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Omicron: LG for tough measures to prevent contagion



LG Manoj Sinha reviewing J&K's COVID-19 situation.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Referring to surge in cases of new variant Omicron worldwide, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for putting tough measures in place to prevent the contagion.

While reviewing the latest Covid-19 situation of the Union Territory at a meeting with Covid Task Force and DCs, SPs, Sinha directed the Civil and Police administrations across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that everyone follows Covid-appropriate behaviour.

The Lt Governor further asked the district administrations to carry out analysis of Covid trend in their

respective districts and identify the reasons of surge to deploy effective strategies. He impressed upon the optimal utilization of RTPCR tests and accelerated vaccination drive as top priority.

The Lt Governor said that Health department will ensure that every patient gets the benefit of Sehat Golden Card. "J&K administration's aim is to provide the best medical care to everyone without any strain on their finances", he maintained.

He issued instruction to the Deputy Commissioners of the districts with low number of Sehat Golden cards to ensure its saturation.

The Lt Governor asked the Divisional commissioners to keep a close vigil and continuously monitor the emerging situation.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on the analysis of Covid-19 situation, District-wise threat level, testing, contact tracing and vaccination across the UT, besides vaccine stock, weekly RTPCR testing, Covid Appropriate Behavior enforcements, report of Survey (Har Ghar Dastak) of TB Symptoms, and work done in BIS under AB PM-JAY & AB PM-JAY SEHAT.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the government, Home department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SPs, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

India's Omicron count crosses 100

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: India's Omicron COVID count crossed the 100 mark on Friday after recording the highest single day rise of 24 fresh cases of the new variant, even as the Centre advised people to avoid non-essential travel and mass gatherings and keep New Year celebrations at low intensity.

As the Omicron tally from 11 states and union territories stood at 111 exactly 15 days after the first case of the potentially more contagious COVID variant was detected in Karnataka, 20 new cases were reported from Maharashtra(8) and Delhi(12) to take their total to 40 and 22 respectively. Telangana and Kerala recorded two more cases each to take their tally to eight and seven respectively.

The Centre also warned it is likely that the spread of the new variant will outpace the Delta variant where there is community transmission. Addressing a joint news conference in

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NITI Aayog Member hails governance transformation in J&K in past 2 years

Will continue handholding UT in deepening institutional reforms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Terming the performance of J&K on all developmental indicators over the last two years as significant, Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog on Friday urged the government functionaries to keep up the good work for further improving the lives of the people of J&K.

He made these remarks while reviewing the progress made by UT of J&K on various growth/development indicators over the last two years in a meeting with the Chief Secretary and the Administrative Secretaries of the J&K Government as well as the senior officers of the central ministries and NITI Aayog.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Saraswat stated that cooperative federalism is the bedrock of the fiscal federalism and NITI Aayog is committed to working with states and central ministries to



Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog during a meeting with the Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries in Jammu.

Meets LG; appreciates EQ, health indexes

JAMMU: Member NITI Aayog, Dr. V K Saraswat on Friday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed various development related issues of J&K, here at Raj Bhavan.

Dr. Saraswat apprised the Lt Governor regarding setting up of Atal Tinkering Laboratories in the schools, capacity building of the officers for outcome monitoring, providing of transaction Advisors to Tourism and other departments for resolving pending issues of the UT with various Central Ministries. He also apprised the Lt Governor about his meetings with the Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries of the various departments of the

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enhance and equalise growth and development in the country.

"Strong districts and blocks will strengthen the States, which in turn will support the

nation to grow strong and prosperous. The focus of the developmental initiatives, therefore, has to be on the districts and blocks."

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Terror groups targeting India continue to operate from Pakistan: US report on terrorism

■ AGENCY

WASHINGTON: Terrorist groups targeting India continued to operate from Pakistan and Islamabad did not take action against other known terrorists, including JeM founder and UN-designated terrorist Masood Azhar and the 2008 Mumbai attack project manager Sajid Mir, who remain free in that country, according to a latest report on terrorism by the US State Department.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in the 2020 Country Reports on Terrorism issued on Thursday, said that regionally, terrorist groups continued

to operate from Pakistan. Groups targeting Afghanistan including the Afghan Taliban and affiliated Haqqani network (HQN), as well as groups targeting India, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its affiliated front organisations, and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) continued to operate from Pakistani territory, according to the report.

Pakistan did not take action against other known terrorists such as JeM founder and UN-designated terrorist Azhar and 2008 Mumbai attack project manager Mir, both of whom

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Kashmir to experience colder nights next week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Cold wave conditions intensified in Kashmir as the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley, officials said on Friday.

The weather office has forecast a further dip in the minimum temperature across the valley in the next few days.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, down by 1.7 degrees from the previous night's minus 2.1 degrees Celsius.

This was the second coldest night of the season so far in the city which has witnessed a low of minus 3.9 degree Celsius 48 hours ago.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 10 degrees Celsius previous night.

The officials said Pahalgam, which serves

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 15.1°C Min: 4.0°C

Humidity

Max: 100 Min: 78

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 9.3°C Min: -3.8°C

Humidity

Max: 93 Min: 59

Sunset : 17:27 Hours

Sunrise : 07:28 Hours

Mehbooba, Omar slam changes in J&K land use policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah Friday lashed out at the Jammu and Kashmir administration for changes in the land use laws, claiming the new policy would adversely impact the people of the Union Territory. Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP president, alleged the new laws enabling conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes reveals designs to engineer demographic change in Jammu and Kashmir.

The development agenda is a ruse. Latest regulation

doesn't even require the 15 yr domicile certificate as a prerequisite, she tweeted.

She was reacting to the government's change in land use laws that allows the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

"After depriving locals of their rightful share of govt jobs, such abrupt policy decisions that pave the way for outsiders to buy land in J&K are taken only to further disempower locals," she said.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the changes in the land use rules would undo the major reform undertaken in the erstwhile

state.

Allowing use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes is another nail in the coffin of the land to the tiller reforms in J&K. This landmark reform has been a major reason for the low levels of poverty and it will also threaten the food security of the people of J&K, he said.

"The fact that this conversion of land use doesn't even require the 15 year domicile certificate as a prerequisite will also rekindle fears about the motives behind such decisions," he added. CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami

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Ladakh gets first forensic science lab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the establishment of the first forensic science laboratory (FSL) in Ladakh, officials said on Friday.

Forensic examinations and reports play an important role in investigations as well as trials. The forensic science laboratory in Ladakh will provide an unbiased scientific opinion on different types of evidential material referred to them by the investigating agencies and in turn, help the judiciary: they said.

In the absence of such a laboratory in Ladakh,

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Not necessary for court to give elaborate reasons while granting bail: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: It is not necessary for a court to give elaborate reasons while granting bail, particularly when a case is at the initial stage and the allegations of the offences by the accused would not have been crystallised, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao said there cannot be elaborate details recorded by the court to give an impression that the case is one that would result in a conviction or, by contrast, in an acquittal while passing an order on an application for



grant of bail.

The apex court said a balance would have to be struck between the nature of the allegations made against the accused, the severity of the punishment if the allegations

are proved and would result in a conviction, reasonable apprehension of the witnesses being influenced, tampering of evidence, criminal antecedents of the accused and a prima facie satisfaction of the court in support of the charge against the accused.

"It is not necessary for a court to give elaborate reasons while granting bail particularly when the case is at the initial stage and the allegations of the offences by the accused would not have been crystallised as such," the bench also comprising

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J&K records 136 fresh COVID cases, 2 deaths

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 136 fresh Covid cases on Friday, taking the infection tally to 3,39,540, while two new deaths were reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 40 were from the Jammu division and 96 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, the officials said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest of 54 cases followed by 18 cases in Jammu district.

There are 1,448 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,33,582, the officials said.

The death toll in the Union

Territory due to the pandemic was 4,510 as two fresh fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the officials said there were 50 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, Ladakh has reported 21 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 21,886 while the active cases in the union territory have gone down to 167, officials said.

Of these active cases, 155 were reported in Leh and 12 in Kargil, they said.

Seventeen patients were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the

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DGP Dilbag Singh addressing trainees during Darbar at Police Training School, Manigam.

selves to training, work shoulder to shoulder with fellow trainees, develop a team spirit with the fellow trainees and prepare yourself for duties and future challenges.

"You must enjoy each moment of training and togetherness as these days would be most memorable in the later professional life," DGP said while emphasized

the advantages of good training at the PTS now.

"We are in a service which demands ability and courage to work in any given situation," he added.

The DGP said that the recruit trainees should make best use of all the facilities available in the training institute and learn all the nuisances of policing.

He said that they should follow the training curriculum with dedication as in future they would be shouldering the responsibilities with their fellow policemen working already on ground for maintaining peace and tranquility in J&K and a secure environment for its people.

He said that training pro-

vides an opportunity to the trainees to shape themselves as a confident, well equipped and well mannered police man.

He said that the trainees were lucky for being trained in one among the few training centers which is rich in its natural beauty and this phase of grooming will determine how successful they would be professionally later. He also advised them to prepare themselves to face the difficulties and remain cheerful in all circumstances.

He directed the training staff to sensitize the trainees about their role in the field for facing multiple challenges. He advised the trainees to take care of their health and avoid unnecessary use of mobile phones.

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