

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

J&K received USD...

to compete, correct and collaborate with readily available abundant resourees. Archaic laws have been removed and more than 890 Central laws, which are the key drivers of socio-economic growth have been made applicable in the last two years.

Elaborating on the potential of collaboration between India and the UAE, Dr. Ahmed Abdul Rahman AlBanna, Ambassador of UAE Embassy said, India is the second largest trading partner for the United Arab Emirates and UAE is the third largest trading partner for India after the United States of America and China. Our total Foreign Trade figures reached about USD 60 billion in 2019-2020. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the United Arab Emirates and India will be crucial in deepening the ties between India and UAE. We are hoping that CEPA will increase our bilateral trade from USD 60 billion to USD 100 billion in the coming 5 to 8 years.

Ever since the Government of India announced the historic administrative changes in 2019, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has become the latest success story among Indian states as a model of economic and social development. India and UAE are among each other's largest trading partners. And soon, CEPA will be signed, which certainly has the potential to catapult our economic engagement to a very different trajectory all together, said Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to the UAE while addressing the Investors Summit yesterday.

Sinha also visited the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai during the ongoing Jammu & Kashmir Week (03-13 January) and toured the J&K Pavilion earlier in the day. Talking about the importance of EXPO2020 Dubai to J&K, he said, India's participation at the Expo is a testament to the fact that the country values UAE as an esteemed partner. Various States and Sectors in India have understood the importance of the Expo, and the global exposure provided by the event. Jammu & Kashmir is privileged to participate at this global event and strengthen its footprint in the UAE.

The J&K Pavilion was inaugurated by Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to the Government Industries & Commerce along with Dr Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai and Deputy Commissioner-General for India at EXPO2020 Dubai on 3rd January.

In addition to the Investor Summit and J&K Week at India Pavilion, Sinha also inaugurated a two-day Buyer-Seller Meet today, hosted by the Consulate General of India, Dubai in collaboration with Invest India. The Buyer Seller meet is being organized between sellers from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and buyers from the UAE under One District One Product initiative. The key focus sectors for the meeting are Agri Products & Processed Food and Handicraft and Textile.

Invites global businesses...

according to a press statement. Sinha also inaugurated Jammu and Kashmir promotion week at the local Lulu Hypermarket, where the world-famous GI-tagged saffron has been launched in a major step towards boosting trade ties between Jammu and Kashmir and Dubai.

Inaugurated J&K Promotion week at Lulu Hypermarket. The world-famous GI-tagged saffron has been launched at Lulu Hypermarket, which is a major step towards boosting Jammu Kashmir and Dubai trade ties, Sinha said in a tweet.

Sinha termed it as a "historic agreement" and said the trade between Jammu & Kashmir and Dubai has remained steady and it reflects the resilience of the deep economic linkages.

"Relations between India and the UAE are long-standing and deep-rooted. People-to-people contact and trade have seen momentum in the recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Six Jr Scale...

Bani, Akshay Sharma BDO Lalpora, Baramulla, Vivek Rattan BDO , Bijhama, Baramulla, Mohit Sharma BDO Gund, Ganderbal, and Manish Sudan BDO Pakharpora, Pulwama.

Jammu-Srinagar National...

near Ban Toll Plaza at around 4:10 pm. However, no injuries were reported as the authorities already closed the road. In the CCTV footage released on Friday, a large chunk of rock was recorded hitting the ground within 10 seconds.

Meanwhile, Weather conditions in Kashmir continued to improve even as minimum temperature in most places of they valley stayed close to the freezing point, officials said here on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.6 degrees Celsius, up from 0.3 degrees Celsius on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, officials said.

Gulmarg, the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius compared to the previous night's 3.5 degrees Celsius.

The officials said Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, slightly up from minus 0.8 degrees Celsius the previous night.

They said Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum temperature of 0.4 degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.2 degrees Celsius.

The mercury at Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office has forecast snow/rain of moderate to heavy intensity till January 8. Heavy snow is expected in some places, it said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of the 40-day 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 and water supply lines.

Chances of snowfall are the highest 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 will continue with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Meanwhile, most places in Kashmir on Friday witnessed moderate to heavy snowfall as authorities issued an alert for avalanche-prone areas of it, officials said.

An official of the MET department said moderate snowfall was reported from most areas in south and central Kashmir.

"The intensity of the snowfall is going to be heavy tonight and tomorrow. The weather is likely to improve from Sunday," the official said.

The snowfall, which began late in the afternoon, forced cancellation of several flights to Srinagar airport, they said.

Of the 37 scheduled flights, 23 had operated till the snowfall began, they said.

The authorities have issued an avalanche alert for snowbound hilly areas of Kashmir.

People living in the mountain districts of the valley and in Chenab region have been advised not to venture out unnecessarily, the official added.

3 JeM terrorists...

"All three slain terrorists were affiliated with JeM terror outfit. Three AK 56 rifles and other incriminating material were recovered from the site of the encounter," said Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar.

While one of the terrorists has been identified as Waseem from Srinagar, the identities of the other two are being ascertained, he said.

As per reliable sources and documents recovered, the other two killed terrorists appear to be foreign terrorists, however further identification is being ascertained.

As per police records, the killed terrorist Waseem was a categorized terrorist and part of group involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities. Several terror crime cases were registered against him. Terrorist Waseem was involved in the martyrdom of Inspector Parvaiz Ahmad on June 22, 2021. He was also involved in grenade attack on CRPF Bunker near Aali Masjid Chowk at Eidgah Srinagar in which one civilian and one police personnel were injured. Besides other terror crimes, he was also involved in brainwashing and motivating the youth of Central Kashmir to join terror folds.

Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 3 AK-56 rifles were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation, a police spokesperson said.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated.

Court directs SHO...

would not bow to their illegal demands and even said that they would make sure that complainant and his children would no longer be able to run their business.

The incident not only remain restricted to verbal spar as Harsh Dev Singh moved a step ahead and after clinching collar of complainant, started slapping him mercilessly leading to bruises and injuries on neck and face of complainant. It was further submitted that while Harsh Dev was beating the complainant, complainant's wife tried every now and then to rescue him, after which Manju Devi also started manhandling wife of complainant and restricted her protest. Looking at continuation of criminal acts of accused persons, the complainant rushed ear towards concerned Police Station, sensing which Harsh Dev Singh started propelling his PSO to open fire at complainant, but somehow complainant and his wife managed to escape from their illegal confinement near Channi Police Station and accused ran away in their car.

Sub-Judge Jammu Renu Dogra after hearing Adv Himanshu Beotra in length, observed that complaint has disclosed commission of cognizable offences and directed Incharge, Police Station, Channi Himmat to register a case under relevant sections against accused under section 156(3) CrPC, if not registered already.

Four areas in...

transmission of Covid-19 in the district.

Similarly, District Magistrate Poonch Rahul Yadav in his order declared Ward No. 4, Near Capt. Sunil Choudhary Chowk, Kathua and Ward No. 1, Friends Colony Opposite Bhagwati Nagar, Kathua, Tehsil & District Kathua and the area within 150 mtrs radius surrounding of aforesaid areas as Micro Containment Zones as preventive measures required to contain the spread of COVID-19 to save the life of general public.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate, Reasi, Charandeep Singh in separate order has ordered that there shall be a complete restriction on non-essential movement in the Reasi District from 9:00PM to 6:00AM till further orders due to exponential spike of Covid cases in District Reasi during the last few days..

However, the order stated, keeping in view Yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine/Shri Shiv Khori Shrine, it is further ordered that-All Dhabas/Restaurants/Eating Points falling within the jurisdiction of Municipal Limits of Katra & village Ransoo shall remain operational from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

"There shall be no restrictions on the movement of Yatris to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine/Shri Shiv Khori Shrine," the order stated adding that since it is not possible to serve prior notice of this order, it is as such being issued ex-parte.

Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 188 of Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005, it added.

J&K logs 542...

4,534 of its people to the virus since the beginning of the pandemic.

There were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black fungus) with no new cases added in last one day, added the officials.

Amandeep murder case...

before High Court in near future. Accordingly, the Apex Court found it quite appropriate to grant bail to petitioner. "Petitioner is, accordingly, directed to be enlarged on bail on terms and conditions to be imposed by the Trial Court," the Supreme Court directed.

Centre terms breach...

route was clear. The law officer also pointed out that one Pannu claiming to be the chairman of the banned terrorist organisation Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) based in the US and the UK had already circulated a video much before the visit of the prime minister.

"There being a possibility of an international terrorist angle, the involvement of National Investigating Agency (NIA) would be absolutely necessary," the law officer said.

He sought a direction that all documents concerning the movement of the prime minister from Bhatinda onwards in the form of wireless messages, register entries be collected by a neutral person who should be assisted by an officer of the NIA.

This is a sui generis (unique) case which could have caused international embarrassment and pointed out that whenever the prime minister's convoy travels by road, the SPG first consults the Director General of the concerned State to know whether the route on which the Hon'ble prime minister is to travel is clear from the safety point of view, the law officer said.

In a "massive security breach" on Wednesday, the PM's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur after which he returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a rally.

Advocate General D S Patwalia, appearing for the Punjab government, said the state was not adversarial to the litigation and was of the view that the issue was a serious one and cannot be brushed under the carpet.

"Though I have serious issues with the contents of the petition, the state is not taking this issue lightly, there has been a lapse somewhere, and the state is doing everything to look into it, he said, adding that if some officers have to face the flak so let them face it.

The solicitor general, during the hearing, said that the inquiry ordered by the Ministry of Home Affairs was an internal one and may be permitted to continue.

Referring to the security protocol, Mehta said ahead of the prime minister's convoy, a warning vehicle' always travels which remains at the distance of 500 metres to 1 km of the convoy.

Any threat to the security of the prime minister en route is required to be reported by local police to the warning vehicle so that the warning vehicle can, in turn, inform through wireless message to the convoy to stop further movement of the prime minister, he said.

In the present case, though the local police personnel were present at the site of the blockade, but they were seen having tea with those who gathered there and did not intimate the warning vehicle about the blockade to immediately stop the movement of the prime minister's convoy, he said.

The blockade came to be known only when the convoy reached the flyover itself, the solicitor general said.

He said visualising a situation in which one side of the flyover was blocked by a huge mob and if a similar mob would have gathered on the other side of the flyover with the protectee stuck on the flyover, this would have caused a serious mishap.

Even the Punjab government has admitted security lapse on their part, Mehta said, adding, The serious concern is whether this lapse is deliberate or due to inefficiency or due to external terrorist forces.

The state government said that it was not taking this issue lightly and if there has been a lapse somewhere, then that will be looked into.

The state law officer said that he has no objection to the apex court ordering an investigation or appointing a person to monitor the probe.

"One of the officers of Centre's committee is S Suresh, he was responsible for overall security, our contention is he cannot be a part of the committee too. I am not joining the issue on anything, we want it to be investigated," Patwalia said.

The solicitor general responded by saying that the officer concerned can be replaced by the home secretary in the inquiry committee of the MHA which is for internal purposes only.

MHA panel visits...

Modi's visit. On Thursday, it had announced a two-member panel to investigate the matter. The panel had been asked to submit its report in three days.

The Punjab Police has also registered an FIR in Ferozepur against nearly 150 unidentified protesters who blocked Modi's cavalcade on Wednesday.

The prime minister's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur on Wednesday after which he returned from the poll-bound state without attending any event, including a rally.

Amid foggy weather conditions, the three-member central team visited the Pyarayana flyover near Ferozepur Friday morning and interacted with senior Punjab Police and civil administration officials.

The panel is led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat, and has Balbir Singh, Joint Director of the Intelligence Bureau; and S Suresh, IG, Special Protection Group as two other members.

The Centre has advised the committee to submit its report at the earliest.

It is learnt that a showcause notice has been issued by the MHA to a couple of senior officials from Bathinda and Ferozepur over the "grave security lapse" during the prime minister's visit.

The team in the morning started its enquiry into the security breach and looking into the lapses which caused the prime minister's cavalcade to remain stranded at the flyover near Ferozepur for almost 15-20 minutes on Wednesday, the sources said.

The team spent around 45 minutes at the flyover before heading to the BSF sector headquarters for further questioning and investigation into the matter.

At the BSF sector headquarters in Ferozepur, which is around 10 km from where the incident took place on National Highway 5, the Central team remained closeted with the senior civil and police officers who were directly responsible to ensure the smooth passage of the prime minister's convoy and its foolproof security.

According to the sources, the Central team summoned several senior police and civil officials, including those who were deployed for the prime minister's security during his visit to Ferozepur, to appear in person before them on Friday and most were present.

Meanwhile, Punjab's Chief Secretary Anirudh Tewari wrote to the Union Home Ministry regarding the security breach, informing that an FIR has been lodged in the incident.

He mentioned that the state government has formed its own two-member panel to investigate the alleged lapses.

Tewari is learnt to have shared details pertaining to the sequence of events that unfolded on Wednesday, official sources in the state said.

The Union Home Ministry had directed the state government to file an immediate report, saying it did not ensure the required deployment, while Home Minister Amit Shah had said that such dereliction of the security procedure during the prime minister's visit was totally unacceptable and accountability would be fixed.

The incident triggered a major political row with the BJP alleging that the ruling

Congress in Punjab "tried to physically harm" the prime minister, while other parties too attacked the state government over the law and order issue.

Punjab HM, CS...

and his bosom friend Navjot Sidhu to trap the Indian Prime Minister close to the international border? Chugh asked.

He said it was a conspiracy of the Congress government to leak the prime minister's road route to protesters. Chugh said it was shameful that in some cases protestors were escorted and directed by officials to reach the flyover where the prime minister's cavalcade was stuck.

Chugh said in spite of the fact that ADGP Naresh Arora had given a report of a possible disturbance on the road route of the prime minister, no action was taken to ensure PM's safety. "It is a black day for Punjab where the brave police force has been converted into a puppet force by the Congress government", he said.

Kashmir colluded to...

so-called popular governments or the Kashmir centric political dispensations, amnesty to stone pelters received official patronage. Then the arch rivals and now the allies-National Conference and the Peoples' Democratic Party-remained in fierce competition in announcing amnesties to the stone pelters-soft version of terrorists, who pursued their 'Mission Stone Throwing' as an inspiration drawn from Intifaada. Instead of tackling them with iron fists, surprisingly rules and guidelines were framed to have them in the government service as part of their rehabilitation under the guise of mainstreaming the 'misguided youth'. Ironically, the misguided youth of the so-called Kashmir mainstream got best of both the worlds in terms of withdrawal of cases against them, amnesty, rehabilitation and even jobs? The successive governments went out of way to placate them by compromising the national interest and sentiment. 'Raise voice in revolt and get concessions', had become a norm in the Valley. There were whole lot of packages for 'misguided' youth, who never felt remorse for burning and trampling the national flag under their feet, during Ragdo Ragdo agitations, or raising pro-Pakistan slogans, or burning schools and government property, or attacking security forces with stones, or create obstacles during encounters against terrorists, or glamourising terror, or indulging in sedition, or looting ATMs, or mocking at the symbols and signs of India, orounding out peaceful citizens from their homes and hearths, or indulging in selective killings, or desecrating places of worship, or eneroach upon state lands etc. How could the patronage givers, therefore, be expected to call spade a spade?

Rashid posted as...

General Manager, DIC, Kulgam has been transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner in the State Taxes Department, Kashmir while Surjeel Ali Naikun, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Kulgam, shall hold the charge of the post of General Manager, DIC Kulgam, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Two SPs Telecom...

reads the order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Home Department.

As per order, S-I Davinder Paul Singh has been placed in the Selection Grade from June 7, 2017 and S-I Mushtaq Ahmad Ganai has been placed in the Selection Grade from May 22, 2019 upto the date of their retirement i.e. December 31, 2021.

7-day home quarantine mandatory for all international arrivals; COVID test on 8th day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Friday made it mandatory for all travellers coming from abroad to undergo seven-day home quarantine followed by an RT-PCR test on the eighth day, widening curbs for international passengers in the wake of the fast-spreading Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The guidelines released on Friday come into force from January 11 and will remain effective till further government orders.

As per the existing rules, which have been retained in the revised guidelines, travellers coming from countries specified as "at-risk" have to submit samples for Covid testing on arrival and then are required to wait for the results at the airport before leaving or taking a connecting flight.

Those who test positive will be sent to an isolation facility.

If they test negative, they need to undergo home quarantine for seven days and then get the RT-PCR test done on the 8th day. If again negative, they have to further self-monitor their health for the next seven days.

They are also required to upload the results of the RT-PCR test conducted on the 8th day on the Air Suvidha portal (to be monitored by the respective states/UTs).

In the case of passengers coming from not-at-risk countries, they will also have to undergo mandatory seven-day home quarantine and follow all other protocols followed by passengers from at-risk countries.

However, airlines coming from not-at-risk countries will randomly select 2 per cent of travellers who will have to undergo RT-PCR tests at airports on arrival. Those found positive will be sent to an isolation facility and those found negative will follow the seven-day quarantine procedure.

The government also updated the list of at-risk nations, which now include all countries in Europe including the United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Ghana, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Israel, Congo, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia and Zambia.

For not-at-risk countries, the 2 per cent passengers to be tested at the airports will preferably be those coming from a third country who would have taken a connecting flight in the not-at-risk country, according to the revised guidelines.

Laboratories shall prioritise the testing of samples from such travellers.

"Travellers from all categories of countries (including those 2 per cent who were selected for random testing on arrival and were found negative) will undergo home quarantine for seven days and undertake an RT-PCR test on the 8th day," officials said, sharing details about revised guidelines.

International travellers arriving through seaports/land ports will also have to undergo the same protocols as above, except that facility for online registration is not available for such passengers currently.

Contacts of the suspect cases are the co-passengers seated in the same row, three rows in front and three rows behind along with the identified cabin crew, the guidelines said.

Also, all the community contacts of the travellers who have tested positive (during the home quarantine period) would be subjected to quarantine for 14 days and tested as per the Indian Council of Medical Research protocol, the guidelines stated.

Children under 5 are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during the home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and be treated according to the laid down protocol.

Prior to undertaking the journey, all travellers will have to upload a negative RT-PCR report of the test conducted within 72 hours of the beginning of the journey.

Each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to the authenticity of the report and will be liable for a criminal prosecution, if found otherwise, according to the guidelines.

Indo-China Corps Commander talks likely on Jan 12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India and China are likely to hold the 14th round of corps commander-level talks on January 12 with a focus on making some forward movement in the disengagement process in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, people familiar with the development said on Friday.

The talks are expected to take place at the Chushul border point on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, they said.

The Indian side is expected to press for disengagement as soon as possible in all the remaining friction points including resolution of issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

The 13th round of talks had taken place on October 10 and had ended in a stalemate.

Both sides failed to make any headway in the talks with the Indian Army saying after the dialogue that the "constructive suggestions" made by it were not agreeable to the Chinese side, which also could not provide any "forward-looking" proposals. In their virtual diplomatic talks on November 18, India and China 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.

It is learnt that the Indian side had sent at least two proposals for the 14th round of talks in the last two months but the Chinese side was not responding to them positively so far. The talks are likely to take place on January 12, said the people cited above. The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

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.

