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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 tanks, 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 Pramod Kumar 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, Mandaviya 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 sanitizers, especially in view of upcoming festivals and new year celebrations.

BJP to celebrate 'Sushashan Diwas' Assembly Wise in all constituencies: Baru



STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: Bharatiya Janata Party will celebrate Assembly wise "Sushashan Diwas" 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 "Sushashan Diwas" we will highlight the overall development works and various welfare schemes for the poor, farmers, deprived & underprivileged, SCs, STs and OBCs which are being imple-

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 Targota (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.

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 Gaushala, 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

Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur, SDM visits Panchayat Gatti

STATE TIMES NEWS

Diwas" programmes will be held directly under the supervision of BJP National President J.P. Nadda nationwide and J&K BJP 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.

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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 Panchayat 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.

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