

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

COVID not over..

in the country and the emergence of new variants and their public health implication, Modi directed officials to ramp up testing and also genomic sequencing efforts. States have been asked to share a larger number of samples with the designated INSACOG Genome Sequencing Laboratories (IGSLs) for genome sequencing on a daily basis, the PMO said.

This will support timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the country and facilitate undertaking requisite public health measures, it said.

Prime Minister Modi cautioned against complacency and advised strict vigil.

He reiterated that "Covid is not over yet" and directed officials to strengthen the ongoing surveillance measures, especially at international airports, the statement said.

Modi stressed on the need to ensure that entire Covid infrastructure at all levels is maintained at a high level of preparedness in terms of equipment, processes and human resources.

The prime minister also advised states to audit Covid-specific facilities to ensure operational readiness of hospital infrastructure, including oxygen cylinders, PSA plants, ventilators and human resources, the statement said.

This high-level review meeting comes in the backdrop of spike in Covid cases in some countries.

A comprehensive presentation was made at the meeting regarding the global Covid situation, including the rising cases in countries, by the health secretary and the member (health) at the NITI Aayog.

Prime Minister Modi was briefed that India has been witnessing a steady decline in cases with average daily cases falling to 153 and weekly positivity down to 0.14 per cent in the week ending December 22.

However, 5.9 lakh daily average cases have been reported globally since the last six weeks.

Modi was informed that there is adequate availability with regard to medicines, vaccines and hospital beds.

He also advised regular monitoring of prices and availability of essential medicines.

Highlighting the globally appreciated work of frontline healthcare workers, Prime Minister Modi exhorted them to continue working in the same selfless and dedicated manner, according to the statement.

The meeting chaired by Modi was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar; Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister PK Mishra, NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer, Member (Health) NITI Aayog V K Paul, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Advisor PMO Amit Khare, Home Secretary A K Bhalla, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, among others.

The meeting came on a day several states such as Uttar Pradesh and Delhi also conducted a review of the Covid situation.

Earlier in the day, Madaviya made a statement in Parliament and said India has started two per cent random sampling of international travellers coming to the country and may consider making it mandatory for all if necessary.

He made the remarks while responding to queries of some Opposition MPs after his suo moto statement in Rajya Sabha on the latest COVID-19 situation and India's preparedness.

In his statement, Mandaviya said that in the recent days there have been reports of rise in COVID-19 cases in many countries such China, Japan, South Korea, the US, France, Greece and Italy.

Mandatory COVID tests...

to a query by Raghav Chadha of AAP on whether the government would ban direct flights from China.

As a health minister, Mandaviya said he has spoken to many countries and WHO about what all precautions are needed to be taken and also understand in which direction the pandemic is moving.

"At a primary stage, we have already started doing 2 per cent random sampling of any traveller coming to India," he said.

The minister further said "in the coming days the percentage could be increased and if necessary we will make it mandatory for everyone coming to India".

Mandaviya also said the focus of the government is to ensure that no unknown variant of the virus enters India and at the same time there is now impediment on travelling.

The minister assured the Upper House that all the oxygen plants were running and a review has also been done about the availability of medicines.

"We are prepared and ready to provide the requirement of medicines and vaccines in the country," he said.

Mandaviya also informed that an expert committee has given approval to nasal vaccine to combat the virus, doing away with the requirements of jabs.

"We are fully prepared to fight the virus," he asserted.

Referring to the letter written to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to follow appropriate covid protocol during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he said it was his responsibility as a health minister to write after few MPs from the state had pointed out to him about people, including the Himachal Pradesh chief minister who took part in the event contracted the virus.

"We have never done politics on covid crisis and we don't even want to do it," Mandaviya asserted.

In his statement, he said in the recent days there have been reports of rise in COVID-19 cases in many countries such China, Japan, South Korea, the US, France, Greece and Italy.

The evolving nature of the virus poses threat to global health in a way that impacts virtually every country, he said adding the Centre has asked states to remain alert and create awareness about wearing face masks and using hand sanitisers, especially in view of upcoming festivals and new year celebrations.

He further said states have also been advised to focus on heightened surveillance within the community and to undertake requisite control and containment measures, increase the whole genome sequencing of all positive cases for timely detection of newer variants, if any.

Eight Munsiffs transferred..

Munsiff Sankoo. He shall also hold the charge of the Court of Munsiff Zanskar. Deldan Angmo, Munsiff/Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Drass has been transferred and posted as Munsiff (LRP) in the High Court wing Jammu; and Munsiff Magam shall hold the additional charge of the Court of Munsiff/Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Beerwah in addition to its own duties till further order.

LS adjourned for...

parties have been demanding a discussion on the India-China border tensions and the latest Chinese transgressions since the Winter session started on December 7.

Several Opposition MPs have given adjournment notices in both Houses of Parliament, seeking a discussion on the issue.

Indian and Chinese troops clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9 and the face-off resulted in "minor injuries to a few personnel from both sides", according to the Indian Army.

Employees asked to...

of the assets held by him and his family members in the month of January every year and shall indicate the reasons for the increase, if any, in the assets and source of the same.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder provides for imposing a penalty for non-submission of the property returns by the public servants", the government said in a circular.

"It is further provided that if any public servant without any reasonable cause which he shall be required to show, fails to submit the return annually, he shall be guilty of committing criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and shall be punishable under the said Act".

The Act and Rules also lay down that every public servant shall submit annual property returns as per instruction issued by the Government from time to time, in respect of all the assets possessed by him and his family members.

"With a view to make the process of filing of property returns employee friendly, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has launched online portal for filing of annual property returns (PRS-Portal) by each and every J&K Government Employee, as mandated under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder and also as per the provisions of the Employees Conduct Rules, every year ending 31st December, by or before 31st January of the next calendar year," the circular stated.

The PRS-Portal is accessible on <http://prs.jk.gov.in> and the employees can file their annual property returns on the portal from 1st of January and the facility automatically gets closed on 31st of January every year.

"The non-submission of property returns by the employees shall invite action against them under the Prevention of Corruption Act, besides, shall result in denial of their Vigilance Clearance."

Accordingly, government advised the employees working under the Jammu and Kashmir Government to file their property returns for the year 2022, on the PRS-Portal, from 1st of January upto 31st of January, 2023.

"Further, it is enjoined upon all the DDOS to ensure registration of those employees, who have not yet registered on the PRS Portal," it stated, adding, "Besides, ensuring filing of property details by their cent percent employees, within the specified time. The portal will automatically close on January 31, 2023."

BJP promises transfer...

but it is a matter of responsibility. We cannot step back on this responsibility," Rana said.

Former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta also said that the demand of the protesting employees will be fulfilled.

Lt Governor Sinha on Wednesday asserted all necessary measures have been taken for the safety of minority community employees including Kashmiri Pandits serving in the Valley, and sent out a "loud and clear" message to those protesting for transfer - no salary for sitting at home.

Sinha had made the remark amid the ongoing protest by migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees and Jammu-based reserved category employees who left the Valley for Jammu in May following the targeted killings of their two colleagues Rahul Bhat and Rajni Bhalla. The protesting employees have been seeking relocation outside Kashmir. He said the J & K administration has full sympathy with them and is ready to provide them security or any other assistance.

He also said that the chief secretary has framed a committee to look into their demand. "And I assure them that if there is any chance, we will frame a policy accordingly."

PIL regarding development...

wall by way providing chain link fencing equipped with concertina coil and barbed wire upto a length of nearly 2700 ft was constructed Phase-1st, but as per the decision taken in the meeting held on 29-02-2020 under the Chairmanship of Pawan Kotwal, the then Principal Secretary to Govt Revenue Department J&K, it was held that the possession and ownership of 55 Kanal out of the 97 Kanal and 11 Marla land allotted to JMC shall remain with the Forest Department of J&K. As per the decision taken, the Forest Department shall establish a fodder bank in the land to cater the fodder requirement of cattle pound being established by JMC. The Forest Department shall also take steps for soil and water conservation as well as other activities for increasing the productivity of Fodder production. "Land measuring 97 Kanals and 11 Marlas has been earmarked by the revenue department for purpose of construction of Gashalla, however, the Revenue Department is not arrayed as party respondent by the petitioner. Therefore, we deem it appropriate to array Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Jammu and Kashmir as party respondent and directed registry to update the cause title of the

petition," the Court observed and issued notice to newly arrayed respondent, which was accepted by senior AAG Monika Kohli. DB after perusal of status report further revealed that there is no mention with regard to timeframe of the construction of the Gashalla and in view of the above and in order to resolve the issues highlighted in this public interest litigation, including the issue with regard to land measuring 55 Kanal owned by the Forest Department. The Court requested Adv D C Raina, Advocate General to convene a meeting with Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Forest Department; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and Deputy Commissioner, Jammu over the matter:

Winter vacations in...

the order. "All teachers shall remain available on demand for any online guidance of students during vacation period," it stated and added, "Any default on part of the Head of the Schools and Teaching staff in observance of the above schedule shall attract action under Rules."

Meanwhile, J&K Higher Education Department (HED) on Thursday announced winter vacations for all Government Degree Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

As per an order issued by Principal Secretary HED Alok Kumar, the Degree Colleges in Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu division will observe winter vacation from December 27 to February 14, 2023.

Also, the degree Colleges in summer zone of Jammu division will observe winter vacation from January 1 to 10, 2023.

SC to pronounce...

Resisting the apex court's attempt to revisit the 2016 demonetisation exercise, the government had said the court cannot decide a matter when no tangible relief can be granted by way of "putting the clock back" and "unscrambling a scrambled egg".

The RBI had earlier admitted in its submissions that there were "temporary hardships" and that those too are an integral part of the nation-building process, but there was a mechanism by which the problems that arose were solved.

In an affidavit, the Centre told the top court recently that the demonetisation exercise was a "well-considered" decision and part of a larger strategy to combat the menace of fake money, terror financing, black money and tax evasion.

The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the demonetisation exercise announced by the Centre on November 8, 2016.

India, China hold...

round of Corps Commander-level talks on the eastern Ladakh row came over a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping shook hands and exchanged pleasantries at the G20 summit in Bali.

On the clash in the Tawang sector, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on December 13 that the Chinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat by its firm and resolute response.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said the Indian Army will not let China change the status quo along the LAC "unilaterally" and its current deployment along the frontier was not seen before.

When asked about the Tawang incident, Bagchi said he would not like to comment and referred to the statement made by Defence Minister Singh on the matter.

To another question on whether similar incidents happened in the past in the region, he said there were incidents when Indian troops stood firm and "you are aware of that.. we have been emphasising that our soldiers will stand firm to guard our frontiers".

Replying to a separate query on whether the Tawang incident was flagged by the Indian side at the military talks, Bagchi said he would not like to speculate as he does not have a confirmation on it.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

The disengagement in the Pangong Lake area took place in February last year while the withdrawal of troops and equipment in Patrolling Point 17 (A) in Gogra took place in August last year.

Srinagar records coldest...

yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.8 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

It was also the coldest night of the season so far at the tourist resort.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, they said.

The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at minus 5.1 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag recorded a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological department has forecast mostly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir till December 24.

There is possibility of rain or light snowfall in some parts of Kashmir around Christmas, it said.

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' is the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to freezing of water bodies as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

While 'Chillai-Kalan' begins on December 21, it will end on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

BJP to celebrate ‘Sushashan Diwas’ Assembly

Wise in all constituencies: Baru



Senior BJP leader Sanjay Kumar Baru addressing party workers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Bharatiya Janata Party will celebrate Assembly wise "Sushasan Divas" programmes in all constituencies on the occasion of birth anniversary of Yug Purush Bharat Ratna Awardee Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister of India, said Sanjay Kumar Baru, Senior BJP Leader and Purbhari District Nowshera-Sunderbani constituencies along with party district president Neena Sharma, district co-incharge Mohinder Sudan while addressing the meeting of BJP district office bearers, Mandal Presidents and senior leader at Sunderbani.

Addressing the meeting, Sanjay Baru said, while celebrating the "Sushasan Divas" we will highlight the overall development works and various welfare schemes for the poor, farmers, deprived & under privileged, SCs, STs and OBCs which are being imple-

mented by the BJP Governments under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Ministers Narinder Modi Ji and also by former Prime Minister Sh.Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji through the length and breadth of the country. He also discussed all other upcoming party programmes in detail with participants in the meeting. Baru said that "Sushasan

Divas" programmes will be held directly under the supervision of BJP National President J.P. Nadda nationwide and J&K B-JP President Ravinder Raina and General Secretary(Org.) Ashok Koul in J&K constituency wise.

It will start uniformly at 11.00 am with PM Modi's "Mann ki Baat" and programme will follow after downloading the party's SARAL App. Neena Gupta, BJP former district presidents Capt.Ramesh Kumar, Capt.Som Dutt, Capt.Bal Krishan, BDC chairman Bal Krishan, Pritam Sharma, Madan Pal Sharma, Tilak Raj Gupta, Sukhdev Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Sanjay Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Chaman Lal Raina, and prominent leaders were present in the meeting.

Community College organises ELITE-2022

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Community College, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) celebrated "ELITE-2022"- a Freshers'-cum-Farewell party to welcome the new batch students and say adios to the final year students.

ELITE-2022 was unveiled with the blessings of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Vice Chancellor, CUJ. Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Director, CCRC, CUJ was the Chief Guest. The event started with the formal welcome address by Prof Jaya Bhasin, Principal, Community College.

Further, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh adorned the event with his mind-blowing speech. The programme was organised by the team comprising the students of B.Voc.-3rd Semester who were led by Sudhir Kumar and Alok Singh.

The entire programme was coordinated by Ketan Bhatt (Faculty member) and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq (Nodal officer for B.Voc. Programmes).

A series of contests such as musical chair, ramp walk, dance, solo singing, etc. were also conducted to choose the winners. All these contests were judged by Kohit Targotra (faculty member) and Ketan Bhatt. Eventually, Raghav Pandita was honoured as Mr. Fresher, Meenakshi Devi as Miss Fresher, Animesh Seth as Mr. Farewell, and Tanisha Singh as Miss Farewell.

Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur, SDM visits Panchayat Gatti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI : Under the flagship programme "PAR-SHASAN GAON KI AUR", SDM Bani Satish Sharma alongwith BDO Bani and officers and concerned officials of different departments, conducted an extensive tour of Panchayat Gatti on Thursday and started many developmental works.

In the very beginning a tractor road work which was withheld due to a land dispute was started by resolving the dispute in an amicable manner. Thereafter the work of Water Supply Scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission was also started. In yet another case the construction work of play ground at Bhangia was also taken

up.

Subsequently, a Public Grievances Redressal Camp was held at Bhangia, Panchayat Gatti in which various demands were projected by the public of Panchayats Gatti and Sitti. These included connecting part I and II of PMGSY road from Sarthali Upper to Tapper which had to be deferred for want of Forest clearance. SDM said that necessary steps will be taken in this direction soon.

Locals of the area highly appreciated the visit of SDM with his team for on spot decisions and commencing work on ground.

Dogri Sanstha organises seminar during Dogri Maanta Diwas celebrations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On 2nd day of Dogri Maanta Divas celebrations by pioneer literary organization Dogri Sanstha, Jammu from December 21st to December 23rd 2022 at Dogri Bhawan, Dogri Sanstha, Karan Nagar Jammu, a seminar was organized which was chaired by Prof. R.D. Sharma , former Vice Chancellor Jammu University as Chief Guest whereas it was presided over by Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu.

The seminar had six papers

Lalpura visits Digiana Ashram, meets Mahant Manjit Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Iqbal Singh Lalpura visited Digiana Ashram Jammu and met Shriman Mahant Manjit Singh Ji of Shiromani Dera Nagali Sahib Poonch. Lalpura was welcomed by Mahant Ji alongwith Sangat and presented Saropa.

During interaction the demands of Sikh Community already submitted through memorandums were revealed again which include; Punjabi be re-inducted in the Schedule of official languages in J&K UT, a Sikh member be included in the Service Selection



Mahant Manjit Singh presenting a Siropa to NCM Chairman Iqbal Singh Lalpura.

Board, 4 Assembly seats and 2 Parliamentary seats out of those proposed to be defreezed from PoK quota, be allotted to Sikh Community of two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir, payment of balance amount of Rs 24.5 lakh to

doing a commendable job of promoting mother tongue Dogri and cultural traditions of Duggar Pradesh.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu, who presided over the function said that Dogri Sanstha Jammu always tries its level best to come up to the expectations of Dogras.

The programme that was attended by galaxy of prominent personalities from all walks of life was conducted by Dr. Chanchal Bhasin and vote of thanks was presented by Inderjeet Kesar.

DFs of 1947 out of Rs 30 lakh recommended by the JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee) as one time settlement as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Election Rally be released, Anand Marriage Act for the community be enacted and Statue of Banda Singh Bahadur at Kunjawani Crossing as already approved by the UT Govt be installed.

Chairman NCM Iqbal Singh Lalpura assured Mahant Manjit Singh Ji that he will discuss these issues with Lieutenant Governor J&K UT Manoj Kumar Sinah, Prime Minister Narinder Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and bring these to the logical conclusion. Prominent among those include Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanhiya Niskan Sewa Society, Darbinder Singh President SAD J&K, Karan Singh Bali Member DGPC, Gajan Singh, Rajinder Singh and others.

