

02 Admn team faces opposition during land acquisition at Gharna; several detained

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has declared that there will be no government job and facilities for anyone in Jammu and Kashmir, who is even remotely, associated with terrorists or terror activities.

"Work is on to eliminate the entire terrorism ecosystem. Our strategy is not to eliminate terrorists only but demolish the entire terror ecosystem", Sinha asserted while replying to a volley of questions on varied subjects during Network News 18 India Choupal Conclave in the national capital.

Referring to the recent civilian killings in the Valley, the Lieutenant Governor said all those responsible for such killings have been eliminated as had been promised by him. He termed civilian killings as the result of frustration and reaction to growing peace, progress, prosper-



ity and normalcy in the Valley.

On Kashmiri Pandit Rehabilitation, the LG said that the PM employment package has been implemented fully and 6000 posts have almost been filled. Out of 6000 houses, 3500 houses are under construction and the rest will be completed within a year. He said

03 Why observe J&K Accession Day only & not of other Princely states that acceded to India Dominion ask 'some'?

Centre has a clear cut policy of engaging with the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir-- an integral part of our country and there is no question of engaging with any third party", the Lieutenant Governor said.

Replying to a question on political process, Sinha said that full freedom and security will be provided for conducting political activities. He said the Constitution of India guarantees freedom to everyone. He referred to the District Development Council elections and said that all political parties participated in these polls, held in a free and fair atmosphere without any violence, and the voting was more than Assembly and Parliament elections. He also referred to the first ever widespread celebrations on Independence day, saying that the Tricolor was hosted for the first

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Two SHOs among nine personnel transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kathua, R.C Kotwal on Thursday transferred two Station House Officers (SHOs) among nine police officers.

As per order, Inspector Surinder Pal Singh has been transferred from DPO Kathua to Police Station Lakhampur as SHO; Inspector Anil Kumar Sharma from Police

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Army to introduce new combat uniform from next year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Army is set to introduce a light and more climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel from next year; people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The new camouflage uniform will be based on a "digital disruptive" pattern and they are expected to be showcased at the Army Day parade on January 15, they said. It is learnt that the

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12 Wushu team leaves for Nationals

NGO sealed for alleged illegal adoption, 'sale' of COVID orphans; 2 held

CS expresses concern, calls for formation of joint teams

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two persons were arrested and their NGO office in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama was sealed following allegations of illegal adoption and "sale" of children orphaned during COVID-19 were levelled against them, officials said here on Thursday.

The action against the NGO Global Welfare Charitable Trust at Pampore in Pulwama and the two accused -- Mohammad Amin Rather of Srinagar and Aijaz Ahmed Dar of Pampore -- was taken after a sting operation and report by an online portal allegedly exposing them caught the attention of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

Following this, the chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee in Pulwama filed a police complaint based on which an FIR was registered, a police spokesperson said. He said further investigation in the case was under-

way and more recoveries were expected.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chaired a high level meeting to review the progress made in nabbing the culprits involved in the case involving alleged adoption and sale of covid orphans in Pampore recently.

He also considered the administrative measures being taken by the Social Welfare Department and the law enforcement agencies to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future.

Administrative Secretary, Home, Special Director General, CID, Administrative Secretaries of Social Welfare and Law Departments, two Divisional commissioners and DIG, Central Kashmir Range and other senior officers attended the meeting.

While informing that two persons have been arrested, DIG, CKR, informed that the investigation under a

DSP ranked officer is going on and it is expected that in about week's time, the department will be able to get to the bottom of the case.

He further informed that the case is under review and given the gravity of the case, more stringent sections of the law will be imposed on the accused going forward before the case reaches the trial stage.

The Chief Secretary stated that the trafficking of children and women an inhuman practice and is absolutely unacceptable. There should be zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and forced labour and added that the government will pull out all stops in ridding the UT of this menace.

He further stated that human trafficking almost always has a narco/drug dimension, which has been seen to have linkages with terrorism in the UT. Expressing his concern

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India hits out at OHCHR for comments on J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday hit out at the UN human rights body OHCHR for its adverse comments on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, saying it "betrays" a complete lack of understanding of the security challenges in the region due to cross-border terrorism.

Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights.

Bagchi's comments came in response to a statement made by the spokesperson of

the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on specific incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said "baseless and unfounded" allegations were made against law enforcement authorities and security forces of India in the statement.

"It also betrays a complete lack of understanding on the part of the OHCHR of the security challenges faced by India from cross-border terrorism and its impact on the most fundamental human right, 'the right to life' of our citizens, including in

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India reports 2 Omicron COVID variant cases from Karnataka; Govt faces oppn questions in LS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU: India on Thursday reported its first two cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 from Karnataka--in a South African national and a Bengaluru doctor with no travel history and both men fully vaccinated--even as the Centre faced questions from opposition parties on a timeline for a booster vaccine.

The Union Health Ministry while confirming the detection of two cases of Omicron variant in Bengaluru asked people not to panic but follow Covid-appropriate behaviour

and get vaccinated without delay. It also said the scientific reasoning for booster vaccine doses is under examination and that priority is to complete the task of receiving both jabs of COVID vaccine.

Five contacts of the doctor have also tested positive and their samples have been sent for genomic sequencing, the Karnataka government said.

Besides the cases detected in India, 373 cases of Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 have been detected in 29 nations so far, according to an official.

The new potentially more

contagious B.1.1.529 variant was first reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) from South Africa on November 24, and has been designated as a "Variant of Concern" by the global body, which named it Omicron .

Lav Agarwal, the joint secretary in the Union Health Ministry, told a news conference in Delhi that both the patients had mild symptoms. Severe symptoms have not been noted, he added. The Karnataka state authorities identified the patients as a 66-year-old South African man, who has since left for

Dubai, and a 46-year-old male doctor working at a government hospital in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru civic agency officials said the South African national came to the city on November 20 and his samples were collected at the airport.

After he tested Covid positive, his samples were sent for genomic sequencing. "The reports have come today confirming that the Covid infection was caused by the Omicron variant," BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta told reporters.

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Some respite from cold conditions in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: There was some respite from the intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir, but the mercury stayed below the freezing point across the valley, officials said on Thursday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night -- up from minus 2.5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, they said.

Srinagar recorded its lowest minimum temperature this winter on Wednesday, they said.

According to officials, Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.2 degrees Celsius 24 hours earlier.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district also recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius while the mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled

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Centre extends timeline for implementation of Smart Cities Mission to June 2023

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has extended the timeline for the implementation of Smart Cities Mission to June 2023 due to the Covid pandemic and other reasons, a senior official said on Thursday.

According to an earlier deadline, the cities were expected to complete their projects within five years of being selected under the Smart Cities Mission.

The official said all the 100 smart cities selected under the mission will now have to complete their projects by

June 2023.

Hundred smart cities had been selected through four rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018. The ministry had launched the Smart Cities Mission on 25 June 2015.

"The timeline for the implementation of Smart Cities Mission has been extended to June 2023 due to COVID pandemic and other reasons. Cities that have been selected in 2016 or 2018 will have to complete their projects under the mission by June 2023," the official told PTI.

In the past, the government has come under criticism

from the opposition over the implementation of the smart cities mission, one of the flagship programmes of the BJP government.

According to the ministry, the objective of the Smart Cities Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to their citizens and a clean and sustainable environment through the application of smart solutions.

Recently, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry had said that as of November 12, 2021,

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Three Kashmiri students move Allahabad HC directly for bail

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PRAYAGRAJ: Three Kashmiri students, studying engineering in an Agra college and arrested on sedition and cyber-terrorism charges, have moved the Allahabad High Court directly for bail, saying that lawyers in the Taj city have refused to take up their case for bail in the sessions court.

The three students were arrested in October this year for cheering Pakistan following the neighbouring country's victory in a T20 Cricket World Cup match against India. In their bail pleas to the high court, the three

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Six Jammu hotels declared as COVID Care Centres for foreign travellers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday declared six hotels, with total capacity of 130 persons, as COVID Care Centres for foreign travellers in Jammu.

"To cope up with the emergent situation arisen by COVID-19, six Hotels are declared as COVID Care Centres for foreign travellers coming to District Jammu," reads an order issued by Satish Kumar Sharma, Nodal Officer COVID-19, Jammu.

As per order, Hotel Vivek, Bus Stand, Jammu with 15 persons capacity, Hotel

J&K reports 177 new COVID cases, Ladakh 23

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 177 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the infection tally to 3,37,263 on Thursday, while no new death due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 37 were from the Jammu division and 140 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said. Srinagar district recorded the highest of 58 cases followed by 29 cases in Baramulla district. There are 1,697 active cases in the Union Territory, while the number of recovered patients was 3,31,089, the officials

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Premier, Residency Road, Jammu with 20 persons capacity, Hotel Amrita, Vivekanand Chowk, Jammu with 30 persons capacity, Hotel K.C Residency, Jammu with 30 persons capacity, Hotel Lords Inn, Jammu with 20 persons capacity, and Hotel City Top, Jammu with 15 persons capacity have been declared as COVID Care Centres.

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State of relationship will reflect state of border: EAM on ties with China

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The state of the relationship between India and China will reflect the state of the border, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday, referring to the lingering standoff in eastern Ladakh.

In an interactive session at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, he said the two countries cannot have a "tense, high-friction border" and have great relations in other areas.

Jaishankar said it is not a realistic expectation to carry on with the relationship when there is a tense border and asserted that questions like why it happened and what does it reflect are completely legitimate.

"And as we have made clear -- the state of the relationship, at the end of the day, will reflect the state of the border. You can't have a tense, high-friction border and have great relations in all other parts of life. It does not work that way," he said.

"It is inevitable that this will sort of spill over, it has already spilt over into other domains and the expectation that somehow we will contain it in a narrow sense and carry on with the rest of life, I think, is not a realistic one," the external affairs minister said.

"We do have a significant issue there for us and also for them because I frankly don't think it is in the interest of either country that our

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 24.0°C Min: 9.8°C

Humidity

Max: 74 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 12.8°C Min: -1.8°C

Humidity

Max: 94 Min: 73

Sunset : 17:26 Hours

Sunrise : 07:17 Hours



Senior Congress leader Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public gathering at Surankote.

"Vote on merits should be the imperative", the former Chief Minister said, adding that a sagacious decision would decide their future with public spirited people getting elected.

Azad urged the government not to evict people from lands on which they were living from decades as they have no place to live. He said instead of providing land to people government is evicting people from lands. He said

with the passage of time land availability has decreased to half due to five-fold increase in the population from 1947.

"It's the government which has to provide land to people instead of making them homeless", he maintained. He also urged the government to take effective measures for mitigating the sufferings of the people.

Azad hailed the people of Rajouri-

Poonch for maintaining a close coordination with army in fighting terrorism. From 1947 till date, he said the brave people have worked with army during many wars of notwithstanding the losses they suffered.

Prominent among those present during the public meeting included Ch Akram Ex MLA , Riyaz Mir Member DDC, Jahangir Mir, Ex MLC and others.