

02 10 drug peddlers nabbed across J&K with haul of contraband

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Samyukta Kisan Moreha (SKM) on Thursday announced the suspension of its over a year-long agitation after they received a formal letter from the central government accepting their key pending demands including withdrawal of police cases against the protesters and on MSP.

Calling off the agitation, the SKM, an umbrella body of 40 farm unions, said farmers will celebrate December 11 as 'Vijay Diwas' and take out victory marches following which they will head home.

Asserting that this is not the end of the movement, Farmer leaders said they would meet on January 15 to see if the demands have been fulfilled by the government.

"This is not the end as the movement is just suspended. We have decided to meet again on January 15," SKM core committee member Balbir Singh Rajewal said at



a press conference.

Farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, started protesting at Delhi border points -- Singlu, Tikri and Ghazipur -- on November 26 last year against the three contentious farm laws. The laws were repealed by Parliament on November 29, but farmers continued their protest over their pending demands.

In the letter to the protesting farmers, Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Aggarwal referred to the five main demands of farmers which were pending after the three

03 'Ladakh Bandh' on Dec 13 to demand full-fledged Statehood, Constitutional safeguards

does not, we can take a call on resuming the protest".

Soon after the SKM's announcement about the suspension of the stir, the protest sites erupted into celebrations with farmers raising their union flags, greeting each other on the success of their agitation and playing patriotic songs from their tractors.

Protesters were also seen dismantling their tents, even as farmer leaders said they will leave for their respective destinations on Saturday. The SKM, which has been spearheading the agitation, also apologised to people who had to face inconvenience due to its protests.

Welcoming the farmer unions' decision to suspend their protest, Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan said it will allow the BJP to set its agenda for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls around the works done by the party's governments both

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J&K reports 192 new COVID cases

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 192 new COVID cases, 58 from Jammu division and 134 from the Kashmir Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 338390.

Moreover, 135 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 26

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Govt set to start process to appoint next CDS soon; Gen Naravane frontrunner

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government is set to begin the process soon to appoint the next Chief of Defence Staff with Army Chief Gen MM Naravane emerging as the front-runner for the top post that fell vacant following the demise of Gen Bipin Rawat in a tragic helicopter crash.

The move by the government comes even as a number of retired military

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17 Scheduled Int'l passenger flights to remain suspended till Jan 31

India's vaccination coverage crosses 131 Cr doses

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India will keep scheduled international passenger flights suspended till January 31 next year; aviation regulator DGCA said on Thursday.

Amid rising concerns over the coronavirus variant Omicron, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had on December 1 decided not to resume scheduled international flights from December 15, less than a week after announcing that it would restart the services.

The DGCA issued a circular on Thursday, saying, "The competent authority has decided to extend the suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger services to and from India till 2359 hours of January 31, 2022."

This suspension won't apply to international all cargo operations and flights specifically approved by DGCA, it mentioned.

"International scheduled



flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on case to case basis," the regulator added.

In another tweet, it clarified that all international flights under the existing bubble agreements shall continue to operate till January 31.

Scheduled international passenger services have been suspended in India since March 23, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic. But special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May 2020 and under

bilateral "air bubble" arrangements with selected countries since July 2020.

India has formed air bubble pacts with around 32 countries including the US, the UK, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special international flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories.

The DGCA had on November 26 announced that India will resume scheduled international passenger flights from December 15.

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Minorities in J&K to get maximum benefit through Modi's 'Vikas Mantra': BJP leader

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minority communities in Jammu and Kashmir will get maximum benefit out of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'vikas mantra', the party's Minority Morcha national president Haji Jamal Siddiqui said here on Thursday.

Siddiqui was addressing the working committee meeting of BJP's Minority Morcha at the party headquarters in Jammu.

Flanked by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, Siddiqui highlighted the

works of the central government especially for the minorities during the meeting.

He also provided details of the public welfare schemes provided by the central government that will benefit the common masses stressing that members of minority communities in the Union territory will get maximum benefit out of PM Modi's 'vikas mantra'.

Koul in his address shared details of the ground work done at the booth level and asked the Moreha

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CB books two for cheating woman on pretext of arranging her permanent settlement abroad

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two proprietors of a Punjab-based consultations company (M/s HIRRA Consultations and Services Pvt Ltd, SCO 509, Top Floor Sector-70, Mohali) were booked by the Crime Branch, Jammu for cheating a woman of over Rs 3 lakh on the pretext of arranging her permanent settlement in Canada, officials said on Thursday.

As per an official spokesperson, the sleuths of Crime Branch registered a case of cheating against Reet

Koura, daughter of Balvinder Singh, resident of 1102, Ground Floor, Sector-79 SAS Nagar, Punjab and Kulvir Singh Koura, son of Dalip Singh, resident of VPO Makorah Sahib Tehsil Moonak, Sangrur, Punjab under section 420 of RPC at Police Station Crime Branch. Giving further details, he said, "A written complaint lodged by Geeta Anand, wife of Raj Kumar, resident of HN 71, Sector-1 Durga Nagar, Jammu with Crime Branch Jammu wherein it was alleged that she wanted

to go abroad i.e. Saskatchewan, Canada for permanent settlement under SINP programme for which she approached M/s HIRRA Consultation & Services Pvt. Ltd SCO 509, Top Floor Sector-70, Mohali (Punjab), who assured her that they would arrange her settlement by completing all formalities for which she paid an amount of Rs. 3,41,300 in various installments."

"After making the payment and completing the formalities, the complainant approached Service provider

(Consultancy) and enquired as to whether her case was processed for Canadian Embassy, the suspects adopted delaying tactics on one pretext or another thereby duping her of money. On receipt of the complaint a preliminary verification was initiated and during the course of enquiry the allegations leveled are substantiated. The omissions and commissions on the part of the above suspects- proprietors of M/s HIRRA Consultation & Services Pvt. Ltd

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Dental Asstt found running private clinic; suspended

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pending enquiry Munish Kumar, Dental Assistant posted at PHC Gudufalal in District Kathua was placed under suspension by Director Health Services Jammu on Thursday on 09.12.2021 vide order no: DHSJ-Est-9/14376-78.

The official was placed under suspension on basis of a complaint that he has opened an illegal dental clinic opposite Tehsil Office Billawar where he is

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Some people always see religion in danger whenever elections are around: Farooq

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday decried the use of religion for political objectives, saying Lord Rama or Almighty Allah can never be in danger, but politicians may be.

Without naming anyone, Abdullah said some people always see religion in danger whenever elections are round the corner.

"Lord Rama or Almighty



Allah can never be in danger, the politicians may be,"

Abdullah said, addressing a day-long convention of the JKNC at the Sher-i-Kashmir Bhavan here.

Expressing anguish over discrimination against the Scheduled Castes in the country, the NC leader said, "Though a change has taken place due to reservation, as a result of which the community can take pride in producing good doctors and engineers, but the backwardness and economic deprivation

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Mercury settles below freezing point in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in Kashmir fell as the mercury settled below freezing point across the valley on Thursday, officials said here.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

They said the resort was the coldest recorded place in the valley. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, down by more than a degree from Tuesday night's minus 0.4 degrees, the officials said.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius. The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.1 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 24.0°C Min: 9.0°C

Humidity

Max: 79 Min: 65

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 12.5°C Min: -2.1°C

Humidity

Max: 96 Min: 69

Sunset : 17:27 Hours

Sunrise : 07:23 Hours

PM leads nation in paying tributes to Gen Rawat, 12 others killed in IAF chopper crash

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the country's top military brass on Thursday paid homage to India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika, Brig LS Lidder and 10 more defence personnel at the Palam air base after their bodies were brought to Delhi in a military aircraft.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, Army Chief MM Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, Air Chief Marshal AVR Chaudhari and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar were among those who paid homage to the deceased at a sombre ceremony.

"Paid my last respects to Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and other personnel of the Armed Forces. India will never forget their rich contribution," Modi tweeted.

Heart-wrenching scenes were seen at the Palam airport as 13 caskets were lined up inside a hangar in presence of their family

members.

The prime minister also reached out to the family members of the deceased and talked to them for a few minutes.

The 13 people were killed when their helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu in an air tragedy that triggered grief across the country.

An Indian Air Force C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft carrying the bodies from the Sular airbase touched down at the Palam technical airport around 7:35 pm.

Only three of the 13 bodies have been identified so far -- Gen Rawat and his wife, Madhulika Rawat and Brigadier LS Lidder. Army officials said the bodies of those identified will be released to the families for last rites.

The other bodies will be kept at the mortuary at the Army Base Hospital till they are identified.

The bodies of Gen Rawat and his wife will be kept at their 3 Kamaraj Marg residence for the



PM Narendra Modi paying tributes to Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and other personnel of Armed Forces at Palam Airport in New Delhi.

general public to pay their final respects from 11 am to 12:30 pm Friday.

The slot between 12:30 pm and

1:30 pm will be kept for military personnel to pay their respects to the outstanding commander and his wife.

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IAF copter crash: Black box retrieved

COONOR: Defence officials on Thursday retrieved the Flight Data Recorder, more popularly known as 'Black Box', of the ill-fated Indian Air Force helicopter that crashed near here on Wednesday. Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat and 12 others were killed in the incident. Official sources said the black box was retrieved in the wake of authorities expanding the search area from 300 metres to one km from the accident spot. The black box would provide

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Inquiry started into helicopter crash, says Rajnath

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said inquiry has begun into the helicopter crash that killed Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and 12 others, and that their bodies will be brought to the national capital in the evening. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, Singh said the last rites of Gen Rawat will be performed with full military honours. Thirteen of the 14 people on board the helicopter died in the crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. Singh said that Group Captain Varun Singh, who survived the crash, is on life support at a Wellington hospital.

Candle light tributes paid to Gen Bipin Rawat across J&K

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Candle light tributes were on Thursday paid at various places in Kashmir to General Bipin Rawat who, along with 12 others, was killed in a helicopter crash.

General Officer Commanding of the Army's Chinar Corps Lt Gen D P Pandey said the people of the Valley have lost more than anyone else in Gen Rawat's death. Srinagar-based Defence PRO Col Emron Musavi said candle light tributes were paid to

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