

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

PM announces jabs...

of you not to panic, be careful and alert. Remember to mask up and keep washing hands," Modi said.

Noting that India started giving the vaccine to its citizens from January 16 this year, Modi said due to the people's collective effort and will, India has crossed the "unprecedented" and very difficult milestone of having administered 141 crore vaccine doses.

"Today, more than 61 per cent of India's adult population has received both doses of the vaccine. Similarly, about 90 per cent of the adult population has received single dose of the vaccine," he said.

Underlining that he was sharing key decisions with the people of the country on the occasion of Christmas, Modi said that vaccination for children between the age of 15 years to 18 years, will start in the country on January 3, 2022.

This will reduce the worries of children going to schools and colleges and their parents, and boost the fight against the pandemic, Modi said, adding that the move is also likely to aid in normalisation of teaching in schools.

"We all have experienced that the corona warriors, healthcare and frontline workers made a huge contribution in keeping the country safe in this fight. They still spend a lot of their time in the service of coronavirus patients," he said.

"Therefore, from the point of view of precaution, the government has decided that 'precaution dose' of vaccine will be administered to healthcare and frontline workers from January 10, Monday" Modi said.

This will strengthen the confidence of healthcare and frontline workers, he said.

Giving an overview of healthcare infrastructure in the nation, Modi said that as the virus is mutating, "our confidence to take on challenges is also multiplying".

"Our innovative spirit is also growing. The country today has 18 lakh isolation beds, 5 lakh oxygen supported beds, 1,40,000 ICU beds. If ICU and non-ICU beds are taken together, there are about 90,000 beds for children. Today the country has over 3,000 PSA oxygen plants functioning and four lakh oxygen cylinders have been provided across the country," he said.

"States are being helped to prepare a buffer dose of necessary medicines. They are also being provided with adequate testing kits," he said.

Lauding scientists and health workers, he said the seriousness of vaccine was identified very early and along with research on it, work was also focussed on approval process, supply chain, distribution, training, IT support system and certification.

Modi emphasised that India's fight against the virus has from the very beginning been based on scientific principles, scientific consultation and scientific method.

Eleven-month vaccine campaign, the prime minister said, has brought relief and normalcy in the everyday lives of the countrymen.

Economic activities have been encouraging compared to many countries of the world, he said while noting that alertness remains of paramount importance.

He also cautioned against efforts to spread rumours, confusion and fear by some quarters.

Modi's address came on a day officials said the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted emergency use authorisation to indigenously-developed Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children above 12 years with certain conditions.

It is the second vaccine to receive the regulator's nod for use among those below 18 years after Zydus Cadila's needle-free COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D.

J&K sees two..

active COVID-19 cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 3,34,722, the officials said.

The new fatalities raised the death toll from the pandemic to 4,521 in the UT.

The number of mucormycosis (black fungus) cases remains unchanged at 50 in the Union Territory as no fresh infection was reported, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's coronavirus caseload increased to 22,059 with 23 fresh infections recorded during the past 24 hours, officials said.

Of the new cases, 13 were detected in Leh and 10 in Kargil district, they said.

So far, Ladakh has recorded 218 deaths -- 160 from Leh and 58 from Kargil.

The officials said the number of active coronavirus cases in the union territory stands at 210 -- 153 in Leh and 57 in Kargil.

Fourteen patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh the previous day, taking the total number of recoveries in Ladakh to 21,631, they said.

IED expert among...

and search operation there on Friday night.

During the operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they were given ample opportunities to surrender. However, they denied it and fired indiscriminately at the joint search party which was retaliated, leading to an encounter, he said.

In the ensuing gunbattle, two terrorists were killed, the official said, adding their bodies were later retrieved from the encounter site.



Admin officials interacting with BSF officer.

sible way, Sandhu, who is PRO of BSF Jammu, said.

BSF DIG Jammu Surjeet Singh Sekhon was instrumental in organising this visit of farmers, Sandhu said.

The farmer group was also taken to Makwal area to visit the cultivated agriculture land ahead of the border fence, he said.

During the exposure visit the group of 100 farmers along with PRI members from Rajpura, Samba, and Ramgarh had detailed interaction with their counterparts at Suchetgarh and agriculture officers on cultivable crops and practices that can be taken up along the International Border.

It has always been the continuous endeavor of the BSF Jammu to assist and help the border populace in every pos-

The farmers group included Block Development Council Chairman Rajpura, Radhey Shyam.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Anuradha Gupta informed that on the direction of LG Manoj Sinha, district administration is encouraging Border farmers of Samba to cultivate their fields in the forward areas.

"An exposure visit of Samba farmers was organised to the Suchetgarh border to encourage them to follow the suit."

The DC said that the District administration and BSF authorities will extend full cooperation to farmers by addressing their concerns

and also support them in doing routine farming beyond the border fence.

Pertinent to mention 500 Hectare of cultivable land beyond border fencing is available for cultivation in district Samba along International Border.

The District Officers accompanying the farmers informed them that crops like aloe-vera, lemon grass etc can also be sown in the area along with conventional crops. The uncultivated land across the fence can also be sown with the help of BSF and the farmers can be encouraged to take up agricultural activities, said the District Officer.

"We stopped cultivation due to the fear of Pakistan firing. Now with the government's encouragement farmers here are cultivating their land beyond the fence and we can also resume the cultivation under security cover of BSF" said a visiting farmer.

Later farmers also attended the retreat ceremony at Suchetgarh Post.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Abhishek Mahajan

paid a visit to border police posts in Ramgarh sector of the district to review the working of border police posts and police stations located near the IB and to further strengthen the border security grid, a police spokesman said.

Mahajan visited border police posts of Dug, Abtal, Kamore, Koulpur and police station Ramgarh and interacted with their respective officer in-charges and manpower deployed there and reviewed measures to further strengthen the security grid and ascertained suggestions in this regard from field formations, the spokesman said.

He said the SSP also directed manpower to wear protective gear while on duty and develop good relations with the public.

During his visit to police station Ramgarh, the official reviewed the general working of the police station and crime position, the spokesman said.

He said Mahajan also paid obeisance at the shrine of Baba Chamblyal on the IB and also met the public representatives at the shrine.

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The notable achievements of

the day include:

1. A meeting between

the Lt Governor and the

Chief Commissioner of

Jammu and the Lt Governor

of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. A meeting between the

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17. A meeting between the

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18. A meeting between the

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