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### No need to...

he said. Lt Gen Pandey said the current security scenario "reflects clearly that the youth has stopped coming out on the street, that they have understood this game".

"Therefore, we will continue to launch such ventures to ensure there are better opportunities for the youth to compete with the best pan-country and go out all over the country, the world and become responsible, mature human beings, he added.

He said the security forces have been reaching out to the families of the youth who have joined militancy.

"We have to ensure that they (families) reach out to their young ones who have been misled and they should be allowed to surrender by motivating them to be a responsible citizen of the country. There cannot be a better opportunity as of today to ensure that they can fall back to civil society," he said.

The senior army officer said those people within Kashmir who are misleading the youth to pick up arms must be exposed.

"We must expose the people who are within Kashmir who are ensuring that while their children are studying in good schools, colleges, have good jobs or businesses, but the youth which is misled, which is not from such an affluent background, not so well-educated, picks a weapon and dies.

"The local terrorist's family members need to go and ask those parents that why is your son not picking up weapon but you are ensuring that my child picks up weapon. Why is it that my kid is taken to a wrong path? Unless this realisation comes from within the society, this nickel will always remain," he said.

Earlier, the GOC Chinar Corps felicitated students of the first and the second batch of the Army's Kashmir Super 30 (Medical) course who are now successfully undergoing the MBBS and other courses after clearing the NEET.

Since the initiative was launched in June 2018, 68 students have successfully undergone the programme over the last two batches with hundred percent results. The third batch of 35 students has appeared in NEET examination in September.

The GoC Chinar Corps complimented the efforts and dedication of the students and support of their parents. He announced that the fourth batch will commence on 25 September.

In line with Chinar Corps' efforts to empower women, 20 girl students are being considered for the fourth batch. The selected girls will join the fourth batch after a month. So, the batch will host 50 students - 30 boys and 20 girls. Necessary infrastructure development will also be undertaken to support the project, he said.

### "No ceasefire violation..."

ceasefire violation. "We are totally prepared for ceasefire violations, if anything happens, we are all set to respond appropriately. But, frankly, there has been no instigation from across the border, he said.

Asked about infiltration attempts made by terrorists from across the LoC this year, the Army officer said there have hardly been any successful attempts.

There have been some attempts. Unlike previous years, these have not been adequately supported (by ceasefire violations). There have hardly been any successful attempts, only about two attempts have succeeded. One was neutralised in Bandipora and we are looking for the second one, he said.

Referring to the search operation launched by the Army along the LoC in Uri sector in Baranulla district of north Kashmir, the GoC said the operation has been ongoing for the last 24 hours after we felt that there is an infiltration attempt which has been made

We are looking for them...are they on this side or have gone back after making an attempt, that issue has not yet been clarified or verified on the ground," he said.

Lt Gen Pandey, however, said the force was alert to foil any infiltration attempt.

I can assure you that we are quite alert. Our troops on the ground are totally alert and we will ensure that minimal infiltration takes place whenever they attempt, he said. India and Pakistan had agreed to the strict observance of all agreements, understandings and ceasefire along the Line of Control and all other sectors with effect from the February 24-25 midnight 2021.

### Three JKAS officers...

JKAS, who has been posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Kupwara; Ghulam Nabi Bhat, JKAS, Additional Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Lolab Bangus Drangvare, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

### Schools in Jammu...

universities and colleges, were closed for offline classes on April 18 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Many higher education institutions have started functioning for vaccinated students early this month.

According to the latest Covid containment guidelines issued by State Executive Committee (SEC) chairperson and Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Sunday evening, the government allowed schools to reopen for classes 10 and 12 for in-person teaching with certain conditions, including permission from the deputy commissioner concerning and strict adherence of Covid-appropriate behaviour.

The regular classes for 12th standard were permitted in the educational institutions with limited in-person teaching not exceeding 50 per cent on a given day for vaccinated students and staff. Likewise, limited in-person teaching of class 10 students, not exceeding 50 per cent on any given day, was permitted by the deputy commissioner concerned after ensuring compliance with Covid-appropriate behaviour by the school management.

However, the classes will be run after due screening through 100 per cent Rapid Antigen Test or RT-PCR which will also be subject to consent of parents and students," the order read.

The principal of Shiksha Niketan Higher Secondary School, Rameshwar Mengi, said 20 per cent of the nearly 3,000 enrolled students of classes 10 and 12 attended school on the first day.

"We have received consent from parents of 60 per cent students and are hopeful that the student attendance will pick up in the coming days," he told PTI.

However, he said the majority of class 12 students have not been vaccinated since they are just 17 years of age.

"We raised the issue with the Jammu deputy commissioner, who permitted us to admit the students for offline classes after 100 per cent RT-PCR tests, he said.

He said only those students who have a negative COVID-19 report were allowed to enter the school premises after proper screening and hand sanitisation.

"All the classrooms have already been sanitised and proper seating arrangements have been made in each class to maintain social distance, he said.

Kunal Singh, a class 10 student, said he is happy to return to the school after a long gap.

"Online is no alternative to offline classes. We will try to utilise the opportunity to clear our doubts and prepare ourselves for the final examination, Singh said.

Another student, Taaniya thanked the school administration for making necessary arrangements to ensure safety of the students.

"My parents were concerned about my safety but they will have a sigh of relief when I will brief them about the strict adherence of Covid-appropriate behaviour by the management, she said, expressing hope that they would complete their syllabus without any further breaks.

The SEC has also reiterated reopening of coaching centres for Civil Services or Engineering or NEET with limited in-person teaching but only for fully vaccinated staff and students.

All other coaching centres, along with schools for the rest of the classes, will continue to remain closed for in-person teaching, the order said.

Meanwhile, the administration has doubled the cap on gatherings from 25 to 50 at banquet halls subject to certain conditions and also cut night curfew timing in some districts by two hours.

"While maximum number of people permitted to attend indoor/outdoor gatherings will remain strictly restricted to 25, the banquet halls in the districts where Covid positivity rate is below 0.2 and weekly case load is less than 250, will be permitted to enhance limit of guests to 50 for vaccinated persons or those with verifiable RT-PCR or RAT report not older than 72 hours, the SEC said.

"The district magistrates and superintendents of police will ensure compliance of the order, it said.

While night curfew will remain in force in all districts from 8 pm to 7 am, the districts with positivity rate below 0.2 and weekly caseload less than 250 will observe curfew restrictions from 10 pm to 6 am, the order said.

### Union MoS Finance...

over the amount of NPAs under MUDRA and other government sponsored schemes in a predominantly retail economy like J&K, which he said was very low in comparison to other states/UTs across the country.

Stressing upon the bankers for 100% coverage of villages under financial inclusion programmes of Finance Ministry and RBI, Dr. Karad urged banks to make all out efforts to cover all the unbanked villages.

Dr A K Mehta, Chief Secretary, informed that all government payments in UT of J&K are transacted digitally.

He stated that the Government is committed to provide gainful employment to 1 lakh youth in J&K through various schemes and urged the departments and banks to synergise their efforts to achieve the target.

While elaborating, he informed that 50,000 youth under "Mission Youth" Programme

shall be provided self employment opportunities during the current financial year. Besides, steps are also afoot to create 20000 jobs in the Government.

He stated that the Government has begun the process of creating employment opportunities both in the public and private sector to reduce unemployment rate to 5%.

Dr Mehta informed that "Banks for the most part maintained business continuity during the pandemic in the UT. Overall banks are doing well but need to improve greatly in certain schemes like Stand UP India, SC, ST, OBC etc."

While stating that he was following credit delivery under CGTSME closely, he informed that there was a huge potential to create employment by suitably tapping the insurance coverage under CGTMSE.

"We have a robust financial inclusion mechanism in place, however CD ratio of private banks is not encouraging and their performance in priority sector lending also leaves a lot to be desired," Dr Mehta observed.

Earlier, while outlining the role of the financial sector in J&K during Covid-19 Pandemic, Chairman & MD J&K Bank, R K Chhibber said that banks in J&K responded proactively by providing uninterrupted banking services to the people of the Union Territory besides adhering to COVID 19 SOPs.

Chhibber said that the targets assigned by J&K Government under 'Back to Village' programme have been achieved by disbursing an amount of Rs.337 Crore in favour of 20,000 Beneficiaries.

It was informed that the banks operating in Jammu & Kashmir have extended a total credit of Rs.7,296.58 crore in favour of 3,29,370 beneficiaries registering an achievement of 16% in financial terms and 22% in physical terms during the first quarter of FY 2021-22; against the Annual Credit Plan of Rs.44,980.57 crore for 14,97,700 beneficiaries.

Against the target of Rs.780.53 Crore spread over 38,560 beneficiaries for FY 2021-22, banks operating in UT of J&K have disbursed Rs.239.29 Crore in favour of 11,023 beneficiaries during the period from 1.4.2021 to 31.8.2021 under four major Government Sponsored Schemes, i.e. NRLM, PMEGP, NULM and SC/ST/OBC Schemes, this included Rs.62.74 Crore under NRLM (23% Ach.), Rs.168.72 Crore under PMEGP (94% Ach.), Rs.7.43 Crore under NULM (2% Ach.) and Rs.0.40 Crore under SC/ST/OBC Schemes (1% Ach.).

Under KCC scheme, the Minister was informed that more than 9.50 lac borrowers have been covered under the scheme in UT of J&K and the NPA under the scheme was as low as 4.14%.

Earlier, the Union Minister of State for Finance arrived on two day visit to Ganderbal district under the Union Government's public outreach programme.

During the first day of visit, the Minister chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the progress on various ongoing development projects and schemes in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Atal Dulloo; Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna; ADDC, ADC, SDM Kangan, ACR, CPO and other concerned officers and officials of the district

While reviewing the progress made under various schemes, the Minister appreciated the district administration for its achievements.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, Krittika Jyotsna gave a brief overview of the developmental activities.

During the visit, the Minister also inaugurated Auditorium at Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School (BHSS) Ganderbal constructed at the cost of Rs 119.34 lakhs.

He met DDC delegation led by DDC Chairperson Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishaq, BDCs, ULBs and PRIs who put forth various demands pertaining to the development of their respective areas before the minister.

While interacting with the PRI representatives, the minister said that the Central Government's initiative of public outreach in UT of J&K has been rolled out with the objective of bridging the gap between government and public and to ascertain the needs of the locals so that the same may be fulfilled in a better and effective manner.

He assured the representatives that the issues and grievances projected by them will be resolved on priority.

The minister also paid obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Shrine, Tulamulla and prayed for happiness, prosperity and well-being of all.

### Uri infiltration: Mobiles...

suspended in the Uri sector since this morning.

Officials said an infiltration attempt was detected late Saturday evening, coinciding with the fifth anniversary of the Uri attack in which 19 soldiers were killed after two suicide attackers stormed a military installation on September 18, 2016.

India responded with a surgical strike across the Line of Control that took down several terrorist launch pads.

The army said the operation to track down the infiltrators is underway and the exact situation on the ground is still unclear.

This is for the first time when phone services and the internet was suspended in the wake of a cross-border infiltration attempt.

### Can't give 'judicial...

student's Public Interest Litigation(PIL) a "publicity gimmick" but it was a misplaced petition and that children must not get involved in such issues.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said the student may pursue his remedies with the state government.

Ask your client to focus on studies in school and not get involved himself in seeking Constitutional remedies. You see how misplaced this petition is. Imagine the (COVID) situation in Kerala....Maharashtra cannot be the same in Delhi. I am not saying it is a publicity gimmick but this is why children must not get involved in these issues. We don't have any kind of data before us , the bench told advocate Ravi Prakash Mehrotra.

The top court then perused the prayers in the PIL and said the petitioner wants re-opening of schools to enable physical classes.

The court said that after Article 21A has been brought into force, it has obligated the state governments to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the age 6 and 14.

"You see the governments are ultimately answerable. They are also concerned about the need for children to go back to schools. That is the purpose of schools. We cannot, by judicial diktat, say that you shall send your children back to school, oblivious of the dangers which may be there."

The country has just come out of the second COVID wave but there is still danger of a possible spike of viral infection, the court said.

I am not saying it will necessarily happen or that it will be similarly devastating. Fortunately, we now have reports which suggest that the spike will not be of that nature. Vaccination is taking place but children are not vaccinated, even many teachers may not have been vaccinated. We cannot just say send all children to schools. There are governance issues, it added.

The court further said the complexities of governance do not permit the court to start issuing directions and we should leave something for the democratic way of life that the country has adopted. Surely the government wants their children to go back to the schools .

The court said that in Karnataka a decision has been taken to open the schools and similarly in Delhi also a decision has been taken, but we cannot allow young kids to go and mix with senior students and instead let the States take an informed decision where the spike is taking place."

"There may be some state with 75 districts or 52 districts and there may be states with high density of population in some districts and others may be sparsely populated. These are the matters in which we should let the government take a call .

Justice Chandrachud said there has to be some balancing of interest of children, who are at home and how they are being affected physically, mentally or physiologically with the dangers which may be posed to them, if they are to mix with each other in a school environment.

The government has taken a decision to vaccinate the children. Our government has taken a decision to have a phased reopening of school at the board level. We cannot pick up children in the first standard and mix them with the children of board level, who are to make a foray into higher education, he said.

The court suggested that the petitioner must withdraw the petition and pursue other remedies like representation to the government and said, This issue is fraught with great complexities. We cannot give any judicial mandate in a petition where we don't have any data .

The court said the government itself has to tread with extreme care when the issue is of exposing the younger children to the dangers of COVID-19.

"So the court needs to be equally or even more careful because there is absence of data before us, absence of scientific knowledge on our part and the petitioner. This petition is not based on any scientific assessment .

Justice Chandrachud said judges also read newspapers and know what has happened when schools were opened in many countries at an early stage of pandemic.

We need not mention the names of those countries but we know what happened in such countries where schools were opened at earlier stages."

Mehrotra, who is the father of the minor, agreed to withdraw the petition, which the court allowed him to do.

In his plea filed last month, the minor petitioner contended that he has filed the PIL on account of the "indecision and vacillation" on the part of the Union Government and several state governments/UTs in the country in the re-opening of schools and resumption of physical classes.

The petitioner is also echoing the sentiments and feelings of a large body of the student community and fraternity of the country, particularly including the underprivileged and voiceless children, in raising this very vital issue regarding the deprivation and ill-effects, both psychological and actual, of school children being kept away from attending their schools physically., the petition said.

### Traders Federation discuss...

move, extension of existing ceiling of persons allowed in Banquet halls, extension of lease of JDA Shops, complexes and other important issues.

The Mayor, Div Com gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by the Traders Federation. The Div Com informed them that all their issues are under consideration of the Government. He assured the Associations that all their issues will be taken up with the Government at the higher level for their early resolution.

Responding to the issue of land purchase rights to Mahajan, Khatri, Sikhs, the Div Com informed that the proposal has been sent to Government for necessary changes in the land revenue Act, besides a revenue Board has also been constituted for reframing the rules.

### Civil services have...

India is celebrating Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, 75 years of Independence, but the next 25 years are going to be crucial for you as well as for the nation