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Active cases breach 11 lakh-mark for first time in India

a situation may arise if there is a rush to the hospitals and beds are unavailable for serious patients.

“We need your cooperation. If your cooperation is received and the situation of hospitals is under control, there will be no need to impose lockdown in Delhi. But, if beds in the hospitals fell short and are unavailable, then lockdown may have to be imposed,” he said.

Speaking at an all-party meeting held virtually to discuss the COVID-19 situation in the State on Saturday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had indicated the imposition of a strict lockdown in the State given the alarming rise in COVID-19 cases.

“The number of patients is increasing so fast that if we do not decide on a lockdown today, a lockdown-like situation will automatically arise tomorrow,” he said.

The State has already announced a slew of curbs, including night curfew.

As the number of active cases reaches a new high, states are grappling with the pressure on health facilities.

The Chhattisgarh government has directed that 80 percent of the total oxygen produced will be supplied for medical purposes to hospitals.

The State Health Department today issued a notification in this regard under the Epidemic Diseases Act.

On Saturday, Chhattisgarh recorded 14,098 new cases of Coronavirus, the highest single-day spike.

Several areas in Madhya Pradesh have been witnessing harried people queuing up outside medical stores for Remdesivir, a drug used in the treatment.

A senior Madhya Pradesh official today said a sizeable batch of the drug has arrived and will be distributed to medical facilities as per requirement.

Madhya Pradesh recorded 4,986 fresh coronavirus cases on Saturday, its biggest single-day spike.

In Maharashtra, Pune was also witnessing a huge demand for the drug.

Delhi Government hospitals have been directed to engage fourth and fifth year MBBS students to meet the increased demand for manpower, while the tenure of senior and junior residents is being extended and vacant posts will be filled, officials said.

The Punjab Health Department has asked private hospitals to defer elective surgeries till April 30 to meet the increasing demand for beds and charge Government-fixed rates for the treatment of Coronavirus patients.

The Uttar Pradesh government announced imposing night curfew in districts reporting over 100 daily cases or 500 active cases and extended closure of all schools till April 30.

At the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, it was decided to conduct at least one lakh RT-PCR tests daily.

Ahead of Navratri and Ramzan, the State Government has said that not more than five persons should be allowed to enter religious places.

The State recorded highest-ever single-day spike of 15,353 cases, while 67 fresh deaths pushed the toll to 9,152.

The Gujarat government has already imposed restrictions on people’s movement during the night in 20 cities of the state, including Surat.

The latest surge of COVID-19 has also sparked concerns of a repeat of migrant workers’ exodus from the worst affected states.

Industry sources in Tamil Nadu said the sector was recovering from the jolt of the first wave of coronavirus but now some workers have again reportedly left for their natives early last week as they feared being stranded if a lockdown was imposed.

A severe spike in COVID-19 cases in Mumbai and talk of a “complete lockdown” like last year, has made the national highway number 3 skirting past Madhya Pradesh’s commercial hub Indore a prime route for wary migrants returning home to states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The number of motorcycles, black-and-yellow mini trucks and autorickshaws, teeming with migrants, have been on the rise over the past few days on a bypass road connected to this route, popularly known as Mumbai-Agra road.

The deceased were identified as Manpreet Singh (driver), son of Bharat Singh and Randhir Singh, son of Prithvi Singh, both residents of Bhajmasta, district Ramban.

A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Police Station Dharamkund and investigation started.

NIA arrests Waze’s associate

He was previously also questioned multiple times by the NIA in connection with the case of the SUV with explosives found near Ambani’s multi-storey residence ‘Antilia’ in south Mumbai on February 25 and the subsequent death of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran.

Kazi was shunted out of the Mumbai Crime Branch last month, the official said.

After Kazi was presented in the court today, the NIA told the court that he was arrested for destroying evidences and that he is involved in the conspiracy of

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“The virus outbreak has once again got very severe in Mumbai. There might be a lockdown and it may, like last year, render us jobless. So we have decided to return home,” said Ramsharan Singh (40), who was on his way back to Ballia in Uttar Pradesh in an auto rickshaw.

Similar is the case with Mohammad Shadab, who is returning to his hometown in Bihar’s Bhojpur district.

“I work in a restaurant in Mumbai. I will think of returning there if the situation improves. Or else, I plan to stay back in Bihar and look for work,” he said.

While there are no clear answers to the COVID flare-up, top scientists say the complex interplay of mutant strains, a hugely susceptible population made more vulnerable by elections and other public events and the lowering of guard are primarily to blame.

Virologists Shahid Jameel and T Jacob John said that not following COVID-19 protocol, including informing people they must continue with precautions even after being vaccinated, and a sluggish vaccination drive are among the factors responsible.

Jameel said the interplay of mutants and vaccines over the next couple of months will decide the future of Covid in India and the world.

“The intensity of the surge also suggests that there were a huge number of susceptible people after the first wave,” the director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University in Haryana said.

The Centre had warned last week that the next four weeks are critical.

In a statement, the Prime Minister today urged people to keep four things in mind — “each one, vaccinate one”, “each one, treat one” and “each one, save one”.

Elderly people or those who may not be much educated should be helped in getting the vaccine, he said and also asked people to help those COVID-19 patients in getting treatment who may lack resources or information.

By wearing masks, people can

ate requirements like books, equipments in emergency cases”.

They disclosed that even the Chief Executive Officer of the Skill Development Mission was appointed without following due procedure and the officer was removed from the post on the directions of the then Governor of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir Satya Pal Malik.

“The Fact Finding Committee has also pointed out that there are no rules clearly defining the areas/activities where local funds being kept at the disposal of Principals of Polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes can be utilized and this was the main reason behind engagement and paying of wages to the illegally engaged need based workers”, sources said.

Engagement of workers in Polytechnics, ITIs on politicians’ recommendations detected

Department and Autonomous Bodies, Corporations and Organizations under its administrative control by February 15, 2021.

The committee headed by Principal Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department has submitted its report and recommendations to the Government for necessary action.

The Fact Finding Committee has detected that hundreds of persons were engaged in the Government Polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) during the period without following any proper procedure, sources informed, adding majority of them were engaged on the recommendations of the politicians who were at the helm of affairs during the period between 2010 and 2018.

It has again been pointed out by the committee that engagements were made by utilizing the local funds kept at the disposal of Principals of the Government Polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes, sources further disclosed, adding “such funds were never meant for engagement of need based workers but can only be utilized for meeting the immediate

While recommending necessary action in case of illegally engaged need-based workers, the Fact Finding Committee has stressed that rules vis-a-vis utilization of local funds should be framed at the earliest in order to check their misuse at any Government Polytechnic and Industrial Training Institute of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Now, it is to be seen how and when the Government implements the recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee in order to achieve the objectives behind its framing”, sources said.

Govt bans export of Remdesivir

verify stocks, check malpractices and also take other effective actions to curb hoarding and black marketing. State Health Secretaries will review this along with Drug Inspectors of the respective states and UTs, it said.

“India is witnessing a recent surge in COVID cases. As on April 11, there are 11.08 lakh active cases and they are steadily increasing. This has led to a sudden spike in demand for remdesivir injection used in treatment of COVID patients,” the ministry said.

There is a potential for further increase in this demand in the coming days, it stated.

Seven Indian companies are producing the injection under voluntary licensing agreement with M/s Gilead Sciences, USA. They have an installed capacity of about 38.80 lakh units per month, the Ministry said.

“In light of the above, Government of India has prohibited the exports of remdesivir injection and remdesivir

Work with responsibility to address people’s issues: LG to DCs

ing officers to chalk out rational plans for Block Diwas programs in their respective districts, and audit the grievances received and settled.

With regard to management and containment efforts to control COVID-19 in J&K, the Lt Governor directed the officers to ensure that COVID-19 appropriate behaviour is adopted by the people in their respective jurisdictions. He also instructed the officers to make serious efforts to scale up the vaccination in all districts.

In wake of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji yatra, Sinha directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure fully functional toilet facility at designated places in the districts through which the Yatra passes, within the set time frame. He called for synergizing the inter-departmental efforts to provide the adequate facilities to the visiting Yatis.

The Lt Governor, while reviewing the activities under “Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav”, asked the DCs to identify people from their districts who have played an important role in the Indian freedom struggle & in safeguarding the territorial integrity of J&K, and felicitate them in the ongoing celebrations. He also directed the officers to ensure the hoisting of the National flag on all government buildings and establishments under their jurisdiction following proper protocols and laid down procedures.

Underlining the significance of e-Governance, he directed for

“Over 35 lakh vaccination doses were administered in the last 24 hours,” the Ministry said.

“As on Day-85 of the vaccination drive (April 10), 35,19,987 vaccine doses were given. Out of which, 31,22,109 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 42,553 sessions for 1st dose and 3,97,878 beneficiaries received 2nd dose of vaccine,” the Ministry said.

In terms of the number of daily doses administered globally, India continues to remain at the top with an average of 38,34,574 doses administered per day, the Ministry further said. (Agencies)

5 militants including minor killed in two gun battles in Kashmir

Kumar said that amidst the ensuing encounter, all the civilians trapped in the gunfire were evacuated to safety and the operation was halted for the night.

“While ensuring all civilians are safe, the operation was resumed today morning and both the militants got killed in the exchange of fire. They were given ample opportunities to surrender and face the law. Two AK series rifles and other arms and ammunition were recovered from the possession of killed militants,” he said.

The militants were identified as Towseef Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Ramzan, resident of Takia Maqbool Shah Bijbehara and Aamir Hussain Ganie son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Goriwan Bijbehara, Anantnag. While as Towseef was active since 2017 and Aamir had joined militant ranks in the year 2018,” he added.

The IGP said that both of them were wanted in many militancy related incidents including in the killing of an off-duty Territorial Army soldier Mohamad Saleem Akhoun of Goriwan Bijbehara.

Rain lashes Kashmir, Upper reaches receive light snow

below normal. People had to once again wear warm clothes, including woollens and jackets, to keep themselves warm as the maximum temperature witnessed considerable dip due to wet weather.

He said skies will be partly cloudy to generally cloudy during the next 24 hours in Srinagar, where the maximum and minimum temperatures would settled at 21 degree and 7 degree, respectively.

Rain also lashed world famous ski resort of Gulmarg in the afternoon, resulting in dip in the maximum temperature. The night temperature at Gulmarg, which is known for its ski slopes and quality of snow, remained constant since Saturday at zero degree, which is slightly below normal. “It was still raining in the ski resort, where majority of the hotels are booked till April end. During the last two seasons ‘2019 and 2020’ people associated with tourism at the ski resort did at most zero business. But, his year good footfall of tourists was witnessed,” a hotelier said over the phone.

However, he said with the rise in COVID-19 cases in J&K and other parts of the country, the number of expected to deceased in the coming days.

Other parts of the Valley, including world famous tourist resort of Pahalgam, Qazigund, gateway to the Valley and another tourist resort Kokernag also received moderate to heavy rain, resulting in dip in the maximum temperature.

The mercury at Qazigund and Pahalgam dipped and settled at 0.9 degree and 4 degree respectively. Border district of Kupwara was the only place in the Valley where the night temperature improved and settled at 5.1 degree, against 3.7 degree recorded on Saturday. (UNI)

Govt extends closure of schools till Apr 18; GMC-J to limit surgeries, OPD patients

College to 70 percent as Anesthesia doctors and infrastructure has to be diverted for COVID patients.

“In next few days, every OPD will be restricted to 60 patients on telephonic appointment. However, other patients who approach the GMC for treatment will be attended in the Emergency,” Dr Sharma said, adding that 16 beds of CCU and Ward No. 3 have been re-notified as “COVID dedicated” while shortly Ward Nos. 7, 11, 15 and 2 will also be declared as “COVID dedicated Wards”.

Further seating capacity in Libraries and testing areas is being reduced to 50 percent, the Principal GMC Jammu said.

Meanwhile, 140 more BSF jawans deployed at Jaganoo in Udhampur district have tested positive for Coronavirus taking total numbers to 304, Lt Col Inam Danish Khan, Classified Microbiologist at Command Hospital Udhampur told the Excelsior.

Lt Col Khan said all 304 jawans tested positive for pathogen were in the age group of 22-28 and hailed almost equally from Gujarat and Maharashtra. They had reached Udhampur in trains. Only few of them were symptomatic while majority was asymptomatic. He added that the numbers could go up as more tests of the BSF jawans are pending.

“We are trying to control spread of virus among the BSF jawans by isolating the positive cases and tracing their contacts for testing,” Lt Col Khan added.

Meanwhile, on third consecutive day today, 26 persons tested positive for pathogen in the Jammu University including Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Vice Chancellor, a Professor in Biotechnology Department and spouse of president of Jammu University Non-Teaching Employees Association.

With this, a total of 96 staff members, students and faculty have tested positive in the Jammu University during last three days including half a dozen Professors and HoDs.

Among 288 new COVID cases reported in Jammu region today, Jammu district continued to account for maximum recording 192 positives, 189 of whom were locals and three travelers. It was followed by Reasi district which recorded 48 new cases including 30 travelers, most of whom were tourists. As reported

There are 611 active positive cases in Ladakh now—557 in Leh and 54 in Kargil.

Ladakh has total 10765 cases, 10023 recoveries and 131 casualties.

Meanwhile, Kashmir today reported 627 fresh cases of COVID-19 including 15 CRPF men while five persons succumbed to the infection.

Five fatalities include a 40-year old man taking the overall death toll to 2034-1282 in the Valley

And as the spike in COVID-19 cases continues, the number of active cases in J&K has reached 7335 including 5003 in Kashmir.

Those who tested positive today include 362 from Srianagar, Baramulla 111, Budgam 27, Pulwama 15, Kupwara 38, Anantnag 25, Bandipora 12, Ganderbal 8, Kulgam 15 and Shopian 14.

Moreover, 330 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 273 from Kashmir Division.

Chandra to be next CEC

Lok Sabha elections.

He would demit office on May 14, 2022.

Under him, the Election Commission would hold Assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.


The term of the assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Punjab ends on various dates in March next year.

The term of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly ends on May 14 next year.

New Assemblies have to be constituted before their five year term ends.

Chandra was the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes before he joined the poll panel. (PTI)

www.jammutourism.gov.in
e-mail: dirtsmjmu@gmail.com



Tel.0191-2548172
Fax: 0191-2548358

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, JAMMU.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Short term notice inviting Expression of interest for providing complete DJ/Sound System/LED Video Wall during various events to be organized by Directorate of Tourism, Jammu within Jammu Division.

Directorate of Tourism, Jammu invites sealed offers affixed with Rs. 5/- revenue stamps from reputed/experience agencies having valid GST No. for Providing complete DJ/Sound System/Led Video Wall during various events to be organized by Directorate of Tourism, Jammu within Jammu Division.

The bidder is required to submit two sealed envelopes one for the technical bid and other for financial bid.

The technical bid envelopes should have the following documents:

1. GST Registration certificate of the agency.
2. PAN Card of the agency.
3. CDR/FDR amounting to Rs. 5000/- pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Jammu.

The financial should have:

Bid amount quoted by the agency as per below mentioned performa:

S.No	Name of the item	Unit	Rate including taxes (in Rs.) per day
01	Complete DJ/Sound System having (Top speakers 1500 watt Base speakers, singing microphone cordless microphones, Amplifier/Boosters, Mixer/Mixing console, reverb and eco effect, para 64 lights with dimmer stand) all as per appx. gathering 1000 pax.	Rate per day	
02	Installation, operation and maintenance of LED Wall (15x9) sft alongwith manpower for handling.		

The financial bid of only those agencies who qualified technically shall be open and the agency quoting the lower bid will be offered the contract. The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu will only provide the space at the venue for setting up of DJ System and LED Screen.

The sealed offer/envelope shall be accepted in the office of Directorate of Tourism, Jammu w.e.f 09/04/2021 to 12/04/2021 from 10.00 AM to 4.30 P.M. on all working days. The last date for submission of bids shall be 12/04/2021 upto 1.00 PM. The bids shall be opened on 12/04/2021 at 3.00 PM and shall be finalized. The rates shall be valid till the finalization of e-NIT to the purpose.

Sd/-
DIP/J-291/21
Dated:10-04-2021

Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu.