

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
LG visits GMC...

entry passes to the attendants.
"Senior doctors should also take the front line in informing people to adopt safe practices and COVID protocol. Seniors must leverage their role as both a doctor, caring & treating patients and a public health advocate containing COVID pandemic", observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor sought the status of two new Oxygen plants which are being set up by the J&K UT administration at GMC Jammu to augment its oxygen capacity.

While reviewing the progress being made for establishing additional 100-bedded COVID ward, the Lt Governor directed the Principal and senior doctors of GMC Jammu to ensure the operationalization of the said facility at the earliest.

The Lt Governor also enquired about COVID care facilities, availability of oxygen support beds, functionality of Oxygen Generation Plants, besides compliance of earlier directions including regular rounds of HoDs and senior doctors in the wards to examine the patients.

Earlier, the Lt Governor visited Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) 500-bedded under construction COVID hospital site at Bhagwati Nagar and took first-hand appraisal of the on-going work.

The fully air-conditioned make-shift COVID facility with 125 ICU beds and ventilators will be completed by May 25, 2021.

While enquiring about the patient-care facilities to be made available at the said COVIDeare Hospital, the Lt Governor was informed by the officers of DRDO about installation of Oxygen Generation Plant, triage facility, availability of Doctors, Paramedics and other important aspects of the COVID care management.

The Lt Governor directed the Health Department to provide all support to DRDO, including arrangements of health related facilities, hiring/posting of doctors, paramedics, and other healthcare workforce well before the formal functioning of the hospital.

While having a briefing on the road connectivity to the Hospital site and other related works, the Lt Governor set deadlines for completion of the road and other auxiliary works. He directed the concerned departments to make sure that all necessary arrangements are made well in advance.

It was informed that Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) tanks with a capacity of 40 metric tons (2 tanks of 20 metric tons each) would be installed in this COVID care facility, besides the whole structure is prefabricated and fire retardant.

Pertinently, DRDO is setting up 500-bedded COVID facility, one each in Srinagar and Jammu, which will substantially increase the COVID dedicated bed availability in J&K.

BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department and Information Department; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Dr. Renu Sharma Director Health Services, Jammu, and other concerned officers accompanied the Lt Governor during his visits.

Officers of the DRDO present were Dr. Anil Khurana, Chief Engineer, Harpreet Singh, Senior Administrative Officer, and Kamlesh Kumar, Dy CCE.

SFs detect, neutralise...

Pal Singh said. The IED was "detected and neutralised between Sugan and Turkhwangam (areas in Shopian) by alert security forces", he said.

"Police and the Army were aware of likely attempts by some Pakistani-sponsored terrorists attempting to use an IED against security forces. However, security forces are committed to foil all attempts of terrorists to disturb peace in Kashmir," Singh said.

66.26 lakh eligible...

NHH ration card holders in J&K.

The additional 5 KG ration per person for two months is being distributed under Government of India - Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). For the purpose, 33129.83 MT of foodgrains have been allocated for the month of May and June each.

The initiative will cover 8.86 Lakh AAY and 57.40 Lakh PHH beneficiaries. The eligible households are appealed that they may collect free ration for May in May and for June in June, 2021 being distributed through POS devices.

In view of the COVID 19 crisis, Government of India recently announced free ration in favour of AAY/ PHH ration card holders for two months under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

4,141 new COVID...

Naib-Tehsildars and Police department.
The drive was focused particularly in rural areas of Tehsils Bishnah, Arnia, Nagrota, R.S.Pura, Akhnoor, Dansal, Jourian, Jammu West and Niabats Rehal, Miran Sahib, Gole-Gujral, Chak Malal and Digiana alongwith Narwal Sabzi Mandi.

A separate team of officers headed by Executive Magistrate 1st class along with SHO Pacea Danga and officers of Legal Metrology, FCS&CA and Food Safety conducted market checking in the areas of Kacchi Chawni, Pacea Danga and Parade Sabzi Mandi and checked mutton shops, milk shops, kiriyana shops and vegetable/fruit shops.

During the checking, fine was recovered from violators with the warning to the traders to ensure standard of purity, quality and hygiene of the products especially perishable

items to minimize the chances of transmission of infection.

In Bishnah, Arnia, and R.S. Pura towns, besides at Niabats of Miran Sahib and Rehal, the teams of officers of Revenue comprising concerned Tehsildars and SHOs led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Law & Order), Jammu inspected different market areas to ensure that Guidelines/SOPs as also the restrictions for containment of COVID-19 Pandemic are being implemented on the ground.

During the physical checking of Grocery, Fruit /vegetables and dairy products shops (Milk Vendor shops) in the morning hours, some violations viz. non-wearing of compulsory face masks, non-maintenance of social distancing were noticed and a fine to the tune of Rs. 12,500 was recovered on the spot from the violators.

In Gole Gujral and Bhagwati Nagar area of Tehsil Jammu West, a team of officers headed by Tehsildar Jammu West alongwith Naib Tehsildar and concerned SHO visited to different areas and inspected enforcement of restrictions and implementation of guidelines and SOPs for containment of COVID-19 pandemic. During the physical checking, some violations viz non wearing of compulsory face masks, non-maintenance of social distancing were noticed and fine to the tune of Rs. 37000 was realised on the spot from the violators.

Similarly, in Jourian Town of Sub Division Akhnoor, a team of officers headed by Tehsildar Jourian along with concerned Naib Tehsildar visited different areas and recovered Rs. 3000 fine from the violators.

COVID curfew extended...

be allowed to open from 7 am to 2 pm. The supply and distribution of essential commodities by wholesale distributors would be allowed between 5 am to 9 am and their movement would be allowed on the production of a valid trade license or registration certificate, the order stated.

All government employees, staff of public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies, universities and other such offices would be allowed to commute to and from their workplace on the production of a valid identity card and duty roster issued by the concerned heads of departments.

The order stated that developmental activities and construction work would be allowed only when the labourers are present at the site and adequate facilities for their stay are available at the worksite.

Similarly, agricultural activities would be allowed with strict observance of COVID-19 related standard operating procedure (SOP), it said.

In a separate order, Kargil District Magistrate Santosh Sukhadeve said a detailed review of the current COVID situation was conducted by the District Disaster Management Authority. It was of the considered view that stringent containment measures are required at a macro level in order to restrict the movement and intermingling of people.

The restrictions would be extended till 7 am on May 24 and there would be no curbs on activities that are already allowed, he said.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's COVID-19 tally mounted to 16,333 with 177 fresh cases while the death toll climbed to 165 as two more people succumbed to the viral disease in the union territory, officials said.

Of the latest deaths, one each was reported from Leh and Kargil districts, they said.

So far, Leh has reported 119 deaths and Kargil 46.

Leh reported 174 of the fresh cases and Kargil three, the officials said.

They said that the number of active cases in Ladakh stands at 1,549 -- 1,260 in Leh and 289 in Kargil.

The officials said as many as 181 COVID-19 patients -- 165 in Leh and 16 in Kargil -- were discharged the previous day after they recovered from the disease, taking the cumulative number of cured patients to 14,619, which accounts for 90 per cent of the total cases. said.

Dr Jitendra takes...

Nursing Home are being vacated and very soon the Chopra Nursing Home will start COVID facility with 100 beds to begin with. Similarly, 100 beds of the newly planned Emergency Block of the Hospital will also be added for COVID Care.

So far GMC Jammu had a buffer stock of 250 Oxygen Cylinders at a time. This buffer stock will also be enhanced in order to enrich the Oxygen cylinder capacity manifold.

Dr Jitendra was informed that as a follow-up of earlier two meetings taken by him, the relatives and the attendants of the patients will be enabled to follow the proper SOPs for COVID protection and will also be given an Identity Card for their convenience.

Meanwhile, as decided in the earlier meetings, the exercise has been initiated to audit Oxygen and the Ventilators. The ventilators issued through PM Cares Fund are to be utilised optimally and in case any Ventilator is not functioning, it will be identified on real time basis and rectified.

Similarly, as per the decision in the earlier meeting, the Medical and the Nursing students are being deployed for Ward work, which will reinforce the Patient Care and also build confidence among the patients' relatives.

Already booked online...

the media suggesting that people who had pre-booked their appointments for the second dose in less than 84 days on Co-WIN are being turned back from vaccination centres without getting the second dose of Covishield, it said.

"Additionally, already booked online appointments for second dose of Covishield will remain valid and are not being cancelled by Co-WIN. Further, the beneficiaries are advised to reschedule their appointments for a later date beyond the

84th day from the date of first dose of vaccination," the ministry added.

The Union government has reiterated to the states/UTs that online appointments booked for second dose of Covishield prior to this change of the interval between the two doses of Covishield, must be honoured.

It advised the states/UTs that the field staff may be instructed that, if such beneficiaries do come for vaccination, "the second Covishield dose must be administered and they must not be turned away".

They have also been asked to undertake awareness activities to inform the beneficiaries about this change.

Suspected Pakistani drone...

of Army, Border Security Force (BSF) and police in a vast area between Panch Talli and Laliyal, about 1,500 meters from the IB, they said.

"A massive search operation was carried out in Kanachack sector after the suspected movement of the drone but nothing objectionable was recovered during the operation," a police official said.

Security forces along the border are on high alert to scuttle any attempt by Pakistan to push in terrorists or weapons and narcotics into India, he said.

On June 20 last year, the BSF had shot down a Pakistani hexacopter drone with a payload of 5.5 kg in Kathua district, leading to the recovery of a sophisticated US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine and seven Chinese grenades.

On various other occasions over the past year, the BSF and the police have also recovered large quantities of arms and ammunition including sticky bombs dropped into the Indian territory by Pakistani drones.

FIR registered against...

principal Sister Leema of St Mary's Presentation Convent Secondary School were booked under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code besides relevant sections of the Epidemic Disease Act and the Disaster Management Act.

District Magistrate, Jammu, Anshul Garg ordered the inquiry by an executive magistrate after the family and colleagues of the deceased questioned the violation of the government guidelines by the school management by calling the teachers to attend online classes from the premises.

Meanwhile, former legislator Gagan Bhagat lodged a complaint for registration of an FIR against J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina and several of his colleagues for violating 'corona' curfew which is in force across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his complaint to police station R S Pura, the expelled BJP MLA accused Raina and his colleagues, including former minister Sham Lal, of violating curfew by visiting a community health centre and different wards last week.

"They are taking undue benefit of the fact that the BJP is ruling party at the Centre and the Lt Governor of J-K was a member and former union minister from the BJP. The law of the land is the same for everyone, Bhagat said.

He said they have openly violated the SOPs of the corona curfew' and an FIR should be registered against them under various sections of IPC, CrP C, Disaster Management Act and Epidemic Diseases Act to set an example that everyone is equal before law.

Govt issues guidelines...

Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC).

Symptomatic cases can be triaged at village level by tele-consultation with Community Health Officer (CHO), and cases with comorbidity or low oxygen saturation should be sent to higher centres.

Identified suspected COVID cases should link for testing to health facilities either through COVID-19 rapid antigen testing or by referral of samples to nearest COVID-19 testing laboratory, in accordance with ICMR guidelines.

CHOs and ANMs should be trained in performing Rapid Antigen Testing. Provision of RAT kits should be made at all public health facilities including Sub-centres, Health and Wellness Centres and Primary Health Centres, the document said.

Depending upon the intensity of surge and number of cases, as far as feasible, contact tracing should be done as per Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme's (IDSP's) guidelines, it stated.

"Nearly 80-85 per cent COVID-19 cases are asymptomatic/ mildly symptomatic. These patients do not require hospitalisation and may be managed at home or in Covid care isolation facilities," the SOP stated.

As monitoring of oxygen saturation is important for monitoring of COVID patients, it is desirable for each village to have adequate number of pulse oximeters and thermometers.

The SOP recommended developing a system of providing pulse oximeters and thermometers on loan to families with a confirmed case of COVID through ASHA/ Anganwadi workers and village-level volunteers.

Pulse oximeters and thermometers should be sanitised after each use with cotton or cloth soaked in alcohol-based sanitiser.

Follow-ups for patients undergoing isolation or quarantine could be done through household visits by a frontline worker/ volunteers/ teacher duly following required infection prevention practices including use of medical mask and other appropriate precautions.

"Home Isolation kit shall be provided to all such cases which should include required medicines such as

Paracetamol 500 mg, Tab. Ivermectin, cough syrup, multivitamins (as prescribed by the treating doctor) besides a detailed pamphlet indicating precautions to be taken, medication details, monitoring proforma for patient condition during home isolation, contact details in case of any major symptoms or deterioration of health condition and the discharge criteria," the SOP stated.

The health infrastructure planned for peri urban, rural and tribal areas shall be aligned to the already mentioned 3-tier structure -- COVID Care Centre (CCC) to manage mild or asymptomatic cases, Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) to manage moderate cases and Dedicated COVID Hospital (DCH) to manage severe cases, according to the document.

The CCCs are makeshift facilities under the supervision of nearest PHC/CHC and may be set up in schools, community halls, marriage halls, panchayat buildings in close proximity of hospitals or healthcare facilities, or tentage facilities in panchayat land, school ground, etc.

These CCCs should be mapped to one or more Dedicated COVID Health Centres and at least one Dedicated COVID Hospital for referral purposes.

Such COVID care centres should also have a Basic Life Support Ambulance (BLSA) networked among such CCCs equipped with sufficient oxygen support on 24x7 basis, for ensuring safe transport of patients to dedicated higher facilities if the symptoms progress from mild to moderate or severe.

Primary Health Centres or Community Health Centres and Sub District Hospitals in these areas shall be the Dedicated COVID Health Centre for management of COVID-19. The facility may plan a minimum of 30 bedded DCHC. District should be prepared to increase DCHC beds as per the case trajectory and expected surge of cases, the document stated.

These centres shall offer care for all cases that have been clinically assigned as moderate (Patient breathless; Respiratory Rate more than 24 per minute; Saturation between 90 to <94% on room air).

District hospitals or other identified private hospitals or a block of these hospitals shall be converted as dedicated COVID Hospitals.

In addition, sub-district or block level hospitals fulfilling the requirements may also be designated as dedicated COVID hospitals for the identified CCC and DHCC in their catchment area.

The upgradation in health facilities shall be undertaken based on case trajectory or the surge in cases, the SOP stated.

Petrol, diesel prices...

state-owned fuel retailers.

Rates had already crossed Rs 100-mark in several cities in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and with the latest increase, price in Mumbai too was inching towards that level.

A litre of petrol in Mumbai now comes for Rs 98.88 and diesel is priced at Rs 90.40 per litre.

Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT and freight charges. Rajasthan levies the highest value-added tax (VAT) on petrol in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

This is the ninth increase in prices since May 4 when the state-owned oil firms ended an 18-hiatus in rate revision they observed during assembly elections in states like West Bengal.

Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan had the costliest petrol and diesel in the country at Rs 103.52 per litre and Rs 95.99 a litre, respectively.

In nine increases, petrol price has risen by Rs 2.19 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.49.

Since March last year when the government raised excise duty on fuel to an all-time high, petrol price has increased by a record Rs 22.99 per litre (after accounting for a handful of occasions when rates fell) and diesel by Rs 20.93.

Oil companies, which have in recent months resorted to unexplained freeze in rate revision, had hit a pause button after cutting prices marginally on April 15. This coincided with electioneering hitting a peak to elect new governments in five states including West Bengal.

No sooner had voting ended, oil companies indicated an impending increase in retail prices in view of firming trend in international oil markets.

Central and state taxes make up for 60 per cent of the retail selling price of petrol and over 54 per cent of diesel. The union government levies Rs 32.90 per litre of excise duty on petrol and Rs 31.80 on diesel.

Normal life remains...

on the movement and assembly of people continued to remain in force on Sunday, though the curbs were not strict. Markets remained shut and public transport was off the roads, they said.

However, private cars were seen plying in some areas of the city here and other district headquarters in the valley and the Jammu region, the officials said.

Several roads have been sealed by security forces and barricades have been put at many places in the city here as well as in other district headquarters of the valley to prevent the movement of people. On April 29, the Jammu and Kashmir administration imposed a curfew in 11 districts in a bid to tackle the surge in COVID-19 cases, which was subsequently extended to all the 20 districts the next day till May 17.

However, On Saturday, the lockdown was extended till 7 am on May 24.

Glimpses of Corona curfew in Jammu

