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Malik calls PM 'arrogant'; Cong, Omar react

"When I met the PM on the farmers' issue, I had a fight with him within minutes. "He was very arrogant about it. I said 500 people died, he said have they died for me," Malik said. Sharing the video, the Congress said, "Vanity... cruelty... insensitivity. "These are the features of PM Modi's personality being mentioned by the BJP Governor here. This is a matter of concern for a democracy. "There cannot be a bigger example of the Prime Minister's anti-farmer mentality. "BJP should come forward and explain, if the PM told Governor Satyapal Malik that the farmers have not died for him," Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. "Farmers were dying on borders of Delhi and Modiji was trying to run the shop for some capitalists. Such arrogance, anti-farmer thinking and attitude that has come forth, is possibly for the first time since Independence," Surjewala said. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge reacted to Malik's statement and said,

"Meghalaya's Governor Satya Pal Malik is on record saying PM is 'arrogant' on the issue of Farmers... Constitutional authorities speaking about each other with such contempt! Narendra Modiji is this true?" The comments come after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government at the Centre withdrew the controversial Farm Laws, following a surprise announcement by Prime Minister Modi on Guruparab in November 2021. The laws were withdrawn on December 29, the first day of Winter Session of Parliament. Meanwhile, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said Satya Pal Malik has "bitten the hand that fed him" and asserted that people of Jammu and Kashmir can "certify" his "untrustworthiness." "This man was their hatchet man in J&K now he bites that hand that fed him. The people of J&K can certify the untrustworthiness of Mr Malik," Abdullah said in a tweet. Malik was the last Governor of Jammu and Kashmir before it was bifurcated into Union Territories in 2019. (PTI)

Centre suspends biometric attendance

"Keeping in view the rise in #COVID cases in the last few days, the BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE for govt officials and employees is being suspended with immediate effect, till further orders. Under leadership of PM Sh @NarendraModi, this decision has been taken in the interest of safety and health of the govt employees," he tweeted. However, all the employees are required to mark their attendance in attendance registers to be maintained manually, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. "As a precautionary measure, it has been decided to suspend the marking of biometric attendance in the Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system in all Ministries/departments of the Government of India, including its attached/subordinate offices, with immediate effect till January 31, 2022," it said. All the heads of departments shall also continue to ensure that all employees wear masks at all times and follow COVID-Appropriate Behaviour strictly, the order said. The Union Government had resumed biometric attendance for employees of all levels from

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna non-starter in JK

coming budget for their prosperity. Farmers have sought immediate intervention of Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha in the matter. "The Lt Governor should intervene in the matter immediately and get the premium amount released to insurance companies" said Mir Ghulam Rasool a farmer and member of Fruit Growers Association, Ganderbal, Kashmir. Maintaining that farmers are backbone of country's economy, he said the Government should make it a priority sector and not delay the implementation of welfare schemes. Mir said the compensation for damage to crops due to hailstorm and heavy rains has also not been released as per the loss suffered by the farmers in the UT and in some districts the date for compensation has been prepared on the whims and fancies of Revenue Department. However, the Mission Director Agriculture Department, Kashmir, Iqbal Choudhary said that PMFBI has been implemented in the UT but the delay in release of premium by the Department is that after converting the J&K State into UT, the funds are to be released from Delhi and earlier it was State Government which was empowered to release its share for such schemes. He said he is pursuing the case with Union Government and soon the funds will be released and claims of farmers will be settled. Director Agriculture Jammu, K K Sharma said the final joint processing assessment of crop cut at the end of season by the Agriculture Department, Revenue Department and Insurance companies has been completed and soon the premium amount will be released and claims of farmers settled. He said the delay in launching the scheme in other districts of UT was because high premium rates were quoted by insurance companies which exceeded the budget so it was put on hold. "Now the Department is again calling the bids from Insurance companies and we are hopeful to receive reasonable bids to cover the farmers in all the districts of UT", he added. The farmers are also demanding more provisions for them in

tricts amounted to Rs 412.33 lakh while the UT share and Gol share was Rs 966.37 lakh each under which 21712 hectares of land were insured for a sum of Rs 20616.43 lakh. However, the UT Government failed to pay the payment to the insurance companies till date with the result the Gol also did not release the payment of premium to insurance companies that led to non payment of insured amount to the aggrieved farmers in time for damaged crops, sources added. The farmers in the UT are aghast over the attitude of the UT Government in non payment of premium amount to the insurance companies saying that Government was unnecessarily creating hurdles in this regard. They also questioned that if unnecessary hurdles are created in release of premium amount by the Government what is the fun of launching the scheme. The farmers who suffered a heavy loss due to hailstorm last year said that on the one hand the Government is claiming doubling their income by next year and on the other hand hurdles are being created in the implementation of welfare schemes in the UT. Tejinder Singh, president, JK Kissan Council, while showing his concern over delaying tactics being adopted in the UT in implementation of the Yojna said the claims of the Government are totally hollow. He said "If we can't give benefit to farmers they will lose all faith in the set-up. The Government of India is ready to pay the payment but the UT Government has to release its share first which it has not done till date", he added. Tejinder said that Agriculture was given a new direction in J&K during last one and half year but if such things prevail the farmers will lose their faith in Government. He said, if the Government can't settle the claims in a time bound manner the farmers can't be motivated to insure their crops in future. He said in Punjab and Gujarat States, claims under PMFBI were settled but not in J&K. Every other sector can wait but not agriculture, he added.

Impressive Nagar-Kirtan taken up on Gurpur eve

Sulakhan Singh Arshi, Panth Di Awaz Bhai Balbir Singh Kamal and Panthak Kavi Bhai Ranjeet Singh Khalsa-Jagadhari Wale participated, recited the poetry and threw light on the history, life and teachings of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj. A large number of people from Hindu community also paid their obeisance to the great Guru and joined the religious procession en-route. The Sikh youth played Ghatka and showed many feats during the Nagar Kirtan. A large number of devotees were sweeping the roads, where from the Nagar Kirtan was being taken out. To greet the Nagar Kirtan the shopkeepers and many Associations en route had erected welcome gates. Besides, the stalls with food items, fruits, water and juice had been raised by the people from different sections of society at various places to serve the

WEATHER JAMMU: Possibility of light rain/thundershowers TEMPERATURE Max: 17.5 Degree C Min: 7.7 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY RH-I (Morning): 81.0 per cent RH-II (Evening): 60.0 per cent Sunset on Tuesday: 05.39 p.m. Sunrise on Wednesday: 07.34 a.m. SRINAGAR: Possibility of light rain/snow TEMPERATURE Max: 6.8 Degree C Min: 3.2 Degree C RELATIVE HUMIDITY RH-I (Morning): 85.0 per cent RH-II (Evening): 71.0 per cent LEH: TEMPERATURE Max: 1.4 Degree C Min: -9.9 Degree C



Students of a school flashing victory sign after getting first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Jammu on Monday. (UNI) Over 52000 receive 1st dose across UT as LG launches vaccination drive for 15-18 age group

Similarly, in each and every district of the UT, concerned Deputy Commissioners and Chief Medical Officers rolled out the drive. The J&K Government has set a target of inoculating 1st dose of Covaxin to 8.33 lakh children across the UT within 10 days. The drive, a part of the national campaign against the COVID pandemic, has generated hope among the students of class 9-11 as well as their teachers about resumption of their normal schooling which was badly hit by



Young children gathered at a vaccination site in Srinagar to get 1st dose of COVID-19 reopening of vaccine. -Excelsior/Shakeel

the disease since its outbreak in early 2020. On the first day of inoculation drive, a total of 52,689 teenagers (between 15-18 years) across the Union Territory received first dose of Covaxin. While 29,784 children were vaccinated at 804 vaccination sites across Jammu Division, a total of 22,905 received 1st dose in Kashmir Division at 1172 vaccination sites. In Jammu Division, 8713 young children were inoculated in district Jammu across 145 vaccination sites, 4317 across 160 sites in Udhampur district, 3553 across 82 sites in Rajouri district, 2277 across 51 sites in Kathua district, 672 across 44 sites in Poonch, 2176 across 65 sites in Ramban, 4226 across 44 sites in Doda district, 655 across 65 vaccination sites in Kishtwar, 1379 across 95 sites in Reasi and 2016 children across 53 sites in Samba district. Similarly, in Kashmir Division, 6537 beneficiaries under 15-18 age group received their first dose of Covaxin in district Anantnag across 179 vaccination sites, 1824 in Kulgam across 131 sites, 1365 in Shopian across 75 sites, 1806 in Pulwama across 93 sites, 730 in Srinagar across 150 sites, 1792 in Budgam across 120 sites, 3016 in Baramulla across 150 sites, 3350 in Kupwara across 100 sites, 1378 in Bandipora across 80 sites and 1107 beneficiaries in Ganderbal across 94 vaccination sites. The teenagers, who had turned up to get the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine, were excited and expressed hope to get back to their schools soon. "I was waiting for the day to get my dose of the vaccine as the pandemic forced us to stay back at our homes most of the time over the past nearly two years. We want to get back to the school as soon as possible," Harmanjot Singh, a student of Class 11 of a private school in Jammu, said. Principal of Jodhamal School Jammu Deep Khare said the response to the special camp organized at the school for the vaccination of the students was encouraging. "There was no apprehension in the mind of the student or their par-

ents. Everyone was waiting for this vaccination drive and not a single parent raised any concern," he said. Khare said there are 550 students of 15-18 age group and some of the students who are outside the station due to ongoing winter vacation will be inoculated later. "The Government has made the vaccination very easy and we believe it will be a game changer for resuming offline classes. After vaccination, the students can attend their classes without any fear and we are expecting to resume the offline classes for students of 9-11 classes shortly," he said. Fozia, a beneficiary at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh said she was happy that she had received the first dose of the vaccine which would protect her from the COVID. "This should have been done earlier as I am happy," she said. Parents accompanying their children also expressed satisfaction over the drive and possible resumption of offline classes. Amidst the surge in COVID cases and the new Omicron variant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 25 last year, had announced the inclusion of the 15 to 18 age group in the nationwide COVID immunization programme from January 3. Those falling under the 15-18 years age group can register online through an existing account on the CoWIN portal or can register by creating a new account by using a unique mobile number. The walk-in facility and on the spot registration at the vaccination centers is also being facilitated for such beneficiaries. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 vaccination for children from 15 to 18 years age group was also kick-started in Kargil district of Ladakh during which 540 children received the first dose at various vaccination sites. As per official figures, over 540 doses of vaccines were administered on the first day of vaccination at various parts of Kargil including Sankoo, Taisuru, Zanskar, Drass, Shargole and Chiktan. The Health Department has set up vaccination sites across the district to vaccinate the children between 15 to 18 years age group. Chief Medical Officer Kargil has appealed the children between 15-18 years to get vaccinated at nearby session sites to help contain the spread of Covid-19 in the District. "Vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the COVID pandemic. My humble request to the young friends to get vaccinated," said Lt Governor Manoj Sinha after launching the vaccination drive. "Don't be complacent after getting vaccinated. It's crucial to continue following COVID protocols & guidelines", he added. The Lt Governor asked the health officials to keep the vaccinated children under mandatory observation period.

16 more SMVDU students, BMO test COVID +ve

Two travellers from UAE tested positive on their arrival in Jammu. Both of them hailed from Chhahi Himmat. An 85-year-old woman from Thiksey in Leh district died of COVID-19 today taking Corona toll in Ladakh to 220 including 162 in Leh and 58 in Kargil. All 17 positive cases in Ladakh today were reported from Leh district. Ladakh now has 196 active positive cases—152 in Leh and 44 in Kargil district. Meanwhile, Kashmir today reported 108 fresh cases of COVID. Those who tested positive include 57 from Srinagar, 14 from Baramulla, 11 from Budgam, 5 from Pulwama, 2 from Kupwara, 4 from Anantnag, 2 from Bandipora, 8 from Ganderbal, 4 from Kulgam and 1 Shopian. The number of cases in Kashmir division has reached 215,358 including 212,088 recoveries and 2,331 deaths. The number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 1,498 including 939 from Kashmir division. With 109 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached 335,774 which is 98.23 percent of the total cases. Nineteen persons recovered from the virus leaving number of active positive cases in Jammu

Ladakh UT all set to witness major reforms in power sector by middle of next year

Technology (SPV) sites while as Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency has replaced the old battery banks of nearly 22 SPV sites. These agencies have also installed numerous SPV plants for various institutions. Under Solar Thermal Projects, 1,000 solar water heaters and 600 solar dish cookers have been distributed by LAHDC Leh, whereas Polycarbonate Greenhouses are also being provided to progressive farmers. Efforts are also being made to implement Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, Smart Grid System with Smart Metering, develop Ring Network at 66 KV and 11 KV Level for both Leh and Kargil, construction of 66 KV Transmission Line, Substation, HT/LT network (Changthang Region), underground cabling in Leh town and setting up of State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) in UT Ladakh. "The objective behind all these projects is to provide reliable and quality power to all consumers from a clean source of power", sources said, adding "with all these efforts the Ladakh Union Territory will witness major reforms in the power sector by the middle of next year".

Two infiltration bids foiled in Arnia, Poonch; intruder killed

achieved two major successes when it recovered large quantity of arms, ammunition, explosives and narcotics at forward village of Chamliyal in Samba district and gunned down an intruder in Arnia sector of Jammu district thwarting Pakistani Rangers and militants plot to trigger terror strikes in the region ahead of Republic Day. Recovery of three AK rifles and four pistols besides ammunition was reportedly meant for triggering terror strikes. It was, however, being ascertained whether the consignment was dropped using drones or through some couriers of militants. However, the alert BSF personnel who have been maintaining strict surveillance on the borders despite foggy weather conditions recovered the consignment before the militants or their Over Ground Workers (OGWs) for whom the consignment was meant could lay their hands on it. "Possibility that the consignment has to be used for terror strikes ahead of Republic Day is not ruled out," sources said. The BSF had recently strengthened its Winter Management Strategy by deploying more troops along the International Border in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts to plug the gaps in view of fog which engulfs the plains in the month of January reducing the visibility. Recoveries made from Chamliyal forward area of Ramgarh in Samba district include three AK-47 rifles with five magazines, four pistols with seven magazines, 10 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition, seven rounds of 9 mm BALL, four rounds of 7.62 mm and five packets of suspected heroin. "The BSF already had reports that the Pakistani Rangers and militants sitting across could try to either infiltrate or send consignment of arms and narcotics into this side taking advantage of foggy weather conditions along the International Border," sources said. IG BSF Jammu Frontiers DK Boora, who rushed to the spot along with other senior officers, told newsmen that deployment of troops and surveillance systems have been "strengthened" along the border with Pakistan amid intelligence inputs of heightened activity at terrorist launch pads on the other side ahead of Republic Day. The alertness of troops deployed on the border led to the seizure amid heightened terrorist activity on the Pakistani side, Boora said, adding that Pakistan continues to make attempts to push terrorists and smuggle arms and narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said that the Pakistani intruder was shot dead in the early hours today along the IB in Arnia sector of Jammu district when BSF troops resorted to firing following the detection of suspicious movement. The intruder did not pay any heed to signals to stop and was subsequently shot dead. The consignment of arms, ammunition and narcotics which was seized at Chamliyal was found in a white-coloured sack, which was noticed during patrolling and it had the mark-



IG BSF Jammu D K Boora and senior officers at a press conference at Chamliyal in Samba on Monday. -Excelsior/Nischant

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ings of "Fauji Fertilizers Company Limited" of Pakistan. This is the first major seizure along the IB in 2022. The troops who were on patrol seized the bag which had Pakistani marking, leading to the seizure of arms, ammunition and narcotics," Boora said. "Commanders and troops were keeping a constant vigil. Around 15 days or so, we started getting inputs... they made two attempts and both of them were thwarted by alert troops," the BSF officer said. Congratulating personnel for the two successful operations, Boora said when an intruder was shot dead in Ramgarh sector, the arms smugglers abandoned the bag and fled back. "Republic Day is coming and there is heightened activity (on the launch pads) across the border. After getting the inputs, we strengthened deployment of troops, surveillance systems and other equipment so that the militants are not successful in their plans," he said. Asked whether the arms consignment was to disrupt Republic Day celebrations, the IG BSF said it was not difficult to guess as in the past as well attempts were made to push infiltrators and smuggle arms to disturb important occasions like Republic Day and Independence Day. "Our analysis is that it (the attempt to smuggle weapons) was in that direction," he said. Boora said it was not possible to put out a specific number of terrorists waiting across the border to infiltrate into India. "We had inputs about three to four groups at different places that were planning to infiltrate taking advantage of foggy conditions. We had made the deployments after taking all aspects into account," he said. Boora assured that any attempts from across the border would be successfully deterred and both the incidents highlight the alertness of troops. On the renewed ceasefire between India and Pakistan that came into effect along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir in February last year, he said "the ceasefire is holding well as there is no firing from either side." However, he said "ceasefire or no ceasefire, there was not much difference as far as infiltration and smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics were concerned. Such attempts are continuing from the Pakistani side." The BSF officer said there has been spurt in smuggling of narcotics into Jammu and Kashmir over the past one year. "This (smuggling of narcotics) was happening in Punjab and has seen spurt in Jammu as well over the past one year. It shows that narcotics is a tool to keep terrorism alive," he said. Boora said the use of drones from across the border to drop weapons is a major challenge and effective steps are on to counter the threat.

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CINEMA APSARA AUDI- 1: 83- 9:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 3:45 PM, 6:45 PM. APSARA AUDI- 2: PUSHPA- 9:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM. HARI THEATRE: ANTIM - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM. INDIRA AUDI- 1: TERROR STRIKE-9:45 AM, 2:NIRODOSH 11:45 AM, 3. JUMANJI-3D (HIN)- 1:50 PM, 4. 1921-4:05 PM, 5. 1921-6:50 PM, 6. MUKKABAAZ- 9:35 PM. INDIRA AUDI-II: 1. KAALAKAANDI - 09:45AM, 2.1921 - 11:50 PM, 3. MUKKABAAZ - 2:55 PM, 4. MUKKABAAZ - 5:30 PM, 5. TIGER ZINDA HAI - 8:25 PM. INDIRA AUDI-III: 1. VODKA DIARIES - 09:45 AM, 2. TIGER ZINDA HAI - 12:00 PM, 3. VODKA DIARIES - 3:00 PM, 4. TIGER ZINDA HAI - 5:15 PM, 5. MEDAL PATNIHE BHARTA - 08:10 PM, 6. VODKA DIARIES - 10:00 PM. WAVE CINEMA-1: 1. TADAP (U/A) - 10:30 AM, 2. TADAP (U/A) - 01:15 PM, 3. TADAP (U/A) - 4:00 PM, 4. TADAP (U/A) - 6:45 PM. WAVE CINEMA-2: 1. TEEJA PUNJAB - PUNJABI (U/A) - 10:15 AM, 2. ANTIM: THE FINAL TRUTH (U/A) - 01:00 PM, 3. TEEJA PUNJAB - PUNJABI (U/A) - 4:15 PM, 4. ANTIM: THE FINAL TRUTH (U/A) - 7:15 PM. WAVE CINEMA-3: 1. KADE HAAN KADE NAA (PUNJAB) (U/A) - 10:00 AM, 2. WARNING - PUNJABI (A) - 12:45 PM, 3. KADE HAAN KADE NAA (PUNJAB) (U/A) - 3:30 PM, 4. SATYAMEVA JAYATE 2 (U/A) - 6:30 PM. PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. SPIDER MAN NO WAY HOME (3D WITH ENG SUB / ENGLISH) - 8:50 AM, 83 (ATMOS HINDI) - 12:05 PM. PUSHPA (THE RISE PART-01) HINDI - 03:30 PM, 83 (ATMOS HINDI) - 7:10 PM PVR KC AUDI 2: 1. 83 (3D / HINDI) - 9:00 AM SPIDER MAN NO WAY HOME (3D WITH ENG SUB / ENGLISH) - 12:25 PM 83 3D HINDI - 3:40 PM SPIDER MAN NO WAY HOME (3D WITH ENG SUB / ENGLISH) - 07:05 PM

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