 as no fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as one fresh case was reported since Sunday evening.

Intruder killed in....

recovered a huge consignment of weapons and narcotics in two separate incidents along the International Border (IB) in the Union Territory's Samba district.

The alertness of troops deployed on the border led to the seizure amid heightened terrorist activity on the Pakistani side, Boora said, adding that Pakistan continues



Arms, ammunition and drugs recovered by BSF troops along IB in Arnia sector.

and the seizure included three AK rifles along with five magazines, four pistols along with seven magazines, five packets of heroin and some assorted ammunition.

The sack was noticed during patrolling and it had the markings of "Fauji Fertilizers Company Limited" of Pakistan, the officials said.

This is the first major seizure along the IB in 2022. The troops who were on patrol seized the bag which had Pakistani marking, leading to the seizure of arms, ammunition and narcotics, Boora told reporters at Chamliyal as the force displayed the seized material.

The force had got inputs that taking advantage of foggy conditions, infiltration as well as smuggling of arms and ammunition could take place, he said.

Accordingly all formations along the IB were put on alert, Boora said.

Commanders and troops were keeping a constant vigil. Around 15 days or so, we started getting inputs they made two attempts and both of them were thwarted by alert troops, the BSF officer said.

Congratulating personnel for the two successful operations, Boora said when an intruder was shot dead in Ramgarh sector, the arms smugglers abandoned the bag and fled back.

Republic Day is coming and there is heightened activity (on the launch pads) across the border. After getting the inputs, we strengthened deployment of troops, surveillance systems and other equipment so that the militants are not successful in their plans, he said.

Asked whether the arms consignment was to disrupt Republic Day celebrations, the IG BSF said it was not difficult to guess as in the past as well attempts were made to push infiltrators and smuggle arms to disturb important occasions like Republic Day, Independence Day.

Our analysis is that it (the attempt to smuggle weapons) was in that direction, he said.

Boora said it was not possible to put out a specific number of terrorists waiting across the border to infiltrate into India.

We had inputs about three to four groups at different places that were planning to infiltrate taking advantage of foggy conditions. We had made the deployments after taking all aspects into account, he said.

Boora assured that any attempts from across the border would be successfully deterred and both the incidents highlight the alertness of troops.

On the renewed ceasefire between India and Pakistan that came into effect along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir in February last year, he said the ceasefire is holding well as there is no firing from either side.

However, he said ceasefire or no ceasefire, there was not much difference as far as infiltration and smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics were concerned. Such attempts are continuing from the Pakistani side.

The BSF officer said there has been spurt in smuggling of narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir over the past one year.

This (smuggling of narcotics) was happening in Punjab and has seen spurt in Jammu as well over the past one year. It shows that narcotics is a tool to keep terrorism alive, he said.

Boora said the use of drones from across the border to drop weapons is a major challenge and effective steps are on to counter the threat.

NIA Court frames...

material including explosives and detonators were recovered, which were destroyed. Subsequently, on December 7, 2019, Lt Col Vaibhav Vadera, 11 Garwal Rifles submitted a written complaint to SHO Police Station Gulmarg District Baramulla revealing aforesaid facts and also handed over the apprehended persons along with recovered articles. On basis of complaint, FIR No. 10/2019 under sections 7/25 of Arms Act, sections 13/15/18/20 of UA(P) Act was registered with Police Station Gulmarg. The arrest memos of both the persons were prepared who disclosed their names and particulars as Khalil Ahmed Kayani, son of Abdul Aziz Kayani, resident of village Tedaban Khurshidabad District Haveli Forwad Kahuta (PoK) and Mohd Nazeem, son of Mohd Arif Khan, resident of village Tedaban Khurshidabad District Haveli Forwad Kahuta (PoK). Subsequently, in compliance to the order No. 1101/48/2019 dated September 20, 2019 issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, the case was assigned to National Investigating Agency and after taking up, NIA re-registered it as RC-05/2019/NIA/JMU dated September 23, 2019.

During investigation by NIA, it was revealed that both accused were impressed with Taqirs of Hafiz Muhammad Sayeed, Amir of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and were in contact with handlers of LeT namely Nadeem based at Kacharban (PoK). The investigation further established that the accused used to cross the LoC and enter in the forest area of Kashmir (Indian territory) with intention to do recc reconing movement of Army personnel and to know about explosive mines set up by the Army near LoC , as per the directions of Pakistani army for infiltration of terrorists of LeT in Kashmir. It was also established during the investigation that Pakistani Army personnel deployed at Pakistan post old Batalan also used to provide weapons , hand-grenades, explosives, medicines and eatable items to both accused with directions to conceal the same at pre-decided places across LoC in forest areas for use of terrorists of LeT who were ready to infiltrate in Indian territory by crossing LoC.

Special Judge NIA J&K Sunit Gupta after hearing both the sides observed that the offences under sections 13/18/20/23/39 of UA(P) Act are concerned, it is prima facie proved that both accused persons Khalil Ahmed Kayani and Mohd Nazeem were associated with PAK handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba namely Nadeem based at Kacharban (PoK) and Pakistani army personnel deployed at Pakistani army post, old Batalan District Haveli Farwad Kahuta PoK and accused were assigned w/job by handlers of LeT and Pakistani army to conceal arms, ammunitions and explosives. It is also prima facie established that accused persons were making reece about the movements of Indian army for supplying information to handlers of LeT and Pakistani army for the purpose of carrying out terror attacks. Though the accused persons Khalil Ahmed Kayani and Mohd Nazeem are not prima facie proved to be active members of terrorists organization i.e., LeT or any other organization as such, the offence under section 20 of UA(P) Act cannot be attributed to them, yet offences under sections 13/18/23/39 of UA(P) Act are well established against them. Since accused persons are also prima facie to be the actual residents of village Tedaban Tehsil Khurshidabad District Haveli Farwad Kahuta PoK and they have cross the LoC and entered into territory of India without any permit or permission as such, they are also prima facie found to be guilty for the offences under sections 3/3-A of Egress & Internal Movement Control Ordinance 2005. "In view of aforesaid observations, I am of the opinion that accused persons Khalil Ahmed Kayani and Mohd Nazeem are prima facie found to be guilty for the offences under sections 13/18/23/39 of UA(P) Act , 7/25 Arms Act and 3/3A of EIMCO. Accordingly the formal charges have been framed against accused in the aforesaid manner," the Court observed. The charges were read over and explained to accused person through virtual mode who denied same and claimed to be tried. The charge forms were forwarded to the Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu for obtaining signatures of accused.

Top LeT ultra...

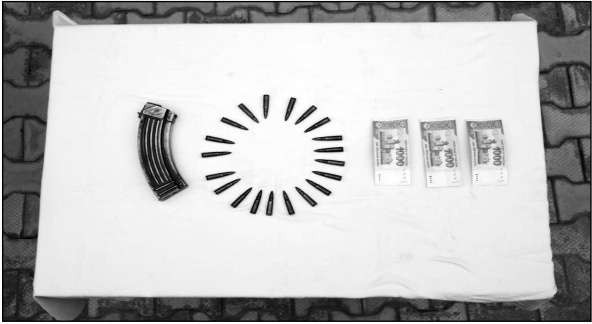
was carried out by Police, CRPF alongwith Army in Gasu area under PS Zakoor. During the operation, one foreign terrorist identified as Hafiz @ Hamza of Pakistan linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT was neutralized.

As per the police records the killed terrorist Saleem Parray was a categorized terrorist, active since 2016 and was wanted by law in several terror crime cases. He was involved in several civilian killings including killing of Bashir Ahmad Dar and his brother Ghulam Hassan Dar at Shahgund Hajin on 05/05/2018, killing of Hilal Ahmad Parray at Parray Mohalla Hajin on 16/05/2018. Besides, he was also involved in throat slitting of many civilians in Hajin area. He was also involved in

to make attempts to push terrorists and smuggle arms and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir.

In a separate incident, the BSF also seized a consignment of arms and heroin along the IB near the Chamliyal outpost.

The consignment was found in a white-coloured sack



Ammunition & Pakistani currency recovered by army at Bhimber Gali Sector.

providing logistic support to the terrorists operating in the area to carry terror attacks.

Moreover, the killed terrorist Saleem Parray had spread a reign of terror by abducting civilians and killing/torturing them in the name of informers. He was also involved in reviving the terror folds of proscribed terror outfit LeT in Hajan and its adjoining area.

While interacting with media persons, IGP Kashmir said that Pakistani terrorist Hafiz @ Hamza was involved in several terror crimes including recent killing of two policemen at Gulshan Chowk Bandipora on 10/12/21 and after this terror crime, he shifted to Harwan area of Srinagar due to frequent cordon & search operations in Bandipora area. He was also involved in killing of a CRPF personnel at Hajin Bandipora, killing of a civilian namely Nadif Hanief Khan of Bilal Colony Soura in Buchpora.

Moreover, both the killed terrorists were also involved in attack on search party of Police/SFs in Hajin in which one police personnel Ct Zaheer Abbas got martyred.

Inerminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from both the encounter sites.

Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law regarding both the encounters and further investigation has been initiated. IGP Kashmir congratulated police and SFs for conducting successful operations without any collateral damage.

Amit Shah reviews...

The heads of security agencies of the country, prominent central intelligence agencies, Central Armed Police Forces, intelligence wings of armed forces, revenue and financial intelligence agencies attended the meeting, the statement said.

The DGPs of states and Union Territories also joined the meeting through video conferencing.

HC raps Admn...

was utilised by the government in the year 2012-13 for the construction of multi-purpose community hall without any lawful authority.

The land was not acquired and no consent of the petitioners was taken to use it. The petitioners were not even paid any compensation, the petitioners alleged, adding initially the government took over 5989.51 square feet with two walnut trees but subsequently, the assistant commissioner (revenue), Ramban, submitted a report seeking the entire land with all nine walnut trees.

Accordingly, a notification under Section 4 of the State Land Acquisition Act was issued on January 9, 2018, notifying the proposal to acquire the land for the construction of community hall in Dhammasta-Batloo village.

Right to property/land used to be a fundamental right but now it has been recognised as a constitutional right vide Article 300A of the Constitution of India. It provides that no one can be deprived of his property.

The constitutional right has been acknowledged to be akin to a fundamental right and more importantly a basic human right. Thus, no one can be deprived of his property without following the procedure prescribed in law and payment of adequate compensation, the order said.

It said the proceedings for acquisition of any land commences with the issuance of notification under Section 4 of the Act proposing to acquire the land for public purpose.

Once the Government is satisfied on consideration of the report of the Collector that the land needed for public purpose, it directs for issuance of a declaration under Section 6 of the Act. Such a declaration is the conclusive proof of the acquisition of the land, the order said.

In the case at hand, till date no declaration under Section 6 of the Act has been issued and published, meaning thereby that the land has not been finally acquired and there is simply a proposal to acquire the said land, it said.

The action of the respondents in constructing a community hall on the land in question without waiting for the final acquisition of land and in the absence of the invocation of the urgency clause, is nothing but an abuse of the process of law depriving the petitioners from their valuable right to possess property, the order said.

The court said since the community hall has already been constructed and the land cannot be restored to the petitioners, it is desirable that the respondents complete the acquisition proceedings at the earliest and make a final award so that the petitioners may be compensated in a fair manner as per the market-value of the land.

"In view of the facts and circumstances, we issue a writ in the nature of mandamus commanding the respondents to forthwith distribute the estimated cost of acquisition of the aforesaid land within a period of one month, conclude the acquisition proceedings and pronounce the final award within a period of three months.

A further writ in the nature of mandamus is issued to the respondents to pay a token compensation of Rs 10,00,000 to the petitioners for illegally depriving them of their land without any authority of law and thus violating their human rights. This amount shall be paid to the petitioners within a period of two weeks, the court said.

Ex Guv J&K...

man in J&K now he bites that hand that fed him. The people of J&K can certify the untrustworthiness of Mr Malik," Abdullah said in a tweet.

Malik, who was the last Governor of Jammu and Kashmir before it was bifurcated into union territories in 2019, in a video clip purportedly is saying that when he went to meet the prime minister on the issue of farmers, the latter was "arrogant" and had a fight with him within five minutes.

COVID: Centre allows...

and health of the govt employees," he tweeted.

However, all the employees are required to mark their attendance in attendance registers to be maintained manually, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. "As a precautionary measure, it has been decided to suspend the marking of biometric attendance in the Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system in all ministries/departments of the Government of India, including its attached/subordinate offices, with immediate effect till January 31, 2022," it said.

All the heads of departments shall also continue to ensure that all employees wear masks at all times and follow COVID-appropriate behaviour strictly, the order said.

The Union government had resumed biometric attendance for employees of all levels from November 8. The employees were previously exempted from biometric attendance due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

New satellite image...

The Indian military sources said India has been developing infrastructure in all key areas along the LAC and that India is aware of Chinese activities in the region.

Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Chisumle-Demchok road at Umling La Pass at over 19,000 feet in Ladakh that is considered as a key stretch for military purpose.

China has been focusing on strengthening its military infrastructure after Indian troops took control of several strategic peaks on the southern bank of Pangong lake in August 2020 after the Chinese PLA attempted to intimidate them in the area.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the armies of India and China 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 LAC in the sensitive sector.

The 13th round of Corps Commander-level military talks in October ended in a stalemate with the Indian Army saying that the "constructive suggestions" made by it were not agreeable to the Chinese side.

The defence ministry last Friday said it held several rounds of military talks with the Chinese side to deescalate the situation in eastern Ladakh without compromising on its stand of "complete disengagement and immediate restoration of status quo ante". India has been insisting on returning to the status quo that existed before the face-off erupted.

Impressive Nagar Kirtan...

for their co-operation for arrangement of Nagar Kirtan.

Jagjit Singh, President, District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu appealed to the Sangat for the participation in the Gupurab Sangan at Gurdwara Shri Guru Nanak Dev Chand Nagar, Jammu on January 5 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Probe ordered into...

around 4.15 pm on Sunday, injuring a total of 27 labourers.

"The iron shuttering collapsed during the laying of concrete slab. A rescue operation was immediately launched and all the 27 labourers were evacuated to nearby hospitals," the DC had said on Sunday.

Gupta said except two, the condition of rest of the injured was stable and they are under observation in hospitals.

