

5th July 2021

Pushkar Singh Dhama sworn in as 11th Uttarakhand CM

A day after his election as leader of BJP legislature group, Khatima MLA Pushkar Singh Dhama on Sunday was sworn in as 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. All members of the previous council of ministers led by Tirath Singh Rawat were given place in the new cabinet.

Draft anti-trafficking Bill widens scope of offences, includes stringent penalties

The Ministry of Women and Child Welfare invited suggestions and comments for its Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 which it has released. The Bill, which will now be sent to the cabinet for approval before being tabled in Parliament, has increased the scope of the nature of offenses of trafficking as well as the kind of victims of these offenses, with stringent penalties including life imprisonment, and even the death penalty in cases of an extreme nature.

The recommendations for the Bill are to be submitted to the Ministry by July 14.

The law, once enacted, will extend to all citizens inside as well as outside India, persons on any ship or aircraft registered in India wherever it may be or carrying Indian citizens wherever they may be, a foreign national or a stateless person who has his or her residence in India at the time of commission of offence under this Act, and the law will apply to every offence of trafficking in persons with cross-border implications.

Property bought via such income as well as used for trafficking can now be forfeited with provisions set in place, similar to that of the money laundering Act.

The scope of the Bill vis a vis offenders will also include defence personnel and government servants, doctors and paramedical staff or anyone in a position of authority.

Week after Jammu attack, Srinagar administration bans drones

Days after the Jammu drone attack, the Srinagar administration Sunday banned drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles.

It warned that the sale, possession, storage, use and transport of drones would invite action.

Mohammad Aljaz, IAS, District Magistrate, Srinagar in exercise of powers vested by virtue of section 144 of Cr.P.C imposed restrictions/ ban on the storage, sale/ possession, use and transport of drones/s kind of unmanned aerial vehicles in the territorial jurisdiction of District Srinagar.

Govt sets up two new vaccine testing labs

The Union government has created two new facilities to facilitate and expedite the testing and pre-release certification of Covid-19 vaccines.

These Central Drugs Laboratories have been set up by the Department of Biotechnology at its autonomous research institutes — the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, and the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad.

Both cities are vaccine manufacturing hubs. While Covishield-manufacturer Serum Institute of India is headquartered in Pune, Bharat Biotech, which makes Covaxin, is based out of Hyderabad.

The country currently has only one Central Drugs Laboratory, at Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh.

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