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Quote!

Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.

—Albert Einstein

NEWS DIGEST

BSF Constable Injured In Mine Blast

SRINAGAR: A Border Security Force (BSF) constable was seriously injured on Monday in a mine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, official sources said. They said Constable Ajish K of 146 Battalion BSF, deployed at Dogra Tekri, area of Balakot Sector sustained multiple mine • **PI0**

2 Jaish Workers Held In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: Two militant associates of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) were arrested by a joint team of police, army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) from south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Monday. Umer Ramzan of Brabandina and Javid Ah Mala of Khelan • **PI0**

Blaze Leaves Nine Families Homeless

SRINAGAR: A residential house, housing nine families, was gutted in a blaze which broke on Sunday evening in Dudkuchan DK Marg in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Reports reaching GNS said that the fire broke out this evening and soon spread to take the whole • **PI0**

Man's Body Retrieved From Jhelum

SRINAGAR: The river police on Monday retrieved body of a man who had jumped into river Jhelum on Sunday after allegedly attacked with stones during sand extraction. According to reports, body of Muhammad Amin Thakroo, • **PI0**

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5601 Truce Violations On LOC Since 2019

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 5601 incidents of Ceasefire Violations since November 2019; the Ministry of Defence informed the parliament on Monday.

The Defence Ministry was responding to the query raised in the parliament, seeking the details about the number of times Pakistan has violated the Line of Control (LoC) during the last two years and about action taken in retaliation.

Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of • **PAGE 10**

Kashmir Grapples With Intense Cold Wave

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Residents of Kashmir woke up to frozen water bodies and taps on Monday as the valley remained in the grip of a severe cold wave with the minimum temperature settling several degrees below the freezing point, officials said here.

Many water bodies including waterfalls, lakes and streams have frozen across the valley due to extreme cold wave conditions over the past week, the officials said.

They said the fringes in the interior of Dal Lake have also frozen while city residents were facing problems due to frozen drinking water pipes.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, slightly up from minus 6 degrees recorded the previous night, which • **PAGE 10**



KO Photo, Abid Bhat

THE FALLING MERCURY HAS FROZEN A WATERFALL in Drung area of Tangmarg, making it a favourite tourist spot in Tangmarg.

Hyderpora 'Encounter' Activists, Kin Of Slain Men Seek Probe Report

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Rights activists and relatives of the three men killed in the Hyderpora encounter last month have asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to make public the report of a magisterial probe into the incident.

"It has been more than a month since the government had ordered a magisterial probe into the fake encounter killings. We have a right to know about the outcome," brother of Mohammad Altaf Bhat, one of the three slain men, said on Monday.

Bhat, Mudasir Gul and his office boy -- Amir Magray -- were killed on November 15 in what the police called an encounter with militants. The relatives of the slain men term it "cold blooded murder".

The trio were buried in Handwara area of Kupwara district by police but the bodies of Bhat and Gul were returned to their families three days • **PAGE 10**

LG Issues Veiled Warning To Striking PDD Employees

Assures 100% Electricity Supply From Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday issued a veiled warning to the striking Power Development Department (PDD) employees, while assuring 100 percent restoration of electricity supply in the Union Territory by Tuesday.

"If some people think that the system will work as per their whims and fancies, it cannot be allowed. The system will work for 1.25 crore citizens without any discrimination. Every step of the



UT administration is meant for the betterment of 1.25 crore citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, expressed solidarity with the people and said that he understood the pain caused by the disruption

in electricity supply due to strike by the power department employees.

"The well-being of each and every citizen is our top priority. Many Generations of J&K have spent their life dreaming about getting an uninterrupted 24 hours supply of electricity and we have taken the bold initiative of reforms in the power sector to realise that dream," the LG said.

"Unfortunately, the people who were at the helm of affairs for many decades did nothing; they didn't want the system to get better to bring qualitative change in people's lives," he added. • **PAGE 10**

UNFORTUNATELY, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE AT THE HELM of affairs for many decades did nothing; they didn't want the system to get better to bring qualitative change in people's lives,"

PDD Strike, Power Outages Continue

Press Trust Of India

Residents in many areas of Jammu and Valley faced power shut down on second consecutive day, as Power Development Department (PDD)

employees continued their strike against the proposed privatisation of electricity in Jammu and Kashmir. The PDD employees have been on strike since Sunday against the J&K administration decision to • **PI0**

Sabotage Bid

Sabotage was noticed at three receiving stations to plunge many areas in the winter capital in darkness. In Roop Nagar, the official sources said, a wire was connected between two phases to cause a • **PI0**

Patients Gasp For Breath As Strike Worsens Power Crisis

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The indefinite strike by Power Development Department (PDD) employees has left hundreds of oxygen-dependent patients on edge and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are at the forefront of supplying oxygen cylinders and concentrators to the needy are seeing themselves being pushed against the wall amid the winter of woes.

The augmenting crisis has come in the backdrop of

THE ONGOING STRIKE BY PDD employees has increased the demand for oxygen cylinders by 40 percent in the last two days"

Kashmir valley being plunged into darkness several times as the indefinite strike by Power Development Department (PDD) employees is proving to be one of the worst confrontations between PDD employees and the Government in recent times.

Over 20,000 Power Development Department

(PDD) employees are seeking fulfilment of their four-point demands, including shelving a proposed joint venture between the Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

However, this indefinite strike has perhaps come at • **PAGE 10**

J&K Logs 105 New Covid Cases, 1 Death

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over a hundred fresh cases of novel coronavirus were detected in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 78 people tested positive for Covid-19 in Kashmir Valley and 27 others in various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by virus since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 339932.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered 31 new cases of virus, Ganderbal 16, Budgam 10, Baramulla 6, Kupwara and Bandipora 5 each, Anantnag 3 and Pulwama 2. Twin districts of Kulgam and Shopian reported no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 19 new cases of virus, Rajouri 3, Doda 2 and one new case each in Kishtwar and Poonch. No fresh cases were detected in the four districts of Udhampur, Samba, Ramban, Kathua and Reasi.

"Moreover, 192 Covid-19 • **PAGE 10**

Delimitation Exercise Panel Proposes 6 More Seats For Jammu, One For Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir has proposed six additional assembly seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir while reserving 16 constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, triggering strong protests from parties such as the National Conference which accused the commission of allowing the "political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations".

The PDP, JK Apni Party and the People's Conference (PC), which is regarded as being friendly towards the BJP, also

NC Satisfied With Delimitation Criteria: Centre

Following a Delimitation Commission's meeting, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said that National Conference (NC) leaders got satisfied with the parameters that are being followed by the • **PI0**

protested strongly against the commission's draft recommendations which will alter the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir division currently has 46 seats and Jammu • **PAGE 10**

Won't Be Signatory To Draft Report: NC

The National Conference will not be signatory to the draft report of the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir in its present form, • **PI0**

Proposal Aimed To Balance Representation: Commission

The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir has proposed carving out an additional constituency • **PI0**

Govt Has No Data On Land Given To Dwellers Under FRA

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Even though the government of India had implemented the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, soon after abrogating the special status in the erstwhile state of J&K, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has no data on land rights provided to the forest dwellers in the Union Territory over the past three years.

On Wednesday, while invoking the question about FRA, member of Rajya Sabha, Dr Sasmit Patra asked the Government to disclose the details of "total land rights that were provided under



Forest Rights Act, 2006 to the forest dwellers in the country over the past three years."

In response to this, Minister

of State for Tribal Affairs, Bishweshwar Tudu informed Rajya Sabha that a total of 20,00,628 land rights were • **PAGE 10**



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اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار دہائی ہے اس نسبت دفتری ہائی حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن ساکنہ کرری میں رہائش پذیر ہے ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

بشیر احمد جام ولد مرحوم حسن جام	52	ملازم
شہید بیگم زوجہ بشیر احمد جام	48	گھریلو کام
خالده شیر ولد بشیر احمد	28	زیر تعلیم
صوبہ جید زوجہ خالده بشیر	26	گھریلو کام
ماہی خالده ولد خالده بشیر	01	نوزائید
شیخا خالده ولد بشیر احمد	24	زیر تعلیم
مسماہ مغل زوجہ مرحوم غلام حسن	70	عمر سیدہ

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے سرفلیکٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کم اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

ajj

از نیابت وکیل کرلہ پورہ

باجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول

مضمون کا غداشت درخواست متناجب زامہ اختر دفتر فتح محمد لون ساکنہ محمود پورہ تحصیل کنور بمراء عطا یگی RBA سرفلیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار دہائی ہے اس سلسلے میں دفتری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ اور اس کا والد گرفتہ پورہ سال دہ پڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کی سہارہ آمدنی 12600 روپے بتائی گئی ہے کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

فتح محمد لون ولد غلام قادر لون	60	مزدوری
مسماہ بیگم زوجہ فتح محمد	57	گھریلو کام
محمد اقبال لون	26	مزدوری
ظاہر حسین	22	زیر تعلیم
زامہ اختر	24	زیر تعلیم
منیرہ اختر دفتر	20	زیر تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہ نہیں ہے سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کم اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

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از نیابت وکیل کرلہ پورہ

باجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول

مضمون کا غداشت درخواست متناجب منیرہ اختر دفتر فتح محمد لون ساکنہ محمود پورہ تحصیل کنور بمراء عطا یگی RBA سرفلیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار دہائی ہے اس سلسلے میں دفتری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ اور اس کا والد گرفتہ پورہ سال دہ پڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کی سہارہ آمدنی 12600 روپے بتائی گئی ہے کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

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ظاہر حسین	22	زیر تعلیم
زامہ اختر	24	زیر تعلیم
منیرہ اختر دفتر	20	زیر تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہ نہیں ہے سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کم اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

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M/S Reem Fresh, Munawarabad, Srinagar formally registered with District industrial Centre, Srinagar for Cold Storage with Apple Grading under number 01/003/09394/PMI dated 08-07-2021 as Partnership concern having following partners.

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2. Saima Sameer W/o Sameer Azad

3. Usman Azad

4. Hanan Azad, Both S/o Altaf Hussain Azad all residents of Munawarabad, Srinagar.

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از نیابت منکرگ

مضمون کا غداشت درخواست متناجب سمیرہ فاروق مسکان فاروق دختران فاروق احمد جام سانکہ چند پورہ بمراء عطا یگی RBA سرفلیکٹ تحت 294 SRO

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار دہائی ہے اس سلسلے میں دفتری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ ہر وہ نام میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کی سہارہ آمدنی 5498 روپے بتائی گئی ہے کہہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

فاروق احمد جام ولد محمد اکبر جام	48	ملازم
افروزہ بیگم زوجہ فاروق احمد	45	گھریلو کام
مسکان فاروق دختر	18	زیر تعلیم
سمیرہ فاروق دختر	16	زیر تعلیم
محمد اکبر والد فاروق احمد	65	عمر سیدہ

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کہ نہیں ہے سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی مذکر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کم اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

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از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: نورانی ولد حامی چاندی چنگی ساکنہ چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	نورانی ولد حامی چاندی چنگی	75	عمر سیدہ	
2	لطیف احمد ولد نورانی	25	مزدوری	6000/=
3	اشرف ولد نورانی	35	سرکاری ملازم	LPC
4	زبیرہ زوجہ اشرف	30	گھریلو کام	
5	سمیرہ زوجہ اشرف	17	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: شہزاد احمد ولد محمد اکرم گوچرچی بلڈ رہا ہ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	گھڑا احمد ولد محمد اکرم گوچرچی	42	مزدوری	5000/=
2	شہزاد احمد زوجہ محمد اکرم گوچرچی	40	گھریلو کام	
3	عصفور حسین پھر گھڑا احمد گوچرچی	19	زیر تعلیم	
4	بال احمد پھر گھڑا احمد گوچرچی	17	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: محمد جبار احمد صاحب ساکنہ چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد جبار احمد ولد جلال الدین کاس	63	سرکاری ملازم	LPC
2	بی بی سہیرہ زوجہ محمد جبار	60	گھریلو کام	
3	محمد جبار احمد دختر محمد جبار کاس	21	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mukhtar Ahmad Lone S/o: Mohammad Anwar Lone R/o: Check Raithan Budgam (Transferor) of LMV . Vehicle bearing registration number JK04E - 5223. Chasis number 33838 Engine no. 81109 Model 2014, in favour of Shri.. Nisar Ahmad Wani S/o. Mohammad Ibrahim Wani R/o Magam Budgam (Tranferee) Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.4243 Dated 20-12-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Mohd Akram Dar Ghulam Nabi Dar R/O arhang Shopian (Party No Ist) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle i 20 - Regd. No. JK22B - 1073 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: ----- And Mr./ Mrs Abdul Hamid Bhat S/O Abdul Khaliq Bhat R/O Panzgam Awantipora Pulwama (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. Ist to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Keygam Shopian & Endorsement of HPA with M/S Jammu and Kashmir Bank B/U Sangam

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned . No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

No : ARTO/Spn/1063-2021 Dated 20-12-2021

S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

ast

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: سحرین جان دختر فرید احمد یگی ساکنہ چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	فرید احمد ولد اسحاق یگی	48	مزدوری	6000/=
2	زبیرہ زوجہ فرید احمد یگی	40	گھریلو کام	
3	ظاہر احمد ولد فرید احمد یگی	18	زیر تعلیم	
4	کیلیک دختر فرید احمد یگی	16	زیر تعلیم	
5	سحرین جان دختر فرید احمد یگی	07	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: چالید جان کاس ولد سید رسول کاس ساکنہ چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	جلال الدین ولد سید رسول کاس	63	مزدوری	5000/=
2	بی بی رشیدہ زوجہ جلال الدین کاس	60	گھریلو کام	
3	بی بی جمیلہ دختر جلال الدین کاس	21	زیر تعلیم	
4	بی بی عابدہ دختر جلال الدین کاس	18	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: بشیر احمد ولد بشیر احمد ساکنہ چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	میوانہ زوجہ بشیر احمد	70	عمر سیدہ	
2	نذیر احمد ولد بشیر احمد	34	مزدوری	3000/=
3	شہید بی بی زوجہ بشیر احمد	32	گھریلو کام	
4	شہزاد احمد ولد بشیر احمد	48	زیر تعلیم	4000/=
5	رخسانہ جان دختر بشیر احمد	10	زیر تعلیم	
6	عائشہ جان دختر بشیر احمد	08	زیر تعلیم	
7	ساحل احمد ولد بشیر احمد	05	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

Public notice

I have a Pnb Metlife policy under policy no.20742176 In the name of MOHD QAYOOM but my name is ABDUL QAYOOM GANIE S/O.MOHD SULTAN GANIE now I want to correct it if any body have objection may contact Pnb Metlife office Anantnag within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained

ABDUL QAYOOM GANIE R/O.RESHIPORA KULGAM 192231 RNA

Public Notice

I have applied for fertilizer license .If anybody having any objection in this regard He/ She May contact office of the Chief Agriculture officer Anantnag within the period of 7 days .After that no objection will be entertained.

NAME: Mudasira Rashid W/o: Sajad Ahmad Ganie R/o: Hiller Baheie Anantnag RNA

Public Notice

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name: Mudasira Rashid W/O: Sajad Ahmad Ganie R/O: Hiller Baheie Anantnag RNA

Public notice

I have a Pnb Metlife policy under policy no. 21023212 In the name of AMINA RASOOL but my name is AMINA AKHTER W/O.SHIRAZ AHMAD DAR now I want to correct it if any body have objection may contact Pnb Metlife office Anantnag within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained

AMINA AKHTER R/O.QAIMOH KULGAM J & K RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: یاس ولد عبد اکرم کاس ساکنہ چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	یاس ولد عبد اکرم کاس	60	عمر سیدہ	
2	لیاقت دلم یاس کاس	30	مزدوری	6000/=
3	جمیلہ زوجہ لیاقت کاس	27	گھریلو کام	
4	شرافت ولد لیاقت کاس	06	زیر تعلیم	
5	فاروق ولد لیاقت کاس	03	زیر تعلیم	
6	سہرت جان دختر لیاقت کاس	01	شیرخور	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: بشارت احمد ولد محمد اسحاق یگی و بال احمد یگی ولد بشارت احمد یگی ساکنان چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	بشارت احمد ولد محمد اسحاق یگی	58	مزدوری	6000/=
2	نذیرہ زوجہ بشارت احمد	55	گھریلو کام	
3	مدثر احمد ولد بشارت احمد یگی	27	زیر تعلیم	
4	اصغر احمد ولد بشارت احمد یگی	18	زیر تعلیم	
5	بال احمد ولد بشارت احمد یگی	15	زیر تعلیم	
6	فاطمہ دختر بشارت احمد یگی	13	زیر تعلیم	
7	محمد رفیق ولد بشارت احمد یگی	10	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

از نیابت ساکام باجلاس ایگزیکٹو جیسٹریٹ دچاول ساکام

درخواست متناجب: فخر الدین کاس ولد محمد یعقوب والظاف حسین کاس ولد فخر الدین کاس ساکنان چوگم شاناراز بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ

اشتہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفلیکٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کار دہائی ہے۔ پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	فخر الدین کاس ولد یعقوب کاس	45	مزدوری	6000/=
2	حسن جان دختر فخر الدین کاس	40	گھریلو کام	
3	سکندر ولد فخر الدین کاس	20	مزدوری	4000/=
4	الظاف حسین ولد فخر الدین کاس	18	زیر تعلیم	
5	سفینہ دختر فخر الدین کاس	16	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفلیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

RNA

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to GNM courses 2021 during 3rd (Mop up) Round of physical Counselling.

Reference: Notification NO.144-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-12-2021.

NOTIFICATION NO: 149-BOPEE of 2021 DATED: 18-12-2021.

Pursuant to Notification No. 144-BOPEE of 2021 dated 09-12-2021, the Board conducted 3rd round of up-gradation/ allotment (Mop-up) physical counselling of eligible candidates who had applied for GNM courses 2021 w.e.f.14-12-2021 to 18-12-2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit- cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to GNM Courses-2021 in various Colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 20-12-2021 to 27-12-2021 (03.00 PM) along with following documents/ certificates:-

1. Mark Cards of 12th class.
2. Date of birth Certificate of 10th Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate,
6. Any other certificates/ document as required by the College Authorities.

The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions up to 27th of December-2021 positively.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per Indian Nursing Council (INC) guidelines before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents is found the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (27-12-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays/ off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

Further, due to non-availability of eligible reserved category candidates in the Govt. Institutions against below mentioned categories, the Board, as provided under Proviso to Section 9(2) of J&K Reservation Act, 2004, converted 25 (twenty five) seats into Open Merit and filled up the same amongst the available eligible OM category candidates. The details of 25 category seats converted into OM are: - (SC- 07 seats, CDP- 10 seats, SP- 08 seats).

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com /jakbopee@gmail.com/ coejakbopee@gmail.com on 28th of December-2021 (upto 04.00 PM).

NOTE

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).

2. The Concerned Colleges/Institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, if selected in open merit or some reserved category, constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/ college and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE.

3. For fee / documents required for admission in the College/ Institute, the provisionally selected candidates are advised to contact concerned College/ Institute before the last date of admission as fixed by Board.

4. The Heads of Institutions are advised to release the documents and fee deposited by the candidates who have been upgraded from one stream to other stream as per circular issued by J&K Paramedical Council or upgraded and shifted from one Institute to other, without any loss of time.

5. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e- Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

E&OE

DIPK-NB-5999/21

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)

Controller of Examinations

J&K BOPEE

No: BOPEE/Exam-10/2021

Power Crises

DC Inspects Hospitals, Receiving Stations To Oversee Power Supply Arrangements

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In view of the ongoing strike of engineering staff and daily wagers of Power Development Department (PDD), the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday undertook a surprise visit to various Power Receiving Stations to oversee the power supply arrangements especially with regard to the critical and emergency feeders in Srinagar district.

Managing Director KPDCL, Basharat Qayoom, Chief Engineer, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Mohammad Yaseen Lone and other concerned accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

The DC while interacting with the officers said that District Administration Srinagar has ensured minimal outage in supply of electricity in the district to ensure people do not suffer, keeping in view the severity of the ensuing harsh winter season.

While taking stock of supply of electricity at Power Receiving Station in Bone & Joint Hospital, the DC was apprised by Hospital authorities that normal power supply is being supplied to the Hospital



and all routine activities are being carried out without any difficulty.

The DC was also given brief on account of healthcare facilities being extended to the patient.

At Power Receiving Station Solina, the DC

inspected the functioning of the control Room and main supply unit where electricity is being supplied to Lal Ded Hospital and other emergency installations.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that electricity supply to Lal Ded hospital is supplied

without any problem to ensure patient care is not affected.

Meanwhile, the DC has directed the concerned to take all requisite measures to ensure power supply to consumers as per already notified schedule.

Power outage affects work at KU

Agencies

Srinagar: Power outage Kashmir University here in Srinagar for the whole day badly hit functioning of the varsity. Over 1000 students are staying in different hostels of the University who were seen shivering in this chilly weather. They said that no activity happened in any laboratory for the whole day.

The student's alleged authorities of failing to provide them any facility in the classes and hostels. "Authorities give us a lame excuse of a strike from Power Development Department employees but didn't nothing to bring the issue into the notice of LG administration," a group of students told news agency Kashmir News Trust.

They said the last time the bulbs were lit was on Monday early morning and for the whole day afterwards there was complete power failure.

Students said that they wonder why cannot the authorities manage a generator set to prevent uncertainties in the power supply when there is severe cold. (KNT)

KU appoints Mukhtar Khanday as Director south campus

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: The administration at the University of Kashmir on Monday appointed Dr. Mukhtar Khanday as Director of its south campus. In an order a copy, reads "Subject to verification by the University Council, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Khanday son of Ali Mohammad Khanday as Director South Campus (tenure position) in the University of Kashmir for a period of five years"

"Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Khanday will hold a lien on his substantive post in this University" it reads, adding that the order shall have immediate effect.

Dr. M.A. Khanday, a resi-



dent of Srigufwara area of Anantnag is currently working as Associate Professor at the Department of Mathematics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

Khanday joined the Department in the year 2003 immediately after the completion of his masters programme in Mathematics. He qualified JRF/NET (CSIR) in 2003 as a first candidate from the Jammu and Kashmir in Mathematical Sciences.

Students Accuse Controller Cluster University Of 'Misbehaviour', Controller Refutes

Agencies

Srinagar: A group of students Monday alleged that they were 'manhandled' by staffers at the behest of Cluster University Controller, a charge refuted by the said Controller.

A Group of students told a Sringar based news agency that instead of addressing their grievance and saving their precious year, Controller, Cluster University Gogji Bagh here in Srinagar city ordered his staff to show them the gate and he also 'misbehaved' with their parents.

Students said that they were unable to submit online examination forms for 3rd semester as on December 18 and 19, the

link of University website had developed some technical snag and it was not opening.

"December 18 was the last date while the next day it was Sunday and due to a snag in the website we requested the Controller to keep the link open for an hour so that we can submit our examination forms, but he was too 'arrogant' to listen to us. Even our parents requested him, but all in vain. He not only 'misbehaved' with us, but also ordered his staffers to drag us out from the University," the students claimed, saying that at least 50 students failed to submit their examination forms.

When contacted, Controller Cluster University, Gogji

Bagh, Prof. Mir Khursid said that these students who are not serious about their future and even their parents are not serious about the career of their wards.

"The students are lying, there was no technical snag on the website. We received over 7000 examination forms from other students. It is a small group of students who never remain in touch with the College and University authorities," he said.

He further added that it was not his domain to keep the link open as the competent authority (Vice Chancellor) who could have decided about it is out of station. (KNT)

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



HIJRI
CALENDAR
16 Jumada al-awwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 02
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 3:48
Magrib 5:29
ISHA 6: 55

This Day In History

- 1866 - Fetterman Massacre: Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians kill all 81 US Army soldiers in the worst military disaster ever suffered by the U.S. Army on the Great Plains
- 1894 - Mackenzie Bowell becomes the 5th Prime Minister of Canada
- 1898 - French Scientists Pierre and Marie Curie discover radium
- 1906 - British Parliament pass two important pieces of social legislation: The Trades Disputes Bill, legalizing peaceful picketing, and The Workmen's Compensation Act, broadening employers' liability for accidents
- 1907 - Dutch government of De Master falls due to war budget
- 1910 - Explosion in coal mine in Hulton England, 344 mine workers dies
- 1912 - Denmark, Norway & Sweden declare neutrality in Comende war
- 923 -- Nepal changes from British protectorate to independent nation
- 1932 Giants sign former outfielder Billy Southworth as a coach
- 1933 - Dried human blood serum 1st prepared, University of Pennsylvania
- 1933 Fox Films signs Shirley Temple aged 5, to a studio contract
- 1933 Newfoundland reverts to being a crown colony of Great Britain
- 1936 Bradman's 2nd consecutive Test Cricket duck! Australia all out for 80
- 1937 - The first full-length animated feature film and the earliest in the Walt Disney Animated Classics series, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", premieres at the Carthay Circle Theatre
- 1937 - Chicago Black Hawks left wing Paul Thompson becomes first player in NHL history to score a goal against his brother; scores on bro Cecil of the Boston Bruins with just 9 seconds left in regulation; Bruins win though, 2-1
- 1939 - Adolf Hitler names Adolf Eichmann leader of "Referat IV B", responsible for evictions and Jewish immigration
- 1941 - German submarine U-567 sinks
- 1942 - US Supreme court declares Nevada separation legal
- 1946 - Earthquake in South Japan, kills 1,086
- 1949 - Dutch 1st Chamber accept sovereignty of Indonesia
- 1952 - WBSV TV channel 22 in South Bend, IN (CBS) begins broadcasting
- 1953 - KOMU TV channel 8 in Columbia, MO (NBC/PBS) begins broadcasting
- 1956 - Martin Luther King Jr. and others sit in the new integrated bus

From KO Archives

Foreign militants' role limited to help: Ghani Lone

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Foreign militant groups fighting India troops in Kashmir have no place in talks on the future of the region, People's conference chairman and senior Hurriyat leader Abdul Ghani Lone said Thursday.

Lone who returned to New Delhi after a three-week visit to Pakistan, also told an international news agency that he thought Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf was keen to find a solution to Kashmir issue.

"They (foreign militants) came to help us when they found that we were, in trouble ... they should keep it to help alone," Lone said, adding it was not for foreign groups to reject Indian government proposals.

If foreign militants were all Pakistani, we could have told them to quit. But these people are from Saudi, Afghani-stan and Chechnya."

When asked about his meeting with Musharraf in Islamabad Lone said he had found the Pakistani leader "sincere" about seeking a permanent solution of the Kashmir dispute.

However Lone said Musharraf was disappointed as Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had "not responded constructively" to his offer of talks.

The violent struggle in Kashmir has claimed tens of thousands of lives since it erupted in 1989.

India blames Pakistan for providing military backing to the militants. Pakistan denies the charge, but offers open diplomatic support to what it terms the Kashmir freedom fighters.

KASHMIR OBSERVER, 21 DECEMBER, 2000

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No: 216/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&B DATED: - 17.12.2021

For and on behalf of the LT Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Electrical Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Supply, installation testing and Commissioning of Audio/ Video Conferencing system for conference Hall of Mini Sectt.	20.16 lacs	800.00	10 days	23.12.2021	"A" class Electrical

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-12-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17/12/2021 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	17/12/2021 from 6.00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	23/12/2021 up to 6.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	23/12/2021 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Sgr

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

03. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of adv. Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

04. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.
AAA/TS = Accorded
Position of Funds = available

DIPK-15301/21
No. 216/e-tendering/ERB/4739-46

Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division
Srinagar

Regd. No. A-2586

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REMOVAL | MOLE REMOVAL | ACNE TREATMENT | UNDER EYE
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For Details Contact: 9797-703533
JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK

Giant Rave In Saudi Desert Pushes Kingdom's Changing Boundaries

Vivian Nereim | Bloomberg

Riyadh: The party in the Saudi desert looked like any other rave until the music stopped for the Islamic call to prayer, leaving attendees in ripped skinny jeans and combat boots to stand in silence.

Fifteen minutes later -- religious duties completed -- thousands of party-goers got back to business. Men and women danced with abandon in a country where that would have been unthinkable five years ago.

The electronic music festival in Saudi Arabia this weekend highlighted the changes

performances by global DJs like Tiesto and Armin van Buuren. Organizers say more than 180,000 people attended the opening night, pushing boundaries as the kingdom transforms.

"Allow us progress, allow us to represent ourselves in the way that we feel fit," said Prince Fahad Al Saud, a royal family member and entrepreneur who attended in a psychedelic-patterned jacket and sparkling eyeliner. "We are very eager to be part of the international community, but we can't be stifled every time we try to make progress because it doesn't look like what



catapulting through the conservative kingdom under its controversial crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. In just a few years, the prince has lifted a ban on women driving, loosened gender segregation and defanged the religious police, who used to roam the streets punishing restaurants that played music.

In contrast, the four-day festival called MDL Beast Soundstorm was endorsed by the government and included

you want to see."

Indeed, the festival was part of a dizzying month in which Saudi Arabia hosted a Formula One race, two separate art biennials and a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron. All of it underlined the fact that any ostracism on the world stage has largely passed for Prince Mohammed, who faced global outcry after the 2018 murder of government critic Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Istanbul.

'Taliban Will Not Allow Daesh To Establish Foothold In Afghanistan'

Saima Shabbir | Arab News

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's interim Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said on Sunday that the Afghan Taliban would not allow the Daesh militant group to gain a "foothold" in the country or allow any terror outfits to use Afghan soil against other nations.

Muttaqi spoke to Arab News in an interview on the sidelines of an Organization of Islamic Cooperation summit held in Islamabad on Sunday to help Afghanistan, which is facing a looming economic meltdown and humanitarian catastrophe.

"We have controlled Daesh in the whole of Afghanistan and haven't permitted anyone to use our land against any other country," Muttaqi said. "It is our promise to the whole world that Afghan soil will not be used against anyone. We will not allow it."

"We will not let Daesh or any other group establish a foothold in Afghanistan as the Afghan people want peace," he added. Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, earlier said dur-



ing Sunday's gathering that Afghanistan must not turn into a shelter for terrorist and extremist groups.

The humanitarian crisis since the Taliban seized power in August could compromise regional stability, Prince Faisal warned.

He said Saudi Arabia would begin transporting humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, and he hoped mechanisms could be created to deliver it to the Afghan people.

Afghanistan, which is also suffering from a banking liquidity crisis as the cash flow dries up due to sanctions, is facing the risk of economic collapse since the Taliban took over.

But Muttaqi said there was now peace in Afghanistan and the government was strong and stable: "The people are happy," he insisted.



Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, center, welcomes the guests for the extraordinary session of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021. (AP)

OIC Countries Pledge Fund To Stave Off Afghanistan 'Chaos'

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Muslim nations pledged on Sunday to set up a fund to help Afghanistan avert an imminent economic collapse they say would have a "horrendous" global impact.

At a special meeting in Pakistan of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), delegates also resolved to work with the United Nations to try to unlock hundreds of millions of dollars in frozen Afghan assets.

The promised fund will provide humanitarian aid through the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which would provide a cover for countries to donate without dealing directly with the country's Taliban rulers.

An OIC resolution released after the meeting said the IDB would lead the effort to free up assistance by the first quarter of next year.

The meeting was the biggest conference on Afghanistan since the US-backed government fell in August and the Taliban returned to power.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan earlier warned of chaos if the worsening emergency was not urgently addressed.

"Unless action is taken immediately, Afghanistan is heading for chaos," Khan told he

meeting of OIC foreign ministers in Islamabad.

The crisis is causing mounting alarm but the international response has been muted, given Western reluctance to help the Taliban government, which seized power in August.

Billions of dollars in aid and assets have been frozen by the international community, and the nation is in the middle of a bitter winter. Khan directed his remarks to the US, urging Washington to drop preconditions for releasing desperately needed funds and restarting Afghanistan's banking systems.

"I speak to the United States specifically that they must delink the Afghanistan government from the 40 million Afghan citizens," he said, "even if they have been in conflict with the Taliban for 20 years."

He also urged caution in linking recognition of the new government to Western ideals of human rights.

"Every country is different... every society's idea of human rights is different," he said.

Engaging the Taliban

The OIC also resolved Sunday to arrange for a team of international Muslim scholars to engage with the Taliban on issues "such as, but not limited

to, tolerance and moderation in Islam, equal access to education and women's rights in Islam."

No nation has yet formally recognized the Taliban government and diplomats face the delicate task of channelling aid to the stricken Afghan economy without propping up the hard-line Islamists.

It also urged Afghanistan's rulers to abide by "obligations under international human rights covenants, especially with regards to the rights of women, children, youth, elderly and people with special needs."

Pakistan Foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the deepening crisis could bring mass hunger, a flood of refugees and a rise in extremism.

"We cannot ignore the danger of complete economic meltdown," he told the gathering, which also included Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi alongside delegates from the United States, China, Russia, the European Union and UN.

Although the Taliban have promised a lighter version of the hard-line rule that characterized their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001, women are largely excluded from government employment, and secondary schools for girls have mostly remained shuttered.

Fauci Warns Omicron COVID Variant 'Raging Through The World'

Agencies

Washington: Top US pandemic adviser Anthony Fauci has warned of a bleak winter ahead as the Omicron coronavirus variant spurs a new wave of infections globally, sparking restrictions and concerns over hospital capacity.

"One thing that's very clear ... is [Omicron's] extraordinary capability of spreading," Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told broadcaster NBC News on Sunday. "It is just ... raging through the world."

Since it was first reported in southern Africa in Novem-



ber, Omicron has been identified in dozens of countries, prompting many to reimpose travel restrictions and other measures in an attempt to slow outbreaks.

Despite some preliminary indications Omicron is not more severe than the Delta

variant -- currently, still the dominant strain -- the heavily mutated Omicron has been shown in early data to have some resistance to vaccines and higher transmissibility.

Fauci also cautioned against too much optimism over Omicron's severity, noting that in South Africa, while the hospitalisation-to-case ratio is lower than with Delta, this could be due to underlying immunity from widespread previous infections.

"No matter how you look at it," he said, "when you have so many, many infections, even if it is less severe, that overcomes this slight to moderate diminution in severity."

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Holds Military Drill Amid Tension

Press Trust Of India

Tehran: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard staged a major military exercise across the country's south on Monday amid heightened tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme, state TV reported.

The Guard's aerospace division, ground troops and naval forces joined in the five-day drill, the report said, with maritime forces set to maneuver in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway for 20% of the world's traded oil.

The exercise comes days after talks to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers broke up in Vienna. Iran has accelerated its nuclear advances as negotiations to return to the accord struggle to make headway, alarming Israel and other regional rivals. Israel has repeatedly threatened unilateral action against Iran's nuclear programme.

Gen Gholamali Rashid, a top Guard commander, vowed a harsh response to any Israeli military action against Iran. Iranian forces will launch

"a crushing attack on all bases, centres, paths and space used to carry out the aggression without delay," the semi-official Mehr news agency quoted him as saying.

"Any threat to Iran's nuclear and military bases by the Zionist regime is not possible without the green light support of the United States," he said.

Earlier on Monday, residents in Bushehr, some 700



Israel Fears 3,000 Missiles a Day in Case of War



A child walks past a mural depicting soldiers firing rockets as Palestinians mark the 34th anniversary of the founding of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, on December 11, 2021. (File photo by AFP)

Agencies

Jerusalem: A retired Israeli general has warned that the Israeli military is not ready for any future war, predicting that the regime will be hit with 3,000 missiles a day in case an all-out war breaks out.

In the most terrifying scenario, pro-Iran groups in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq, as well as Hamas in the Gaza Strip, will launch missiles and drones at Israel, so that the average number of missiles fired at the regime will reach 3,000 a day, MizvakLive News quoted Yitzhak Brik as saying on Saturday.

Brik has on several occasions cautioned that the Israeli regime's military is not prepared for a multi-front war.

Last month, he said his remarks about the profound weakness of the Israeli army and the fact that the regime is in decline are not an outburst of anger, but fairly true as there are incontrovertible facts that cannot be overlooked.

"A new war will take us back to many years ago. The difficulties that we went through throughout previous wars will be nothing in comparison with the fallout of the future confrontation," he opined. Back in May, after the Israeli regime's 11-day war on the Gaza Strip, the retired Israeli general said "the belief of the victory of the Air Force in any war was completely destroyed" due to the war, during which over 4,000 rockets were fired by the Gaza-based resistance groups toward the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Israeli leaders must return to their senses and immediately meet in a dialogue session to make decisions to prepare the army to confront a multi-front war and shape a modern security belief," he said.

The Gaza war began on May 10 and lasted until May 21, when the Israeli regime announced a unilateral ceasefire, which was accepted, through Egyptian mediation, by the resistance groups.

NEWS MAKERS

Japanese Billionaire Space Tourist Returns To Earth After 12 Days



Billionaire Yusaku Maezawa, his assistant Yozo Hirano and cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin did the trip.

The trio spent 12 days on the orbiting laboratory where the Japanese tourists documented their daily life aboard the ISS for Maezawa's popu-

lar YouTube channel. Addressing his one million followers on YouTube, the 46-year-old billionaire explained how to brush teeth and

go to the bathroom in space.

In one of the videos, he explained in detail the business of relieving oneself on the ISS.

"Peeing is very easy," he said as he demonstrated a handheld funnel astronauts use to suck their urine away.

In other videos, he showed his followers how to properly drink tea and sleep in zero gravity.

When the three space travellers arrived on the ISS on December 8, they joined a seven-team crew who were engaged in space biology and physics research.

Maezawa plans to take eight people with him on a 2023 mission around the moon, operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX.

He and his assistant are the first private Japanese citizens to visit space since journalist Toyohiro Akiyama travelled to the Mir station in 1990.

Superman #1 Comic, Bought For 10 Cents In 1939, Fetches \$2.6 Million At Auction

New Delhi: A rare copy of a Superman #1 comic book was sold for \$2.6 million (roughly 19.76 crores) at an auction through ComicConnect, an online auction house. Thirty people had bid for the book.

This particular edition sold in the newsstands in 1939 for a paltry 10 cents and featured the superhero's origin story as Clark Kent. It was created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, and "introduced three of the most important supporting characters in the Superman pantheon: Ma and Pa Kent, as well as Lois Lane", stated ComicConnect, the online auction company. It also contains the first mention of Krypton.



The issue was sold in the online auction on December 16, and the buyer preferred to remain anonymous.

The cover of the comic -- The complete story of the daring exploits of the one

and only Superman -- had the superhero leaping over tall buildings. The 64-pages, full-colour issue has changed hands just twice -- the first time being in 1939 from the newsstand, and then to its current owner -- the seller at the auction, Mark Michaelson -- about 40 years ago, who has since then kept the issue in a temperature-controlled safe.

ComicConnect stated that this issue -- "a never-before-seen example of Superman #1" -- was "a must-read for Man of Steel zealots". Outlining the iconic status of Superman, the ComicConnect website added that "the big red 'S' on his chest is one of the most-easily-recognised symbols in the world".

Almaty, Kazakhstan: A Japanese billionaire returned to Earth Monday, Russia's space agency said, after 12 days spent on the International Space Station where he made videos about performing mundane tasks in space including brushing teeth and going to the bathroom.

Online fashion tycoon Yusaku Maezawa and his assistant Yozo Hirano parachuted onto Kazakhstan's steppe at around the expected landing time of 0313 GMT Monday, along with Russian cosmonaut Alexander Misurkin.

"The flight of the 'tourist' spacecraft 'Soyuz MS-20' has been completed," Roscosmos said in a statement on its website, without providing an exact time for the landing.

Their journey marked Russia's return to space tourism after a decade-long pause that saw the rise of competition from the United States.

In JK Only 3 Districts Under Health Benefit Scheme: MRD

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a bizarre state of affairs, only three districts of Jammu and Kashmir have been enjoying the benefits of centrally sponsored National Family Benefit Scheme (NHFS), reveals the figures of Ministry of Rural Development (MRD).

According to the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) of MRD, there are a total of 374 beneficiaries from Jammu and Kashmir who have registered for the scheme.

The three districts wherein the beneficiaries have applied to enjoy the perks of the scheme includes two districts of Kashmir and one of Jammu region respectively.

According to the official figures, the highest number of beneficiaries has been recorded from the frontier district Kupwara wherein at least 356 individuals have registered for the NHFS scheme.

Similarly, the Kathua of Jammu region has a total of 16 beneficiaries followed by south Kashmir's Kulgam district with only two beneficiaries.

The figures available on NSAP website reveal that out of total number of beneficiaries Aadhar has been verified with a bank of only 68 beneficiaries.

A month back, reports said that under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in Kashmir region were yet to provide the funds to more than 5600 families who have lost their primary bread-earner.

In Kashmir division at least 5684 cases of the scheme were pending for the people of 18-59 years whose primary bread earner died due to accident or natural cause.

The figures reveal that till March-2020, the department of social welfare Kashmir has covered 9175 cases while the net pendency was 5540—(KNO)

J&K Man Found Dead At His Rented House In Delhi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A 36-year-old man was found dead at his rented house in South Delhi's Greater Kailash area on Monday, police said.

The deceased, identified as Rahul Thakur, hailed from Jammu & Kashmir and worked at 'Delhi Haat Art Gallery', they said.

Police suspect the victim was smothered, however, the exact cause of death will be ascertained through a post mortem report which is awaited.

"On Monday, around 9.40 am, we got a PCR call from the owner of flat at Greater Kailash about the incident. When police reached the spot, a man, who was identified as Rahul Thakur, was found lying uncon-

scious inside the flat, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaikar said.

According to police, Thakur lived with his mother Anita in the house which he had rented a month ago.

They said the mother of the deceased had left for their native place in Jammu & Kashmir 3-4 days back.

"We have registered a case of murder under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code and all angles are being probed including that of personal enmity," the officer said.

Three mobile phones have been found from the spot, she said, adding all the CCTV cameras installed in and around the scene of crime have been analysed and an investigation is underway.

J&K Signs MoU With UCB To Facilitate UT Students



Agencies

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University College Birmingham (UCB) at India Global Forum, Dubai, to explore potential progression opportunities through institutional partnership with vocational colleges and universities in J&K, officials said on Monday.

For the first time, UCB has decided to set up an office in Jammu and Kashmir to tie up with local educational institutions, facilitate academic exchange programmes and enable students to secure admissions at reduced fees.

Director of Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Anoo Malhotra, and Director Marketing, Admissions and International Recruitment, University College Birmingham, Eileen Pryer, signed the MoU in the presence of Counsel General of India, Aman Puri, during the India Global Forum event held at Taj

Dubai.

"We have signed an MoU. We will be exchanging educational programmes and doing many things together. I am inviting her to J&K. We will be providing her with some office space. We will start work as soon as possible," said Anu Malhotra.

Eileen said it is an incredible opportunity for the University College Birmingham.

"This provides a great opportunity for things to explore, make partnerships with universities and provide wider opportunity for students who may not able to go straight to our programmes. So it is an incredible opportunity. We have a very positive experience," she said.

The objective of the MoU is to provide a framework within which the parties will seek to develop a formal relationship in exchange of undergraduate/graduate students, technical programs, academic mobility, teaching and research programs. The document would be valid for a period of three years.

Driver Killed, 9 Hurt As SUV Rolls Into Gorge

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Driver of a vehicle was killed while nine persons onboard it were injured in a road accident at Tangdhar area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday.

Reports said that a Scorpio vehicle (JK01W-5979) skidded off the road at Neeti Galli Nawagabra area of Tangdhar and fell into

a gorge, resulting in on the spot death of the driver and injuries nine others. The injured has been shifted to hospital for treatment, according to news agency GNS.

The deceased has been identified as Intekhab Alam son of Mohammad Sayab, a resident of Nowagabra Tangdhar.

A police officer confirmed said that a case has been registered in this regard.



STRIKING PDD EMPLOYEES staged a protest at Bemina complex on Monday.

‘Divisive & Unacceptable’: Parties Reject Panel Recommendations

SRINAGAR: Most political parties in Jammu and Kashmir Monday rejected the draft recommendations of the J&K Delimitation Commission as "divisive and unacceptable."

In a statement, the National Conference said that the draft proposal in its current form is "biased towards Kashmir and is therefore unacceptable to JKNC."

"Contrary to what is being shared by BJP and its cronies in Kashmir, JKNC MPs have expressed complete resentment on the delimitation commission draft on seat sharing," a party spokesman said, adding, "Recommendations of the delimitation commission are totally unacceptable. They reek of brazen discrimination."

The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies with six going to Jammu and only one to Kashmir is not justified by the data of the 2011 census, it said. "The recommendations also give ditch to scientific approach and are simply meant to serve BJP's political interests," it added.

Earlier Omar Abdullah, party's vice president and former chief minister tweeted: "The draft recommendation of the J&K delimitation commission is unacceptable. The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies with 6 going to Jammu & only 1 to Kashmir is not justified by the data of the 2011 census." Former Chief Minister and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti said that his "apprehensions about the Delimitation Commission were not misplaced."

"They want to pitch people against each other by ignoring the population census & proposing 6 seats for one region & only one for Kashmir," she said, adding,

"This commission has been created simply to serve BJP's political interests by dividing people along religious & regional lines. The real game plan is to install a government in J&K which will legitimise the illegal & unconstitutional deci-

sions of August 2019."

GOL, she said, has made its "criminal agenda" behind scrapping J&Ks special status clear. "Motiv behind state sponsored loot of our natural resources - illegal auction of sand mining to outsiders, conversion of agricultural land to privatising power transmission is to plunge J&K into chaos."

While terming the draft recommendation of the Delimitation Commission as divisive and unacceptable, CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami Monday said it is another step to further dis-empower Kashmiris politically.

The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies with six going to Jammu and only one to Kashmir is not justified and it will increase gaps between regions and communities.

The constitution of Delimitation Commission under J&K Reorganisation Act-2019 in itself is questionable as the Reorganisation Act has been challenged in the Supreme Court, he said.

"The constitution of Delimitation Commission was akin to contempt of the court as how can the government of India do so when the matter is sub-judice,"

CPI (M) had recently moved an application in the Apex Court for early hearing of the writ petition filed in 2019 against unconstitutional and undemocratic revocation of special status of J&K under Article 370 and J&K Reorganisation Act-2019.

"We had apprised the Apex Court that despite the matter being sub-judice, the government of India was taking irreversible steps which were harmful for the interests of people of J&K," he said, adding, "We will continue our legal and political fight against the arbitrary, unconstitutional and undemocratic decisions of the BJP government."

The Jammu And Kashmir People's Conference President, Sajad Lone also hit out at the Delimita-

tion Commission for their proposal of adding six seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir region.

Taking to micro-blogging site twitter, Sajad Lone said that it's a kind of shock for those who believe in democracy.

"The recommendations of the delimitation commission are totally unacceptable. They reek of bias. What a shock for those who believe in democracy", he tweeted.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari termed the recent proposal of Delimitation Commission not in sync with the census 2011, thus totally unacceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The current proposal stands in total contrast to the process and guidelines mandated by the laws governing delimitation in the country. The district areas and their respective population numbers were to be taken into consideration as per the census of 2011 which for some unknown reason is missing from the said report," he said in a statement, adding, not only the population criteria has been ignored but it seems that the commission has done away with the representational requirements of the existing administrative units.

Bukhari urged the government of India to intervene in the matter and ensure that the Commission revisits its report and takes the merit into consideration.

"The report of the Delimitation Commission in its present form is unacceptable and Apni Party appeals the Government of India to take serious cognizance of this matter so that the concerns of discrimination among the people alleviated before the Commission's report takes a final shape," he said.

Senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and former MLC G N Monga termed the draft proposal of Delimitation Commission as unacceptable which has been done to skew the balance of power.

Cong Attacks J&K Govt, Centre Over Power Crisis

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Monday expressed concerns over the acute power crisis triggered by the power development department (PDD) employees' strike, saying the union territory administration and the Centre have failed to deal with the situation.

Jammu and Kashmir has been facing a major power crisis as the shutdown by the PDD employees protesting against the government's proposal to privatis-

tise power distribution through a joint venture entered its third day on Monday.

"It is a total failure of the UT administration to deal with the power and the water crises in entire Jammu and Kashmir. There are serious concerns over the issue," newly appointed J&K Congress working president Raman Bhalla told reporters here.

He termed it the worst-ever crisis which is causing great hardships to citizens, especially aged and ailing people.

Opposing the privatisation of

power, the Congress leader said the move was against the overall interests of poor consumers in the long run as common people will not be able to bear high power tariffs.

He justified the demands of the agitating employees and extended full support to them, while also appealing to them to take care of the sufferings of common people due to the blackout.

The senior Congress leader asked the government to immediately resolve the issue and restore power and water supply without any delay.

Govt To Act Against Drug De-Addiction Centres For Violating Norms

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Health and Medical Education (H&ME), Vivek Bharadwaj on Monday asked the officials to shutdown Drug De-Addiction Centres found to be operating in violation of norms.

According to an official spokesperson, Bharadwaj passed these instructions while chairing a meeting of Divisional level Drug De-Addiction Monitoring Committee for Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

Director Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu, HoD Psychiatry GMC, Jammu, Project Director Aids Control Society, State Drug Controller, SSP, State

level Narcotics Cell, Additional Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Special invitees from the Civil Society and members of Business Community of Jammu besides other concerned officers of the Health and Medical Education Department, J&K Police, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department participated in the meeting.

Speaking during the meeting, the ACS directed the officers that an inspection mechanism be devised immediately and centers found to be operating in violation of norms should be closed down immediately after serving required notices. He emphasized on the need of putting in place a

regulatory mechanism to regulate their functioning.

The ACS advised the Department to carve out a calendar of events for launching a sustained IEC campaign to educate the youth about the ill uses of Drug and Substance Abuse. Bharadwaj further asked the officers that data in the shape of matrix be prepared and presented within two weeks to access the depth of the problems and the proliferation of this menace in society so that credible steps are taken to address this societal issue. He urged upon the youth to understand the repercussions of this problem on their overall health and in relation to society.

Technology Is A Great Enabler, Need To Bridge Digital Divide: LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that consistent technological interventions and fast connectivity have revolutionized almost every aspect of human life and there is hardly any area where the digital revolution has not reached.

Sinha made these remarks during the launch of AICTE's Personal & Institutional Happiness Index App - 'YourOneLife-YOL', at the Convention Center, here on Monday, an official spokesperson said.

The 'YourOneLife' is a "Made in India" app that will show the index of personal and institutional happiness and around 12000 Higher Educational Institutions and more than 50 lakh students will benefit from it.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG noted that consistent technological interventions and fast connectivity have revolutionized almost every aspect of human life. Today, there is hardly any area where the digital revolution has not reached, he added.

"Technology is a great enabler. We need to bridge the digital divide and create a fine balance for online tools and value-based offline education," Sinha said.

The LG also emphasized the need for creating a system where Digital and Natural rivers do not compete but complement each other.

"As in the old days, the way civilization and markets developed on the banks of natural rivers, in the 21st century, we can see a complete civilization on the banks of the Digital River. All the technology companies and social media giants have become symbols of new civilization, power and mobility," he said.

"Five years ago, no one could have imagined that all the public related services would be available sitting at home. Despite Covid, schools, universities, colleges were running with the help of software," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG observed that new Technology has created conveniences but it depends on how the user uses it.

Govt To Spend Over Rs 20 Crore On Celebrating Festivals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday announced to celebrate traditional and cultural festivals in two phases in the Kashmir Valley at a cost of over Rs 20 crore.

The decision in this regard was taken by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole while chairing a meeting for promotion of traditional and cultural festivals in Kashmir through Google Meet, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the meeting was attended by Dy Director Archives, Archeology and Museums, representing Member Secretary; Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages; Director Tourism; Chief Engineer PWD, (R&B) Besides nominated members of the Committee for implementation of the scheme for promotion of traditional and cultural festivals including Tehsildar representing, CEO J&K, Waqf Board; Director, Doordarshan, Srinagar and Head of Kashmir International NGO.

The meeting, as per the official spokesperson deliberated over the identification of places for celebration of festivals in Kashmir division. He said it was decided that festivals will be organized in two phases with the first phase ending on March 31, 2022.

"The Div Com approved the expenditure of Rs 3.20 lakh for the celebration of festivals in the first phase while the expenditure for the 2nd Phase will be Rs 20cr. He also directed for reviewing the list of places where cultural and traditional festivals shall be held," he said.

"Besides, the expenditure for shrines has been divided as per the categories with Rs 3 lakh at Small Shrines, Rs 5 lakh at Medium shrines and Rs 10 lakh at Large Shrines," he added.

"More power has come in our hands. And it is very important to think how the young generation uses this power," Sinha said, as per the official spokesperson.

"As all the higher educational institutions belonging to All India Council for Technical Education are preparing themselves for the post-covid world, both externally and internally, the launch of 'YourOneLife' app is a significant step towards a stress-free campus and a stress-free student in this transitory period," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also urged All India Council for Technical Education to consider institutionalizing the rankings of Happiest Colleges in the country, as it is done in America where 25 top performers are selected from different states.

"There is an ancient saying that happiness is the real wealth and if you are happy on campus then your performance will increase tremendously", the LG said.

He also expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for laying special emphasis on maintaining an equal balance between technology and moral values in the New Education Policy and working tirelessly to make Yoga and Fitness an integral part of our lives.

"Under his guidance, the reforms are being made in the education sector with a dedicated focus on training students in the technology of Industry 4.0 through Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain, Big Data Analysis, 3D, Virtual Reality, Quality and Ethical Values Education," Sinha said.

"An important thing has been recommended in the new education policy is that students should be educated according to their interest. Focus has been laid to inculcate the balance required in studies and professional life in the daily routine of all students and professionals", he added.

The Lt Governor said that the initiatives like 'Your One Life App' and New Education Policy is a combination of both digital and natural rivers which will emphasize on the holistic well being of all the students.

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K O V I E W

Winter Sans Electricity

At a time when Kashmir Valley is experiencing extreme cold, the lack of electricity due to the indefinite strike by around 20,000 employees of Jammu and Kashmir's Power Transmission and Distribution Corporations has plunged most parts of the union territory into darkness. The employees are opposing the administration's decision to merge the Kashmir divisions with the Power Grid Corporation of India. Though the protesting employees have said they will ensure supply of power for essential services, the rest of J&K is largely without power. This too when you need it most.

Over the last week, the temperature in the Valley has dropped below freezing point. Srinagar is recording a minimum night temperature of minus 6 degrees Celsius which is 4.5 degrees Celsius below the average for this time of the year. The temperature has plummeted in Jammu city too. The night temperature in the city has dipped to 2.3 degrees Celsius which is the lowest December temperature since December 28, 1998, when, according to records, the temperature fell to a low of 0.9 degrees Celsius.

The problem with the winters in Jammu and Kashmir is that the power supply generally goes down, due to the reduced discharge in the rivers. The strike by the power department employees has only accentuated this problem. While, one can hope that the government will take immediate steps to address the grievances of the striking employees, leading to return to their jobs, the administration will need to do more to improve the power supply. As has always been the case, the freezing cold in winter is reinforced by the severe power shortage which happens to be nobody's concern, either in the government or in the opposition. This only shows how much this seasonal power crisis has become a naturalized part of our lives. So much so that the people have now grudgingly resigned themselves to the state of affairs and government doesn't feel unduly worried about the situation either. And to top it, we also have the drastic power curtailment schedule imposed through a matter-of-fact government order with unscheduled power cuts to boot make the matters worse. What is more, the curtailment schedule is unfair and discriminatory in its implementation across the different regions of the UT.

One hopes that the situation improves going forward. The real challenge lies ahead. The severity of the winter will only increase as Chillai Kalan rolls in on December 21. And the people will expect the government to be prepared for the next snowfall. One also expects that unlike many times in the past, Power Development Department will be better prepared to deal with the situation. The utility has usually been the target of the public vitriol, both on street and online for its inability to immediately restore electricity after Valley is snowed in.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Beyond Age

The Union cabinet has cleared a proposal to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years. It would have been heartening if women's welfare could have been viewed beyond the prism of marriage. The decision had been taken on the basis of the recommendations of a task force that examined the correlation between the age of marriage and such issues as women's nutrition, prevalence of anaemia, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate and so on. The committee appended important caveats to its recommendation, without which, it warned, the law will have little impact. Yet, the legislation, which seeks to penalize underage marriages, does not seem to have paid adequate attention to the need for complementary measures: increasing access to schools and colleges, imparting skill and business training, and sex education in schools.

It is true that delaying the age of marriage and, in turn, childbirth may have a positive impact on the IMR and MMR. But the issue is far more layered. A minimum age of marriage signifies that unions below a specific age would be liable for criminal prosecution if they are reported. But the law remains hazy on how the government intends to institute monitoring mechanisms without encroaching upon liberties. There is concern that the new law could push underage marriages underground, making them difficult to track and turning girls even more vulnerable to trafficking. A study on a decade of the child marriage law revealed that the legislation had been overwhelmingly used by parents to punish daughters who had eloped. In a social milieu of lax record-keeping, would the new provision be weaponized against adult women exercising their right to marry? The causes of minor marriages lie in poverty, traditional ideas about marriage and the desire to control female sexuality. These embedded conditions cannot be challenged by raising the age of marriage alone. Access to education and employment for women from low-income families – Bangladesh managed to reduce child marriages owing to high participation of women in the labour force – can have a far deeper impact than a modified law. The remoteness of the law from the lived experience of citizens remains an area of concern.

Telegraph India

Numbers Behind Narratives

RTI Revelation On KP Killings Has Nudged An Important Debate

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

On a train journey once, my humble look at the scenery passing through my eyes was interrupted by a rather heavy accusation hurled at me: "Hazaroon Hindu logon ko apne mara wahah" (You killed thousands of Hindus there).

This was a fellow passenger who got into a discussion with me about Kashmir. Echoing the majority, he was made to believe that the number of "hindus" killed in Kashmir in 1990s and after was too big a number. I asked him, "How many?". Initially, he said it was 5000, then 10,000 and then the number was 20,000. The number did not matter because the hyperbole had worked.

This is how misinformation campaign and propaganda has been made against Kashmiri Muslims by the media and other right wing hindu groups.

The recent response of authorities under RTI that Kashmir Pandits who were killed by armed militants since inception of militancy in 1990 is 89, should be an eye opener for those people who have always ridiculed Kashmiri Muslims.

Information provided under Right to Information Act (RTI) by Jammu & Kashmir Police to a Haryana based RTI activist has generated a fresh debate on the number of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) killed by militants during the last 30 years. Some Kashmiri Pandit groups have been saying that a large number of people from their community were killed in 1990 which forced them to migrate from Kashmir valley. Infact, even after 1990 there were some incidents of Kashmiri Pandits' killings. These are the people who had stayed back post the 1990 migration. More than three dozen Kashmiri Pandits were killed in Wandhama Ganderbal, Sangram Pora Budgam and Nadimarg Shopian between 1995 and 2004. Especially after Nadimarg massacre, wherein 24 Kashmiri Hindus were killed, a notion was created across Indian states that thousands of pandits were killed in Kashmir in 1990s and even after that.

Whether one single innocent person or one hundred or one thousand civilians are killed, it should always be condemned and it is a huge loss. However, when the same is exaggerated, weaponised and the entire blame is put on Kashmiri Muslim community, it's something that hurts and feels a little too much.

Pertinently, the information provided by J&K Police under RTI has revealed 1724 civilians were killed by militants in Kashmir in the past three decades. Out of these, more than 1600 were Muslims. However, nobody talks about those civilian deaths – reducing Kashmiri muslims in the hierarchy of human life and dignity.

Background of RTI

RTI activist from Haryana P P Kapoor who filed the application under RTI Act 2005 a few months back before J&K Police wanted to know the exact number of people killed by militants in J&K from the last 31years. While talking to a Srinagar based online news portal Free Press Kashmir, P P Kapoor said:

"I wanted to clear the notion created by the BJP government and RSS leaders about the 'thousands of Kashmiri Pandits massacred in the valley' "

But the information provided under the RTI Act has revealed some other facts. This rebuts the narrative created by a section of media and political parties like BJP and its allies. The groups like Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bajrang Dal, RSS and many other NGOs affiliated with right wing BJP for the last 31 years had been portraying the KP killings in Kashmir as "genocide" and "ethnic cleansing". This is not



A PROTEST BY KASHMIRI PANDITS. Picture Credits: PTI. For representational purposes only.

THE NUMBER DID NOT MATTER BECAUSE THE HYPERBOLE HAD worked. This is how misinformation campaign and propaganda has been made against Kashmiri Muslims by the media and other right wing hindu groups. The recent response of authorities under RTI that Kashmir Pandits who were killed by armed militants since inception of militancy in 1990 is 89, should be an eye opener for those people who have always ridiculed Kashmiri Muslims

to say that there were no such incidents. Brutal killings in Wandhama, Sangram Pora or Nadimarg which I explained above did happen but private news channels and newspapers published from New Delhi and other cities post Nadigram massacre created such an atmosphere that all the blame was put on Kashmiri Muslims and number of killings was also exaggerated.

A false propaganda has been made against muslim community living in Kashmir valley which has brought great disrepute to Kashmiri Muslims across India and outside the country as well

than 1600 (20 times more than KPs), this was never debated or discussed by national media.

Information given to JK Assembly

The number of killings mentioned in the RTI reply is 89. However, the number is more if we calculate the total number of killings across the valley. Then again, the number is not more than 230, even if we include the recent killings in Srinagar wherein a noted Chemist ML Bindroo was killed in broad daylight.

I personally believe the number of deaths may be higher than 89. It seems the information provided to Mr Kapoor under RTI pertains to district Srinagar only as this particular issue has been debated in the J & K legislative assembly in the past.

In 2010, Home Department in its response to a legislator had said that the total number of Kashmiri Pandits killed by militants from 1990 to 2010 was 219. Even if it is 230 or 240, people across the country should be made aware of it. The misinformation and propaganda made against Kash-

miri Muslims should be stopped.

Number of people who fled the valley?

As per media reports, P P Kapoor had filed one more RTI application seeking details of persons / families who had fled from Kashmir valley during the onset of armed militancy in 1990 and onwards. It is unclear whether Mr Kapoor filed a separate RTI to get this information or this was part of the RTI application seeking details of Kashmiri Pandits killed by militants.

The information provided by Commissioner Relief & Rehabilitation J&K Govt says that 88% of the people who fled from Kashmir val-

A FALSE PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN MADE against muslim community living in Kashmir valley which has brought great disrepute to Kashmiri Muslims across India and outside the country as well

ley in 1990 were Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits). Total number of people who left Kashmir valley in 1990-91 were one lakh fifty four thousand (1.54 lakhs), and out of them 1.35 lakh were Kashmiri Pandits. Around 18,735 muslims had also migrated from the valley, reveals the RTI response from the Relief Commissioners office. With regards to rehabilitation and resettlement of Kashmiri pandits, the information was not provided to P P Kapoor.

Pertinently, early this year, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy had told Lok Sabha that 3,800 Kashmiri Pandits had returned back to Kashmir under a special job package. These people have been given jobs by J&K Govt in various Govt departments but have been living in accommodations provided by Govt at different places. The Govt of India is providing separate budgetary allocation for these employees. In November this year, Nityanand Rai, informed the Parliament that around 1,678 Kashmiri Pandits returned to Kashmir valley post Article 370 abroga-

tion. These people have also been provided jobs by the J & K Govt.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioners office in its RTI reply also says that of those who had migrated from Kashmir valley, nearly 84,000 do not get government relief that is due to Kashmiri migrants. This assistance includes cash payments and a monthly supply of rice, wheat and sugar, as well as aid with infrastructure.

Conclusion

Several Kashmiri Pandit organizations say that information provided by the Govt that only 89 KPs were killed in 31 yrs is incorrect. I agree with them to some extent as this number has been 219 in 2010 and it won't be more than 230 as on date. But when the same is exaggerated, aggrandized and people across India are made to believe that 10,000 or 20,000 Kashmiri Pandits were killed in the last 31years, it brings a bad name to the Kashmiri Muslims.

Nobody discusses the safety that many Kashmiri Pandits have felt in Kashmir. They have lived with the Kashmiri muslim community in unity and harmony as well. What explains the constant dichotomy created between two communities which have suffered? What explains the silence around the plight of Kashmiri muslims? Why is violence being written on the shoulders of Kashmiri muslims when it is this community which has actually witnessed deaths in huge numbers?

As far as the immediate matter at hand is concerned, let the Govt make the actual details of such killings public with district wise information from all the 10 districts of Kashmir valley. It is important to educate the masses about the actual numbers and counter misinformation.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is an Acumen Fellow. He had done PG Diploma in Climate Action from Anant National University Ahmedabad

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Ethical Use

WITH temperatures dropping, Kashmiris have geared up for yet another spell of cold. As we prepare to enter a full blown season of low temperatures, we are stocking up everything especially gadgets and

electronics to keep oneself warm. Many of these heating gadgets are not energy efficient and often create a lot of pressure on the power department as well.

Therefore, it is important for us to use energy efficient alternatives. Additionally, we must also check reckless

use of these appliances. For instance, we must regulate the number of geysers we use. Perhaps, we can only use one and ensure that we switch it off well in time.

We can also be careful about the use of electric blankets and switch them off before going to bed. This will not

only save electricity but is also a safe use of such appliances.

These are just some common uses that can be regulated ethically. We must keep our eyes open and ensure a judicious use of all such resources.

Jawad Muhammad

To RAT or not to RAT?

When Is It OK To Take Rapid Antigen Test For Covid Rather Than RT-PCR?

Thea van de Mortel

With Christmas around the corner and CO-VID-19 case numbers rising, it's important to keep getting tested when you have symptoms, have been exposed to the virus, or are going to a high-risk environment.

Now we have access to PCR tests (known as RT-PCR, or reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, tests) and rapid antigen tests to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID.

So which test should you use? And what's the difference?

How the tests work

In Australia, PCR tests are used to diagnose SARS-CoV-2 infections. This test looks for SARS-CoV-2 genetic material.

RT-PCR converts viral RNA to DNA and amplifies the genetic sequence, making billions of copies, to a point where these copies can be detected.

Because the test can amplify tiny amounts of viral genetic material, it's considered the gold standard and can detect infection in earlier stages than other tests like rapid antigen tests.

Rapid antigen tests instead detect viral proteins. The proteins bind in the solution to antibodies that become fluorescent to indicate the presence of the proteins.

Rapid antigen tests are:

- quicker than PCR tests (15-20 minutes versus hours to days to get a result)
- can be done in the home compared to having to line up and wait for a swab, which then has to be analysed in a laboratory.

But they're less sensitive than a PCR test because there is no amplification process.

How effective are they?

While both tests are more likely to correctly detect an infection when the person's viral load is high, PCR tests are more sensitive than rapid antigen tests.

An Australian study comparing the sensitivity (correctly diagnosing SARS-CoV-2 infection when you have it) of one type of rapid antigen test compared to a PCR test, found 77% of



positive antigen test results aligned with PCR test results.

This rose to 100% when people were tested within a week of the onset of symptoms.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration provides a list of approved rapid antigen tests, which have results that align with PCR test 80-95% of the time, provided the test is done within a week of symptom onset. Some of these tests are rated as very high sensitivity, with 95% agreement with PCR tests.

Which test to take when?

Take a RT-PCR test if you:

- have COVID symptoms
- have a known exposure to someone with COVID
- do a rapid antigen test and get a positive result, because PCR confirmation is required

- are required to by your health department to be released from quarantine or isolation
- are required to by a health department to get permission to travel to a location.

A PCR is the test of choice in these situations because it is more accurate at diagnosing an infection.

Consider a rapid antigen test if you:

- are planning to visit a sensitive site (for example, an aged care facility)
- are planning to have contact with someone at high risk from COVID (for example, an elderly person or someone on immunosuppressive treatment), and you want to protect them

- have COVID symptoms but can't get to a PCR testing site

- are going to an event where lots of people will be mixing, particularly if it's being held indoors where the risk of transmission is considerably higher

- want to quickly check whether you might have a SARS-CoV-2 infection

- are part of a regular COVID surveillance program (some workplaces require it, particularly in situations where the person is not fully vaccinated).

The rapid antigen test is considered to be a screening tool. In other words, it can indicate that you might be infected, but a PCR test is needed to confirm the result.

While a negative rapid antigen test result is not a guarantee that you aren't infected, it does provide more protec-

RT-PCR CONVERTS VIRAL RNA to DNA and amplifies the genetic sequence, making billions of copies, to a point where these copies can be detected. Because the test can amplify tiny amounts of viral genetic material, it's considered the gold standard and can detect infection in earlier stages than other tests like rapid antigen tests

tion for your contacts than not testing.

How often should I take a rapid antigen test?

It depends on the reason you are taking the test. If you're part of a surveillance program, take the test when you are asked to.

If you don't have symptoms, taking the test two to three times over a week can help improve test sensitivity because viral load waxes and wanes. Test sensitivity will be highest when the viral load is at its peak.

How does the Omicron variant affect testing?

The highly mutated Omicron variant appears to still be detected by both PCR and rapid antigen tests.

Ordinarily, a PCR test indicates whether or not you have a SARS-CoV-2 infection but not which variant you have. Genome sequencing is needed to find that out.

However, some PCR tests look for a specific genetic sequence that is missing in the Omicron variant (called S gene target failure). Those particular PCR tests can not only detect a positive result but also whether it's likely to be the Omicron variant.

The author is Professor, Nursing and Deputy Head (Learning & Teaching), School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

What Are The Differences Between The Omicron And Delta COVID Variants?

Experts Explain How The Two Strains Compare When It Comes To Immunity, Vaccines, Mutations, Breakthrough Cases And More.

Julia Ries

Though all eyes are on omicron right now, the bulk of coronavirus cases in the United States are still from the delta variant.

But given omicron's speedy spread in South Africa, epidemiologists strongly suspect it will soon outcompete delta in many other regions across the globe. Just take a look at how rapidly omicron is ripping through the Netherlands.

While we're still in the very early stages of understanding how omicron compares to delta, preliminary evidence suggests the new COVID-19 variant may be more contagious but less severe than its predecessor. But there are too many other contributing factors — like how much immunity a population already has, along with seasonality and behaviors — to know if that is definitively the case.

Even with all that uncertainty, epidemiologists have a few early guesses at how omicron and delta may differ. Here's what we know so far:

Omicron has more mutations than delta.

For the delta variant, the part of the spike protein that attaches to our cells is very similar to what existing coronavirus vaccines are designed to go after. But in the case of the omicron variant, the spike picked up 32 mutations that make it more difficult (though not impossible) for our immune system to recognize and prevent the virus from causing an infection.

"The omicron spike is still 97% identical to the vaccine, but the changes are clustered in a way that makes it harder for the immune system to neutralize," said Benjamin Neuman, chief virologist at Texas A&M University's Global Health

“WHILE WE'RE STILL IN THE very early stages of understanding how omicron compares to delta, preliminary evidence suggests the new COVID-19 variant may be more contagious but less severe than its predecessor

Research Complex. According to Neuman, all of the mutations in omicron have been seen before in other variants — but they have never been clustered together exactly as they are in omicron.

While the vaccines may take a slight hit in efficacy, Neuman expects that antiviral drugs — remdesivir, molnupiravir and Paxlovid, the coronavirus pill — will remain just as effective against omicron as they were against delta and previous variants because they target parts of the virus that remain unchanged.

Though there's so much uncertainty about omicron, epidemiologists seem convinced the new variant will outcompete delta across the globe.

"Omicron will displace delta as the dominant variant, just as delta replaced alpha. I think that's pretty certain," said Andrew Noymer, a University of Califor-



nia, Irvine epidemiologist and demographer who studies infectious diseases.

Reinfections and breakthrough infections may be more common with omicron.

South Africa has seen more reinfections and breakthrough infections with omicron than with delta. Early predictions estimate that omicron is twice as infectious as delta, and a briefing from the United Kingdom shows a possible three- to eight-fold increase in reinfection from the omicron variant compared to other variants like delta and beta.

"I have no doubt omicron is more transmissible than delta," Noymer said.

A large report from South Africa's largest health insurers looked at 78,000 omicron patients and estimated that the protection against hospitalization from two doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine fell from 93% with delta to 70% with omicron. This

could be due to waning antibody levels, or to the mutations on omicron outsmarting some of our antibodies.

Another new lab study found that omicron may replicate about 70 times faster than the delta variant, but that, unlike delta, it does so in the bronchi — the airways leading into the lungs — rather than in the lungs themselves.

These findings are not definitive, but they may explain why omicron might be more transmissible, yet less severe than delta.

The good news is that we have a way to restore optimal protection against the omicron variant — booster shots. While it's widely believed that two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines still provide strong protection against severe outcomes like hospitalization and death, growing evidence suggests a third dose of either vaccine can successfully neutralize omicron, similarly to delta, and prevent the variant from forming an infection.

Omicron symptoms may be

milder than delta symptoms.

Even though omicron cases are growing rapidly, reports on hospitalization rates suggest omicron infections are milder than delta infections. After adjusting for vaccination status, data shows COVID hospitalizations in South Africa are 29% lower compared to what they were in mid-2020. People with mild omicron infections tend to bounce back faster, too, often recovering within three days.

Infectious diseases experts suspect omicron may not inherently be a milder variant, but may simply be causing milder illness due to all the preexisting immunity in the population, from both previous infections and vaccinations. According to Noymer, omicron looks less severe, but that's in populations that have already been ravaged by delta (which is, more or less, everywhere).

The big question now: Is omicron actually less severe, or did delta leave so much immunity in its wake that it carved out a milder path for omicron?

Delta was a disaster from the get-go, said Monica Gandhi, an infectious disease specialist with the University of California, San Francisco. It came in like a firestorm, and the hospitalization rate in hard-hit places like India immediately surged. We're not seeing that with omicron.

"To me, there is something different about this variant," Gandhi said.

Experts are still learning about COVID-19. The information in this story is what was known or available as of publication, but guidance can change as scientists discover more about the virus. Please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the most updated recommendations.

Huffpost

LIFE & TIMES

Why Wearable Fitness Trackers Aren't As Useless As Some Make Them Out To Be

Wearable fitness trackers will be on many Christmas shopping lists this year, with a vast range of devices (and an ever-increasing number of features) hitting the market just in time for the festive season. But what does the latest research say about how effective they are?

Fitness trackers are trendy

Currently, about one in five Australians own one of these wearables, and about a quarter use a mobile app or website to monitor their activity levels and health. And sales are predicted to grow over the next five years.

The landscape of the market is fast changing. For years, Fitbit and Garmin were the market leaders. But Australians now favour Apple watches (used by 43 per cent of people owning a wearable tracker) over Fitbit (35 per cent) and Samsung watches (16 per cent) over Garmin (13 per cent).

So far fitness trackers have mostly been taken up by younger people: about one in four Australians aged 20-40 report using one, compared to just one in ten people aged 60 or older.

However, manufacturers are on a mission to change this, by adding features that allow users to monitor not just their fitness activity, but several other aspect of their health.

For instance, recent wearable models from all the leading manufacturers claim to measure a host of medical metrics, such as blood pressure, body fat levels, the amount of oxygen in your blood, your heart activity, and even identify when you've taken

a fall (with a feature that lets you call for help).

Wearables get the basics right

Firstly, a multitude of studies have looked at the accuracy of wearable fitness trackers for measurements related to physical activity, including step counts, heart rate and number of calories burned. They show step counts are generally highly accurate, while heart rate and calories burned are reasonably accurate.

When study participants wear two different activity trackers at the same time, the numbers of steps, minutes of activity and calories burned aren't exactly the same, but they are correlated.

That is, when one goes up so does the other, and vice versa. This suggests they are generally capturing the same information, albeit with slightly different sensitivity.

Evidence for sleep tracking is a little patchier. Wearables are pretty good at detecting bed time, wake time and overall sleep duration. But estimates for more technical metrics such as the “phases” of sleep – such as REM sleep – don't marry with medical-grade measurements taken by polysomnography.

Sometimes wearables go beyond the basics In a 2019 Apple-sponsored study reported in the New England Medical Journal, 419,297 participants without known atrial fibrillation wore an Apple Watch. During the study, 2,161 of them received an irregular pulse notification, of which 84% were subsequently confirmed to have atrial fibrillation (an irregular and rapid heart beat).

This is a serious medical condition that



requires treatment to prevent stroke. The ability to alert users of a potential undiagnosed cardiac condition seems highly beneficial. Although, others have cautioned the Apple Watch can also miss cases of undiagnosed atrial fibrillation – which emphasises the importance of never relying on wearable metrics for medical purposes.

Another study published in September reaffirmed the Apple watch's electrocardiogram feature can detect serious cardiac irregularities. A similar study is currently underway to evaluate Fitbit's electrocardiogram feature, but results aren't out yet.

Building a more advanced tracker
In terms of detecting falls (which would be

very useful for older individuals), scientists are developing wrist-worn devices that can accurately do this using accelerometer technology, which is the same underlying technology already used by wearables. So the technology is there, but at this point it's unclear whether the promising lab results will translate to accuracy in commercial wearables.

Meanwhile, the newest Samsung watch claims to measure blood pressure and body composition (such as fat mass, muscle mass and bone mass). Body composition is measured using a method called bioelectric impedance analysis.

When the user touches the watch with their opposite hand, it passes a weak electrical signal through the body and back to

the watch. The body composition is then calculated using algorithms and the manually entered body weight.

At this stage, there's no data in the scientific literature to support the accuracy of these measurements, so we'd recommend taking them with a pinch of salt. Then again, only a few years ago the same criticism was made of electrocardiogram measurements from wearables – and these have subsequently shown to have merit.

Evidence says your effort will pay off

So that's the run down on accuracy, but do fitness trackers make a difference in people's lives?

Hundreds of studies have used wearable activity trackers to try to increase physical activity in various general and patient populations. Meta-analyses (which involve combining results of multiple studies) suggest the devices are effective in helping people become more physically active and lose weight.

A meta-analysis of 35 studies in various chronic disease populations suggested users added around 2,100 additional steps per day after they started using a wearable activity tracker. Other meta-analyses have suggested weight loss in the order of 1 to 1.5 kilograms, on average, over the duration of the studies (with the duration varying between studies).

And studies that look specifically at step-tracking over long periods suggest the benefits gained are still present (although smaller) up to four years after the device was first worn.

Mindfulness May Get Your Wandering Thoughts Back On Track: Study

Agencies

A new research has found that 30 per cent to 50 per cent of our daily thoughts are spent on mind wandering, and excessive mind-wandering can lead to many negative outcomes in our professional and personal life.

The study has been published in the 'Journal of Cognitive Enhancement'.

"While zoning out for a few minutes during a meeting may not hurt, it can impact you negatively if it goes on for long periods of time," said Lynley Turkelson, a University of Cincinnati doctoral student and lead author of a new study on mindfulness and mind wandering.

"When distracting thoughts or feelings come up, mindfulness helps us gently set them aside and refocus on what is right in front of us," said Turkelson.

Methods of practising mindfulness vary but include practices such as breathwork and meditation.

For example, Turkelson said, one can practice mindfulness by paying attention to the experience of eating a favourite food, "You may start by noticing the smell of the food before you eat it, what it feels like as you bite into it, how it feels in your mouth, and the taste. Or perhaps you pay attention to the flow of breath in and out of your lungs or on the sensations you experience in various parts of the body."

For the study, Turkelson, a



doctoral student and fellow in UC's Department of Psychology, and co-author Quintino Mano, PhD, a UC associate professor of psychology, conducted a systematic review of research that looked at the relationship between mindfulness and mind wandering.

What they found is that while mindfulness -- the ability to intentionally focus attention on the present moment -- can be effective for reducing mind wandering, results did differ depending on the research methodology. For instance, people were sometimes unaware when they were distracted, so asking them to report their own mind wandering was not reliable. The

study results showed it's better to measure mind wandering in other ways, such as using computer-based testing.

"During COVID, people are facing even more distractions than normal, so it is important to find research-based ways to decrease mind wandering and improve attention," said Turkelson.

Turkelson said that their systematic review looked at the research on this topic and synthesized the results so that researchers knew how consistent these findings were, as well as what still needed to be studied to improve our understanding of how mindfulness helped with mind wandering.

Study finds self-perception becomes blurrier overtime

Agencies

According to a recent study, it's easy to tell two objects apart when they are close to you but not when they are far from you as they become "compressed", a basic principle of perception. The concept of self works similarly.

The findings were published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

If someone asks you, for example, if you think you'll be calmer tomorrow than today, it's easy to compare the two. But if you're asked if you think you'll be calmer in 10 versus 11 days, it becomes much more difficult to discriminate between the two days.

"Our self-concept becomes increasingly blurrier over time, the farther you get from the present," said senior-author Meghan Meyer, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences. "As you think about yourself farther out in

time, either in the past or in the future, you're accessing a less distinguishable version of yourself," added Meyer.

The research was comprised of four studies. In three of the studies, participants either rated their own personality traits or reported on their perception of self at different time points in the past and future.

The study found that relative to their present self, participants compressed their past and future selves. In the fourth study, participants were prompted with a pair of personality traits and had to select which one described them better at a given period of time while undergoing an fMRI scan.

Brain imaging allowed the researchers to determine how the brain organizes representations of the self across time. Each time a participant thought about themselves in the present, past, or future, the researchers could get a stamp of what their brain looked

like. Those stamps became less distinguishable from one another as participants thought about themselves farther out in time.

"Even at the level of brain activity, we see evidence that our past and future selves become less distinctive as we consider ourselves farther out in time," said Meyer.

The fMRI data was consistent with the results from the participants' personality ratings, providing evidence of what the team calls the "temporal self-compression" effect. "Our research provides a new way to think about how we organize our identity over time," said first-author Sasha Brietzke, Guarini '22.

In psychology, it is widely known that there can be problematic behaviours for some people when they think about their past or future, such as someone who doesn't save enough for retirement because they can't think that far ahead.

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نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
1	محمد شریف بیچہ ولد چڑیاچی	48 سال	مزدوری	=/4000	
2	گلشن زوجہ محمد شریف	46 سال	گھریلو کام		
3	پرویزہ اختر زوجہ محمد شریف بیچہ	11 سال	زیر تعلیم		
4	شیوہ از احمد زوجہ محمد شریف بیچہ	10 سال	زیر تعلیم		
5	تویہ احمد زوجہ محمد شریف بیچہ	07 سال	زیر تعلیم		
اس طور پر سائل کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فقیلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
نائب تحصیلدار۔ RNA					

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نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
1	محمد شریف بیچہ ولد چڑیاچی	48 سال	مزدوری	=/4000	
2	گلشن زوجہ محمد شریف	46 سال	گھریلو کام		
3	پرویزہ اختر زوجہ محمد شریف بیچہ	11 سال	زیر تعلیم		
4	شیوہ از احمد زوجہ محمد شریف بیچہ	10 سال	زیر تعلیم		
5	تویہ احمد زوجہ محمد شریف بیچہ	07 سال	زیر تعلیم		
اس طور پر سائل کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فقیلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
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نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
1	عبدالرشید ولد عبدالرحیم گوجر چیچی	54 سال	سرکاری ملازم	LPC	
2	بی بی ننبہ زوجہ عبدالرشید گوجر چیچی	50 سال	گھریلو کام		
3	گلشن زوجہ عبدالرشید گوجر چیچی	24 سال	زیر تعلیم		
4	شازیدہ زوجہ عبدالرشید گوجر چیچی	22 سال	زیر تعلیم		
5	راجا محمد الطاف پسر عبدالرشید گوجر چیچی	18 سال	زیر تعلیم		
6	مدح حسین پسر عبدالرشید گوجر چیچی	16 سال	زیر تعلیم		
اس طور پر سائل کا کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فقیلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
نائب تحصیلدار۔ RNA					

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نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
1	عبدالغفور ولد علمدوین کاس	61 سال	مزدوری	=/5000	
2	رضیدہ زوجہ عبدالغفور کاس	56 سال	گھریلو کام		
3	طالب حسین ولد عبدالغفور کاس	26 سال	مزدوری	=/5000	
4	گنیدہ زوجہ عبدالغفور کاس	24 سال	گھریلو کام		
5	راشدہ زوجہ عبدالغفور کاس	22 سال	گھریلو کام		
اس طور پر سائل کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فقیلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
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نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
01	بشیر احمد راتھر پسر کمرنگانی	64 سال	زمینداری	=/4000	
02	حنیفہ باوزہ بیٹی احمد راتھر	62 سال	گھریلو کام		
03	طاہر احمد بیٹی احمد راتھر	47 سال	زمینداری	=/5000	
04	ذبیہ اختر زوجہ طاہر احمد راتھر	46 سال	گھریلو کام		
05	دکاس احمد راتھر پسر طاہر احمد راتھر	19 سال	زیر تعلیم		
06	سریہ احمد راتھر طاہر احمد راتھر	17 سال	زیر تعلیم		
07	مظفر احمد راتھر پسر طاہر احمد راتھر	35 سال	زیر تعلیم		
اس طور کنبہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا از بریٹ سر فقیلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معدوم جات پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
نائب تحصیلدار RNA					

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نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی	
01	بشیر احمد راتھر پسر کمرنگانی	64 سال	زمینداری	=/4000	
02	حنیفہ باوزہ بیٹی احمد راتھر	62 سال	گھریلو کام		
03	طاہر احمد بیٹی احمد راتھر	47 سال	زمینداری	=/5000	
04	ذبیہ اختر زوجہ طاہر احمد راتھر	46 سال	گھریلو کام		
05	دکاس احمد راتھر پسر طاہر احمد راتھر	19 سال	زیر تعلیم		
06	سریہ احمد راتھر طاہر احمد راتھر	17 سال	زیر تعلیم		
07	مظفر احمد راتھر پسر طاہر احمد راتھر	35 سال	زیر تعلیم		
اس طور کنبہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا از بریٹ سر فقیلیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معدوم جات پیش کرے۔ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔					
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EPFO Adds 12.73 Lakh Subscribers In October



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Retirement fund body EPFO has added 12.73 lakh net subscribers in October, registering an increase of 10.22 per cent compared to the same month last year, according to the latest payroll data.

"The provisional payroll data of EPFO released on 20th December 2021 highlights that EPFO has added 12.73 lakh net subscribers during the month of October 2021," a labour ministry statement said.

According to the statement, year-on-year comparison shows an increase of around 10.22 per cent in net payroll additions in October, 2021 as compared to 11.55 lakh net subscribers added during October 2020.

Of the total 12.73 lakh net subscribers added, 7.57 lakh new members have been enrolled under EPF & MP Act, 1952 for the first time.

Approximately 5.16 lakh net subscribers exited but rejoined EPFO by opting to continue their membership with EPFO by transferring their PF accumulations from previous to present PF account instead of opting for final withdrawal, it stated.

It stated, age-wise comparison of payroll data shows that the age-group of 22-25 years has registered the highest number of net enrolments with 3.37 lakh additions during October, 2021.

Age-group of 18-21 also registered a healthy addition of

around 2.50 lakh net enrolments.

Age-groups of 18-25 years have contributed around 46.12 per cent of total net subscriber additions in October, 2021.

Members of these age-groups are usually fresh hands in the job market and signifies a crucial stage for an individual's potential in terms of earning capacity.

State-wise comparison of payroll figures highlights that the establishments covered in the states of Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are in lead by adding approximately 7.72 lakh subscribers during the month, which is around 60.64 per cent of total net payroll addition across all age groups.

Gender-wise analysis indicates that net share of female enrolment during the month is 2.69 lakh.

Share of female enrolment is approximately 21.14 per cent of the total net subscribers addition during the month of October, 2021.

Industry-wise payroll data indicates that 'expert services' category (consisting of manpower agencies, private security agencies and small contractors etc.) constitutes 40.73 per cent of total subscriber addition during the month.

In addition, growing trend in net payroll additions has been noted in industries like Paper, rice milling, financing establishments etc.

Banks Recover Rs 13,100 Cr From Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi: FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that banks have recovered Rs 13,109.17 crore from asset sale of fugitives like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.

She said this while replying to a discussion on the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants which was approved by the Lok Sabha amid uproar by the Opposition over various issues.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants authorised the government to spend an additional Rs 3.73 lakh crore during the current fiscal.

The extra spending includes an infusion of over Rs 62,000 crore into the company that holds residual assets and liabilities of Air India, Rs 58,430 crore by way of additional fertiliser subsidy, Rs 53,123 crore towards payment of pending export incentives and Rs 22,039 crore to rural development ministry for transfer to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Fund.

Speaking on the banks' recovery from wilful defaulters, she said that a total of Rs 13,109.17 crore has been recovered from the asset sales of Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi as of July 2021 as per the information provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The latest recovery was Rs 792 crore from the sale of assets belonging to Mallya and others on July 16, 2021, she added.

Responding to various issues, including price rise, raised by the Opposition during the debate, she said the government is taking measures to cool down



prices of edible oil and other essential commodities.

"We are taking measures through the EGOM (Empowered Group of Ministers) for taking care of essential goods. We will attend to the problem of edible oil price and also some of the essential edible items," she said.

"Public sector banks together have effected a recovery of about Rs 5.49 lakh crore over the last seven financial years. So, these people who are defaulters, who have fled the country, we have got their money back and put it to the public sector banks and therefore the banks are safer today," she said.

She further said that the depositors' money are safer in public sector banks.

On the states' financial position, the Finance Minister said that the Centre in the first eight months of the fiscal has already transferred 86.4 per cent of what was provided in the full year 2019-20.

From the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), "funds are being provided and providing an extra Rs 15,000 crore for emergency COVID-19 response. The financial position of the states is also reflected in the

fact that the overall cash balance of states as on November 30, 2021 was Rs 3.08 lakh crore approximately, fairly comfortable positions", she said.

She further said that the states are having substantial cash balance with them and there are only a few exceptions. Out of 28 states, she said, only two states are having negative cash balance.

Talking about Supplementary Demands for Grants, Sitharaman said that additional expenditure is of Rs Rs 3.73 lakh crore.

Of which, she said, Rs 2.99 lakh crore is the additional cash outgo because of big ticket expenditure going for Air India and rise in fertilizer subsidy due to firming up of global prices.

"We have to ensure that the farmers don't suffer because of it (rise in global prices). And therefore, increase in the subsidy for fertiliser has been provided, which itself is accounting for Rs 58,431 crore," she said.

Sitharaman also said that the government has so far paid around Rs 93,685 crore since 2014 for oil bonds.

The government will have to pay till 2026 when oil bonds matures, she said.

Dubai World Trade Centre To Become A Crypto Zone

Agencies

DUBAI: The Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) will become a crypto zone and regulator for cryptocurrencies and other virtual assets, the Dubai Media Office said on Monday, part of efforts to attract new business as regional economic competition heats up.

The move by the DWTC to create a specialised zone for virtual assets - including digital assets, products, operators and exchanges - is part of a drive by Dubai, one of the United Arab

Emirates federation of seven emirates, to create new economic sectors, the statement said.

"Rigorous standards for investor protection, and



ti-mon-ey laundering, combating the financing of terrorism, compliance and cross border deal flow tracing," will be developed, it said.

In September, the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority and the Dubai World Trade Centre Authority (DWTCA) agreed a framework that allows the DWTCA to approve and licence financial activities relating to crypto assets.

In October, another Dubai free zone DIFC, Dubai's state-owned financial free zone and the Middle East's major finance centre, released the first part of a regulatory framework for digital tokens.

PM Modi Meets Top CEOs For Budget Inputs

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met with chief executives of leading companies across sectors ranging from banking to telecom, to health and electronics, for inputs for the next year's Budget.

Last week, he had met with leading private equity/venture capital players to seek suggestions on making India a more attractive investment destination.

On Monday, the prime minister interacted with the leading CEOs of companies across

banking, infrastructure, automobiles, telecom, consumer goods, textile, renewables, hospitality, technology healthcare, space and electronics, official sources said.

This meeting, they said, is part of the many interactions that Modi is holding ahead of the Budget to receive inputs and suggestions from the private sector.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is due to present on February 1 the Budget for the next fiscal year that starts on

April 1, 2022.

Since coming to power in 2014, the BJP government has unveiled a series of reforms that have helped India climb on the global ease of doing business ranking.

It is now pushing for making India a manufacturing hub. Production-linked incentive schemes for sectors from automobiles to semiconductors and solar have been announced to attract global manufacturers to set up a base in the country. (PTI)

Job Postings Continue To Remain Muted Sequentially In Nov: Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Even as the job posting activity remained neutral sequentially in November as economic activity recovers, tier-II cities show positive hiring sentiment, according to a report.

According to the Monster Employment Index, job posting activity remained neutral in November this year compared to October.

However, hiring demand across industries witnessed a nine per cent jump year-on-year in the previous month, mainly aided by a surge in the economic activities after the second wave of COVID-19, the report

FMCG, food and packaged food (-2 per cent), and healthcare, biotechnology and life sciences, pharmaceuticals (-2 per cent) industries accounted for a slight month-on-month decline in hiring intent, it said.

Among cities, Kolkata (2 per cent) witnessed a slight month-on-month uptick in job posting activity in November, followed by Coimbatore and Jaipur showing stabilised growth.

It was also noted that the production and manufacturing industry saw a 19 per cent month-on-month uptick in Kolkata.

However, major cities such as Pune (-4 per cent), Bengaluru (-3 per cent), Delhi-NCR (-3 per cent), Chennai (-2 per cent), Hyderabad (-2 per cent) and Mumbai (-1 per cent) noted a monthly decline in hiring activity.

Cities such as Kochi (-4 per cent), Chandigarh (-3 per cent), Ahmedabad (-2 per cent) and Baroda (-1 per cent) also witnessed falling intent to hire, the report said.

"While hiring activity has stabilised this month, we continue to see promising sparks of recovery especially in tier-II cities such as Coimbatore and Kolkata, which are faring considerably well after months of decline.

"With more and more companies aiming to return to physical offices in the new year and employ hybrid workforce models, there has been huge investment in office automation as well," said Sekhar Garisa, CEO of Monster.com, a Quesst company.

Moreover, salary trends in November indicate positive remuneration sentiments for the Indian IT industry, reflecting the increasing scope and growing demand for professionals in the sector, he noted.

'Advent Of Electric Vehicles Creating Opportunities For Smaller Players, New Entrants, Start-Ups'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The advent of electric vehicles (EVs) is causing disruptions for incumbents, while creating big opportunities for smaller players, new entrants and start-ups alike, according to a report.

It also said the valuations of pure EV businesses are driven by the expected pace of electrification in the segment as well as the competitive landscape in the EV segment.

In the Indian context, the speed of electrification can differ substantially across segments, brokerage firm Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) said in its report on Monday.

It noted that the passenger vehicle segment is seeing the fastest shift to EVs in the developed markets, resulting in much higher valuations for pure e-PV players.

The report added that commercial vehicles are expected to witness slower electrification in medium and heavy CVs, but light commercial vehicles are expected to see faster electrification - resulting in relatively lower valuations compared to e-PV original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

MOFSL estimates that EV penetration in the two-wheeler segment at around 15 per cent by FY27E, from around one per cent in FY21, driven by around 35 per cent penetration in the scooter segment as against around three per cent in FY21.



This will be supported by high subsidies from the government, it said. According to the report, the lowest electrification in PVs is expected due to the lack of the FAME-2 subsidy for personal use and the need for extensive charging infrastructure.

It stated that India is still in the early stages of electrification across segments and there has been a de-rating of some stocks in the 2W space due to the risk of electrification.

Markets have also rewarded companies with either tangible progress on EVs or with the likelihood of a fundraiser in the EV business, the report added.

Value discovery from other OEMs making a foray into the EV space is yet to be seen.

However, the EV business for these OEMs is at different stages of evolution in a nascent market, it added. In two-wheelers, in the base case, Motilal Oswal values the EV businesses of incumbent OEMs at 2x FY27E EV/sales; while in commercial vehicles (CVs), in the base case, the report values the EV businesses of incumbent OEMs at 3x FY27E EV/sales.

SHORT TAKES

'India's Exports Going Strong'

AHMEDABAD: While global trade took a hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian exports showed a turnaround after December last year and are still going strong, a Commerce Ministry official said on Monday.

While presenting promising figures about Indian trade and exports, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce Amitabh Kumar also stressed on increasing India's share in global exports, which currently stand 1.6 per cent, and also highlighted the need to change the duty structure for some goods.

"Global trade was disrupted significantly during the pandemic. However

India's exports showed a turnaround since December 2020 onwards and performing extremely well thereafter. However, the full potential of trade remains to be tapped. We have to work continuously to increase India's share in global exports from the current 1.6 per cent," said Kumar.

"We understand that there is a need to bring in required changes in the duty structure of some of the goods in our country," opined Kumar during his address at a pre-summit organized by the Gujarat government as part of the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, to be held in Gandhinagar next month.

Gold Declines Rs 142; Silver Tanks Rs 615

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Monday declined by Rs 142 to Rs 47,480 per 10 gram amid rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 47,622 per 10 gram. Silver also moved lower by Rs 615 to Rs 60,280 per kg from Rs 60,895 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat at Delhi fell by Rs 142 pressured by rupee appreciation," HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel said.

In the international market, gold was trading marginally up at USD 1,799 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.30 per ounce.

Competition Commission Clears Tatas Acquisition Of Air India, Two Subsidiaries

NEW DELHI: Competition Commission has approved Tata Group's proposed acquisition of debt-laden Air India as well as its two subsidiaries.

The Rs 18,000 crore-deal that includes the winning bidder Talace taking over Rs 15,300 crore-worth debt, is a major step in the government's efforts over the years to revive the ailing airline.

Talace Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, emerged as the winning bidder in October. It will buy 100 per cent stakes in Air India Ltd, Air India Express Ltd and 50 per cent shareholding

in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd (AISATS). Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Talace acquiring shareholding in Air India, Air India Express and AISATS, an official release said on Monday.

Deals beyond a certain threshold require approval from the CCI, which has the mandate to ensure fair competition in the market place. AISATS is engaged in the business of providing ground handling services at Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram airports.

'Companies Spent Rs 1.09 Lakh Cr Towards CSR Activities In 7 Yrs'

NEW DELHI: Companies shelled out Rs 1.09 lakh crore towards various CSR activities, including those related to health, education and poverty eradication, under the companies law in the last seven financial years, according to the corporate affairs ministry.

Under the Companies Act, 2013, certain class of profitable entities are required to spend at least 2 per cent of their three-year annual average net profit towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities during a fiscal.

Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh said on Monday that since the enactment of CSR provision from April 2014, companies are responding positively and have shown encouraging signs in adopting the culture of being responsible towards society.

"This is manifested through the increase in CSR spent by the companies during the period 2014-15 to 2020-21. During this period, companies have spent around Rs 1.09 lakh crore in different activities....," he said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

LG Issues Veiled Warning...

The LG, as per the official spokesperson also defended the administration's decision to call in the army's engineering corps for the restoration of electricity supply. He also said that talks have been held with those who were on strike and as on date no dues/salary are pending on part of the government.

"I do not want to name them, but some people have criticized that the army has been called to restore electricity. Personnel from REC, NTPC NHPC, and officers from the army engineering corps have also come. This only shows our commitment that we restored 60% electricity yesterday and by tomorrow we will achieve 100% restoration," Sinha said, adding "There can be no compromise on the issue of ensuring access to the basic amenities to our people."

According to the official spokesperson, the LG also highlighted the tremendous work done across the Power sector in the whole country where even areas are now getting electricity for 20-22 hours.

"Unfortunately, J&K is still deprived of that. We have made efforts in that direction. Most of you know our cumulative generation capacity is around 3500MW even though the UT has the potential to generate 20000 MW. In the last 6-8 months, the MoUs we have signed with NHPC, under the guidance of Prime Minister, will pave way for generating 3500MW additional power in the next 4-5 years," the LG said.

He further said that there was no dearth of electricity in the country but the UT's transmission and distribution systems have a limited capacity of carrying electricity from outside.

"We have worked in that direction and have been able to achieve 40% of that specific capacity building plan. And I want to assure you that the Prime Minister has always extended his support to us and in the last 14 months, we have completed 236 projects to improve transmission and distribution infrastructure and the rest will also be completed, well within time-lines," Sinha said.

He said it pains him that despite massive progress in other parts of the country, people of J&K were deprived of minimum requirements to live a civilised life.

"If some people think that the system will work as per their whims and fancies, it cannot be allowed. The system will work for 1.25 crore citizens without any discrimination. Every step of the UT administration is meant for the betterment of 1.25 crore citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," the LG said, in an apparent warning to the striking PDD employees.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Monday visited several grid stations in Anantnag, an official spokesperson said.

Inspecting the grid station at Sarnal, he said, the Div Com was apprised that the station is functioning normally and the service delivery is being carried out as per schedule.

He said that the Div Com interacted with the on duty staff and asked them to be punctual in carrying out their duties. Pole, he said, also visited the grid station at Nai Basti Khanabal and inspected the functioning of the grid station.

"Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com said that regular power supply is essential during harsh winters and the concerned officials should ensure that curtailment schedule is adhered to," the official spokesperson said.

PDD Strike, Power Outages ...

privatise the department and merge it with the Power Grid Corporation of India.

Jammu University has postponed offline and online examinations for undergraduate and postgraduate students on Monday in view of the strike.

The PDD employees held anti-government protests in Srinagar and Jammu demanding in writing from the Lieutenant Governor that it has shelved the proposal of privatisation.

According to sources, while the administration parlayed with the PDD employees, it also visited several power distribution facilities in Jammu to speed up restoration of electric supply.

The administration in its talks with the employees was represented by divisional commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langar and additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh.

The deadlock between the two bodies has put thousands of J&K residents in extreme hardship amid bone-chilling winter, while hundreds of COVID-19 patients are struggling to keep their oxygen concentrators on.

The government has made an appeal to employees to call off their strike and has offered to put on hold its privatisation plan, but employees are insisting on a written assurance.

Talking to reporters here, a spokesman of protesting employees said the employees are ready to call off strike provided the government gives them in writing assurance for their four core demands, particularly regarding privatisation and release of their salaries. Over 20,000 employees of the PDD are on an indefinite strike.

Most of the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir are facing power outages since Sunday while it has been restored in some areas in Jammu and Srinagar and also in few other districts, the sources said.

On Sunday, Langer wrote to the department of military affairs, ministry of defence, requesting for the assistance of the army in the restoration of the essential services.

Since then the army has been deployed to restore essential services, officials said.

The deployment was made following a requisition by the administration to the army, the officials said.

The army acted swiftly and deployed its troops at critical electricity stations and water supply sources to restore power supply, officials said.

Langar on Sunday said the government has already acceded to all demands of the striking employees, including the proposed joint venture between the Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

He also described the power reforms as "inevitable".

There have been a few rounds of talks already at various levels with the PDD employees. The power sector reforms are inevitable and the government of India has clearly told us to ensure that the reformation is seen through, Langer said.

Sabotage Bid...

short circuit in case the system is charged. Besides, they said, one of the 11KV breakers were pulled partially out at JDA receiving station at Valmiki Nagar.

"DC supply for auxiliaries in Bantalab receiving station was also completely disconnected," the sources added.

Patients Gasp For Breath...

a worst time especially for the patients who are currently on the oxygen support in the Valley.

Azhar Ahmed, a resident of Nowpora said that this standstill between PDD employees and government has compounded problems of the already suffering society.

"Due to overload, the transformer in our area died and since then I've been running from pillar to post to get the PDD electrician to fix it." Ahmed told Kashmir Observer.

"I've two Covid patients in my family who were on oxygen-concentrator support but since the onset of this indefinite strike, the concentrators are no more functional and the only option left is using oxygen cylinders. But, the problem with cylinders is that they need refilling while concentrators work 24*7"

He further added, "Because of this, since the last three days, I've refilled my cylinders about three times. If this indefinite strike proves fatal for my family, the government and PDD employees both will be held responsible."

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Mohammed Afaaq Sayeed, who heads the oxygen unit of Socio Reforms Organisation (SRO), said that the ongoing strike by PDD employees has increased the demand for oxygen cylinders by 40 percent in the last two days.

"Since concentrators are no longer functional in several areas of the Valley, cylinders are the new lifeline for oxygen dependent patients but the problem with oxygen cylinders is that they need refilling," Sayeed said.

"Even though we've enough stock of cylinders at our office, there are strong fears that if an electricity outage occurs at our refilling unit, then a crisis-like situation may occur which can turn fatal."

He further added, "Till last week, our office closed at 5:30 in the evening but since this strike, we're closing at seven because of the growing demand for oxygen cylinders. This confrontation between PDD employees and government is badly affecting oxygen-dependent patients."

Sania, a resident of Bagh-e-Mehtab said that this strike by PDD employees has only increased winter woes for humble backgrounded families.

"We've three Covid patients at our home who are oxygen dependent. Due to voltage drop, all the concentrators broke down. This strike has sounded a death knell for patients who are currently on oxygen support. An oxygen cylinder does not last for many hours. The situation is proving grim with each passing hour," Sania said.

"Maybe, the demands of PDD employees are legitimate but holding people, especially patients, hostage has really given a bad press to this strike."

Like Sania's family, there are hundreds of people who are facing growing oxygen difficulties due to the shutdown of electricity in the city and beyond.

Kashmir Grapples With Intense ...

was the lowest minimum temperature of the season so far in the city. The minimum was 4.3 degrees below the normal for this part of the season.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius.

The officials said Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 7.4 degrees Celsius.

The resort was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded minus 6 degrees Celsius, while Koker-nag also recorded a low of minus 5.9 degrees Celsius.

The weather office has forecast colder nights over the next couple of days as further fall in the minimum temperature is expected.

There is also a possibility of light to moderate snowfall in most places from December 22-25.

Hyderpora 'Encounter'...

later following a public outcry. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on November 18 ordered a magisterial probe into the killings.

District Magistrate Ajaz Assad promptly appointed additional district magistrate Khurshid Ahmad Shah as the inquiry officer with the direction to submit a report within 15 days.

Calls and messages to Assad and Shah, seeking their response on the status of the report, went unanswered.

RTI activist Raja Muzaffar sought to know from the government about the fate of the report.

"Itz (sic) now more than a Month. Where is the Magisterial Inquiry Report?" Bhat asked in a tweet.

The activist also posted a screenshot of the tweet of Lieutenant Governor Sinha in which he had ordered the inquiry.

"A magisterial inquiry by an officer of ADM rank has been ordered in the Hyderpora encounter. Govt will take suitable action as soon as the report is submitted in a time-bound manner. JK admin reiterates commitment of protecting lives of innocent civilians & it will ensure there is no injustice," Sinha had tweeted.

J&K Logs 105 New Covid Cases,...

patients recovered during the time, 32 from Jammu Division and 160 from Kashmir," officials said.

Also they said that one more person died of coronavirus related complications in Kashmir Valley, raising the fatality count to 4513 in J&K—2194 in Jammu and 2319 in Kashmir.

Panel Proposes 6 More Seats...

37 seats. The commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai held its second meeting here on Monday. It has five Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir as associate members and Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as ex-officio member.

Three Lok Sabha members of the NC, including party president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, attended the commission meeting for the first time. Two BJP MPs, including Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh, were also present.

Sources said that the parties have been asked to submit their views on the proposed increase of seats by December 31.

Abdullah, who is also the chairman of the five-party People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), said after the meeting that he would brief the grouping as well as his party colleagues of the deliberations of the commission.

"We attended the meeting for the first time because we wanted the voice of people of Jammu and Kashmir to be heard. The meeting took place in cordial manner and we all were explained the method adopted for coming to the conclusion," Abdullah said.

"I will discuss with my senior party leaders before sending our views to the commission. We have also not been told about the seats that they are reserving for Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes," he said.

In a strong reaction, NC vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted that it was deeply disappointing that the commission appears to have allowed the political agenda of the BJP to dictate its recommendations rather than data which should have been its only consideration.

"Contrary to the promised 'scientific approach', it's a political approach," he said.

He said the draft recommendation of the Delimitation Commission "is unacceptable. The distribution of newly created assembly constituencies with six going to Jammu and only one to Kashmir is not justified by the data of the 2011 census."

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, headed by former minister Altaf Bukahri, also rejected the proposal of the commission.

"This is outright unacceptable to us. Apni Party demands a fair delimitation exercise without any bias, taking population and districts as the base. We strongly demand the Government of India to intervene," it said.

PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said the commission has been "created simply to serve BJP's political interests by dividing people along religious and regional lines. The real game plan is to install a government in JK which will legitimise the illegal and

unconstitutional decisions of August 2019".

She was referring to the government's decisions of abrogating Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcating the erstwhile state into union territories.

"My apprehensions about the Delimitation Commission weren't misplaced. They want to pitch people against each other by ignoring the population census and proposing six seats for one region and only one for Kashmir," she said.

People's Conference chief Sajjad Lone said the recommendations of the commission were totally unacceptable. "They reek of bias. What a shock for those who believe in democracy," he tweeted.

The commission has proposed nine seats for STs and seven for SCs in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said.

The Delimitation Commission was set up in February 2020 after the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill in Parliament in August 2019.

Initially, it was asked to complete its work within a year but had to be given an extension of one year in March this year as the work could not be completed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The commission is tasked with redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the union territory. Prime minister Narendra Modi, during a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir leaders on June 24, had said the on-going delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

In a series of tweets after a three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting with 14 political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said, "Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in JK. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and JK gets an elected Government that gives strength to JK's development trajectory."

On June 23 this year, the commission had held a meeting that was attended by all the 20 deputy commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir where inputs were gathered on how to make the assembly seats more geographically compact.

Twenty-four seats of the assembly continue to remain vacant as they fall under Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

NC Satisfied With Delimitation...

Commission. Speaking to media persons, the union minister said, "All the associate members committed themselves to cooperate with the functioning of the Commission.

The Commission has done a tremendous job. We must appreciate that they had followed certain laid down parameters on the basis of which they have come out with the documents which are very objectively done."

He said NC members were also satisfied with the parameters which were being followed by the Delimitation Commission.

"The associated members regardless of their party and political affiliations not only appreciated the work done by the Delimitation Commission but also committed that they would in the future also extend their cooperation for the rest of the exercise," he said.

Asked about elections, the union minister said, "We have no idea when the elections will be held. It will be decided by the Election Commission which is an independent body and the government does not interfere with the functioning of the constitutional body."

On strike by power department employees in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the journey of development in the union territory will not be stalled. "Those employees who are on strike have to be addressed by the government, and I am sure they will do that," Mr Singh said.

The Delimitation Commission's second meeting took place in the national capital on Monday. The first meeting of the Commission was held in February last.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah along with party leaders Mohamad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi and BJP leader Jugals Kishore Sharma took part in the meeting.

The Central government has constituted a Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai for the purpose of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Won't Be Signatory To Draft...

a spokesperson said on Monday after the panel proposed six additional assembly seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir.

It also proposed reserving 16 constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai, held its second meeting here on Monday.

Hours after the meeting, which proposed giving more additional seats to Jammu division than Kashmir, the party also termed "malicious" Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh's reported comments in the media that the NC was "satisfied" with the way the commission had completed its report.

"Misrepresenting and distorting the facts with malicious intention! Very misleading statement.

"We have clearly expressed our resentment over the draft of the Delimitation Commission, the biased process of seat sharing. The party will NOT be a signatory to this report," the party said on its official Twitter handle.

Proposal Aimed To Balance...

for some districts to balance the representation for geographical areas having inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences due to their remoteness or location along the border.

In a statement issued after the meeting of the Commission with its associate members, the five Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir, the panel also said that in the Union Territory, since the last delimitation, the number of districts has increased from 12 to 20 and number of tehsils from 52 to 207.

The population density in the districts of the Union Territory varies from 29 persons per square km in Kishtwar to 3,436 persons per square km in Srinagar.

According to the statement, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, an ex officio member of the panel, shared the experiences of the Commission of interacting with people in Jammu and Kashmir during its visit.

He emphasised that the work of delimitation is being carried out within the overall statutory framework and keeping the interest of the common people of the Union Territory.

He highlighted provisions of the Delimitation Act, read with provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, specify that all constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas, and regard shall be had to physical features.

Associate members, the statement said, appreciated the fact that the Commission visited Jammu and Kashmir and met a large number of people in person.

They assured that all necessary assistance would be extended in the work of delimitation, it said.

Senior Deputy EC Chandra Bhushan Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the work done by the panel.

In the Union Territory, the administration has been allocating compensatory allowance to government officials working in the specific areas on grounds of the remoteness of the place, its inaccessibility, severe inclement weather conditions, its remaining cut off from the rest of the state (now Union Territory) for a period of time, lack and gross inadequacy of medical, educational, residential and other basic amenities of life, its health hazards and

similar other rigorous conditions of living, he told the meeting.

The Union Territory shares international boundary and in those locations, the inhabitants are forced to take shelter, intermittently, in bunkers due to continued inhospitable and uncertain living conditions, he noted.

"Thereafter, the Commission explained that taking all these into account, the Delimitation Commission has categorised all 20 districts in three broad categories A, B and C giving a margin of (plus-minus) 10 percent of the average population per assembly constituency while proposing an allocation of the constituencies to the districts," the statement said.

The Commission has also, for some districts, proposed carving out of an additional constituency to balance the representation for geographical areas having inadequate communication and lack of public conveniences due to their excessive remoteness or inhospitable conditions on the international border, it said. For the first time, in Jammu and Kashmir, nine seats are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Tribes out of 90 seats on the basis of population. Seven seats are proposed for Scheduled Castes.

The Commission shared 'Paper I' (broadly speaking the draft) describing the proposed seat allocation at the level of districts with all the members with the request to furnish their views, comments and suggestions by December 31, 2021, the statement said.

Govt Has No Data On Land Given...

distributed among dwellers as of 31st August. But, while revealing the state wise data on the number of people who benefited from the Union Government's scheme, there were no figures available with the Minister of Tribal Affairs on the number of people in J&K who were provided land rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 in the last three years.

Under the FRA—officially the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006— the STs and other traditional forest dwellers (OTFDs) have three important sets of rights: Individual Forest Rights, Community Forest Rights and Community Forest Resource Rights.

The FRA recognises the rights of the forest-dwelling tribal communities and OTFDs to forest resources on which these communities are dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation, and other socio-cultural needs. This includes the right to land for graveyards, religious places, schools, community centers, panchayat (village self-governing bodies) buildings, health centers and so on.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, RTI activist, Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat said that, "Thus the FRA empowers the forest dwellers to access and use forest resources in the manner that they have traditionally been accustomed to and also to protect, conserve and manage forests and protect themselves from unlawful evictions. The Act also provides for basic development facilities for communities of forest dwellers, such as education, health, nutrition and infrastructure facilities."

Pertinently, the implementation of forest rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and recognition of forest rights is a continuous activity and is implemented by the State Governments.

Subsequently, the J&K Government was entitled to provide the rights of the Act in J&K and make sure that all the land rights that should've been given to the Forest dwellers, are provided as per the given law. But, as per activists, the roll-out of the FRA failed to provide the nomadic communities with the Act's promised benefits.

"The land rights of FRA makes sure that the forest dwellers are given the right of having a graveyard, subsidy on timber, free timber, authority over herbal plants and several other things but since no land rights have been given to such people in J&K, they're vulnerable," Bhat said.

Recently, J&K's LG Manoj Sinha had said that the FRA had given the people of J&K new hope but activists have challenged LG's quote.

"But when land rights under FRA weren't provided to the entitled beneficiaries, how exactly has it provided hope?" Bhat asked.

Notably, as the union Government has failed to provide any data on the Land Rights provided in J&K, it has created strong apprehensions that the Nomads may have to continue their struggle to reserve land rights for their community.

"Even though they've been living in these pastures for the last ten generations, unfortunately, they're being termed as ineligible to have rights on that land." The RTI activist said.

5601 Truce Violations On ...

Defence, Ajay Bhatt in a written reply said that a total 5601 instances of Cease Fire Violations (CFVs) were reported along the LoC under operational control of Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir from 30 November, 2019 to 29 November, 2021.

The MoS said that the troops deployed on forward posts enjoy complete freedom of action in responding to Pakistan Ceasefire Violations (CFVs).

Regarding the damage to Pakistani posts, the Minister said that substantial damage was inflicted on Pakistan posts and personnel during retaliation by the Indian Army—(KNO)

BSF Constable Injured ...

blast injuries on his face and both hands while he was on duty at the fence, according to news agency GNS.

He was airlifted to Udhampur for treatment, they said.

A police officer said that that condition of the trooper remains serious.

2 Jaish Workers Held...

were arrested by police, army's 55 RR and the personnel of CRPF 182 battalion in a joint operation carried out on a specific input, a police spokesperson said Monday. He said incriminating materials including ammunition were recovered from their possession.

During the preliminary investigation, the police spokesperson said that it was revealed that both the arrested militant associates were in touch with JeM commanders & were involved in transportation of arms & ammunition.

"Besides, they were providing shelter and other logistic support to the active terrorists operating in Awantipora & Tral areas," he said.

Accordingly, the police spokesperson said that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Litter and further investigation has been taken up.

Blaze Leaves Nine Families...

structure in its grip. Even as Fire and Emergency Department assisted by police and locals launched a rescue operation, the fire however caused extensive damage to the structure, rendering nine families homeless.

A police official confirming the incident to GNS said that they have taken cognizance into the matter. (GNS)

Man's Body Retrieved From...

son of Muhammad Jabbar Thakroo of Gadiseer Bijbehara was recovered on Monday by the river police from Jheulm after hectic efforts.

Thakroo had jumped into the river after some people allegedly hurled stones at him when he was busy extracting sand. Efforts were made to retrieve his body shortly after the incident, but all in vain.

Meanwhile, after the completion of all formalities, the body was handed over to family for last rites.

Police have already registered a case in this regard and are investigating the matter. (KNT)

Cycle Race Organised At Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: District Administration Anantnag in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag on Monday organised a cycle Race from Sarnal Dhadat Chowk to Sports Stadium Tik-bagh Mattan, Anantnag.

The cycle race was held in celebrations of 'Good Governance' week.

A total of 50 cyclists participated in the race with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship.

The event was flagged-off by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori

along with Zonal Physical Education Officer Mattan, Ghulam Nabi Pala from Sarnal Dhadat.

The department had made appropriate arrangements all along the track by deploying Technical officials including at starting and at finishing point for the smooth and successful completion of events.

The Department of Youth Services had deputed BLS expert, departmental officials for any medical emergency. The Activity section of the DYSS Office Anantnag had made all arrangements including allotment and distribution of chest Number and all other necessary arrangements.

Australia Go 2-0 Up In Ashes After Beating England By 275 Runs



Agencies

ADELAIDE: Australia beat England by 275 runs in the day-night second Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval on Monday to go 2-0 up in the five-match series.

Chasing a daunting victory target of 468, England were all out for 192 in the final session of the pink-ball contest.

Chris Woakes' 44 was the highest individual score in England's abject second innings batting display, while Jos Buttler resisted for a while with a dogged 26 off 207 balls.

"They showed some great resilience today," Australia's stand-in captain Steve Smith said of their opponents.

"Jos played a really good innings, he faced over 200 balls.

"We were trying to stay as calm as we could out in the middle and just thought, a couple

of good balls and a couple of wickets and we'll keep going." Jhye Richardson was the pick of the Australian bowlers, claiming 5-42.

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 103, the only century hit by a player from either side in the match.

Australia were without regular captain Pat Cummins, who missed out for being a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, and injured paceman Josh Hazlewood.

"We made mistakes throughout the game that we made last week, whether it be no-balls, missed chances," England captain Joe Root said.

"We just have to be better. We have to learn those lessons very quickly over the next week." The third test begins in Melbourne on Sunday.

South Africa To Investigate Smith & Boucher Over Racism Allegations

Agencies

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa (CSA) said on Monday that it would formally investigate director of cricket Graeme Smith and national team head coach Mark Boucher following allegations of racist conduct in an ombudsman's report.

The pair were among a number of CSA employees implicated in "tentative findings" made by the Social Justice and Nation Building Ombudsman into alleged discrimination within the sport's national governing organisation in the past.

A number of players of colour came forward to say they had been treated unfairly, with former spinner Paul Adams saying he had been called a "brown shit" in a South Africa team song during his time in the side, including by former wicket-keeper Boucher.

Boucher has since apologised.

The ombudsman report, submitted to CSA earlier this month, also criticised Smith and former national team captain AB de Villiers for selection decisions made during their time at the

helm of the side, which it said were prejudicial towards Black players.



Smith and de Villiers have denied the allegation.

"The Board has decided to institute formal inquiries into CSA employees, suppliers or contractors who are implicated by the report," CSA said on Monday, adding that the process will take place after India's current test and One-Day International tour of the country.

"The Board has done so mindful of its duty to treat allegations of racism or discrimination with the utmost seriousness," it added.

"The formal inquiries will be conducted by independent legal professionals. Further details with regards to the inquiries will be announced in due course. Smith and Boucher remain in their positions and will continue to carry out their duties during the India tour."



Real Kashmir Have Experience & Depth For I-League: Coach Robertson

Snow Leopards begin campaign on December 27 against Aizwal FC

Agencies

KOLKATA: David Robertson begins his fourth season in the Hero I-League as Head Coach of Real Kashmir in less than a week's time. Attending a virtual press conference alongside defender Mason Robertson on Monday, December 20, he spoke about the challenges of the upcoming season and the confidence the team takes from their second consecutive IFA Shield win last week.

"It's always more difficult the second time around, there's more pressure on us. This year, in the IFA Shield, we played four Hero I-League teams - Indian Arrows, Mohammedan, Gokulam and Greenidhi. It gives us a lot of confidence ahead of the season," he said.

Former Mohun Bagan and Bengaluru player Fran González has joined Real

Kashmir this season. "He's a good leader within the team, which is something we've lacked over the years. He brings a lot of experience from the I-League and the ISL," he remarked.

Mason Robertson has been Real Kashmir's talisman over the years. With Fran's arrival, he looks to share leadership responsibilities in the squad. "Fran is a true leader on the pitch and gives a lot of courage to the younger Indian players," stated Mason.

Centre-back Mason is renowned for advancing up the pitch and finding the net. "If I had to pick, I'd be a striker. But the main priority is to win, I don't care if I score or not as long as the team wins," added Mason.

Thoi Singh, formerly of Chennaiyin, is another recruit for the season. "Thoi is one of the fittest players in the

league. He's another leader within the pack and the young players look up to him," said coach Robertson.

"Even though Mason is the captain, we should always have 11 captains on the field. With Fran and Thoi, we have added a lot more experience to the squad," he continued.

Real Kashmir have been consistent over the past three seasons but are yet to win the title. Regarding prospects for the upcoming season, Robertson said, "The league is always tight every year. We would obviously like to be challenging for the trophy. It'd be good to have points on the board early on, qualify for the play-offs and take it from there."

"The one thing that let us down last year was our lack of strength in numbers. This season, we have better depth," Robertson concluded. (AIFF Media)



DANISH FAROOQ (left, in white) in action for Bengaluru FC on Monday. Danish played the full 90-minutes in his team's ISL match against Jamshedpur FC. The game ended 0-0, meaning Bengaluru stay 10th on the 11-team table after 8 matches.

FIFA Touts Billions To Be Gained From Biennial World Cups

Agencies

LONDON: FIFA is making a financial pitch to win support for biennial World Cups.

On the day it hoped to hold a vote for the overhaul of the game - before it was abandoned - FIFA claimed Monday that revenue would jump by \$4.4 billion to \$11.4 billion over four years, according to parts of a presentation seen by The Associated Press.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has faced opposition from the leaders of the European and South American confederations as well as the International Olympic Committee. But he has pushed ahead with trying to convince the 211 member associations of the merits of doubling the frequency of men's and women's World Cups, increasing the status of FIFA and diminishing the window for other major sports events to dominate.

FIFA commissioned market research firm Nielsen and the Open Economics organization to undertake research to show the game could be wealthier by playing its flagship events more often. It was presented in a virtual meeting hosted



by Infantino from the Qatari capital of Doha.

FIFA is touting that a macro-economics analysis shows GDP gains of more than \$180 billion over 16 years - up from an unquantifiable \$80

billion now - through World Cups being staged eight rather than four times in that period. FIFA claims that would double the number of permanent jobs created as a result of World Cups to 2 million.

New Zealand To Tour Pakistan Twice In 2022-23



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: New Zealand will tour Pakistan in April 2023 for 10 white-ball matches to make up for this year's abandoned limited overs series and also play two Tests and three ODIs next year, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Monday.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja said New Zealand would tour Pakistan for two Tests and three ODIs in December/January 2022-23 as part of the Future Tours Programme and will return in April 2023 to play five ODIs and as many T20Is to make up for the abandoned September tour.

"The confirmation by New Zealand reconfirms Pakistan's status as an important member of the cricket community," Ramiz said in a statement on Monday.

The two Tests and three ODIs in December/January 2022-23 will be part of the ICC World Test Championship and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League respectively.

New Zealand had abandoned their limited overs tour of Pakistan—which was to have three ODIs and five T20Is—before the start of the first ODI in Rawalpindi, citing a security threat, which the host board asserted did not exist. England had followed New Zealand in abandoning its short tour to Pakistan just before the T20 World Cup in October.

Ramiz had then lashed out at both New Zealand and England cricket boards for not playing in Pakistan.

On Monday, Ramiz noted that Pakistan will host eight Tests, 11 ODIs and 13 T20Is against Aus-

tralia, England and New Zealand in the period from March 2022 to April 2023.

He said New Zealand's twin tours of Pakistan were finalized as a result of strong and cordial relations between the two boards. He thanked his Kiwi counterpart Martin Snedden and the New Zealand cricket board for their understanding and support.

Ramiz said both the PCB and NZC will continue to work together to finalise the series dates, which will be announced in due course of time.

Back in September, Ramiz had gone on the offensive when New Zealand returned home from Rawalpindi after announcing just hours before the first ODI that the visiting side had got a security threat and they were returning home.

Later, England also pulled out its men's and women's teams from a scheduled white ball tour of Pakistan.

Australia are scheduled to tour Pakistan for the first time since 1998 early next year, followed by tours by England and now New Zealand.

The West Indies recently played a T20 International series in Karachi but had to return home without playing the ODIs due to several COVID-19 positive cases in the visitors' camp.

International teams had mostly stayed away from Pakistan since the terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in 2009. That forced Pakistan's national teams to play "home" matches outside the country for more than six years.

Shoaib Malik's Nephew Becomes 2nd Youngest Pakistani To Hit Triple Ton

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Muhammad Huraire, a nephew of Pakistan's former captain Shoaib Malik, created history on Monday when he became the country's second youngest cricketer to score a triple century, in the ongoing Quaid-er-Azam Trophy.

Huraire, who is playing in his debut first-class season, scored the triple ton at the age of 19 years and 239 days.

Huraire has become the second youngest cricketer in Pakistan's first-class history to reach the 300-run mark and the eighth overall to achieve this feat.

This is the 23rd triple scored on Pakistan soil with Huraire being the 22nd player overall to score a 300 in Pakistan. It also includes triple hundreds by visiting batsmen—Mike Brearly, Mark Taylor and Virender Sehwag—the last two in Tests.

Huraire's 311 not out from 341 balls, which included 40 boundaries and four sixes, came at tea on day three of a last round match between Northern against Balochistan. He has been in great form for Northern as he has hit three centuries in the season.

Huraire has played for the Pakistan Under-19 team alongside Haider Ali and Rohail Nazir.

now available to them for FIFA Forward projects every four years.

FIFA chief of global football development Arsene Wenger, the former manager of English club Arsenal, is proposing halving the number of windows for international games outside of tournaments to only two per year.

UEFA last week produced research commissioned from consultancy firm Oliver & Ohlbaum showing financial damage caused by the overhaul of the international match calendar could cost European federations 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion) in a four-period cycle.

The IOC is concerned about clashes in the schedule with other sports, the men's World Cup overshadowing women's editions of the tournament, and "a further massive strain" on athlete welfare.

UEFA and CONMEBOL have warned of a World Cup boycott if FIFA pushes ahead with a plan that would undermine their continental championships, which are organized on the same four-year cycle as the Summer Olympics. All are next scheduled for 2024.

122 Suicides At IITs, IIMs, Central Institutes During 2014-21: Government

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A total of 122 students of IITs, IIMs, central universities and other centrally funded higher educational institutions committed suicide during 2014-21, the Lok Sabha was informed today.

In written response to a question in Lok Sabha, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that of the 122 students who committed suicide, 24 belonged to Scheduled Caste (SC), 41 to Other Backward Classes (OBC), three to Scheduled Tribe (ST). Three such students were from Minority category.

According to data shared by the minister, 121 incidents of suicides by the students of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), central universities and other higher educational institutions were reported during the period. The number of suicide incidents by students of various IITs during the period was 34, while four students from different IIMs had committed suicide.

Nine students from IISc Bangalore and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs) had committed suicide during 2014-21, while four such students were from Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).

"The government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have taken several initiatives to check the incidents of harassment and discrimination of students. UGC (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2019 have been formulated to safeguard the interests of the students. Further, the ministry has undertaken various steps such as peer assisted learning, introduction of technical education in regional languages for students in order to ease the academic stress," Mr Pradhan said.

"The government initiative, named MANODARPAN, covers a wide range of activities to provide psychological support to students, teachers and families for mental and emotional well-being during the Covid outbreak and beyond. In addition, institutions conduct workshops/seminars on happiness and wellness, regular sessions on yoga, induction programmes, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities and appointment of student counsellors for overall personality development and de-stressing students.

"Further, students, wardens and caretakers are sensitised to bring to notice the signs of depression in fellow students to the authorities so that timely clinical consultation may be provided," he added.

UAPA Tribunal Seeks Stand Of Religious Preacher Zakir Naik's Organisation On Ban

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Tribunal under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on Monday sought the stand of Zakir Naik's Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) in proceedings to consider the Centre's decision to declare it as an unlawful association.

The one-member Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, comprising Delhi High Court Chief Justice DN Patel, issued notice in the proceedings after hearing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who represented the central government.

On November 15, the Centre had declared IRF as an unlawful association for five years, saying that it has been indulging in activities that are prejudicial to the security of the country and have the potential of disturbing peace and communal harmony and disrupting the secular fabric of the country.

Pursuant to section 5(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Centre had, on December 13, constituted the tribunal "for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Islamic Research Foundation as an unlawful association".



Cold Wave In Northwest India To Continue Till December 22: Weather Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely to continue in northwest India over the next two days and abate thereafter, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

Cold wave conditions will continue over central and east India for the next three days and relief is likely thereafter, it said.

In the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature dips to 4 degrees Celsius. A cold wave is also declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal.

A severe cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from normal is more than 6.4 degrees Celsius.

"Cold wave to severe cold wave conditions are very likely to continue in some parts of

Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during the next 24 hours and cold wave conditions are very likely at isolated pockets for the subsequent 24 hours," the IMD said in a bulletin released at 1:45 pm.

Cold wave conditions are very likely over parts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Jharkhand till Wednesday afternoon and over Jammu, Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal till Tuesday afternoon and are very likely to abate thereafter.

A cold wave is also predicted in parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha till Thursday afternoon, the weather office said.

"Cold day to severe cold day conditions (are) very likely at some places over Madhya Pradesh and cold day conditions in isolated pockets over West Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours," the bulletin

stated.

When the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal, it is said to be a cold day.

"Under the influence of two Western Disturbances in quick succession, the first from December 22 and second from December 24, light to moderate rainfall and snowfall is likely over western Himalayan region from December 22 to 25. Light isolated rainfall is also likely over Punjab on December 24," the bulletin read.

Dense fog is predicted in the morning hours in parts of Punjab and Haryana from December 23 to December 25 and over western Rajasthan on December 24 and 25.

According to the IMD, when visibility is between 0 to 50 metres it is very dense fog, 51 and 200 metres is dense, 201 and 500 metres is moderate, and 501 and 1,000 metres is shallow.

3 Kids Die After Taking 'Cough Syrup' At Delhi's Mohalla Clinic, 13 Hospitalised

Agencies

Three children are reported to have died after allegedly consuming a 'cough syrup' which was administered by a mohalla clinic run by the state government in the national capital, the Directorate of Health Services (DGHS) has mentioned in its enquiry report.

A total 16 children were admitted to the Kalawati Saran Children hospital of which three died.

"16 cases of Dextromethorphan poisoning were reported in Kalawati Saran Children hospital, New Delhi, out of which three children have expired in the hospital. These children were prescribed the Dextromethorphan drug by Mohalla Clinics of the Delhi government and the drug is strictly not recommended for paediatric age children. The drug was manufactured by Omega Pharmaceuticals," said the enquiry

report.

In the letter, the DGHS has asked the Delhi government to issue a notice to all dispensaries and mohalla clinics "to not prescribe Dextromethorphan for children less than four years of age".

The DGHS has also suggested "withdrawing the Dextromethorphan in larger public interest".

Talking to IANS, Dr Chandra Mohan Kumar, Additional Professor, Paediatrics, AIIMS Patna, said, "Even though the drug is not recommended to be used in children younger than five years, this is still being used and is known to have CNS side-effects like blurring of vision, drowsiness, restlessness and irritability, but has never been reported to have such catastrophic side-effects. There may be further investigation into the reports. However, it seems that there may be the cases of overdosing of drugs in the kids."

ED Summons Actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan In Panama Papers Leak Case

Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan for questioning in a case linked to the 2016 'Panama Papers' global tax leaks case, officials said on Monday.

Aishwarya Bachchan, 48, the daughter-in-law of superstar Amitabh Bachchan, has been asked to depose before the agency in Delhi.

The ED has been probing the case since 2016 when the global leaks came to light. It later issued notices to the Bachchan family asking them to explain their foreign remittances since 2004 under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).

Some other instances of alleged irregularities linked to the family are also under the scan-



ner of the federal probe agency, the officials said.

Dubbed 'Panama Papers', an investigation of a stockpile of records from Panamanian legal firm Mossack Fonseca by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists had named several world leaders and celebrities who had allegedly stashed away money abroad in offshore companies. Some of them are stated to be holding valid overseas accounts.



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