

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! PM announces jobs...

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 his 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.

He identified the two ultras as Sajad Ahmad Chak, a resident of Braripora, Shopian, and Raja Basit Yaqoob, a resident of Achan Litter, Pulwama.

As per police records, both the killed terrorists were categorised terrorists linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT and were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases. Besides, the killed terrorist, Chak, was instrumental in motivating and recruiting the youth to join terror folds, the official said.

He said incriminating material and arms and ammunition including two AK series rifles, four AK magazines and 32 rounds were recovered from the encounter site.

The recovered material has been taken into case records for further investigation, he added.

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The recovered material has been taken into case records for further investigation, he said, adding that case has been registered relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated.

The official said another encounter broke out between militants and security forces in Hardumir in the Tral area of Pulwama district.

He said as the presence of the terrorists was ascertained, they were given ample opportunities to surrender but they refused.

In the ensuing gunfight, two terrorists were killed and their bodies retrieved from the site of the encounter, he said.

The official identified them as Nadeem Nazir Bhat, a resident of Koil Shikargah Tral, and Rahi Rasool Bhat alias Adil, a resident of Kanipora Dadsara.

In a tweet, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said Bhat was an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) expert.

The terrorists were linked with the Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind (AGHI) and were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases, including an IED blast and grenade attacks on police and security forces' establishments, the police official said.

He said two AK series rifles were recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, a gunfight broke out between terrorists and security forces in the Srignufwara area of Anantnag district on Saturday night, the official said.

The exchange of firing was on and further details are awaited, he added.

Big shift in...

aspirations by accommodating smaller parties for larger national cause, added the Lt Governor.

As the nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence, we must remember the contribution of all the great personalities who worked tirelessly for strengthening the Indian democracy, nationalism, and upliftment of the marginalized sections. Among all the leaders, Atal was a true statesman, who rose above the party lines in the larger interest.

Walking on the path shown by the great visionary leader, the government is continuously working to make development, peace, progress, and social harmony the most integral part of the narrative of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lt Governor said.

Over the decades, many governments under pressure refrained from conducting the Pokhran test. It was because of the vision and courage of Atal Bihari Vajpayee the world saw that India will not allow its national interests to be undermined, whether it is to develop nuclear weapons capability or missile system. By linking internal security with the economy, he sent out a stern message that if the nation is strong, it will not bow down to anyone, the Lt Governor said.

Today, India is keeping its head high in the global arena and proving its mettle in defence due to toughest decisions taken by Atal Ji which clearly shaped the future of the country, added the Lt Governor.

Recalling the formidable efforts of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Lt Governor said that it was the firm belief of Atal that a progressive society could not be established in the country until people of the country are empowered. He embodied his ideas in the spirit of collective responsibility, to provide economic, social, educational, and political rights to the marginalized people and worked tirelessly for public welfare and securing social, economic, and political justice for underprivileged and backward classes, the Lt Governor observed.

Following the ideals of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Atal established a system of fear-free, corruption-free, hunger-free public centric good governance system in the country, the Lt Governor observed.

Atal has greatly influenced the politics of post-independence India. From connecting villages with roads and building houses for the poor in the villages to bringing revolutions in various sectors, Atal has his deep imprints on system-reforms taking place even today, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for celebrating Atal's birth anniversary as Good Governance day.

Bhajan Sandhaya by renowned Singer, Hariharan was one of the main highlights

of the evening.

Vijay Goel, former Union Minister, and prominent personalities from all walks of life attended the event.

Azad joins Christmas...

of religion, region, caste, creed, temple, mosques, gurdwaras and churches just to win elections," the Congress leader said addressing a Christmas function in Udhampur.

Without naming anyone, he asked "how long do we divide people just to win an election to the post of sarpanch, district and block development councils, member of parliament or member of legislative assembly".

"You can achieve whatever you want on the strength of your good work, service to mankind and statesmanship. Dividing people and spreading hatred will only damage our nation, the religion and the society," Azad said.

Referring to the controversy over religious conversions, the Congress leader said if anyone is converting people, he is not using a sword which is not in use nowadays.

"It is good work and character of individuals which are influencing people. When you become a role model, someone will marry you or give his daughter. People convert after getting influenced as they see this particular religion is serving humanity, taking everyone along and not discriminating, a son is behaving well with his father and neighbours are also being treated well," he said.

Asserting that all religions teach good things, Azad said anything can be achieved by love and not through hatred, suppression or creating fear.

Later talking to reporters, he said he joined the Christmas celebration to greet the community and pray for peace, brotherhood and end to COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana also joined Christians at a church here and extended his greetings to the community.

He also prayed for peace and prosperity on the occasion.

The Christian community across the Jammu region celebrated Christmas with religious fervour and held special prayers for good health and prosperity of the people.

36 NTs, Girdawars...

L/A Gandhri, Nazar Mohammad has been transferred and posted as L/ A NT GOOL, he shall hold additional charge of the post of NT Gundi-Dhram till further orders, Mohammad Iqbal L/A NT Gool has been transferred and posted as ARA L/A NT to DC Ramban, Keshav Kumar, ARA, NT to DC Ramban has been posted as NT Sangaldan, Nazir Ahmed Mughal, NT Sangaldan has been transferred and posted as NT Tethar against available vacancy, GhulanNabi Mughal L/A NT, Gundi-Dharam has been transferred and posted as L/A NT Rajgarh, Jagdish Kumar, I/C NT, Rajgarh has been transferred and posted as PA to DC Ramban, Akhil Malgotra, PA to DC Ramban has been transferred and posted as NT Ind, Zakir Hussain NT, Dhandrth has been transferred and posted as NT Chamalwas, he shall hold the additional charge of the post of NT Mahu-Mangit till further orders and Mohammad Muzaffar Javad has been posted as L/A NT Chamalwas.

Similarly, Des Raj OQ Tehsil Office Ramban has been transferred and posted as GQ Circle Batote against available vacancy, Shamim Ahmad Saamim SQ, Girdawars of DC office Ramban has been transferred and posted as OQ, Tehsil Office Banihal and Ali Mohammad OQ, Tehsil office Banihal has been transferred and posted as SQ, Girdawars DC office Ramban.

Meanwhile, Arif Rafiq Patwari has been transferred to Patwar Halqa(P/H) Thatharka, Mushtaq Ahmad Patwari has been transferred to P/H Sawani, Chain Singh Patwari has been transferred to OP Niabat Office Ind, Lahar Singh Patwari has been transferred to P/H Dmote against available vacancy, Mujib-ur-Rehman Patwari has been transferred to Kalimasta, Bilal Ahmad, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Gandhri, Abdul Radhid P/H Deygole, Mudasir Ahmad Patwari has been transferred to P/H Panchal, Ramiz Raja, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Maroog, Rafiq Ahmed, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Dhandrath, Muzamil Salim, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Paristan, Bitoo Singh, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Maitra, Harjit Singh Patwari has been transferred to P/H Sangaldan, he shall also hold the additional charge of P/H Sangaldan (partially) till further order, Mastoor Ahmad, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Bahiote, Mohammad Hafiz Runyal, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Gool, Farooq Ahmad, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Parnote, Darshan Kumar Patwar has been transferred to P/H Kumait, against available vacancy, Atiq-ul-Aalam, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Chamalwas, Hatim Tariq Khan, Patwari has been transferred to OP Niabat Sena Batti, Jamshed Ahmad Bali, Pawari has been transferred to OP Naibat Tethar, Nayeem Ahmad Bhat, Patwari has been transferred to P/H Pogal, Muztafazeer-ur-Rehman, Patwar has been transferred to OP Naibat office Gandhri and Muntaza Banoo, Patwari has been transferred to OP Tehsil office Banihal against available vacancy.

All the transferred officers and officials are deemed to relive with immediate effect and directed to report at their new place of posting.

BSF motivates farmers for cultivation along IB in Jammu

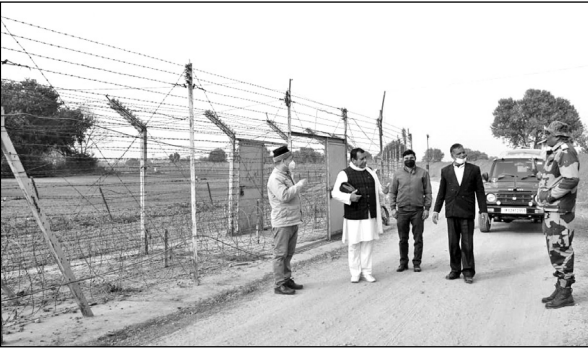
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Border Security Force (BSF) in collaboration with the District Administration on Saturday organised a visit of farmers to Suchetgarh sector along the International Border here to motivate them for cultivation ahead of border fencing, an official said.

Chief Agricultural Officer, Samba, Sanjay Verma, along with 73 farmers, arrived at border outpost (BOP) Oetroi and visited the cultivated agriculture land ahead of the fence under the Area of Responsibility (AOR) of BOP Oetroi. The aim was to motivate and encourage the farmers to cultivate land ahead of the fence in AOR of Samba, BSF Deputy Inspector General S P S Sandhu said.

The BSF Jammu has been instrumental in encouraging border farmers to cultivate land ahead of fencing, along with assistance from the union territory government, he said.

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



Admn 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.

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

on Saturday 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.

Principal Secretary PDD sets deadlines for completion of major power projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Nitishwar Kumar, on Saturday convened a review meeting regarding Centrally Sponsored Schemes and CAPEX works undertaken by Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPT-CL) Kashmir. Chief Engineer JKPTCL along with Executive Engineers and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Principal Secretary reviewed progress on transmission projects being executed in the Valley and emphasized timely completion of all ongoing projects. It was informed that presently there are 7 Grid Sub Stations at 220/132 and 220/33 KV levels and 30 Sub Stations at 132/33 KV level in the valley with an installed capacity of 2340 MVA and 2843.5 MVA respectively. It is expected to enhance the capacity at 220/132 KV and 220/33 KV and 132/33 KV levels to 2810 MVA and 3827 MVA by the end of the financial year.

The notable achievements of

current financial year which were highlighted during the meeting included up gradation of installed capacity at 220/132 KV and 220/33 KV levels from 1920 MVA to 2340 MVA, augmentation of GSS Delina from 160 MVA to 320 MVA at 220/132 KV level, under progress works on 2nd augmentation from 320 MVA to 480 MVA which is expected to be commissioned by February 2022. It is for the first time that two augmentations of any Grid Sub Station have been undertaken in one year.

The meeting was informed that, for the first time in the valley, a GIS has been commissioned at 220/33 KV and conventional ACSR on any 132 KV Transmission Line has been replaced by the state of art HTLS conductor to enhance the current carrying capacity of the conductor by about 1.75 times. Besides, ACSR of 132 KV Delina Amargarh Transmission Line has recently been replaced by HTLS conductor and 132/33 KV GSS Amargarh has recently been augmented from

97.5 MVA to 135 MVA. Also, 220/132 KV GSS Mirbazar is being augmented from 320 MVA to 475 MVA which is expected to be completed by January 2022.

Principal Secretary also reviewed progress on modernization and up gradation of various Grid Sub Stations under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme PSDF. He was informed that 27 projects in 22 Grid Sub Stations of the Valley have been taken up under the scheme at a cost of Rs146.11 crore while 24 projects have already been completed.

He was further informed that 24 out of the 30 projects have already been completed under the Centrally sponsored PMRP-2004 scheme amounting Rs. 835.94 crore and works on rest of the projects are under progress. Under the Centrally Sponsored PMDP-15 scheme worth Rs 414.44 crore, a total of 17 projects have been taken up for execution, out of which, 07 have been completed and rest of the projects are in the final stage of completion.

Central teams deployed in 10 states reporting high Omicron cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Multi-disciplinary central teams have been deployed in 10 states which are reporting either an increasing number of Omicron and COVID-19 cases or a slow vaccination pace, according to a Union Health Ministry office memorandum.

As per the document, these 10 states are Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Mizoram, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Punjab. "In view of rapid surge in cases and deaths because of COVID-19, as reported by various news channels, the state governments, and noted

in internal reviews, it has been seen that the number of Omicron cases has emerged in some states. "It has also been observed that the pace of COVID-19 vaccination in these states is less than the national average. In wake of this situation, a decision has been taken to deploy multi-disciplinary central teams to 10 identified states some of which are either reporting increasing number of Omicron and COVID-19 cases or slow vaccination pace (list enclosed), to aid the efforts of the state and district administration for management of COVID-19," the memorandum stated.

These teams will be stationed

in the states for three to five days, and they will work along with the state health authorities, it said. The teams will specifically look into areas of contact-tracing, including surveillance and containment operations, and COVID-19 testing, including sending of adequate samples from clusters to the INSACOG network for genome sequencing, the memo stated. They will also look into enforcement of Covid-appropriate behaviour, availability of hospital beds, sufficient logistics, including ambulances, ventilators, and medical oxygen, and the COVID-19 vaccination progress.

Minimum temperature dips at most places in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir dipped on Friday night, even as the weatherman has forecast widespread light to moderate rains and snowfall in the Union Territory over two days from Sunday, officials said.

Barring Qazigund, the minimum temperature dipped across the valley on Friday night, the officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of 1.7 degrees Celsius on Friday night down from Thursday night's 2.4 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded the minimum temperature of 2.2 degrees Celsius a degree up from Thursday night.



The nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius compared to 2.2 degrees Celsius on Thursday night.

Pahalgam, which serves as

the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 5.1 degrees Celsius down from minus 1.3 degrees Celsius on Thursday night.

The mercury in Gulmarg settled at a low of minus 6.5 degrees Celsius as compared to Thursday night's minus 5.1 degrees Celsius. The resort

was the coldest recorded place in Jammu and Kashmir.

While many areas in the valley received snowfall on Thursday, the MeT Office has said a spell of greater intensity than that is most likely to occur over two days from Sunday.

"Another snow spell is likely during 26 (evening) to 28 (forenoon). Due to this, light snowfall up to one inch in plains of Kashmir, moderate five to six inches -- over higher reaches of J-K, Zojila-Minamarg axis, and light snowfall at scattered places of Ladakh, especially Kargil-Zanskar area and light rain is likely at scattered places of JMU region during above period, especially on 27, is

likely to occur," the weatherman said.

While the MeT office ruled out any major snowfall as of now, it said there is a possibility of heavy snowfall up to one feet at isolated places over the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir during this period.

Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on Tuesday.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.