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J&K's 5 pc budget...

sector of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that J&K used to have only three medical colleges but now there are seven new medical colleges, almost doubling the 600 MBBS seats to 1100 seats. In addition to it, J&K is the first in the country to have two AIIMS, two Cancer Institutes, besides the number of Health and wellness centres have increased to 1275 after the year 2019, from just 129 and 10 new nursing colleges for the UT have been given by the Prime Minister.

J&K has unique health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT, under which every family is covered for five lakh medical insurance, but before 2019 there was no government health insurance scheme in J&K, he added.

The Lt Governor concluded his address observing that the threat of corona pandemic is not over yet. "A new variant of Covid 'Omicron' has emerged and I urge everyone to follow Covid protocol to prevent the third wave", he said.

Earlier, the Lt Governor dedicated to the patients the new Neuro Sciences ICU, Pulmonary ICU at Infectious Diseases Block, Obstetrics and Gynecology ICU, Geriatric Medicine Ward, State Cancer Institute OPD Complex, Waiting Hall Emergency Medicine, and Extension of Staff Canteen, New CSSD, besides laying e-foundation stones of new College of Paramedical Sciences, Advanced Pediatrics Centre, 1000 seated Auditorium, Construction of Library Block and Separate OPD Block.

Various HoDs and doctors were also felicitated on the occasion for their exemplary services.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor in his speech said that the SKIMS is providing invaluable services to the citizens of UT and has always stood at front in case of any exigency. He added that the institute provides technological sound and evidence-based health care services to the general public.

Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director AIIMS, New Delhi, in his speech highlighted the importance of the institute and said that in coming years it will be an institute of national repute.

Dr. Guleria while delivering a presentation on 'Lessons learnt from COVID-19' said that the pandemic has impacted every fabric of society and it will stay and, therefore we need to invest more in public health services and pandemic preparedness. He added that social distancing and masks are still the best measures to contain spread of pandemic.

Director SKIMS, Dr. A.G Ahangar in his speech gave a detailed overview of the various health services provided by the institute to the general public.

Former Director SKIMS and Chairman Apex Advisory Committee COVID-19, Dr. M.S Khuroo, Deans, Faculty Members, Senior Doctors, Covid Warriors, Nursing Staff, Members of Support Staff of SKIMS were present on the occasion.

17 more Omicron...

and a man who returned from Finland in the last week of November, officials said. The total number of confirmed Omicron cases in Maharashtra has gone up to eight now.

In a statement, the state health department said, "The 44-year-old, woman, who is a Nigerian citizen of Indian origin, her daughters aged 18 and 12, arrived on November 24 from Lagos in Nigeria to meet her brother in Pimpri Chinchwad area.

"The woman, her two daughters, her 45-year-old brother and his two daughters aged 7 and one-and-a-half years, have tested positive for the Omicron variant as per the report given by the Pune-based National Institute of Virology (NIV)."

Their thirteen contacts had been traced and tested, it said.

The country reported the first two cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on Thursday in Karnataka -- a 66-year-old South African flyer and a 46-year-old Bengaluru doctor with no travel history. Both men are fully vaccinated.

On Saturday, a 72-year-old NRI from Gujarat and a 33-year-old man from Maharashtra's Thane tested positive for the new strain.

The marine engineer, who had arrived in Delhi from South Africa on November 23 and had then taken a flight to Mumbai, is currently undergoing treatment at a COVID-19 care centre in Kalyan town, located about 50 km from Maharashtra capital.

"He is stable and responding well to treatment," deputy director of health services, Mumbai circle, Dr Gauri Rathod told PTI.

The first patient to test positive for Omicron in Delhi is a resident of Ranchi and had travelled from Tanzania to Doha and from there to Delhi on a Qatar Airways flight on December 2. He stayed in Johannesburg, South Africa, for a week, officials told PTI.

The person is fully vaccinated and is currently admitted to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital with mild symptoms, an official said.

He had to take a connecting flight to Ranchi, where he lives with his family. Since he gave his sample at the IGI Airport which came out positive, we admitted him to LNJP hospital, the official said.

Authorities are trying to locate and isolate 10 people who occupied the seats close to this passenger on the flight.

Delhi's Health Minister Satyendar Jain said 17 COVID-19 patients and six of their contacts have been admitted to the Lok Nayak Hospital so far.

The Omicron variant has been found in one of the 12 samples sent for genome sequencing so far, according to a preliminary report," he said.

"The patient complained of sore throat, fever and body ache. He is stable now," Medical Director Suresh Kumar said.

The Delhi health minister said banning international flights is the most effective way to contain the spread of the Omicron variant even as he appealed to people to wear masks and take COVID-19 vaccine.

He said there is a 99 percent chance that the mask can save people from all COVID-19 variants, be it Alpha, Beta, Delta or Omicron.

Under the new norms, RT-PCR tests are mandatory for passengers arriving from the "at-risk" countries and they will be allowed to leave the airport only after the results come.

According to the Centre, the countries designated as "at-risk" are European countries, including the UK, and South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.

Also, two percent of the passengers arriving on flights from other countries will be subjected to the test randomly.

India saw a single-day rise of 2,796 fatalities with Bihar and Kerala carrying out a reconciliation exercise of COVID-19 data, pushing the country's death toll to 4,73,326, while 8,895 new infections were reported, according to Union health ministry data updated on Sunday.

As many 2,426 deaths in Bihar and 263 deaths in Kerala were added.

India's total tally of COVID-19 cases has increased to 3,46,33,255, the data updated at 8 AM showed.

The daily rise in new coronavirus infections has remained below 50,000 for 161 consecutive days now.

The active cases stand at 99,155, comprising 0.29 percent of the total infections, the lowest since March 2020. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.35 percent, the health ministry said.

Even amid the emergence of new variants like Omicron, vaccination remains one of the strongest pillars of protection against disease and infection, according to experts.

The issue of administering an 'additional' dose of COVID-19 vaccine to immunocompromised individuals will be deliberated upon in the meeting of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation scheduled to be held on December 6, official sources said.

According to officials, an additional dose of vaccine is different from a booster dose.

A booster dose is given to an individual after a predefined period when the immune response due to primary vaccination is presumed to have declined, while an additional dose is given to immunocompromised and immunosuppressed individuals when a primary schedule of vaccination does not provide adequate protection from the infection and disease, they explained.

Like farmers, J&K...

what unity can do. "But the body of one person has still not been returned to his family. How many innocent people would they have killed this way? We will hold them accountable. He (God) will also hold them accountable and no one will escape that," the NC chief said.

Referring to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks that tourism has increased in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370, Abdullah said "as if tourism is everything" when it comes to the union territory.

"You had promised 50,000 jobs, where are they? Rather you are terminating our people. Were there no people for employing in the (Jammu & Kashmir) Bank that you got people from Punjab and Haryana?"

"Where will the boys and girls from J&K go? But if we raise our voices, they are crushed. The media is facing pressure, they (journalists) are summoned to police stations if they write anything against (the government). And they (government) say there is freedom," he said.

Abdullah asked NC workers to remain united and hold the party flag high.

"Many enemies will come and try to pull you (away) from the party, be wary (of them). They are roaming around. Do not listen to them and remain with the party," he said.

161 new COVID...

these, 14 tested positive for the viral disease in Leh.

They said 23 patients were discharged from hospitals in Leh and four in Kargil, taking the total number of recoveries in Ladakh to 21,170.

Another milestone achieved...

by train from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is expected to start in the next two years and to achieve the deadline, work is in full swing in Ramban.

Sharma said 96 per cent of the 53-kilometre-long railway line in the mountainous Ramban district passes through underground tunnels and land measuring over 11,000 kanal (550 hectares) has been handed over to the railways.

Managing director, Beigh Construction Company (BCC), Imran Beigh said a roadheader machine is being used for the first time in the excavation of railway tunnels in the Kashmir rail project.

"The roadheader machine is being used in tunnel excavation and thanks to the machine, there is no need for carrying out blasts inside the tunnels, which sometimes damage the nearby residential houses coming along the railway tunnels," he said.

Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Sunday nabbed a narco smuggler and seized approximately 6.50 gm heroin like substance from his possession.

As per details, a team of Police Station Bus Stand led by SHO Insp. Deepankar Singh assisted by ASI Rishpal Singh during patrolling rounded up a suspect and recovered 6.50 gm heroin like substance (chitta) from his possession. The accused, identified as Raj Kumar, son of Krishan Lal, resident of Rehtyian Udhampur, was arrested and FIR No. 76/2021 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station, Bus Stand, Jammu. On preliminary questioning accused disclosed that he is involved in selling and purchase of Heroin (Chitta). The arrest and recovery was made under the supervision of SSP Jammu Chandan Kohli, SP City North Mohita Sharma, SDPO City North DySP Sharad Kalu.

Auto rickshaw hits electric pole, driver dies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An auto rickshaw driver died after his vehicle hit a pole in Panjthirthi area on Sunday.

As per details, an auto rickshaw (JK02AW-9904) which was on its way to Jammu from Nagrota, hit a pole along roadside near Moni Baba temple due to which driver got injured. He was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to injuries. The deceased has been identified as Sajjad Ahmed, son of Ghulam Rasool, resident of Khampur, Nagrota.

Temple gutted in Chatroo area of Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: A famous ancient local temple (Krishna Mandir) was gutted in a fire incident under mysterious circumstances at Arigham Singhpura in Chatroo area of Kishtwar District last night.

According to locals, due to lack of fire fighting equipments in the area, the temple reduced to ashes. After witnessing smoke coming from the temple, people of both the communities reached the spot and started dousing of flames.

Meanwhile Army's 11 RR Chatroo Company also reached the spot and tried its best to extinguish fire along with civilians from both communities. Army also ensured that communal harmony is maintained in the area. Although, locals have demanded provision of fire tenders in the area.

Rs 27,600 fine recovered from SoPs violators in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing the enforcement drive to implement COVID protocols across district Ramban, the Enforcement teams on Sunday fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance. The enforcement teams, during inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs 27,600 taking the total amount fined since April 1, 2021 to Rs 18,300.

The Enforcement officers urged people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking COVID vaccination doses at their nearest CVC. District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr Suresh informed that as many as 682 persons were administered first and second COVID vaccine doses across Ramban district on Sunday.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department has collected 2,228 samples including 527 RT-PCR and 1,701 RAT samples besides administering COVID vaccine to 682 persons at dedicated Vaccination Centres in the district.

Contractor held with 'unauthorised' cash in Sopore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: A man, who claimed to have worked as a contractor with Border Security

"We have been given a one-year deadline to complete tunnel number 77 and I am hopeful that we will complete the project within the deadline," he added.

Centre ensured immediate...

celebrations here, the minister also said it is the government's commitment to provide the world's best technology to the force.

Shah said India is developing anti-drone technology and it will soon be provided to the security forces.

Drones and unidentified flying objects have been sighted along the sensitive border with Pakistan post the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, according to central security agencies.

J&K: Fresh snowfall...

and the Jammu region were lashed by rains, while some areas such as Poonch and Udhampur received hailstorm, the officials said.

The MeT office has forecast widespread light rain in plains and snowfall over the hilly areas in Kashmir and light rain with thunder at scattered places of Jammu region.

The weather is expected to improve from Sunday night, it said.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature rose across Kashmir and settled above the freezing point at most places of the valley on Saturday night.

Srinagar recorded a low of 0.6 degrees Celsius on Saturday night up from minus 0.7 degrees Celsius the previous night, the officials said.

They said Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of 2.7 degrees Celsius, up from minus 2 degrees Celsius 24 hours earlier.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius and was the only place in the valley where the mercury stayed below the freezing point.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 1.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded 3.4 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Anita Sharma impersonates...

Jammu Municipal Corporation Town Hall, Jammu

Sikander Angral,
S/o. Kartar Chand,
R/o. W.60 Paloura Mohalla Dokh,
Near Ravi Dass Mandir, Jammu.

No: 8mc/84/17/77-77

Dated: 03/9/2021

Sub: Application for seeking information under J&K Right to Information Act.

In reference to your application dt: 18/08/2021 received under receipt no. 4275 dt. 18/08/2021, the called for information is given as under.

S.No.	Information	Reply
1.	Please issue certified copy of the approved plan of Plot No. 44 D/C Gandhi Nagar , Jammu in the name of Ms. Anita Sharma W/o. Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma.	As per record available no building permission has been issued to Anita Sharma W/o. Shiv Kumar situated at plot no. 44 D/C , Gandhi Nagar ,Jammu
2.	Please issue certified copy of the approved plan of Plot No. 84/110-A Block, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu in the name of Ms. Anita Sharma W/o. Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma.	Copy enclosed.

Senior Town Planner
Municipal Corporation
Jammu

Copy to the:

• Nodal Officer (SLO), Jammu Municipal Corporation for favour of information.

Kumar Sharma, 23 B/C for carrying out minor violations, notwithstanding the fact that a huge two storey building was constructed illegally with violation of Set Backs too.

Meanwhile, the J&K Tribunal stayed the notice of May 31, 2021, issued by the Jt. Commissioner for minor violations, and the case continues to be sub-judice.

According to the sources, the JMC is delaying in submission of records as sought by the Tribunal on every date of hearing.