



P9 BUSINESS

ECONOMISTS SEE OMICRON VARIANT FORCING RBI TO DELAY POLICY NORMALISATION

As COVID-19 infections spike in the country resulting in restrictions in various states and impacting the fragile recovery, many economists are expecting RBI to delay the policy normalisation move, which is expected in the February review.

P7

I'M A MASK NERD

s a mechanical engineer with a background in aerosol science, I often wondered why months into the pandemic we were still using cloth masks. People used similar coverings during the Spanish flu pandemic in 1919, more than 100 years ago.



P11 SPORTS

TEAM TIGERS WIN 4 GOLD, 3 SILVER IN TAEKWONDO C'SHIP

The International Tigers Martial Art Organisation has won 4 gold, 3 silver medals in the 1st Indo-Nepal International Taekwondo Championship held in Chandauli Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.



Quote!

Work until your rivals become idols
—Drake

NEWS DIGEST

BSF Lodges Protest With Pak Rangers

JAMMU: The Border Security Force lodged a strong protest with Pakistan Rangers at a commander-level meeting on Wednesday over smuggling of arms and narcotic substances from across the border, a BSF spokesperson said. The BSF reiterated that these types of activities from the **PI0**

Shooting Stone Kills Youth On Highway

SRINAGAR: A person was killed and another injured after a car they were travelling in was hit by a rolling boulder near Karol Jaswal bridge in Ramban district this afternoon. Officials said that an i20 car bearing registration number JK01AB 4050 was hit by a boulder resulting **PI0**

BSF Man Dies After Bus Overturns

JAMMU: A Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on Wednesday was killed while several of his colleagues were injured when a bus they were travelling in, overturned in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. A police official said that **PI0**

Ladakh Sees 32 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh has reported 32 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the total count to 22,321 out of which 21,836 patients have cured while the active cases in the union territory has gone down to 265, officials said. The union territory has recorded 220 Covid-related deaths --- **PI0**

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Contact Circulation Incharge:
Ishrad Ahmad: 7006276927

2 Day Heavy Snow Spell In Kashmir From Friday

Downpour Cripples Life, Hits Air Traffic; 500 Vehicles Stranded Along Banihal Highway

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir received snowfall for the second consecutive day Wednesday leading to the closure of the vital Srinagar-Jammu highway, besides affecting air traffic, even as the weather department has predicted 'heavy snowfall' in the Valley on January 7 and 8.

According to reports, incessant rains in plains and snowfall in upper reaches affected life in Kashmir Valley on Wednesday, as the day temperature also dipped sharply. In this capital city, the



downpour led to water logging at various marketplaces and residential colonies putting people to inconvenience. People in many areas also complained of erratic power supply. The 272-km long Jammu-Srinagar highway was also closed for traffic after incessant rains and snowfall **PI0**

Air Traffic Hit For Second Straight Day

Air traffic between Kashmir and the rest of the country remained affected for the second consecutive day on Wednesday due to inclement weather as intermittent snowfall was reported from most parts of the valley over the past 24 hours, officials said here. "Flight operations have not been possible at **PI0**

KU Exams For Today, Tomorrow Postponed

The University of Kashmir has postponed all examinations scheduled on January 6 and 7, officials said on Wednesday. "It is notified for the information of all the concerned that due to inclement weather conditions, all UG/PG/Professional/B.Ed (External POT) exams **PI0**

Pregnant Woman Ferried On Cot To Health Centre 5 Kms Away

Authorities Deny Allegation, Say Patient Took Ambulance To Reach Hospital

Syed Burhan

SRINAGAR: The villagers in snowbound Boniyar area of Uri on Wednesday

ferried a pregnant woman on the cot for five kilometres after the family's plea to the health department officials to evacuate

the expecting mother to a health centre allegedly went unheard.

Noor Jahan, an expecting mother was ferried **PI0**

Tourist Spots To Turn Into Training Grounds

Armed Forces To Get 1358 Kanal Land In Gulmarg, Sonmarg

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has declared 1358 kanals and 6 marlas of land as "strategic areas" for training and operational requirements of the armed forces in Gulmarg and Sonmarg tourist resorts in Kashmir Valley.

A copy of notification issued by the J&K's Tourism Department reveals that 1034 kanals and six marlas of land at Gulmarg and 354 Kanals at Sonmarg have been notified as strategic areas by the authorities while exercising powers under the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act.

The notification reveals that the land has been declared as a strategic area on the request of Army's corps commander.

According to the notification, the corps commander shall ensure strict adherence to the environment laws to prevent any environmental hazard. "Corps commander shall ensure that no other applicable law in force in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is observed in breach," reads the order.

As per the notification, the corps commander shall ensure that the order(s), if any, passed by any court or tribunal is strictly adhered to. This is the first **PI0**

Govt Orders Retirement Of 2 Employees

Agencies

JAMMU: In what seems to be an action against the non-performing officials, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday ordered premature retirement of two officers.

The exercise was conducted as part of regular process under Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs and followed recommendations of a Review Committees constituted for the purpose.

The officers retired before their actual superannuation include Ashiq Hussain, the then Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies J&K (continuing under suspension) and Showkat Ahmad Wani, the then Driver Grade-I, Motor Garages Department **PI0**

Pak National Among 3 Militants Killed In Pulwama



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants, including a Pakistani national were killed on Wednesday in a firefight with government forces in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said.

Mir Owais of Ashminder

village of Pulwama and a Pakistani national Talha Yasir besides another Jaish militant, believed to be a foreigner, were killed by the joint team of police, army's 55RR and the personnel of CRPF 182 battalion, in an encounter in Chandgam village of the district on Wednesday morning, a police spokesperson said.

Cops To Get Bullet-Resistant Jackets

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has initiated the process to procure over 8,000 bullet-resistant (BR) jackets for its personnel involved in anti-militancy and security operations, official sources said. The police will also procure BR vehicles of various **PI0**

The gunfight, he said, broke out after the joint team launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) on specific input about the presence of militants in the village. He said the militants fired indiscriminately upon the joint search when they started proceeding towards the suspected spot. According to the police **PI0**

Govt Employees Can Get Passport Without VO Clearance

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has asked passport authorities as well as verifying agencies not insist on latest vigilance clearance from its employees, underlining that it causes "unnecessary delay and unwarranted inconvenience" in issuance of the passport.

"Attention of Administrative Departments/Heads of Departments/Passport issuing/verifying authorities is invited towards Circular No. 35-JK(GAD) of 2021 Dated 16.09.2021, wherein it has been made mandatory to seek the latest vigilance status of a Government employee applying for issuance of a passport," reads a circular by the government. These instructions have been notified in consonance with the guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India



vide Office Memorandum on 18th February 2020," reads a circular issued by the government.

"However, instances have come into the notice of the Government that in view of the aforementioned circular instructions, the Passport issuing authority as well as verifying agencies are also insisting for obtaining latest vigilance clearance

in respect of the Government employees before initiating the verification process, which causes unnecessary delay and unwarranted inconvenience in issuance of Passport to the applicants, which is/was, however, not the underlying intention of the instructions," the circular adds.

"With a view to remove the ambiguity involved, if any, at any

HOWEVER, INSTANCES have come into the notice of the Government that in view of the aforementioned circular instructions,

level, it is further clarified that once the prior intimation (PI) given by the applicant (government employee) in Annexure-H is duly acknowledged by the Controlling/Administrative Authority/Employer in favour of such employee OR the prescribed annexure/certificate is issued in favour of such employee by his/her Controlling/Administrative Authority/Employer, it shall be presumed that the concerned department has obtained the prior vigilance status in respect of the intending applicant and the Passport issuing authority/verifying agencies (CID/Police) shall not separately insist for seeking vigilance clearance/status." **PI0**

Unemployment Rate Declines To 15% In J&K

Augib Javed

SRINAGAR: The unemployment rate in December for Jammu and Kashmir has declined to 15 percent, as per the data revealed by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

According to the CMIE, the unemployment rate in the Union Territory for the month of December, 2021 has declined to 15 percent in comparison to rate recorded at 21.2 percent in November 2021.

In September, CMIE has noted that J&K has the highest unemployment figure in the country with a gruelling rate of 21.6 percent. While in October, the unemployment rate was at 22.2 percent

The latest unemployment rate has dropped by six percent which is a positive sign.

The unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021 has been worrying. CMIE figures show that the state government has failed to provide employment to the youth. At the beginning of 2021, J&K's unemployment rate was 21.9 per



J&K's unemployment rate is lower than many states including Rajasthan (27.1%), Haryana (34.1), and Jharkhand (17.3%).

cent which dipped to 14.2 per cent in February, 11.4 per cent in April, 12.1 per cent in May and 10.6 per cent in the month of June.

If we look at the unemployment figures for December, Jammu and Kashmir is at the fourth place in the country with a rate of 15 percent. Haryana ranks first in the country with an unemployment rate of

(34.1) percent. J&K's unemployment rate is lower than many states including Rajasthan (27.1%), Haryana (34.1), and Jharkhand (17.3%).

Although the government has started the recruitment process for more than 40 thousand posts in 2020-21, most of them are still in the process.

از نیات لارو یا اجلاس منظور احمد پورہ نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو جیسیٹ درجہ اول لارو درخواست منجانب:- انایت حسن ڈنگہ ولد غلام حسن ڈنگہ ساکنہ اقبال پورہ بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ ایئر / RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتبہا برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ ایئر سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈ وائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و مدولیت	عمر	پیشہ	ادائی
۱۔	شازادہ بانو زوجہ غلام حسن ڈنگہ	47 سال	گھر بیلا کام	
۲۔	روحی جان دختر غلام حسن ڈنگہ	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۳۔	زیر احمد ڈنگہ ولد غلام حسن ڈنگہ	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۴۔	انایت حسن ڈنگہ ولد غلام حسن ڈنگہ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

سائل کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ 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۔ معیاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیات لارو یا اجلاس منظور احمد پورہ نائب تحصیلدار ایگزیکٹو جیسیٹ درجہ اول لارو درخواست منجانب:- حامد پڑولہ پڑولہ فاروق احمد پڑولہ ساکنہ گادون بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ ایئر / RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتبہا برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ ایئر سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈ وائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و مدولیت	عمر	پیشہ	ادائی
۱۔	فادوق احمد پڑولہ	45 سال	زمینداری	
۲۔	دلازادہ بانو زوجہ فاروق احمد پڑولہ	42 سال	گھر بیلا کام	
۳۔	بمیر احمد پڑولہ فاروق احمد پڑولہ	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۴۔	حامد احمد پڑولہ فاروق احمد پڑولہ	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۵۔	راعل احمد پڑولہ فاروق احمد پڑولہ	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۶۔	فرخان احمد پڑولہ فاروق احمد پڑولہ	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	

سائل کا کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ 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۔ معیاد گزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار۔

از عدالت ایگزیکٹو جیسیٹ درجہ اول (تحصیلدار انت ناگ) یا اجلاس عمر گلزار صاحب درخواست منجانب:- مظفر احمد برٹ ولد گل محمد برٹ ساکنہ کوارکام بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ نام:- عمیر احمد مظفر

اشتبہا برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل اسالیہ مذکورہ پانے عدالت بذمیں ایک درخواست طعنی بیان پیش کیا ہے سائل اسانکے دفتر کا تاریخ پیدائش 17/12/2020 ہے اس ضمن میں سرٹیفکیٹ پیدائش نکلنے کا جواہ ہے لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ مذکورہ کوارکام کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی تذریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں پیش کرے بصورت دیگر کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ایگزیکٹو جیسیٹ درجہ اول (تحصیلدار انت ناگ)

RNA

RASAM-E-CHAHARUM

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mukhti Banu W/O Mohammad Yusuf Bhat (Ex-AIO of Information Department) R/O Chewa Kalan Pulwama, who left for heavenly abode on January 04, 2022 (1 Jumada II, 1443 AH). May Almighty Allah bless the departed soul with Jannah (Ameen).

It is also informed that the Rasam-Chaharum will be observed on Saturday 8-1-2022 at her ancestral Graveyard at Pulwama.

Bereaved family
Mohammad Yousuf Bhat
Mudasir Yousuf
Cell No: 7006878917

X

RASAM-E-CHAHARUM

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Mohammad Hussain Mir, S/O Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/O Alipora Botakadal Srinagar, who left for heavenly abode on January 04, 2022 (1 Jumada II, 1443 AH). May Almighty Allah bless the departed soul with Jannah (Ameen).

It is also informed that the Rasam-Chaharum will be observed on Friday 7-1-2022 at his ancestral Graveyard at Malkha near Javid Gazali

Bereaved family

X

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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 :Naseema Nazir D/o: Nazir Ahmad Wani
R/o: Sagam Khalthar

RNA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL SPORTS OFFICER KASHMIR

Sub:-Snow SKI Course 2021-22 at Gulmarg

GENERAL INFORMATION

The J&K Sports Council is organizing 15 days Snow Skiing Courses Basic, Junior & Senior (Boys & Girls) at Gulmarg as per the blow mentioned age groups. In this connection, entry forms can be obtained from the office of the Div.Sports Officer Kashmir, Sports Council Pologround Play field Srinagar.

The details are as under:-

1. A) Age group for basic Course:- U-17 (not less than 12 years and not above 17 years as on 31-12-2021).
2. B) Junior Course:- U-21 (Not less than 17 years and not above 21 years as on 31-12-2021) and subject to production of his / her Basic SKI Course certificate issued by the recognized authority.
3. C) Senior Course: A player who has done Basic & Intermediate courses can be eligible for Senior SKI Course subject to production of his / her Basic & Intermediate SKI Course Certificates issued by the recognized Competent authority.
4. Date of Birth Certificate, Medical Fitness Certificate and COVID-19 Certificate Should be attached with the entry form along with passport size photograph.
5. Entry forms will be issued during office hours from 10th to 14th against cash payment of Rs 20/- (Non Refundable).
6. Last date for receipt of entry forms will be 15-01-2022 upto 4.00 PM

The Interview / Physical Test for all Age Groups shall be held on 17-01-2022, 18-01-2022 and 19-01-2022 at Indoor Sports Hall, Pologround Srinagar at 11.00 AM onwards.

For further details feel free to contact office Tel.No 9622878109 (10.00 AM to 4.00 PM).

Sd/-
 (Nuzhat Ara)
 Div.Sports Officer (K)

NO:- SC/SOK/40-II/1841-45
 Dt:- 04-01-2022

DIPK-NB-6398/21

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

SHORT TERM

NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER No. 19 of 2021-22
Dated: 01.01.2022

NOTE:- 1. The Bidders who have not started the works allotted in their favour in Right River Works Division need not to apply for bidding. As per the directions they are debarred from participating in bidding. Their Bid if they apply shall be deemed invalid.

2. Bidders should participate keeping in consideration their financial and physical capacity to execute the works as per the time schedule and in case of being successful for multiple works they will have to start/complete all allotted works simultaneously and failure at one place (work) shall be treated as failure at all other allotted places (Works).

3. The lowest quoted items to be executed in full. In case any deviations, the deductions as per the rates in vogue shall be implemented on the final comparative work done. For percentage tenders, variations in quantity if any shall be strictly as per financial code (PWD).

4. Note:- 0.55 lacs (Rs. 55000/-) has been kept balance from the sanctioned amount of Rs. 7.80 for payments against road cut charges, water connections and electric connection (7.80 lacs - 0.55 lacs) = 7.25 lacs Adv. Cost

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commissioner, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis (as per the J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020) from approved registered eligible Civil Contractors/ Self Help Groups for the below mentioned works.

S.No.	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Cost of T/ Doc. in Rs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor
1	Construction/Installation of water fountain of 12" dia at SKIMS Soura	7.25	300	14500	3 weeks	NCAP-National Clean Air programme	CEE/DEE
2	Construction/Installation of water fountain of 12" dia at Mirza Kamil Chowk Hawal	7.25	300	14500	3 weeks	NCAP-National Clean Air programme	CEE/DEE
3	Construction/Installation of water fountain of 12" dia at Sonawar near Gupkar Crossing	7.25	300	14500	3 weeks	NCAP-National Clean Air programme	CEE/DEE
4	Construction/Installation of water fountain of 12" dia at Dargah Hazratbal near Rumi Gate	7.25	300	14500	3 weeks	NCAP-National Clean Air programme	CEE/DEE
5	Construction/Installation of water fountain of 12" dia near National Institute of Technology Dargah crossing	7.25	300	14500	3 weeks	NCAP-National Clean Air programme	CEE/DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded.
 Technical Sanction: Accorded

The NleT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the date schedule given below.

S.No.	Particulars	Date from to
1	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT	01.01.2022 at 02:00 PM
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NleT	03.01.2022 from 11:00AM
3	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	03.01.2022 from 02:00 PM
4	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	14.01.2022 at 04:00 PM
5	Date of Bid opening	17.01.2022 at 11:00 AM
6	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/FDR) fresh dated and all other relevant documents (GST clearance, Bank Receipt/ Registration duly renewed etc.	18-01-2022 up to 04:00 PM

Note:- Fresh Date means the Documents Drawn after the issuance of said NleT.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The intending tenders should attach call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any schedule Bank without which no tender will be entertained. This condition is incorporated as per the Circular issued by Finance Department, Govt of J&K vide No. A/Misc (2018)-III-895-I dated: 22.12.2020.
2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)
3. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an E-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar).
4. The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank Receipts/challans.
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 Right River Works Division
 Srinagar Municipal Corporation

DIPK-NB-6366/21

No. SMC/EERRWD/2868-78.
 Dated: 01/01/2022

Why Are So Many Vaccinated People Getting Covid-19 Lately



Agencies

A couple of factors are at play, starting with the emergence of the highly contagious omicron variant. Omicron is more likely to infect people, even if it doesn't make them very sick, and its surge coincided with the holiday travel season in many places. People might mistakenly think the COVID-19 vaccines will completely block infection, but the shots are mainly designed to prevent severe illness, says Louis Mansky, a virus researcher at the University of Minnesota. And the vaccines are still doing their job on that front, particularly for people who've gotten boosters. Two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine still offer strong protection against serious illness from omicron. While those initial doses aren't very good at blocking omicron infection, boosters particularly with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines rev up levels of the antibodies to help fend off infection. Omicron appears to replicate much more efficiently than previous variants. And if infected people have high virus loads, there's a greater likelihood they'll pass it on to others, especially the unvaccinated. Vaccinated people who get the virus are more likely to have mild symptoms, if any, since the shots trigger multiple defenses in your immune system, making it much more difficult for omicron to slip past them all. Advice for staying safe hasn't changed. Doctors say to wear masks indoors, avoid crowds and get vaccinated and boosted. Even though the shots won't always keep you from catching the virus, they'll make it much more likely you stay alive and out of the hospital. (AP)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

FRESH NIT NO 259 (2nd Call of NIT21) OF RNB/KHANABAL/2021-22 /E-TENDERING/18773-83 DATED 04/01/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position of AA	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of bund from H/o Rafiq Banoo upto H/o Gh Nabi Malik at Arampora MC Anantnag	2.00	200	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ANG/146 of 2021 DATED 23.08.2021	DEE Class Only
2	Construction of drain from late Mohd Abdullah Khan upto Ab Rashid Agoo near illahi Masjid Sharief at Gaziabad Anchidora MC Anantnag	0.33	200	10 Days	IDMT	Accorded Vide Order No. MC/ANG/146 of 2021 DATED 23.08.2021	DEE Class Only

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-01-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 04-01-2022 To 10-01-2022 (02:00PM) (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 04-01-2022 To 10-01-2022 (02:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 11-01-2022 (03:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	11-01-2022 (10:30AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).

1. All the Bidders have 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).
2. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
6. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
8. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
9. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
10. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
11. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(Er Qazi Javeed Amin)
 Executive Engineer,
 R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-16214/21



Two Deluxe Houseboats Gutted In Dal Lake

Observer News service

Srinagar: Two houseboats and a building of a high-end hotel housing the staff quarters were damaged due to fire in separate incidents around the famous Dal Lake here on Wednesday, officials said.

A houseboat in the lake caught fire, which spread to an adjacent houseboat, in the early hours, causing damage to both the floating structures, they added.

Eyewitnesses said that fire broke out in a houseboat which soon engulfed another one near Ghat No 9 of the Dal Lake.

They said two deluxe houseboats namely ‘Apolo 11’ and ‘New Zealand’ were extensively damaged in the fire incident.

Witnesses said that after the hard efforts from fire fighters and locals fire was doused, however, both the houseboats were completely damaged in the incident.

another incident, a fire broke out in a building housing the staff quarters of a high-end heritage hotel located along the banks of the lake, the officials said.

Fire tenders were summoned and timely action prevented the blaze from spreading, they added.

There were no reports of anyone getting injured in any of the incidents, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the Travel Agents Society of Kashmir has appealed to the Government to compensate the fire victims.

President TASK, Muhammad Akram Siah and General Secretary Waseem Goosani made a fervent appeal to Commissioner Secretary and Director Tourism to compensate the owners of the gutted houseboats. They also appealed to LAWDA to allow the victims to renovate their damaged houseboats without any hindrances.



Bukhari Demands Ex-Gratia

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday expressed deep shock over a hapless fire incident in Dal Lake where two deluxe houseboats, Apollo 11 & New Zealand, were completely damaged. Issuing a statement

here, Bukhari termed the incident as extremely unfortunate and said the fire victims have borne losses worth lakhs that need to be adequately compensated by the administration in order to help them out.

“The district administration must dispatch its teams on ground zero to assess the losses incurred so

that ex-gratia relief is disbursed to these families on a prompt basis. Besides paying an adequate compensation, the concerned authorities must ensure that the victim families are temporarily rehabilitated to a suitable accommodation, keeping in view the harsh inclement weather conditions,” he demanded.

CCIK Demands Fire Tenders At Dal, Nageen

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) has expressed serious concern over the frequent fire incidents of the houseboats in Dal and Nigeen Lake.

While expressing solidarity with the affected owners, CCIK President Tariq Rashid Ghani said frequent fire incidents of the houseboats is a mat-

ter of great concern and the government must take steps to save this heritage tourism product.

Ghani said the government should set up several fire fighting tenders at both the lakes to prevent such incidents in the future.

CCIK also demanded immediate compensation for the affected owners and also appealed to concerned authorities to provide permission to the owners for its construction.

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: Naseema Nazir
D/O: Nazir Ahmad Wani
R/O: Sagam Khalhar

RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Balbir Singh S/o: Late Kirat Singh R/o: Dalwan Shougapora Budgam (Transferrer) of LMV Alto-800. Vehicle bearing registration number



JKO4C -7017 Chasis number 42066 Engine no. 25271 Model 2014. in favour of Shri.. Khalil Mohammad Wani S/o. Wali Mohammad Wani R/o Namtallah Chadoora Budgam (Transferee)
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 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5467
Dated 05/01/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Government of Jammu and Kashmir SKIMS Medical College-Hospital Bemina Srinagar (J&K)-190017 DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHITRY

Sub: Conduct of written test (Objective Type) for engagement of Counsellor and Data Manager on contractual basis advertised vide Notification No. 01 SKIMS MCH OF 2021 dated 18.09.2021.

CORRIGENDUM

Kindly read “Data Manager” instead of “Data Entry Operator” in the notification issued from this office vide No. SKIMS/MCH/PSY/2021/560-68 dated 28.12.2021 regarding the above captioned subject.

(Dr. Abdul Majid)
DIPK-NB-6375/21 Prof. & HOD Psychiatry & Nodal Officer, ATF Scheme

No. SKIMS/MCH/PSY/2022/04-12
Dated: 03 -01- 2022

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD,

Hema Complex, Adjacent to Gauri Shanker Mandir,
Channi Himmat, Sect 03, Jammu.
(www.jksb.nic.in)

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Document Verification of the candidates for the post of Horticulture Tech IV, Agriculture Department, District cadre Shopian, Item no 145, of Advise ment Notification No 01 of 2016- regarding.

It is notified for the information the concerned candidates, who had applied for the post of Horticulture Tech IV, Agriculture Department, District cadre Shopian, Item no 145, of Advise ment Notification No 01 of 2016, for which the CBT held among the other posts w.e.f 14th -18th November 2017. Keeping in view the requirement, to fill all requisitioned vacancies /posts, the candidates figuring in Annexure “A” to this notification are hereby called to appear physically for Document Verification before the Document Verification Committees on 13-01-2022 in the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board Central Office, Zum Zum Building Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Roll No Based Candidates) at 10.00 am. The candidates who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification committee(s) on the scheduled dates shall forfeit their claim for the post and no further notice shall be given in his regard. It is further notified that mere figuring in the Annexure to this notification will not entitle the candidates to be considered for the post.

- (i) The candidates figuring the annexures annexed herewith are required to carry the following documents in original as well as photocopies of the following documents i.e.
- (i) Copy of Online Application form.
(ii) D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma /Marks card).
(iii) Reservation category certificate, if applicable.
(iv) Domicile certificate.
(v) 10+2 Marks sheet /Diploma.
(vi) one year's Basic Horticulture Training
- (vii) Bonafide certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller /Registrar of the concerned University in respect of candidates, who have obtained degrees from the Universities/ Colleges/Institutes outside the State of J&K, other than Central Universities
- (viii) Other documents as per prescribe qualification shown in the advertisement.
- (ii) Some candidates are figuring in reserved categories, based on the details they have incorporated in their data i.e., online application form. Their respective claims on this account are further subject to production of valid Reserve Category Certificate By Order.

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS
Controller of Examination
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu.

No.SSB/COE/2022/57-64

Dated:- 04-01-2022

Annexure “A”					
List of candidates called for Documents Verification for the post of Horticulture Tech IV, (Agriculture Department), District cadre Shopian, Item No 145 of Advt Notice No 01 of 2016					
SL No	Roll Number	NAME	FATHERNAME	ADDRESS	CATEGORY Percentage
1	212513210664	NISAR AHMAD BHAT	GH HASSAN BHAT	ZAINABATOO SHOPIAN KASHMIR	OM 29.1667
2	212313210561	MOHAMMAD AYOUB RATHER	GH RASOOL RATHER	HILLOW IMAMSAHIB SHOPIAN	OM 29.1667
3	212013210369	ASIF IQBAL	BASHIR AHMAD NAJAR	tukroo shopian shopian	OM 28.0000
4	212013212357	NISAR AHMAD MALIK	GH AHMAD MALIK	shahlatoo shopian shopian	OM 28.0000
5	212213210520	MUBASHIR BASHIR	BASHIR AHMAD LONE	AHGAM NEAR JAMIA MASJID P/O HAWAL	OM 27.5000
6	212813210767	MANZOOR AHMAD MALLA	MOHD HUSSAIN MALLA	ZAINAPORA SHOPIAN	OM 25.0000
7	212313210556	YASIRUL GULZAR LONE	GULZAR AHMAD LONE	WACHI SHOPIAN P/O WACHI TEHSIL SHOPIAN	OM 24.5000
8	211913210287	MALIK MASOODUL HASSAN	MUSHTAQ AHMAD MALIK	near post office malik mohala ada shopian	OM 24.1667
9	212213210516	JAMSHEED AHMAD DAR	GH MOHAMMAD DAR	PASHPORA SHOPIAN	OM 24.1667
10	212713210727	SHABIR AHMAD DAR	GH MOHAMMAD DAR	PAHNPORA SHOPIAN	OM 23.8333
11	212813210784	SAJAD AHMAD SHAH	MR MOHD YAQOOB SHAH	MEMANDER SHOPIAN KASHMIR	OM 23.5000
12	211913210265	NEELOFAR JAN	AB SALAM MALIK	GAGREN SHOPIAN	OM 23.5000
13	212213210513	RUHSHANA ARA	MOHD ASLAM MALIK	BATAPORA SHOPIAN	OM 21.6667
14	212113210456	SHEERAZ AHMAD BHAT	ABDUL GANI BHAT	keegam shopian keegam shopian	OM 21.6667
15	212013210368	ZAFAR IQBAL	MR GULAM MOHAMMAD SHERGOURI	aglar chirat shopian	OM 21.6667
16	211913210285	MUDASIR HUSSAIN RATHER	GH QADIR RATHER	BONGAM SHOPIAN KASHMIR	OM 21.6667
17	212313210565	NISAR AHMAD BHAT	GULAM MOHD BHAT	chitragam kalan shopian	OM 21.0000
18	212713210732	SHABIR AHMAD WANI	MR GH NABI WANI	SUGAN DRAGAD SHOPIAN	RBA 20.8333
19	212113210335	ASHMAT FAROOQ	FAROOQ AHMAD BHAT	GANOWPORA ARSHI SHOPIAN KASHMIR	RBA 20.8333
20	212713210742	MUZAMIL HUSSAIN SHAH	GULAM HASSAN SHAHH	DANGERPORA P/O TRENZ SHOPIAN	RBA 20.1667
21	212313210568	AJAZ AHMAD MIR	GH HASSAN MIR	KUNGNOO SHOPIAN POST OFFICE ACHAN TEHSIL SHOPIAN	OM 20.0000
22	212413210621	BILAL AHMAD MALIK	MUSHTAQ AHMAD MALIK	Shahlatoo Shopian	OM 19.8333
23	212413210603	ZEENAT UL ISLAM	GH MOHAMMAD BHAT	RANIPORA SHOPIAN	OM 19.6667
24	212213210500	PEER SYED IBADULLAH	PEER SYED AMANULLAH	CHOWGAM SHOPIAN KASHMIR	OM 19.6667
25	212513210669	GOWHER AHMAD DAR	GH MOHAMMAD DAR	chitragam chitragam shopian	OM 17.5000
26	212013210342	AB RAAFI BHAT	GH RASOOL BHAT	hillow imamsahib shopian	OM 17.0000
27	212013210377	MANZOOR AHMAD PARAY	AB AHAD PARAY	SAZAN SHOPIAN POST OFFICE AHAGAM TEHSIL KEEGAM	OM 15.6667
28	212513210675	MUZAMIL AHMAD PADDER	MUSHTAQ AHMAD PADDER	HEFF SHOPIAN POST OFFICE ACHAN TEHSIL CHITRAGAM	OM 15.0000
29	212113210449	RAYEES AHMAD RAYEES	AB AZIZ KUMAR	HERGAM KANIPORA NEAR SANGLOO BRIDGE SHOPIAN	OM 14.8333
30	212013210355	ASHAQ HUSSAIN	GH MOHD BHAT	KEEGAM SHOPIAN POST OFFICE HAWAL TEHSIL KEEGAM	OM 14.1667
31	212413210610	NAZIR AHMAD MIR	SUNA ULLA MIR	CHITRAGAM KALAN CHITRAGAM SHOP- IAN	OM 14.1667
32	212213210503	IMTIYAZ HUSSAIN BHAT	GH HASSAN BHAT	NADIGAM SHOPIAN NADIGAM SHOPIAN SHOPIAN	OM 13.6667
33	212713210734	ZAHID MANSOOR	MR MANSOOR AHMAD MIR	BONGAM SHOPIAN	OM 13.1667
34	212013210346	RAFIQ AHMAD MALIK	MUSHTAQ AHMADD MALIK	chitragam chitragam Shopian	OM 12.5000
35	211913210262	AB BARI BHAT	GH MOHD BHAT	HARDU HANDEW SHOPIAN	OM 12.5000
36	212513210652	TARIQ AHMAD MIR	ABDUL KHALIQ MIR	MOHANDPORA TRENZ SHOPIAN KASH- MIR	RBA 12.3333
37	212713210730	AALIMAH MAQBOOL	MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT	NOWPORA SHOPAIN	OM 11.3333
38	212013212360	HILAL AHMAD MALIK	ABDUL GANI MALIK	NAGISHARAN BALA SHOPIAN	RBA 9.5000
39	212113210462	SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT	Zawoora Baderhama shopian		RBA 8.3333
40	212113210447	NAFI AHMAD MIR	MOHD YOUSUF MIR	SAIDPORA SHOPIAN KASHMIR	RBA 6.6667
41	212313210567	HILAL AHMAD BHAT	AB AHAD BHAT	BASKUCHAN NOWPORA IMAMSAHIB	OM 4.6667

DIPK-16205/21

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS
Controller of Examination
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu

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
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

02 Jumada al-Sani
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 08

ZUHR 12:35

ASR 3:57

Magrib 5:37

ISHA 7: 03

This Day In History

- 1661 - The Fifth Monarchists unsuccessfully attempt to seize control of London
- 1781 - Battle of Jersey: Major Francis Peirson and his men defeat invading French troops
- 1784 - Turkey & Russia sign treaty in Constantinople
- 1809 - Napoleonic Wars: Invasion of Cayenne, by combined British, Portuguese and colonial
- Brazilian forces, begins
- 1842 - 4,500 British & Indian troops leave Kabul, mas- sacred before reaching India
- 1853 - Franklin Pierce, the President-elect of the United States at the time, and his family are involved in a train wreck in Massachusetts
- 1857 - Patent for reducing zinc ore granted to Samuel Wetherill, Penn
- 1887 - Abd-allah II of Harar opens the Battle of Chelengo with an attack on the camp of the Shewan army of Negus Menelik II
- 1896 - 1st US women's 6-day bicycle race starts, Madison Square Garden
- message from a submerged submarine, by Simon Lake
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 1907 - Maria Montessori opens her 1st (Montessori) school (Rome)
- 1912 - New Mexico becomes 47th state of the Union
- 1912 - Alfred Wegener, geophysicist and meteorologist, presents his controversial theory of continental drift in a lecture at a the Geological Association (Geologischen Vereinigung) at the Senckenberg-Museum, Frankfurt.
- 1921 - The Iraqi Army is formed
- 1925 - Mussolini forms a cabinet composed entirely of Fas- cists in Italy
- 1929 - Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta to begin a her work amongst India's poorest
- 1930 - 1st diesel engine automobile trip (in a Packard sedan) completed
- 1931 - Thomas Edison submits his last patent application
- 1941 - US President Franklin Roosevelt makes his "Four Freedoms" speech (freedom of speech and worship; freedom from want and fear) during his US State of Union address
- 1950 - Britain recognizes Communist government of China

From KO Archives

Who will go to Pakistan?

Prof Ghani wants passports for all

NEW DELHI - Caught in a cleft stick over the choice of a Hurriyat Conference team to visit Pakistan, its chairman, Abdul Ghani Bhat, today said the Centre should give passports to all the seven executive members of the amalgam to make the dream of peace initiatives between India and Pakistan a reality.

"We trust the Government Issue passports in favour of all the seven members of the executive council with a view to helping the process to move forward in the right direction/ Bhat told PTI over phone from Srinagar.

With consensus elusive on the composition of the team, Bhat has been authorised to nominate the team to hold talks with militant leadership and other Pakistani officials.

Insiders say Bhat will have to do a tight rope walking as it would be difficult for him to choose a team in the wake of statements by Hizb-ul-Mujahideen asking them to include firebrand Jamaat-e-Islami leader Syed Ah Shah Geelani in the team travelling to Pakistan.

Bhat would be waiting for a goodwill gesture from Geelani like the one from Abdul Ghani Lone, who on January 1 said he would opt out of the team if it was required for consensus.

When it was pointed out to Hurriyat chairman that Geelani and another senior Hurriyat leader Sheikh Abdul Aziz had not applied either in writing or verbally for passport, Bhat said probably it should be taken in the larger interest as a request for the issuance of the passports to them too.

However, the Centre, which is understood to have given clearance for issuance of travel documents to Bhat, Lone, Shia leader Moulana Abbas Ansari and providing new travel document to JKLF leader Yaseen Malik (who applied in September last year), has not given a go ahead for passports to Geelani and Aziz.

Informed sources said that since these two had not applied for the same, a decision could not be taken.

The Hurriyat chairman is, however, of the opinion that the peace initiative needs to be pushed forward in the right perspective in order to achieve a breakthrough.

All of us in Delhi, Islamabad as well as Srinagar and Muzaf- farabad (in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir) will have to proceed imaginatively and with openness to make the peace process a genuine, purposeful and a result-oriented exercise, the Hurriyat chairman said

We have to achieve a breakthrough but this has to be borne in mind that we cannot do it unless we make a positively good beginning, Bhat said and added issuance of passports to all Hurriyat members will mean that a beginning has been made.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 06 January, 2001)

'Dharam Sansad' For Liberating Temples From Govt Control

Agencies

New Delhi: Prominent seers and religious organisations have decided to take a firm decision' to free Hindu temples and mutts across the country from the control of state governments at the 'Dharam Sansad' to be held later this month at the upcoming Magh Mela in Prayagraj.

Mahant Ravindra Puri, president of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), the apex decision-making body of 13 Hindu akharas or monastic orders of the country, said, "The all-important 'Dharam Sansad', scheduled to be held on January 30, will prepare a blueprint for a mass movement to be launched for freeing temples from government control."

Puri said, "It is an irony that several officials, who are of different religions, take decisions on our temples and mutts and this situation cannot be allowed to continue any more. Affairs of many prominent temples of our country, including Tirupati Balaji, Sri Jagannath or Siddhi Vinayak, are being looked after by the government. Furthermore, there are some temples and mutts which are being looked after by persons who are of different religions and are not well aware of our religious practices and rituals."

President of Akhil Bhar-

tiya Dandi Swami Parishad, Swami Brahmashram, said, "Governments should not have a say in managing funds, day-to-day affairs or for that matter the religious rituals and practices of temples and mutts."

The 'Dharam Sansad' at Magh Mela is significant because it represents all saints and religious organisations and is authorised to take up issues related to Hindu religion.

The Dharam Sansad has earlier discussed the issues like construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Krishna temple at Mathura, Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, making the Ganga pollution-free, deaths of cows, etc.

Meanwhile, it has been decided by the prominent seers of the Akhara Parishad that a 'panchkoshi parikrama' would be held at Prayagraj from January 27 to 29.

ABAP general secretary Mahant Hari Giri would lead the 'parikrama'.

The Dharam Sansad is proposed to be held at a camp named after 'Bhagwan Duttatreya' on January 30.

Prominent seers and religious organisations have decided to take a 'firm decision' to free Hindu temples and mutts across the country from the control of state governments at the 'Dharam Sansad' to be held later this month at the upcoming Magh Mela in Prayagraj.

Karnataka College Students Wear Saffron Scarves To Protest Against Hijab In Classroom

Agencies

Chikkamagaluru: The management of a state-run degree college in Karnataka's Koppa is in a fix after a section of students came to college wearing saffron scarves protesting against the Muslim women allegedly attending classes with hijab.

The Government Degree College in Balagadi, which had reportedly given in to the demand of the students with saffron scarves initially and asked women not to attend classes wearing hijab, has now decided to allow everyone to wear whatever they wish to till January 10.

"We are convening a parent-teachers meeting which will also be attended by public representatives on January 10 to resolve the issue. The decision arrived at would be a binding on everyone," Mr Ananth Murthy, principal of the college, told PTT.

He said three years ago a decision was taken in a similar meeting and that was abided by everyone till now.

"Everything was going smoothly but yesterday some students suddenly appeared in the class wearing scarves.

They were objecting to the dress code of some students," Mr Murthy added.

A B. Com second-year student Vinay Koppa alleged that Muslim women were coming to the college wearing hijab.

"Three years ago, a similar controversy had erupted in the college and it was decided that no one should come to the college wearing hijab but for the past few

days some women are coming to the college wearing it. Hence, we decided to come to the college wearing saffron scarves from yesterday," the student said.

He also claimed that upon their request the college administration had asked the Muslim women several times not to sport hijab in the campus but they did not budge.

The student warned that if this issue was not addressed then they would intensify their agitation in the coming days.



Major Lapse In PM's Security In Punjab After Protesters Block Flyover, Visit Cut Short

Agencies

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Punjab visit was cut short on Wednesday after a "major security lapse" as he was stranded on a flyover for 20 minutes due to a blockade by protesters, prompting the Union Home Ministry to seek an immediate report from the state government and strict action against those responsible.

According to a ministry statement, the prime minister landed this morning at Bathinda from where he was to go to the national martyrs' memorial at Hussainiwalla by helicopter and due to rain and poor visibility, he waited for about 20 minutes for the weather to clear out.

"When the weather did not improve, it was decided that he would visit the national martyrs' memorial via road, which would take more than two hours. He proceeded to travel by road after necessary confirmation of security arrangements by the DGP Punjab Police," the statement said.

Around 30 km away from the memorial, when Modi's convoy reached a flyover, it was found that the road was blocked by some protesters.

"The Prime Minister was stuck on a flyover for 15-20 minutes. This was a major lapse in the security of the Prime Minister," the statement said.

After the serious lapse in security, his convoy decided to return without attending an event at a martyrs' memorial, a home ministry statement said.

The prime minister also could not attend a rally in Ferozepur.

The home ministry has asked the Punjab government to fix responsibility for the lapse and take strict action.

It said the prime minister's schedule and travel plan were communicated well in advance to the Punjab government and as per procedure, they have to make necessary arrangements for logistics, security as well as keep a contingency plan ready.

According to the laid down procedure, an alternative route has to be kept in readiness for which clearance of the roads along with deployment

of security personnel has to be ensured by the state government, an official said.

In the statement, the home ministry said that in view of the contingency plan the Punjab government has to deploy additional security to secure any movement by road, which were clearly not deployed.

"After this security lapse, it was decided to head back to Bathinda airport," the statement said

The home ministry, taking cognisance of this serious security lapse, has sought a detailed report from the Punjab government.

The incident drew an angry reaction from BJP president J P Nadda who accused the Congress government in Punjab of trying "all possible tricks to scuttle" the prime minister's programmes in the state.

"To make matters worse, (state) CM (Charanjit Singh) Channi refused to get on the phone to either address the matter or solve it.

"The tactics used by the Congress government in Punjab would pain anyone who believes in democratic principles," Nadda said in a tweet.

Govt Issues Revised Guidelines For Home Isolation, Here's What You Need To Know

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi:The Union health ministry on Wednesday said COVID-19 patients under home isolation will stand discharged after at least seven days from testing positive and no fever for three successive days, in revised guidelines for home isolation of mild or asymptomatic cases.

It also advised people not to rush for self-medication, blood investigation or radiological imaging like chest X-ray or CT scan without consultation of treating medical officer.

Underlining that steroids are not indicated in mild disease and should not be self-administered, the ministry said overuse and inappropriate use of steroids may lead to additional complications.

Treatment for every patient needs to be monitored individually as per the specific condition of the patient concerned and hence generic sharing of prescriptions

should be avoided, the revised guidelines stated.

According to the guidelines, patients under home isolation will stand discharged and end isolation after at least seven days have passed from testing positive and no fever for three successive days, but they shall continue wearing masks. Earlier, the duration of home isolation ended after 10 days of onset of symptoms.

There is no need for re-testing after the home isolation period is over. Asymptomatic contacts of infected individuals need not undergo Covid test and monitor health in home quarantine, the guidelines stated.

"Information floating through social media mentioning non-authentic and non-evidence based treatment protocols can harm patients. Misinformation leading to creation of panic and in-turn undertaking tests and treatment which are not required has to be avoided.

"Do not rush for self-medication, blood investigation or radiological imaging like chest X ray or chest CT scan without consultation of your treating medical officer," the guidelines read.

The revised guidelines also specified that the district administration under the overall supervision of the State Health Authority shall be responsible for monitoring patients under home isolation.

Listing responsibilities of grass root level surveillance teams, the ministry said the teams (ANM, sanitary inspector, MPHW etc) shall be responsible for initial assessment of the patient and whether the requisite facilities are there for home isolation.

The health worker should contact the patient daily, preferably in-person or over telephone/mobile, and obtain the details of temperature, pulse, oxygen saturation, patients overall wellness and worsening of signs/symptoms.

Kazakh Protesters Storm Gov't Office In Almaty As Crisis Deepens

Agencies

Nur-Sultan: Demonstrators have forced their way into a government building in Kazakhstan's biggest city as rare nationwide protests that began over a sharp rise in fuel prices extended into a fourth day.

Armed with clubs and metal bars, protesters stormed into the mayor's office in Almaty on Wednesday, according to local news website Zakon.kz.

An Instagram live stream by a Kazakh blogger showed

many Kazakh news sites became inaccessible. The global internet monitor Netblocks said the country was experiencing a widespread internet blackout.

State of emergency

In a failed attempt at quelling the crisis, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who has blamed foreign "provocateurs" for the protests, sacked Kazakhstan's government early on Wednesday and declared a state of emergency in Almaty and the surrounding province, with



a fire blazing at the office while gunshots could be heard nearby.

A crowd was seen gathering outside the building against a backdrop of stun grenade explosions, which were reportedly set off by security forces.

Meanwhile, thousands massed outside the presidential residence in the city. A fire at the city prosecutor's office also was reported.

Almaty's police chief, Kanat Taimergenov, blamed the unrest on "extremists and radicals", adding that protesters had assaulted 500 civilians and ransacked hundreds of businesses.

Police, National Guard and military units were involved in the security response.

More than 200 people have been arrested since the protests began.

On Wednesday afternoon,

a curfew and movement restrictions. Dissent in the vast Central Asian nation, which is about the size of Western Europe, started rising over the weekend after price caps on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) were lifted.

Many Kazakhs have converted their cars to run on LPG because of its low cost, but prices more than doubled after the caps were raised.

Bruce Pannier, a Central Asia correspondent for Radio Free Europe and an expert on the region, told Al Jazeera that the recent demonstrations in the former Soviet republic had "caught everyone by surprise".

"As these protests tend to do, they started for economic reasons ... but quickly took a political angle, where people started calling for free elections for local officials and the ouster of top officials," he said.

Civil services (main) exam to be conducted from Friday: UPSC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2021 will be conducted as per schedule from Friday, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said on Wednesday.

The UPSC has asked the state governments to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the candidates and examination functionaries in their movement.

The states have been told that if necessary, the e-admit cards of the candidates and the identity cards of the examination functionaries are to be used as movement passes, the UPSC said.

"After carefully reviewing the situation prevailing due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has decided to conduct the Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2021 as per schedule i.e. on 7th, 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th January, 2022," it said in a statement.

The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages—preliminary, main and interview—to select the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, among others.

NEWS MAKERS

The Taliban has ordered shop owners in western Afghanistan to remove the heads of mannequins, insisting the life-sized figures violate Islamic law, according to a report. A video clip showing men sawing the plastic heads off female dummies went viral on social media, the AFP news agency reported on Wednesday.

Since returning to power in August, the Taliban has increasingly imposed their interpretation of Islamic law, severely curtailing freedoms, particularly those of women and girls.

"We have ordered the shopkeepers to cut the heads off mannequins as this is against (Islamic) Sharia law," Aziz Rahman, the head of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in the city of Herat, was quoted as saying by AFP.

"If they just cover the



Taliban orders shop owners to remove heads of mannequins

head or hide the entire mannequin, the angel of Allah will not enter their shop or house and bless them," Rahman added after some vendors initially responded by covering the heads of man-

nequins with plastic bags or headscarves.

The Taliban has so far issued no national policy on mannequins or statues. Under the group's interpretation of Islamic law, depictions of the

human figure are forbidden.

During their first government in the 1990s, the Taliban triggered global outrage after blowing up two ancient Buddha statues.

Since seizing power, they have banned girls from secondary schools in several provinces while women have largely been prevented from working in the public sector and excluded from government positions.

Burka-wearing Afghan women walk past a clothing shop, in HeratAfghan women walk past a clothing shop in Herat, Afghanistan [File: Petros Giannakouris/ AP]

Last week, authorities in Kabul said women seeking to travel long distances should not be offered road transport unless accompanied by a close male relative.

The group has increased raids on liquor sellers, rounded up drug addicts and banned music.

"Guardian Angel": Dog Leads Cops To Owner's Crashed Car Site

Washington: A dog in New Hampshire was being hailed as a real-life "Lassie"

Tuesday after leading police to the scene of a serious car crash that left her owner injured and suffering from hypothermia.

The one-year-old dog, a breed known as a Shiloh Shepherd called Tinsley, ran down a highway on the New Hampshire border with Vermont late Monday, prompting motorists to alert the highway patrol.

When police officers spotted the dog and tried to catch it, she kept running and led them into Vermont, where the officers spotted a gap in the guard rail and discovered a badly damaged pickup truck that had rolled over.

Two people, one of whom



was Tinsley's owner, had been thrown from the vehicle and were already suffering from the onset of hypothermia.

"It quickly became apparent that Tinsley led (law enforcement) to the crash site and injured occupants," New Hampshire police said in a statement

on their Facebook page.

"They could tell the dog was trying to show them something because she kept trying to get away from them but didn't run away totally," New Hampshire police officer Daniel Baldassarre told local news channel WCVB.

Booster Dose From Different Vaccine Offers Better Protection: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday said booster dose from a Covid-19 vaccine that is different from the one used for initial vaccination offers better protection.

"Booster shots from a different vaccine are highly effective in preventing Covid-19 infection," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Quoting Cov-Boost study from UK, Dr Hassan said the immune response increases significantly if Novavax is used as a booster after two doses of AstraZeneca (known as Covishield in India) and a further increase is seen with the inclusion of mRNA vaccine.

"The study showed that the booster dose of Covishield increased the antibody levels by 3.25, while a booster shot of Covavax increased the same by eight times and mRNA vaccine boosted the titers by 24 times," he said.

Novavax, a US-based protein vaccine which is manufactured in India under the brand name Covavax was recently approved by central drug authority, CDSCO.

The DAK President said mixing different vaccines is called heterologous prime-boost and it trains the body's immune system to recognize the virus in more than one way.

"Interchangeability of vaccines could make the fight against Covid-19 stronger and help prevent and control the spread of Covid-19 in communities," he added.

"Of the approved vaccines, we have data for Covavax as a better booster," said Dr Nisar.

"So it is reasonable to change booster to Covavax to those who have received two doses of Covishield than another dose of the same vaccine," he said.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said booster shot is the third or the additional dose of Covid-19 vaccine given to ensure the protection is maintained against the new variants.

"While two doses of Covid-19 vaccine may still offer protection against severe disease, the immunity begins to wane after a period of 6 months," he said.

Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Dagga said with the emergence of new omicron variant, booster shot becomes crucial.

"Booster doses have been found to offer protection against the highly transmissible omicron variant," he said.

"While India will start administering booster shots from January 10, the government is yet to take a call on whether it will allow switching of vaccine or the third dose will continue to be the same as the primary vaccine," he added.

LG Calls For Promoting Education With NEP-2020



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called for promoting education in consonance with NEP-2020, incorporating latest technological interventions for holistic development of students.

Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, Waqf Development Com-

mittee of Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, at Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

Andrabi, who was accompanied by a delegation of educationists, expressed gratitude to the LG for the recent initiatives and futuristic reforms brought in J&K's education sector.

"The members of the delegation discussed with the Lt Governor their roadmap of educational initiatives in the UT for

promoting utilitarian and universal education," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG while interacting with the members of the delegation assured them of all support of the UT administration for their endeavours in the education sector.

"He called for promoting education in consonance with NEP-2020, incorporating latest technological interventions for holistic development of students," he added.

BJP Putting J&K On 'Sale', Says Congress Leader

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Raman Bhalla on Wednesday accused BJP of betraying people by putting the region's land and jobs on sale to outsiders.

Bhalla, a former minister, repeated his party's demand for restoration of statehood to J&K saying the party will launch an awareness programme to tell people about the drawback of not getting statehood for J&K.

BJP had promised to protect the land and jobs of J&K but has betrayed the huge mandate (from Jammu) it got and opened up sale of land and jobs to outsiders, while in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, no outsiders can purchase land, the working president of the party in state said.

Addressing a meeting of district congress committee, Jammu (Rural), Bhalla said the Naya Kashmir of BJP was weak on democratic moorings and nothing like the original idea.

Compelling narratives of progress, modernity and development to justify the unconstitutional actions in J&K have fallen flat. Aggressive policies of BJP towards the region have hurt its development path and its economy, he said.

He alleged that the BJP was on a mission to disenfranchise people of J&K with its selective policies and a coterie of federally appointed officers bereft of democratic bearings.

The downpour of fresh investments, job extravaganza, and infrastructure amplification is nowhere visible on the ground.

"Far from delivering on much-touted development promises, the people of J&K are continuously being denied their rights, even the right of being governed by a popular government, he said.

Bhalla alleged that the government has failed to reconcile with the legitimate political aspirations of the people of J&K.

Today democracy in J&K is

facing onslaughts from none other than the ruling party itself. Ideally the political and ideological difference should have been put aside while dealing with a sensitive region like that of ours, he said.

He said the major stress of the government should have been to mitigate the miseries of the unemployed youth who regrettably have grown up in conflict, yet it did nothing substantial in that regard.

The Congress leader said Jammu has witnessed huge setbacks due to the revocation of statehood and suppression of political and civil rights by the BJP-led government.

The economy has also suffered immensely due to the government's irrational policies and decisions, he said.

It is high time the Centre kept its promise of giving back the region its statehood so that people can exercise their political rights by choosing a democratic government, Bhalla said.

ILS Installation To Raise Visibility At Srinagar Airport Next Year: AAI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Wednesday announced that the process for installation of CAT-II instrument landing system (ILS) at Srinagar 'International' Airport will commence in April this year and will be completed by November.

ILS is a radio navigation system that provides short-range guidance to aircraft to allow

them to approach a runway at night or in bad weather.

"Hopefully, next winter, our visibility requirement will reduce from 900 M to 500 M," Airports Authority of India (AAI) said in a statement.

So far a number of flights to and fro Srinagar airport were cancelled due to poor visibility, 42 out of the 44 flights were cancelled at the airport on Tuesday.

Landslide Hits New Track To Vaishno Devi Shrine

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The new track to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was briefly closed on Wednesday following a minor landslide, while helicopter services remained suspended owing to inclement weather, officials said.

The landslide struck the new track at Panchi late in the afternoon amid heavy rains, prompting the authorities to suspend the battery car service, they said.

The officials said the movement of the pilgrims was diverted to the old track but it was later resumed after the debris of the landslide were cleared. However, the battery car service has been suspended till further orders as a precautionary measure, they added.

The officials said the helicopter service remained suspended for the day due to the bad weather.

Most parts of Kashmir and high-altitude areas of Jammu region, including the Jawahar Tunnel, recorded moderate snowfall, while the plains including Jammu city and Katra the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine were lashed by intermittent rains since early Tuesday.

According to an advisory issued by the meteorological department, moderate to heavy rain or snow is most likely during January 5-8.

The officials said snowfall was also reported from the upper reaches of the Trikuta hills but there was no snowfall yet at the shrine, where the yatra was continuing smoothly.

The weather office said Katra recorded 84.2 mm of rainfall from January 3 (8.30 am) till January 5 (5.30 pm), which was the highest in Jammu region. Jammu city witnessed 48.3 mm of rainfall during the same period.

Labourer Injured In Under-Construction Bridge Collapse Dies

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A labourer undergoing treatment for injuries sustained when an iron shuttering of an under-construction bridge collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district has died, officials said on Tuesday.

Madan Lal of Chak Chandu in Suchetgarh was critically injured and was undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital Jammu, they said. Lal was among 27 people injured in the accident which occurred on Sunday.

The bridge is being construct-

ed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) over the Devika river at Ramgarh-Koulpur.

Lal was a construction worker with the BRO, which has announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh and a job to his next of kin, the officials said.

Samba District Development Commissioner Anuradha Gupta has already ordered a probe by an additional deputy commissioner into the incident and asked for a report in three days.

Gupta expressed grief over Lal's death and released an additional financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh as immediate relief to his family.

Pylon Work Of India's First Cable-Stayed Railway Bridge Completed In J&K

JAMMU: Pylon work of India's first cable-stayed railway bridge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was completed on Tuesday, officials said, terming it a breakthrough in connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country by train within the next couple of years.

The Anji Khad bridge having a single pylon with a height of 331 metres above the river bed on the Rs 21,653-crore Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is a milestone project of the Indian Railways, they said.

"When I came here, it was a major challenge for us to complete the work on the pylon which is the lifeline of a bridge. The pylon is complete now, and we are hopeful of constructing this engineering marvel within one year," project manager, Hindustan Construction Company, Ajay Kumar Pasheen told reporters.

"All phases of the pylon work stand completed, and we are ready to move ahead to com-

plete the bridge," he said.

Another engineer said he had joined the site at the beginning of the work in March 2017 and is happy to be part of the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge.

He said the Anji Khad bridge, which is going to connect Katra and Reasi, is an engineering marvel.

The bridge has a total length of 473.25 metres, while the length of the viaduct is 120 metres and the central embankment 94.25 metres, the official said, adding it is supported by 96 cables.

He said the bridge has been designed to handle strong winds and even explosions.

In October 2016, the Railways decided to build a cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad after the plan to build an arch bridge similar to Chenab bridge was abandoned due to vulnerability of the structure primarily over concerns around geological stability of the region.

NC Questions Delimitation Panel's Proposals For J&K

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Terming the Reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir Act "constitutionally suspect", the National Conference (NC) questioned the Delimitation Panel's recommendations for the union territory, especially its rationale behind increasing six seats in Jammu division against one in Kashmir region.

In its reply to the commission, the NC said there were question marks over the panel's constitutional propriety, especially when the party along with several others, had approached the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's 2019 action of revoking the special status of the erstwhile state and bifurcating it into the Union territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The party said the commission was formed because of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which was under judicial scrutiny, and on which the apex court is yet to deliver its order.

The panel's recommendations were born out of an act which is "constitutionally suspect", it said.

According to legal parlance, if any act is under judicial scrutiny and the apex court is seized of the matter, the act can be termed a "constitutionally suspect" law.

The party said the principle of constitutional propriety demands that such a law should not be implemented and all the limbs of the state and their institutions should, out of deference to the top constitutional court, desist from implementing such a law till its constitutionality is determined.

Three Lok Sabha members of the NC -- Farooq Abdullah, Justice (ret'd) Hasnain Masoodi and Akbar Lone -- had participated in the second meeting of the Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (ret'd) Ranjana Desai last month.

The commission's draft recommendations were presented in a meeting in New Delhi on December 20, 2021. It was attended by the three MPs of the NC and two of the BJP. The panel had sought the comments of the MPs, who are also its associate members, by December 31, 2021.

The NC had vociferously opposed the draft, which proposed to increase the number of assembly seats in the Jammu division from 37 to 43 and in Kashmir from 46 to 47.

It also challenged the panel's theory that the seats in Jammu region had to be increased because of difficult terrain and geographically remote areas, highlighting that several areas in Kashmir remain cut-off for months and are equally arduous.

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UGC AUTONOMOUS
(NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE-A)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS NO.12 OF 2022 DATED 03-01-2022

For and on behalf of the Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar "Accounts officer, Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar" invites e-tenders through www.jktenders.gov.in as RFP in two cover format for designing, printing, binding and supply of College Prospectus/ Newsletter for the academic session 2022. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.) set of terms and conditions and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the JK e-Tender website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
1.	e-Tender Notice No.12 of 2022 dated 03-01-2022		
2.	Date of issuance of Tender Notice	05-01-2022	01:00 p.m.
3.	Start of downloading of bid documents	05-01-2022	03:00 p.m.
4.	Bid/ Tender submission start date	06-01-2022	01:00 p.m.
5.	Bid/ Tender submission end date	14-01-2022	03:00 p.m.
6.	Deadline for receiving the hardcopies	17-01-2022	01:00 p.m.
7.	Opening of technical bid/ tender	17-01-2022	02:00 p.m.
8.	Online financial e-Bid opening date and time (only of the technical qualified bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation	
9.	Venue of opening technical and financial e-Bids	College campus	
10.	Cost of the e-Tender Document	Rs.500/-	

The interested bidders to submit their offers in terms and conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this Tender Document. Further, any notification regarding this tender shall be available on the College website www.islamiacollege.edu.in and all bidders should be visiting the same to remain updated. The undersigned reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Please also read GeM BOQ No.: GEM/2022/B/1822069 DATED 03-01-2022 for the aforementioned items.

No. ICS/2924-29/E-33/A-35
Dated:03-01-2022

Sd-
Accounts officer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

NOTIFICATION JAMMU, THE 29TH DECEMBER, 2021

S.O. 441 Whereas Nikhil Gupta S/o Sh. Ravi Kumar Gupta R/o H.No-69, Raghunathpura, Jammu, J&K-180010 has filed an application under Section 17(1) of the Working Journalist & Other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 before the Labour Commissioner (Authority, Working Journalist Act. 1955) on 03-08-2021 against the management- (1) Managing Director, M/s Amar Ujala Ltd. New Delhi (2) Branch Manager, M/s Amar Ujala, Jammu, wherein applicant has stated that he was employed by the respondents/ management as Executive (MIS) in their Marketing Department at Jammu Branch on 06.12.2010. He was transferred from marketing (MIS) Department to Marketing (Recovery) Department w.e.f. 13.04.2013. The name of the company M/S Amar Ujala Publications Limited has been changed as M/S Amar Ujala Ltd w.e.f 15.04.2019. The applicant being entitled to revised wages as per recommendations of Majithia Wage Board, approached the respondent/ management for payment of Rs. 12,98,517/- on account of un-paid dues to which he was entitled, calculated as per the recommendation of Majithia Wage Board, but the management never agreed to the same; and

Whereas, after hearing the case and perusal of the application of the applicant, objections filed by the respondent and other material placed on record, the amount claimed by the applicant/ claimant is not a settled claim and there is a dispute vis-a-vis amount due to the applicant/ claimant from the respondents/ management. As such, the recovery proceedings cannot be initiated as per the provisions of the Section 17 (1) of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1955; and

Whereas, the Labour Commissioner has recommended that the Payment of claimed amount is required to be adjudicated by the J&K Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court in terms of Section 17(2) of the working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act,1955, constituted under section 7 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947); and

Whereas, Labour Commissioner has recommended the case for its reference under sub-section 2 of Section 17 of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 to Hon'ble Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court, Jammu constituted under section 7 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947) for adjudication; and

Whereas, the Government considers it desirable to refer the said dispute to the Industrial Tribunal/Labour Court, Jammu for adjudication.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 10 of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 (XIV of 1947), the Government hereby refers the said dispute to the Industrial Tribunal/ Labour Court, Jammu for adjudication on the following issues:-

- Whether the claimant is covered under the definition of Working Journalist and Non-journalist employee as defined in Working Journalist and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955?
- Whether the claimant is entitled for claim as per the recommendations of the Majithia Wage Board, if yes, to what extent?

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dated 29.12.2021
No.:L&E/Legal/65/2021
DIPK-16242/21

Sd/- (Sarita Chauhan) IAS,
Commissioner/Secretary to Government
Labour & Employment Department.

DIPK-NB-6403/21

**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP

Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001

Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.

RNI Registration No: 69503/98

Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16

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K O V I E W

Troubled LAC

A new satellite image has shoed that China is building a bridge on its side of the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh. Incidentally, the image emerged soon after Indian and Chinese soldiers exchanged sweets and greetings at 10 border posts along the LAC including in eastern Ladakh to mark the New Year. India also inaugurated the Chisumle-Demchok road at Umling La Pass at over 19,000 feet in Ladakh that is considered as a key stretch for military purposes. China has also massed around 60,000 troops opposite the Indian territory in Ladakh and continues to its build infrastructure to help the faster movement of its forces to the LAC. This, despite the fact, that the Chinese Army has withdrawn all its summer training troops in the areas opposite Ladakh. In response, Indian Army has also moved ahead its counter-terrorism Rashtriya Rifles Uniform Force formation in the Ladakh theatre to bolster the 14 Corps there.

The Defence Ministry Rajnath Singh in its year-end review recently made it clear that the unilateral and provocative actions by the Chinese to change the status quo by force, in more than one area on the LAC, have been responded to in adequate measure. The militaries of the two countries have already been engaged in dialogue at various levels to resolve the lingering stand-off but so far they have only achieved a modest success.

So far, there have been thirteen rounds of dialogue between the two sides and there have been only small gains in the form of mutual withdrawal of forces from Pangong Tso lake. The stand-off thus seems set to continue. And this is not a good evolving security situation for India. And the country's security brass is aware of this.

India wants China to go back to status quo ante as it existed in April 2020 but Beijing is in no mood to do so. On the contrary, the People's Liberation Army has enhanced its military profile on the border by deploying thousands of its soldiers and equipment. In recent years China has reportedly more than doubled its total number of airbases, air defense positions, and heliports near the Indian border. This has now become a high-stakes war of nerves between the two countries.

The problem in the negotiations so far has been that China has been loathe to go back to the status quo ante and has asked for mutual withdrawal. The incursions in the first place have been staged by China and the communist giant is not ready to vacate it unless India also withdraws from a portion of the border on its side of the LAC. But New Delhi can hardly afford to do it, not least because it considers the area it's own. Doing so will be politically costly for the BJP government at the centre which is already facing severe flak for vacating Kailash ranges as part of its Pangong Tso agreement. But through sustained negotiations, they certainly can find a way out. For a peaceful neighborhood, it's important that India and China reach a modus-vivendi.

OTHER OPINON

Maximising The Boost: On Mixing Covid-19 Vaccines

Heralding a new frontier in India's vaccination programme, the apex drug regulator has approved two more vaccines under emergency use authorisation (EUA), and an antiviral drug. Corbevax, by Biological-E, is a protein sub-unit vaccine as is Covovax, to be made by the Serum Institute of India. Both, however, differ in their manufacturing process. Covovax has already been approved by WHO under its Emergency Use Listing and will be available globally as part of the COVAX initiative to ensure that at least 40% of the world is vaccinated on priority. Molnupiravir, which was approved this month by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, on the heels of Paxlovid by Pfizer Inc., is said to be a promising drug for those with mild and moderate disease and easily administered as a pill – its key selling point. Thirteen companies in India are set to make this drug. It has been approved for use under EUA for treating adults with COVID-19 “who have high risk of progression to disease”. Having more vaccines in the arsenal bodes well because of the uncertainties that the pandemic brings about. As of today, 90% of India's adults have been inoculated with one dose and 60% with both doses.

The experience with the new variant Omicron is that it is so infectious, it does not discriminate among the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, though severe disease and death is disproportionately among the latter. Here too, those who are above 40 years continue to be the most vulnerable. Despite three vaccines being available, India has overwhelmingly been reliant on Covishield and that is a matter of concern as a new chapter in the vaccination programme unfolds. The new directives say that “precaution doses”, which are third doses of the vaccines an individual has already been inoculated with, will be available for health-care and frontline workers and those above 60 with comorbidities. The 15-17 year age group will get only Covaxin from January 3. That several Indians have been exposed to a live infection in the second wave only improves the odds of protection. However, the only study on mixing Covaxin and Covishield – that resulted from a mix-up in Uttar Pradesh – showed that antibody levels were higher than two doses of either vaccine. A combination of Novavax and AstraZeneca (Covishield) was also effective in boosting antibodies, according to the COV-BOOST study in the United Kingdom. India's top medical institutions must immediately test the feasibility of mixing all available vaccines so that these may be made quickly available if needed giving recipients the option of an informed choice. The second wave revealed a treatment fiasco with remdesivir – sans any therapeutic merit – that saw irrational demand and black marketing. While molnupiravir has many more manufacturers, it is important to ensure against hoarding or indiscriminate use given its potential side-effects.

The Hindu

Implement SC Directives
On Police Reforms

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Prakash Singh, a retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer who served as Director General of Police (DGP) Uttar Pradesh and Assam is considered to be a crusader for Police Reforms in India. Mr Singh who also headed Border Security Force (BSF) retired from active service in 1996 and soon after his retirement, he filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Supreme Court. After almost 10 years, the apex court gave a landmark decision on September 22, 2006 vis a vis police reforms. The Supreme Court gave several directions to the Govt of India, State Govts and Union Territories to undertake structural reforms with regard to policing.

The idea behind the SC judgment was to depoliticize the police force and to make it more accountable to citizens. Even after 15 years of this historic judgment, not a single state or UT has complied with all the directives of the Supreme Court.

In his recent interview with The Wire, Prakash Singh said that no state or UT has fully complied with the Supreme Court's directives on police reforms. “It is also true that they have made halting, hesitant and half-hearted attempts towards compliance. Therefore, there is some movement forward, though not enough and not adequate. We see partial compliance in some states. Therefore, it cannot be described as zero compliance “ he said in the interview

The former DGP further said that some states have done certain things, but at the same time one finds that much of the compliances are superficial. “It is a bit farcical, in the sense, wherever possible they have diluted, modified the directions, and in some cases, the states have attempted to scuttle or sabotage them. For example the Union Government mandated that every state should have a State Security Commission (SSC) with the objective of insulating the police force from external pressure. Such commissions are supposed to be constituted in the way that they are evenly balanced with representatives from the government and civil society. That is the objective of the Supreme Court. Now, what we find is that in most of the states either there is a preponderance of the government representatives, or if they are equal in number, we find that persons chosen from the civil society are known supporters of the government. This defeats the very objective of constituting the SSC “ he added

Seven directives on Police Reforms

The Supreme Court in its detailed judgment had given seven directives on reforming the police force which are explained as under:

Depoliticizing Police force

The first directive calls for the constitution of a State Security Commission (SSC) to ensure that the government does not exercise “unwarranted influence or pressure on police” and to lay down broad policy guidelines and evaluate the performance of the state government.

DGP's appointment on merit

The second directive calls for ensuring that the DGP is appointed through a merit based transparent process.

Fixing minimum tenure

The third directive is to secure a minimum tenure of two years. The draft bill for ensuring that other police officers operational duties (including Superintendents of Police in-charge of a district and Station House Officers in-charge of a police station) are also provided a minimum tenure of two years.

Separation of Police Functions

Fourth directive calls for separation of the law and order and investigation functions of the police.

Constitute PEB

The fifth direction asks states to set up the Police Establishment Board (PEB) to decide transfers, postings, promotions and other service related matters of police officers of and below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and make recommendations on postings and transfers above the rank of DSP.

Establish PCAs

The sixth directive calls for setting up of a Police Complaints Authority



(PCAs) at the state level to inquire into public complaints against police officers of and above the rank of DSP in cases of serious misconduct, including custodial death, grievous hurt or rape in police custody and at district levels to inquire into public complaints against police personnel below DSP rank in cases of serious misconduct.

Setting up NSC

The last directive seeks setting up of the National Security Commission (NSC) at the central level to prepare a panel for selection and placement of Chiefs of the Central Police Organizations with a minimum tenure of two years.

Police Reforms in J&K

In Jammu & Kashmir, which has been brought under the direct control of Union Government after the

retains its supremacy of supervision and control and the police rather than being ‘independent’ or ‘autonomous’ (words that do not have good connotations in a democracy when referring to a coercive force) have ‘operational responsibility’. In other words, by making roles explicit in the statute itself, one can achieve the best of solutions; which are on the one hand a civilian executive that lays down policy, provides the means to operationalise it and can hold the police chief accountable for good performance, and on the other a police establishment that has clear goals and tasks before it and is left alone to deliver the protection of life, property and liberty without being distracted by discretionary directions from various sources. Such a scheme that conditions executive powers without diminishing it makes it even more potent.

Model suggested

AT A TIME WHEN QUESTIONS ARE AGAIN being raised against J&K Police with regard to the recent Hyderpora encounter, it is the duty of UT administration and MHA to ensure implementation of Supreme Court guidelines on Police Reforms in Jammu & Kashmir, so that policing is made more professional and people friendly

abrogation of article 370 and subsequently dividing it into two Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh, I was personally under this impression that Govt would be serious about streamlining the governance mechanism in J&K which includes making J&K Police a professional force as successive political governments failed to implement even one SC guideline on police reforms. Instead, J&K Govt filed affidavits in Supreme Court seeking exemption in implementing the apex court directives.

The first affidavit filed by the Chief Secretary of J&K on 29th December 2006, sought for an extension to file a compliance report. The second affidavit filed on 23rd April 2007, applied for an exemption to implement the directives number 1, 4 and 6 for constitution of State Security Commission (SSC), separation of investigation and law and order functions of police and setting up of Police Complaints Authority (PCA).

According to the affidavit of December 2006, the J&K government had set up a drafting committee to come up with a new police law but the law was never enacted by any elected Govt in J&K in the last 12 years i.e between 2006 to 2018. Infact, the National Conference Govt in 2013 attempted to bring in a new J&K Police Draft Bill. The draft bill was made public. The draft bill gave J&K Police powers quite similar to AFSPA. The opposition parties had raised hue and cry over the issue. The bill was sent to the deep freezer.

Police Reforms & its background

For more than 16 years, the debate around police reforms has revolved around how to satisfactorily separate police functioning from undue and illegitimate political control and yet keep the police wholly accountable to civilian authority.

The political executive argues that the police must be directly controlled by them and the police argue that the kind of supervision and control that is presently exercised, skews the motivation and directions of policing and makes delivering high performance policing impossible.

This is where the key to better-policing lies. It lies in defining precisely the powers and functions of the political executive and police chief. In this model, the political executive

- i) enforcement of the criminal law in particular cases and classes of cases
 - ii) matters that relate to an individual or group of individuals
 - iii) decisions on individual members of the police
- If there is a dispute between the Minister and the DGP concerning any direction under this section, the Minister must, as soon as practicable after the dispute arises,
- i) provide that direction to the DGP in writing; and
 - ii) publish a copy in the gazette; and
 - iii) present a copy to the legislature.

There is no merit in rehashing the problems. The solutions have been laid down but from the eight reports of the National Police Commission (NPC) and the reports of the multiple committees that have deliberated endlessly to the MHAs own initiative of drawing up a brand new Model Police Bill to the Supreme Court's final orders on reform – all have gathered only dust.

Pertinently, the National Police Commission (NPC) was appointed by the Government of India in 1977 with wide terms of reference covering the police organisation, its role, functions, accountability, relations with the public, political interference in its work, misuse of powers, evaluation of its performance etc.

In 2006, as a culmination to all the committee and commission recommendations, the Supreme Court laid out a roadmap for reform. Its order sought to address the extreme politicization of the police, the complete lack of accountability and the dismal levels of unprofessionalism. It has been five years since the judgment – every state government has shunned compliance.

D K Basu guidelines

With an aim to stop custodial deaths and torture at the hands of police, Supreme Court of India in 1997 came up with a historic judgment in the case titled D K Basu v/ State of West Bengal. The Court laid down several guidelines which are mandatory to be followed by Police while arresting people under various penal laws. Vide official letter No: D.O 15011/55/2001-HR Dated: 11.9.2001 Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed Chief Secretaries of all the states including Jammu & Kashmir to implement D K Basu guidelines in letter and spirit. The operative part of the letter reads as:

“The Hon'ble Supreme Court had in a writ petition filed before it in the case of D.K. Basu Vs State of West Bengal and Joginder Kumar Vs. State of UP, laid down certain guidelines required to be followed while arresting individuals, thereby modifying the laws relating to arrests to that extent. The Judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of D.K. Basu Vs State of West Bengal had already been circulated to all the Home Secretaries as well as Director Generals of Police of all the State Governments and UT Admins on the 2nd of July, 1997 by this Ministry for compliance and report. However, instances have come to the notice where these principles have been violated by the authorities making arrests. This not only violates the law of the land but also results in gross violation of human rights to which we stand committed.”

Conclusion

The Police in different states, which includes J&K Police, are accused of even violating the DK Basu guidelines. Leaving aside people, the police officials are themselves unaware of these guidelines. People are detained for days and weeks in police stations and magistrates are hardly updated. Even in non-militancy cases, the rights of detainees are violated. In many cases, the detainee or their relative does not even know the name or rank of the police official making the arrest. At a time when questions are again being raised against J&K Police with regard to the recent Hyderpora encounter, it is the duty of UT administration and MHA to ensure implementation of Supreme Court guidelines on Police Reforms in Jammu & Kashmir, so that policing is made more professional and people friendly.

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

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I'm A Mask Nerd

Aaron Collins

As a mechanical engineer with a background in aerosol science, I often wondered why months into the pandemic we were still using cloth masks. People used similar coverings during the Spanish flu pandemic in 1919, more than 100 years ago. I knew better mask technology existed, and people needed to know about it.

So I embarked on a year-long mission to test, document, and review the best masks I could find. This eventually entailed building a mini aerosol laboratory in my bathroom, with scientific instruments capable of measuring particles 1/50,000th the width of a human hair. I have a public database for my results. And a Youtube channel. Over time I began to be known as the Mask Nerd.

With the Omicron variant spreading around the world, the most common question I get is still the most basic: what kind of mask should I be wearing?

If possible, not a cloth or surgical one. These masks are moderately effective at capturing particles coming out of your own mouth – what we engineering nerds call “source control”. But they offer little protection against incoming particles. We call this part – how well the mask protects the wearer – respiratory protection.

A typical cloth mask, while better than nothing, only provides around 30-60% protection to the wearer. Surgical masks, while better at 40-80%, lack a tight fit to the face, resulting in large amounts of leakage around the mask.

Don't dismiss Omicron as ‘mild’. Take it from a Covid long-hauler

Much, much better masks exist. These are sometimes called high-filtration masks, or by the technical name of a filtering facepiece respirator. Such high-performance masks provide significant protection to the wearer at levels that are between five and 10 times that of a cloth mask, while also providing significant protection to others.

In fact, simply wearing a high-filtration mask can buy you significant time if exposed to infectious individuals. Analysis and studies suggest that with cloth or surgical masks, the risk of infection may increase within minutes of being around others with either no mask or low-performing masks. However with the use of well fitting, high-filtration masks, this same level of exposure would now take hours to become dangerous. However, it should be noted that being around a contagious person always carries some risk.



‘WITH AMPLE SUPPLIES OF THESE MASKS AVAILABLE and a more transmissible variant on our doorstep, there has never been a better time to up your mask game.’ Photograph: Frank Augstein/AP

Beyond the actual increased protection from potential exposure, these masks provide a psychological improvement in day-to-day life, as you no longer need to concern yourself with the fact that those around you may prefer to wear their cloth masks under their chin.

One might assume based on the technical name, “respirator”, that these would be some Darth Vader-style headpiece – cumbersome and difficult to breathe in. However it's quite the opposite. These masks feature a high-tech material called electrostatically charged meltblown polypropylene (quite a mouthful). It features tightly spaced micron-sized fibres – about 1/50th the diameter of a human hair – that have an electrostatic charge applied to them to catch even smaller particles. This material can filter particles that are a just a few nanometres in size.

The most amazing thing, though, is that while providing nearly 99% protection from typical Covid respiratory aerosols, these materials also provide breathability that surpasses that of a typical three-layer cloth mask.

When picking a mask you want to look at three criteria: filtration, comfort and fit. Respirators provide not only the filtration, but comfort from highly breathable materials, and a tight sealing to the face by the design of the mask.

This is what makes respirators such an easy option: you need not worry about anything other than finding one that fits your face. This ensures that all the air flows through the mask, not around it.

In the EU and UK, the FFP2 standard is my recommendation for the general public. It features both ear-loop and headband varieties, comes in a variety of colours, and

typically costs less than a pound. Regulator oversight by various EU and UK government bodies helps to ensure a quality product.

In the US, the common NIOSH N95 is a great option, but it is limited to headbands only. Ear-loop masks are available via other international respirator standards, such as the KF94 (in South Korea) or KN95 (China).

IF POSSIBLE, NOT A CLOTH OR surgical one. These masks are moderately effective at capturing particles coming out of your own mouth – what we engineering nerds call “source control”. But they offer little protection against incoming particles. We call this part – how well the mask protects the wearer – respiratory protection

However it should be noted that the KN95 is a self-reported test standard, and lacks strict government regulation by China, resulting in many underperforming and often flat-out fake masks. The KF94 is less affected by this, as it is regulated by the Korean equivalent of the FDA.

In my year of testing nearly 100 different masks, I have found over and over again that there are high-performing masks that outperform cloth masks, while still featuring many things people

like about their cloth masks.

Mask makers such as Masklab and Posh have created highly decorative designed masks, with bright colours and intricate patterns. Many KF94 masks feature built-in ear-loop adjusters, making for a comfortable, but tight fit. Other mask makers such as 3M – with the 9152 (9105 in the US), a mask that helps the wearer breathe as if there were none on their face, while also providing a full range of motion for the jaw – provide great options for singers and choruses.

With ample supplies of these masks available and a more transmissible variant on our doorstep, there has never been a better time to up your mask game. I encourage people to go out and try a few different varieties, find what they like and what fits their face. However, masks with exhalation valves should be avoided; these allow unfiltered air to escape and don't provide the high levels of protection to others that non-valved masks do.

Aside from helping individuals choose the best mask for themselves, I would also encourage governments to increase the domestic production of masks, which would not only create jobs, but also allow regulatory oversight and a supply of effective, safe masks for their citizens. And good masks should be provided free of charge to the many that may not be able to afford them.

Not all masks are created equal, so it's time to make sure everyone knows about high-filtration masks. These simple, inexpensive and

super-effective masks can make a significant difference in our fight against Covid. If you wear a mask, you might as well make it count by wearing the best.

Aaron Collins is a mechanical engineer with a background in aerosol science who tests and reviews masks on his YouTube channel
This article was updated on 31 December 2021 to include guidance on avoiding – in the context of public mask wearing during the Covid pandemic – masks that have valves.

As 2022 begins, and you're joining us from India, there's a new year resolution we'd like you to consider. We'd like to invite you to join more than 1.5 million people in 180 countries who have taken the step to support us financially – keeping us open to all, and fiercely independent.

In 2021, this support sustained investigative work into offshore wealth, spyware, sexual harassment, labour abuse, environmental plunder, crony coronavirus contracts, and Big Tech. It enabled diligent, fact-checked, authoritative journalism to thrive in an era of falsehood, sensation, hype and breathtaking misinformation and misconception.

In 2022, we'll be no less active, with a cluster of elections (France, Brazil, the US to say the least), economic pinch points, the next phase of the pandemic, the gathering climate emergency and the first 'winter World Cup' to keep us busy.

With no shareholders or billionaire owner, we can set our own agenda and provide trustworthy journalism that's free from commercial and political influence, offering a counterweight to the spread of misinformation. When it's never mattered more, we can investigate and challenge without fear or favour.

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If there were ever a time to join us, it is now. Every contribution, however big or small, powers our journalism and sustains our future. Support the Guardian from as little as \$1 – it only takes a minute. If you can, please consider supporting us with a regular amount each month. Thank you.

Aaron Collins is an engineer who tests and reviews masks. The article was originally published by The Guardian

10 Mistakes India Needs To Avoid To Better Deal With Its Third COVID Wave

MAHEK NANKANI & HARSHIT KUKREJA

THE COUNTRY HAS PREVIOUSLY experienced a severe shortage of vital goods due to poorly managed supply chains and non-scalable procurement processes. Product quality was also compromised on occasion. The first two waves had also spotlighted shortcomings on this front and a need to transform our processes.

had also spotlighted shortcomings on this front and a need to transform our processes.

6. Flagging pace of vaccination

India missed its target to fully vaccinate all eligible adults in the country against COVID-19 by December 31, 2021; thus far, we have covered 65%. Data from the UK suggests 90% of hospitalised people are unvaccinated, iterating the importance of being vaccinated, especially in the face of more transmissible variants of the virus. Together with India's poorer healthcare infrastructure, the number of daily new cases in the third wave could reportedly reach as high as 2 million.

7. Non-availability of mRNA vaccines

The Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines are not available in India even though the drug regulator has approved their use. This is due to a problem with an indemnity clause in the vaccine sale agreement: these US companies want the government to assume liability when their vaccines' recipients have severe adverse reactions, instead of being liable themselves. The government is reluctant to grant this privilege because it has denied the same request when it was made by vaccine manufacturers based in India.

The government could consider a temporary indemnity clause or alternative mechanisms, considering mRNA vaccines have emerged as good booster doses.

8. Late preparation of healthcare infrastructure

The country has previously experienced a severe shortage of vital goods due to poorly managed supply chains and non-scalable procurement processes. Product quality was also compromised on occasion. The first two waves

ing treatment that was delayed or restricted during the previous waves. Delhi has already reserved 40% of beds in private hospitals for COVID-19 patients, instead of increasing the total number of beds. We should be better equipped to manage both COVID and non-COVID patients if we're planning ahead.

3. Misinformation and false narratives

Aside from the flood of misinformation, there have also been copious amounts of fake news. In particular, people are becoming more complacent because of the false narrative that an omicron-fuelled third wave will be non-lethal.

The omicron variant spreads more easily than the delta, so if we are careless, we risk passing the virus along to vulnerable people who could still develop debilitating symptoms. In addition, the longer the virus circulates in a population, the more opportunities it will have to mutate, potentially into a deadlier variant.

But the false news will continue to flow, distracting people from the gravity of the issue and allowing the virus to thrive. Effective communication from the concerned authorities will help avert this.

4. Unpurposeful capsize pricing

The Indian government has had to cap the prices of essential goods such as masks, hand sanitisers and PCR test kits.

Although the move was well-intended, it was devoid of the economic reasoning of demand and supply. The demand for these products was high but the supply wasn't

The omicron variant of the novel coronavirus has driven an exponential rise in the number of cases in the country. It is certain that the next few weeks are going to be challenging and will put our medical readiness and health resources to the test.

Our healthcare personnel are already overworked, and our systems and economy are still reeling from the effects of previous waves. India is also yet to start administering booster doses and its paediatric vaccination drive has just begun.

If we are to avoid a repeat of the devastation of the past two waves, but especially the second, we shouldn't make the following mistakes.

1. Conducting state assembly elections in as-usual fashion

Five Indian states – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa, and Punjab – will hold state assembly elections from next month. Last year, just before the second COVID-19 outbreak took off, India had had elections in five states. Political rallies attended by thousands led to a big increase in case numbers. So it makes little sense to conduct polls and campaigns sitting in the shadow of a potential third wave.

There is enough evidence to show that election states last year reported a rapid rise in case loads following the campaigns and demonstrations. The current state of affairs in the country is concerning. Recently, over one lakh people attended a rally organised by a national political party in Uttar Pradesh. This isn't negligence; it's being oblivious.

2. Lack of care for non-COVID patients

Most healthcare resources were devoted to COVID-19 care during the first two waves, and most hospitals were turned into COVID-only facilities. Thus, people in need of non-COVID care were left in the lurch. People who were undergoing or were about to begin critical treatment like chemotherapy or dialysis were unable to access care anywhere.

There is also a backlog of patients await-

During the second wave, medical oxygen, hospital beds, medicines, ventilators and medical personnel to manage patients were all on short supply. The Indian government claimed that the sudden increase in healthcare demand was unexpected – but reports published by then had clearly indicated a paucity of oxygen and other resources during a subsequent wave.

It has been more than two years into the pandemic; if we are still not prepared for unexpected events, we shouldn't claim that we have responded effectively – much less in a way the rest of the world could learn from.

9. Testing, tracking, treatment leniency

Testing and tracking are still the best ways to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. An increased emphasis on masking up, social distancing and isolation can help. Officials have neglected these efforts before, or have paid attention to them in short and fleeting bursts. We also need to increase the pace and scale of genome-sequencing of patient samples, including by boosting the capacity of the corresponding institutes. The fraction of samples sequenced should be increased from 0.5% to 5%.

10. Imposing unnecessary restrictions

The government imposed many irrational measures during the last two waves and is turning to them again during this one – such as night curfews. They are not effective if social gatherings have already been restricted, and represent a waste of our time and resources. At best, they help put on a show that the government is doing something. Similarly, closing well-ventilated open spaces such as parks won't help cut transmission and could rob people of a place to safely relieve themselves of mental stress.

Mahek Nankani is an assistant programme manager and Dr Harshit Kukreja is a research analyst, both at The Takshashila Institution. They tweet at @maheknankani and @harshitk43 respectively. The article was originally published by Science The Wire

Digital Communication, Broadcasting Platforms Saw Significant Changes In 2021

Press Trust Of India

Digital communication and broadcasting platforms underwent significant changes in 2021 with the government introducing several new rules and guidelines while stressing on the need for an institutional mechanism for all media platforms to exercise responsible freedom.

In the beginning of last year, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting introduced the Information Technology (Intermediary guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes) Rules 2021, providing guidelines for OTT platforms and digital news media, requiring them to make public their details and having a grievance redressal system in place.

Soon thereafter, the Centre also clarified that the power to administer new digital media rules has not been delegated to the states and union territories after a Manipur district magistrate served a notice to an online news portal based in Imphal under the new

rules, which was later overturned by the ministry.

This was followed by the introduction of Cable Television Network (Amendment) Rules 2021 to give legal recognition to the self-regulatory bodies for television and pave way for a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances or complaints of citizens relating to content broadcast by television channels in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Network Act 1995.

The ministry also officially recognised News Broadcasters Federation's self-regulatory body Professional News Broadcasters Standards Authority (PNBSA).

The year also saw the ministry announcing the Draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2021 which proposes to penalise film piracy with jail term and fine, bring about age-based certification to films and empower the government to order recertification of an already certified film on receipt of complaints.

In a bid to curb fake news, the ministry also launched its account on social media channel Telegram



by the name 'PIB Fact Check' with Anurag Thakur, who assumed charge as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in August, calling on the media to make efforts to check the menace of fake news.

Several other initiatives were taken by the ministry, like forming of a gaming centre to teach courses related to VFX, gaming and animation in collaboration with IIT Bom

bay, seeking feedback from public and stakeholders on "Accessibility Standards for Television Programmes for Hearing Impaired" to make television content including news more accessible and inclusive for persons with hearing disabilities and introducing a mobile application 'MyParkings' to enable people to book parking slots online in a bid to ease out vehicle parking

in south Delhi.

To celebrate 75 years of the country's independence, Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav was launched, as a part of which, several exhibitions were held across the country, featuring major landmarks of India's struggle for independence. The Amrit Mahotsav is a 75-week-long festival which commenced in March and would continue till Independence Day 2023.

When the country was hit by the devastating second wave of COVID-19, private TV news channels were asked to display several national helpline numbers for the benefit of citizens as a part of the awareness initiative.

The ministry also decided to constitute a committee to review the existing guidelines of Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) to revise the quantum of ex-gratia payment in death as well as other cases under the scheme.

Eyebrows were raised when Freedom House report titled 'Democracy Under Siege' claimed that India's status has declined to "partly free", with the government term

ing the findings as "misleading, incorrect and misplaced" saying India treats all its citizens equally without discrimination. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting rebutted the report's claim that there were discriminatory policies and rising violence in the country against Muslims.

The government also faced severe criticism from a parliamentary panel on Communications and Information Technology which said that media was gradually losing its "credibility and integrity" and recommended setting up a 'Media Council' with statutory powers to check "irregularities" in print, electronic and digital platforms.

Headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, the committee had also expressed concern over the "disturbing trend" of fake news and asked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to pursue the Ministry of Law and Justice for early implementation of the recommendation of the Law Commission to make paid news as an electoral offence, so that it has a deterrent effect on the incidents of paid news.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Subject; Filling up of Gazetted/Faculty posts in Government Unani Medical College Cum Hospital, Ganderbal, Kashmir.

Ref: Health & Medical Education Department's letter No. HD/ISM/69/2020 dated 28.01.2021.

Notification No: 01 PSC (DR-P) OF 2022
Dated: 03-01-2022

Applications through online mode are invited from the applicants who are domiciled in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, possessing the prescribed Academic /Professional qualification and age for the post of Lecturer/Assistant Professor and Dy. Medical Superintendent, in terms of Government Order No. 796-JK (HME) of 2020 dated 13.10.2020 issued by the Health & Medical Education Department and "Jammu & Kashmir Probationer (Conduct of Service, Pay & Allowance) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020" notified vide S.O.192 of 2020 dated; 17.06.2020 and Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021.

MOST IMPORTANT
Candidates are advised to update their One Time Registration before filling the application Form
The Application Form together with instructions for filling up the Application Forms will be available at the website of the Commission from 06.01.2022
Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and all the eligibility conditions prescribed for the post before filling the online Application Form.
Last date for filling of online Application complete in all respects along with the requisite fee (online mode only) is 05.02.2022.
The last date for receipt of online applications provided in the notification shall be the cut-off date for determining the eligibility as regards acquisition of Domicile Certificates and educational and professional qualifications.
The minimum and maximum age will however be reckoned with reference to 1st January, 2022.
Candidates can edit some of the fields in their online application form w.e.f 07.02.2022 to 09.02.2022 (up to 11.59 PM). Instructions in this regard will be separately made available on the website.
Candidates are required to upload all the mandatory prescribed/requisite documents.
In case the mandatory prescribed/requisite documents are not uploaded with the online application form, the application form/candidature of the applicant is liable to be rejected without any further notice
Candidates are not required to submit hard copy of the online application form or any other documents to the Commission.
The candidates will however, be required to present /produce a down loaded copy of the online application form alongwith the original certificates at the time of documentary verification.
Candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last date to avoid the possibility of disconnection/inability to pay fee or failure to login to the online application portal on account of heavy load on the website during the closing days.

2. Name of post/scale of pav/Prescribed qualification

Item No.	Post	Pay Scale	Qualification
1.	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Kuliyat) (Basic Principles)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Kuliyat from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
2.	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Tashreh-ul-Badan) (Anatomy)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Tashreh Ul Badan from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
3.	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Munafeul Aza) (Physiology)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Munafeul Aza from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
4.	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilmul Advia) (Pharmacology)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Ilmul Advia from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
5.	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilmul Saidla) (Pharmacy)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Ilmul Saidla from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
6	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Mahiyatul Amraz) (Pathology)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Mahiyatul Amraz from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
7	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Tahifuzi-wa-Samajai-Tib (Social & Preventive medicine)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Tahafuzi Wa Samajhi Tibb from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
8	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Moalajat) (Medicine)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Moalijat from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
9	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Niswan-wa-Qabalat (Gynecology & Obstetrics)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Niswan wa Qabalat from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.
10	Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilmul Atfal) (Pediatrics)	Level-11 (67700- 208700)	I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970. II. A Post Graduate degree in Ilmul Atfal from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.

II. Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Jarahat) (Surgery)

Level-11 (67700- 208700)

I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970.
II. A Post Graduate degree in Jarahat from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.

12 Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ain-Uzn-Halaq-wa-asnan (ENT)

Level-11 (67700- 208700)

I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970.
II. A Post Graduate degree in Ain, Uzn, Halaq wa Asnan from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.

13. Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Amraze Jild wa Tazeeniyat) (Dermatology)

Level-11 (67700- 208700)

I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970.
II. A Post Graduate degree in Amraze Jild wa Tazeeniyat from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.

14. Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilaj Bit Tadbeer) (Regimental Therapy)

Level-11 (67700- 208700)

I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970.
II. A Post Graduate degree in Ilaj Bit Tadbeer from an institution duly recognized by central Council of Indian Medicine.

15. Dy. Medical Superintendent

Level-11 (67700- 208700)

I. A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970.
II. A Post Graduate degree as a regular candidate in Health/Hospital administration/Management from an Institution/University recognized by University grants Commission.
OR
A Bachelor's Degree in Unani Medicine from a University or its equivalent as recognized under the Indian Medicine, Central Council Act, 1970, with ten years clinical experience and five years administrative experience in running a government Unani Health Institution.

Note I:
In terms of Government Order No.796-JK (HME) of 2020 dated 13.10.2020, the following provisions of the Allied subjects have been earmarked in case the candidates of post graduate qualification in the concerned subject are not available for the following post of Lecturer/Assistant Professor;

S. No.	Subject	Allied subjects
1	Tashreehul Badan	Ilmul Jarahat
2	Manafeul Aza	Kuliyat Tib
3	Ilmul Saidla	Ilmul Advia
4	Tibi Qanooni	Tahafuzi wa Samajhi Tib or Moalajat or Ilmul Advia
5	Sareeriyat	Moalajat
6	Mabiyatul Amraz	Moalajat
7	Ilaj Bit Tad beer	Moalajat or Tahafuzz wa Samajhi Tib
8	Amraze Jild wa Tazeeniyat	Moalajat
9	Amraze Ain, Uzn, Anf, Halaq wa Asnan	Ilmul Jarahat or Moalajat
10	Ilmul Atfal	Moalajat or Qablat wa Amraze Niswan

Note II:
Priority shall be given to the candidates having doctorial degree in Unani.
The holder of Research Experience of regular doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) shall be considered equivalent to one year teaching experience.
Details (No) of posts with category wise break up;

Name of the Post	OM	RBA	Total
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Kuliyat) (Basic Principles)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Tashreh-ul-Badan) (Anatomy)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Munafeul Aza) (Physiology)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilmul Advia) (Pharmacology)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilmul Saidla) (Pharmacy)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Mahiyatul Amraz) (Pathology)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Tahifuzi-wa-Samajai-Tib (Social & Preventive medicine)	01	01	02
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Moalajat) (Medicine)	01	01	02
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Niswan-wa-Qabalat (Gynecology & Obstetrics)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilmul Atfal) (Pediatrics)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Jarajat) (Surgery)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ain-Uzn-Halaq-wa- asnan (ENT)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Amraze Jild wa Tazeeniyat) (Dermatology)	01	-	01
Lecturer/Assistant Professor (Ilaj Bit Tadbeer) (Regimental Therapy)	01	-	01
Dy. Medical Superintendent	01	-	01
Total	15	02	17

4. Age as on 1st January 2022

The requirement of age for candidates belonging to Open Merit (OM) & various Reserved Categories is as follows:-

S.NO	Category	Age limit	Not born after	Not born before
1	OM	40	01.01.2004	01.01.1982
2	RBA	43	01.01.2004	01.01.1979
3	PHC	42	01.01.2004	01.01.1980
	In service candidate/Government	45	01.01.2004	01.01.1977

6. Reservation

III. A candidate seeking his/her consideration under any Reserved Categories must ensure that he/she possesses a valid requisite Category certificate and on the cut-off date.
IV. The candidature of the candidates will be provisional till the genuineness of the reserved category certificate is verified by the Appointing Authority.
V. Candidates may note that in case a claim for reservation is made on the basis of false/fake/ fraudulent certificate, he/she shall be debarred from the examination(s) conducted by the J&K Public Service Commission, in addition to any other penal action as may be deemed appropriate.
7. Domicile
The candidate should be a Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The candidate must possess a valid Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority in the prescribed format as on the last date prescribed for submission of online application form.
8. Requisite Fee
After successful submission of the online application form, candidate will be required to deposit requisite fee through online mode. The amount of fee to be paid is given below:
General Category = Rs.1000.00
Reserved Categories = Rs.500.00
PHC = NIL
Note:
i. The Application Form submitted without deposition of the fee, which gets substantiated through reflection of the same on the application form, shall be treated as incomplete and candidature shall be deemed to have been rejected without any notice. No representation against such rejection shall be entertained.
(ii) Submission of multiple applications by way of prefixing Mr/Ms or through generation of multiple User ID's or any other mode, followed by either non-payment of fee particulars or fee particulars (TID) of one application (RID) being mentioned against another application with a different RID would lead to rejection of the online ap

plication. The applicants who are submitting multiple applications should note that only the applications with higher Registration ID (RID) number shall be entertained by the Commission and fee paid against one RID shall not be adjusted against any other RID number. Besides a strict disciplinary action shall be taken including the cancellation of candidature and debarment for future examinations of J&K PSC will be taken against such applicants.
9 Documents to be uploaded
While filing the online application form the applicants are required to upload the documents as per details given below:
a) Documents (Mandatory)
i) Date of Birth certificate (Secondary School/Matric Certificate- 01 leaf
ii) Domicile certificate - 01 leaf
iii) Bachelors degree in Unani Medicine or its equivalent along with consolidated Marks Cards-
iv) Post Graduation Degree in the prescribed field (specialization) alongwith consolidated marks card along with Registration certificate, from competent authority.
v) Ph.D degree alongwith result notification, wherever applicable.
v) Experience certificate (Ten years) and five years administration experience for the post of Dy. Medical Superintendent.
b) Documents (Mandatory) if claiming benefit under that category):-
i) Valid category certificate - 01 leaf
ii) For Physically Challenged Candidates Disability certificate on the prescribed format, if required - 01 leaf.
iii) In-Service Certificate Signed by HOD.
C) Any other document for which the candidate is claiming weightage as per Provisions laid down in J&K (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021:-
I) Certificate of Distinction in Sports in terms of J&K (Appointment of Outstanding Sports Persons) Rules, 1998- 01 Leaf
ii) "C" Certificate in NCC activities- 01 Leaf
iii) Gold Medal Certificate for overall first position in the minimum prescribed qualification- 01 leaf. In case the convocation for award of Gold Medal has not been convened, a certificate from the competent authority shall be uploaded to the affect that he/she is entitled to Gold Medal for securing overall first position in the prescribed qualification and that the same shall be awarded in the Convocation of the University/Institution.
iv) List of Research Papers/Publications as per format-01 leaf
v) List of Conferences (Participation & Presentation) as per format - 01 leaf.
vi) List of Books as per format- 01 leaf.
It may be noted that no further opportunity to upload any document shall be provided hereafter and action under rules including rejecting of application/candidature etc will be taken.
10. Scheme of selection
Selection shall be made in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission's (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time.
Candidates are especially advised to apprise themselves with the provisions of Rule 44 (ii) of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission's (Business & Procedure) Rules, 2021.
11. Important instructions regarding filling up of online applications are given herein below:
i. Candidates are required to apply online through the website of the Commission i.e. <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in>. No other means /mode of application shall be accepted.
ii. Candidates are first required to go to the JKPCS website <http://www.jkpsc.nic.in> and click on the link "One Time Registration" or click on Login menu if you have already created your profile with the JK PSC.
iii. After logging into your account, candidates are required to fill all the requisite fields of One Time Registration (OTR) i.e. personal information, contact information & educational qualification, service details etc.
iv. The candidate shall also be required to upload the image of date stamped recent passport size color photograph and signature. The photograph should not be taken earlier than 01.01.2021.
v. Size of the photograph (passport size) and signature must be between 10Kb to 20Kb in *.jpeg or *.jpg only.
vi. After successful submission of all the details in your OTR account, check the eligibility conditions as mentioned in the advertisement notification before applying for the post.
vii. Click on the "show examination" as shown against the respective post/examination you want to apply.
viii. On Clicking on the "show examination" a window will appear on your computer screen. Select the month of the advertisement notification for which you want to apply, a link(s) for the post(s) will appear on the computer screen.
ix. An "APPLY" button is shown against the respective post and the candidates will click on the APPLY button against the post he/she is eligible.
x. On clicking "APPLY" button, an instruction window will appear. Candidates should read instructions carefully before clicking on "APPLY" button at the bottom of the webpage.
xi. On clicking "APPLY" button, the system will display all facts/particulars that a candidate may have mentioned while filling up the necessary fields of his/her OTR account. Candidate shall fill up the remaining required fields in the application form and accept the declaration thereof.
xii. Once the candidate is satisfied about the correctness of the filled in details, then, he or she may click on "SUBMIT" button to finally push the data into server with successful submission report.
xiii. On successful submission of the basic details, the candidates will be required to pay the online fee and uploading of the documents, for final submission of the online application form.
xiv. Candidates can pay the requisite fee through online mode in the "SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS" menu in your account.
xv. After successful payment of the fee, the fee status will get reflected on the Online Application form. Candidates can check the fee status by clicking on the Print Application Button in the submitted Applications menu in your JKPCS account. In case the payment status shows either "not submitted or under processing or status has not been reflected on your submitted application form", candidates(s) are advised to contact the JKPCS office at Solina Srinagar/Resham Ghar Colony Jammu immediately for clarification. Further where the online fee is paid through other service providers the candidate must ensure that not only the amount of fee is debited from his/ service provider's Account but also credited into the official account of JKPCS.
xvi. The candidate would be able get the printout of his/her submitted application only after the payment of the requisite fee and uploading of mandatory prescribed/requisite documents.
xvii. The JKPCS will not undertake detailed scrutiny of applications for the eligibility and other aspects at the time of filling up of online and, therefore, candidature will be accepted only provisionally. The candidates are advised to go through the requirements of educational qualification, age, etc and satisfy themselves that they are eligible for the post(s). Copies of supporting documents will be sought at the time of document verification. When scrutiny is under taken, if any claim if made in the application is not found/substantiated by proof, the candidature will be cancelled and the Commission's decision shall be final and binding.
xviii. Please note that the above procedure is the only valid procedure for applying. No other mode of application or incomplete steps would be accepted and such applications would be rejected.
12. Editing of the online application form
Candidates who have successfully submitted the online application form along with requisite fee will be allowed to edit some of the fields in their submitted online application form w.e.f 07.02.2022 to 09.02.2022. Detailed instruction in this regard will be made available on the website of the Commission.
13. Action against candidates found guilty of misconduct
Candidates are advised that they should not furnish any particulars that are false or suppress any material information.
A candidate who is, or has been, declared by the Commission, to be guilty of:
i. obtaining by wrongful support of his/her candidature by any means, or
ii. impersonating, or
iii. procuring impersonation by any person, or
iv. submitting fabricated documents or documents which have been tampered with or
v. making statements which are incorrect , or false or suppressing material information, or
vi. resorting to any other irregular or improper means in connection with his/her candidature for the selection, or
vii. attempting to commit or, as the case may be, abetting the Commission of all or any of the acts specified in the foregoing clauses may, in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution. shall be liable;
a) to be disqualified by the Commission from selection for which he/she is a candidate, and/or
b) to be debarred either permanently or for a specified period:-
i) By the Commission from any selection held by them.
ii) By the Union Territory Government from any employment under them, and
c) if he/she is already in service under Government, disciplinary action can be taken against him/her under the appropriate rules.

DIPK-16193/21

(R. K. Katoch) , JKAS
Secretary J&K Public Service Commission

No: PSC/DR-II/AP/2021/04

Dated: .01.2022

NRLM: A Hope For Empowerment For Rural Women



Observer News Service

KULGAM: To meet family expenses is not easy for every person, particularly to those whose financial position is timid and sources of income are meager.

In this struggle of fetching family expenses, many people find hope in the different schemes implemented for financial prosperity of the people.

One among those aspiring entrepreneurs is Shameema, a mother of six children from a village Nagam Noorabad of District Kulgam.

She took a challenge on herself to improve the financial status for the welfare of family. However, in her endeavor came a savior from the government in the form of National Rural Livelihood Mission's (NRLM) UMEED which let her materialize the longing for stable income and prosperous life.

Today, she is the owner of several business ventures located in her area besides she has become a role model for other women.

While recollecting her journey to success, Shameema narrated that once she came to know about the UMEED scheme which lends the helping hand to women for economic development through finance schemes.

She added that passion brewed in her so she rushed to avail the benefits provided by UMEED.

Shameema said that she joined a Self Help Group where she received initial financial support in the form of Revolving Fund (RF) of Rs 10000. Soon, she started to sell vegetables and local street foods to earn quite a good income compared to the previous position.

"Later, I availed Community investment fund (CIF) of 20000", she said. Further, she also availed Mudra loan of Rs 50000 besides she got Bank linkage of Rs 3 Lakh and also received Total Capitalisation Support from NRLM along with Bank Linkage Rs 3.8 Lakh.

With the help of time and again financial support she said, "I managed my business and started a Kiryana shop in my village".

"This venture boosted my confidence besides helping me to meet expenses of my family", Shameema said while joy resplendent from her face. As the financial position of the family got better with every passing day, she began to repay the loan besides saved some amount from daily profit to extend her business.

As she sensed success from existing ventures, it further motivated her to take further steps

towards prosperity. In her own words, "I didn't pause here but in addition to the grocery shop, I planned to initiate another business". And, yes, "I managed to start all this" she stated gleefully.

"Now, I am the owner of a Footwear shop and also operating a mini Gas counter here in the village", she mentioned his ventures. She continued narrating her success while expressing that UMEED is behind her achievements which handhold her. Now, she feels proud and fortunate enough for having a dignified life.

"My Son is pursuing Engineering and other wards are enrolled in schools and I am managing the expenses from my business", said Shameema.

Shameema said, "I also paid the installments of RF, CIF and bank Loan on time which helps me to build a good relationship with financial institutions too".

Her endeavors are not only limited to herself, but she involves other family members to further expand entrepreneurship ventures.

Speaking about Shameema, the District Programme Manager applauded and complimented Shameema for her dedication and consistency which she exhibited in raising her business ventures.

Meanwhile, he added that district Kulgam has 2876 SHGs with 23369 members have been brought within ambit of these SHGs. While sharing details he said, the members have contributed Rs. 2.88 crore and a majority of members are now owners of their own business establishments.

Under the Leadership of Mission Director Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar and support of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr.Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, NRLM in Kulgam has successfully initiated process of convergence with line departments like agriculture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry etc to create vibrant and long-term livelihood activities.

He also added that 84 members have clear decks to be Digi-Pay Sakhis. Twelve FL-CRF, (Financial literacy-community resource persons), have been trained through JKRSETI Kulgam to promote financial inclusion drive among SHG members. There are now multiple programmes for women empowerment including Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together and other programmes which have been rolled out to empower Women and make them self-reliant.

Bandipora, First To Complete FMD Vaccination Across Kashmir



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Bandipora District took a lead in the Kashmir division vis-a-vis completing its allotted vaccination target against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer GA Lone said Bandipora became the first district in the valley to complete its allotted vaccination target of 68,800 domestic animals including cattle, Buffalo, Yak Population under Phase- II of NADCP-FMD (National Animal Disease Control Programme - Foot and Mouth Disease).

He said the vaccination drive in Bandipora was launched on November 02 in presence of district administration officers. "The whole vaccination drive was successfully completed within the timeframe of two months only and

involved vaccination of 30,000 animals in Block Sumbal, 29,500 animals in Block Bandipora and 9,300 animals in Block Gurez of the district," he added.

Lone said all the vaccination details were successfully uploaded on INAPH (National portal) which included Tag number of the animals and details of the respective livestock farmer. "Moreover vaccination cards were also distributed to the farmers during vaccination drive at their doorstep," he added.

CAHO said the Department is also gearing up for Vaccination against Zoonotically Important Disease-Brucellosis under NADCP, which shall begin soon.

Meanwhile Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais appreciated the Animal Husbandry department for putting their efforts to ensure the target is met.

Economists See Omicron Variant Forcing RBI To Delay Policy Normalisation

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: As COVID-19 infections spike in the country resulting in restrictions in various states and impacting the fragile recovery, many economists are expecting RBI to delay the policy normalisation move, which is expected in the February review.

The country has reported a single-day rise of 58,097 new COVID-19 cases as of Wednesday morning --the highest in around 199 days -- of which 2,135 are Omicron cases and later in the day, the first confirmed Omicron-related death has also been reported.

Maharashtra recorded the maximum number of 653 Omicron cases followed by Delhi at 464, Kerala 185, Rajasthan 174, Gujarat 154 and Tamil Nadu 121 cases, taking the total tally of cases to 3,50,18,358. The active cases were recorded above 2 lakh after around 81 days and the COVID toll has climbed to 4,82,551 with 534 daily fatalities.

HDFC Bank chief economist Abheek Barua does not see the RBI-monetary policy committee (MPC) going ahead with the policy normalisation drive anytime soon, at least not in the next review in February as he expects the rising Omicron cases to shave 30 basis points off the March quarter GDP.

"Rate hike expectations will moderate as the growth gets impacted and the reverse repo hike expected in February is also uncertain now," Barua said in a note, adding the central bank will continue with its focus on liquidity normalisation



and capping yields.

Similarly, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, the chief economist at UBS Securities India also expects the central bank to remain in "wait-and-see mode" for some more time. "If the risks surrounding the new Omicron variant remain, adding to near-term uncertainty, we think the MPC could remain in 'wait-and-see' mode at the February policy meeting and can delay policy normalization to the April policy meeting," she said.

Echoing similar views, ICRA Ratings chief economist Aditi Nayar said the Reserve Bank will remain in a hold mode for an extended time given the rising risks to fragile growth. "Given the surge in COVID-19 cases and the widening of restrictions leading to heightened uncertainty, it is increasingly unlikely that the RBI will commence the much-delayed policy normalisation next month itself, unless inflation provides an acutely negative surprise, which looks all the more unlikely," Nayar told PTI.

Nayar also revised down the Q4 growth forecast by 40 basis points to 4.5-5 per cent due to the third wave but has retained

full year GDP forecast at 9 per cent, with moderate downside risks, saying anyways ICRA's forecast was the lowest among the consensus numbers which vary from 8.5-10 per cent, with the RBI pegging it at 9.5 per cent.

These economists also think the rupee will be under increased pressure this year given the fluid situation that the global economy is in and the US Fed's already announced tapering. While Gupta-Jain sees the rupee at 74-78 to the dollar, Barua sees it at 74-76 this year.

Gupta-Jain said that the evolving pandemic situation and the US Fed move to raise rates this year will leave the rupee vulnerable and it may trade in the 74-78 range in 2022.

Tightening global financial conditions amid the Fed's tapering and the resultant 100 basis points rise in the US 10-year real yields in 2022, is set to make the road more bumpy for the rupee, which will continue to face depreciation pressure against the dollar as the current account deficit widens and the equity flow outlook dims.

"We expect the rupee to trade in the 74-78 range against the dollar this year. That said, unlike 2013 and 2018, we believe India is managing external vulnerability risks reasonably well and we do not foresee massive sell-off pressure," Gupta-Jain said in a note on Wednesday.

Barua also said the Omicron threat will have the rupee staying range bound between 74-76 to the greenback, but hopes the RBI to intervene to support the unit.

India's Services Sector Activity Hits 3-Month Low In Dec: Survey

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's services sector activity moderated in December as business activity and sales rose at a softer pace, while price pressures and the possibility of new waves of COVID-19 affected business sentiment, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell from 58.1 in November to a three-month low of 55.5 in December. The rates of expansion moderated but were nevertheless "marked" by historical standards, the survey said.

For the fifth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"2021 was another bumpy year for service providers, and growth took a modest step back in December. Still, the latest

readings pointed to robust increases in sales and business activity compared to the survey trend," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit.

Moreover, owing to the buoyant performances seen in October and November, the average growth rate for output over the third quarter of fiscal 2021-22 was the strongest since the three months to March 2011, Lima noted.

Underlying data suggested that the latest increase in new orders was centred on the domestic market, as new business from abroad fell further. The deterioration in international demand was linked to COVID-19 restrictions, particularly around travelling.

On the employment front, the December data showed renewed job shedding in the service economy, but the rate of contraction was only slight.

Firms generally suggested that employment levels were sufficient to cope with current

workloads.

"Uncertainty surrounding the outlook, and a general lack of pressure on capacity, led to a renewed fall in employment during December. That said, the decline was marginal, and a recovery is expected this year should demand for services remain favourable," Lima said.

Business confidence strengthened during December to a four-month high, but sentiment remained subdued in the context of historical data.

Some firms foresee further improvements in demand and expect marketing efforts to bear fruit. Others were concerned that the recovery could be dampened by price pressures and potential new waves of COVID-19.

NC MPs Slam Entry Of Iranian Apples Into Indian Markets

Ask GoI to protect vital interests of Kashmiri orchardists

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Tuesday voiced concern over the swarming of Tax-free import of Iranian apples into India asking GOI to safeguard the interests of local farmers from Kashmir.

Drawing attention of GOI towards the havoc played by illegal dumping of Iranian Apples in India, the party MPs Muhammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi stated that the quantum of cheap Iranian apples entering India illegally is eating into the Kashmiri apple's market share. "Losses incurred due to the illegal import of Iranian apples into Indian markets has resulted in a dip in demand for local apple produce as a result of which over 3 Cr apple boxes are lying unsold in Kashmir division," they said.

Pointing out to the illicit import and dumping of Iranian apples into Indian markets arriving via Afghanistan/Dubai, the NC MPs deplored that the situation has put the whole lot of our fruit industry in J&K in a very precarious situation as the cheap fruit entering into Indian markets is eating away the share of Apples from J&K across the domestic Indian markets.

The MPs further argued that the tax free entry of Iranian apples will have a cascading effect on the Kashmir economy. "If growers do not get a good price for fruit outside the state mandis, they will stop using cold stores. Usually orchardists store some part of their produce at cold storage facilities that have cropped up across the valley in the last few years in the hope of selling fruits in off seasons to



reap rich dividends. In wake of the unchecked dumping of Iranian markets into Indian markets, farmers would refrain from storing their produce and using the cold storage facilities. If growers do not get a good price for their fruit outside J&K mandis, they will stop using cold stores. Such a scenario would impact hundreds of people whose livelihoods are associated with cold storage facilities," they said.

"Over 3 crore apple boxes are lying unsold in Kashmir, farmers are worried as cheap Iranian apples have flooded the markets which resulted in a dip of over 50 percent in demand of Kashmiri apples and our fruit is currently fetching much lesser prices in comparison to last year," they added.

The illegal dumping of Iranian apples in the country, the NC MPs said is not only disastrous for small and marginal growers of Kashmir but also result in huge losses to J&Ks economy. "The situation therefore demands to regulate the illegal, and tax free arrival of Iranian apples via Afghanistan/Dubai in the country in order to save our Horticulture Industry," they added.

India Slaps Rs 653 Cr Import Duty Evasion Notice On Xiaomi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Chinese phone maker Xiaomi's India unit has been slapped with a Rs 653 crore notice for alleged evasion of import duty, as per an official statement.

A show-cause notice has been slapped on Xiaomi India following recovery of documents during searches on its premises that indicated remittance of royalty and licence fee to US and Chinese firms under contractual obligations, the union finance ministry said on Wednesday.

Xiaomi did not immediately offer any comment.

Evidence gathered during investigations by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) indicated that neither Xiaomi India nor its contract manufacturers were including the amount of royalty paid by the firm in the assessable value of the goods imported by the company and its contract manufacturers, which is in violation of the customs law.

By not adding "royalty and licence fee" in the transaction value, Xiaomi India was evading customs duty, being the beneficial owner of such imported mobile phones, the parts and components thereof, the ministry said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARIES & RESEARCH, J&K SRINAGAR/JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING PUBLISHERS/BOOKSELLERS FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN BOOK FAIR, 2022

The Divisional Administration Jammu in association with Directorate of Libraries & Research, J&K is intending to conduct Book Fair at Jammu for four days w.e.f. 03rd of February, 2022. All the publishers, Booksellers and Distributors are invited for their participation in Book Fair. An event like "Book Fair" will provide ample opportunities to Publishers, Booksellers and Distributors to display and sell their publications under one roof. The Book Fair is expected to be attended by the students of the universities, colleges, schools and general public. All stakeholders are also invited for launch of books, if any.

The details regarding the Book Fair are as under:-

Venue of the Book Fair	General Zorawar Singh Auditorium including the open lawns at Jammu University
Period of the Book Fair	3rd of February to 6th of February 2022
Timing of the Book Fair	11.00 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Standard Size of Book Stalls	10 x 10 Feet
Last Date for Booking of Stalls	20th of January 2022
Mode of Registration	Only Electronic Mode (through e-Mail)
Mode of Selection	First Come First Service
Payment Mode	Stalls free of cost

Application Form for participation in the Book Fair is enclosed herewith. The application form duly filled in shall be submitted at e-mail Id: dydirlib@gmail.com.

In case of any query, following Officers may be contacted:

1. Mrs Mita Kumari,
Deputy Director Libraries Jammu. (Nodal Officer, Book Fair)
Kachi Chawni, Jammu
0194-2451571, 9419242932, email id: dydirlib@gmail.com

2. Ms. Sabhyata Rani,
Chief Librarian, SRS Library Jammu
Kachi Chawni Jammu.
0191-2565711, 8716832162

Director
Libraries & Research, J&K

DIPK-16244/21

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Telephone: 01933-247954/247955.

Website: www.iust.ac.in

Advertisement Notice No. 1 of 2022 for Internship

The Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora invites online applications from dynamic, tech-savvy and committed graduates and postgraduates to serve as Interns (Administrative/Technical) purely on temporary basis for a period of six months in the first instance. These "Interns" shall be given exposure to various administrative Divisions/Departments/ Laboratories and would be expected to learn and contribute to the process of working of the University through their knowledge in their respective areas.

Number of Positions	Administrative: 35	Technical: 20
Nature of Positions	Internship (purely temporary)	
Essential Qualifications	For Administrative Interns:	For Technical Interns:
	Bachelor's / Master's degree in any subject with at least 55% marks or equivalent from a recognized University.	B. Tech graduates in any discipline with at least 55% marks or equivalent from a recognised University. (OR) MCA/ MSC- IT graduates with at-least 55% marks or equivalent from a recognised University. (OR) M.Sc. graduates with at least 55% marks or equivalent from a recognised University.
Note: The qualifying degree shall be considered as Bachelor's degree in case of such candidates who have only Bachelor's degree and Master's degree shall be considered as qualifying degree in case of such candidates who have both Bachelors and Master's degree. This shall be applicable to both administrative and technical interns, wherever applicable.		
Stipend	A stipend of Rs. 10,000/- per month shall be paid to administrative interns and Rs. 12,000/- per month shall be paid to technical Interns.	

Important Dates:

Date of availability of online applications: 05-01-2022

Last date of submission of online applications: 16-01-2022

Last date of submission of Hard copy of downloaded online application forms: 17-01-2022

Detailed advertisement notice is available on the University website: www.iust.ac.in

No. IUST/CCPC/Internships_IUST/22/70

Dated: 03/01/2022

Sd/
Dy. Registrar, Placements & Trainings

DIPK-NB-6407/21

India Reports 1St Omicron Death; "Exponential Rise" In Covid Cases, R Naught Value Higher Than 2Nd Wave Peak: Centre

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday reported its first death linked to the Omicron coronavirus variant in Rajasthan as new COVID-19 cases crossed 70,000 in what the Centre said was an "exponential rise" with the acceleration "steeper than ever" reflected by a higher R naught value than during the peak of the brutal second wave.

As Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh joined a growing list of states to clamp night curfew in line with fresh curbs to deal with the expanding pandemic, the Centre said the upsurge in COVID cases--a 6.3 times rise in the last eight days--is happening in cities and the Omicron variant is the predominant circulating strain.

"The R naught value is 2.69. This is higher than 1.69 that we saw at the second wave on peak. The acceleration of cases is steeper than ever," NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul

told a joint news conference. A ferocious second COVID wave had swept the country in April-May last year.

A total of 2,135 cases of the Omicron variant have been detected across 24 states and UTs out of which, 828 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated at 8 am.

Maharashtra recorded the maximum number of 653 followed by Delhi at 464, Kerala 185, Rajasthan 174, Gujarat 154 and Tamil Nadu 121 Omicron cases. Officials in the Union health ministry said samples of a 73-year-old man in Rajasthan's Udaipur, who died last week, showed the presence of the Omicron variant.

The case of death in Rajasthan is technically Omicron-related, Joint Secretary in Health Ministry Lav Agarwal told the press conference.

"That person had already died by

the time the Omicron positive results came. He was an elderly person and had diabetes and comorbid conditions and was being treated as per protocol for his co-morbid conditions and for the infection.

"Our guidelines state that if a coronavirus positive patient dies, it is considered as COVID-19 fatality. Similarly, if a person is found to be Omicron positive, even if it detected late, we will consider that as Omicron positive case only," Agarwal said.

The man, who was found infected with Omicron in genome sequencing and who had tested negative for the infection twice, died in a Udaipur hospital on December 31, state government officials had said.

Several states also reported more doctors testing positive for COVID raising fears of shortage of medical personnel to deal with any crisis.

Nearly 160 resident doctors of hospitals in Mumbai run by the Maharashtra government and the local civic corporation have tested positive for coronavirus in the last three days, a senior officer-bearer of their association said.

India recorded a single-day rise of 58,097 new coronavirus infections, the highest in around 199 days, taking the total tally of cases to 3,50,18,358, according to the Health Ministry data which also showed that the active cases were above 2 lakh after around 81 days. A total of 58,419 new infections were reported on June 20 last year.

The countrywide COVID tally crossed the 70,000 mark if the data released by some state authorities in the evening is also taken into account. Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka and Delhi were among the states which recorded a huge single-day jump in the cases... **PTI**

Pak Needs To Upgrade Its Defence Capability In Light Of Regional Security Matrix: Army

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needed to upgrade its defence capability in the light of regional security matrix and the defence procurement by India, the Army said on Wednesday.

Army spokesman Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar made the remarks during a press conference in response to a question about reports regarding induction of China made J-C10 fighter jets in the Pakistan Air Force.

"Keeping in view the regional security matrix, Pakistan security needs to enhance its capacity, he said, adding that the induction of J-C10 was not an extraordinary development but part of augmenting national security.

"This is a step aimed to enhance the air force fleet Our adversary is continuously procuring latest equipment, he said in

an apparent reference to India buying Rafale jets and other defence equipment including Russian made S-400 anti-aircraft surface-to-air missile system.

Pakistan has acquired a full squadron of 25 multirole J-10C fighter jets from its all weather ally China in response to India's purchase of Rafale aircraft, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said last week.

When asked about reports regarding India deploying the S-400 surface-to-air missile system on the border with Pakistan, Maj Gen Iftikhar said, we are aware of the threat matrix on the other side We have taken measures and we are prepared.

The spokesman also said that Pakistan's air defence system was one of the best in the world because a lot of upgrada-

tion has been done in it during the past few years.

Iftikhar said that under the ceasefire agreement signed with India, the situation along the Line of Control remained largely peaceful, improving the lives of locals living in the area.

"At the same time, the blame from the Indian military leadership and false propaganda points to a specific agenda to remove global attention from Kashmir, he said. He also rejected allegations against Pakistan regarding infiltration.

Responding to a question about the fragile economic situation and its impact on the security, Maj Gen Iftikhar said that there was no impact and Pakistan was ready to face all security challenges despite the ongoing economic challenges...**PTI**

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Day Heavy Snow Spell In Kashmir...

triggered mudslides and shooting stones near Cafeteria morh and Chanderkote in Ramban district.

According to reports, At least 500 heavy motor vehicles were stranded at many places along the highway including, Qazigund, Banihal, Ramban, Ramsoo, Batote, Patnitop, Nagrota and Udhampur.

Besides Banihal highway, Mughal Road, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri and Kishtwar-Sinthan road continued to remain closed for vehicular movement as a precautionary measure following the slippery conditions of the roads.

Traffic department has issued an advisory asking people, especially those driving light motor vehicles, not to move on highway between Srinagar and Jammu. It has also been informed that no Kashmir bound vehicle shall be allowed to move ahead of Nagrota till further clearance.

In an official statement issued by Traffic Police HQ Jammu, it has been stated that travel for Light Motor Vehicles on NH44 has become dangerous due to slippery road conditions and shooting stones.

"People are advised to restrict the movement of vehicles on Highway," Traffic Police said, "Kashmir bound vehicles shall be stopped at Nagrota Jammu till further clearance from Traffic Control Unit, Ramban," it added.

Meanwhile, the official said Srinagar recorded rain and snowfall of 5mm in 24 hours till 0830 hours today.

The summer capital of J&K, he said, recorded a low of 0.8 Degree Celsius against previous night's 0.6 Degree Celsius. It was 2.9 Degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year, he said.

Gulmarg had 33mm of fresh snowfall during the time and the mercury settled at minus 4.0 Degree Celsius against minus 5.0 Degree Celsius on the previous night at the world famous resort, he said.

Qazigund had 15mm of rain and snow during the time while it recorded a low of 0.8 Degree Celsius against 0.8 Degree Celsius on the previous night, he said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, had 15mms of snowfall and recorded a low of minus 0.4 Degree Celsius against minus 1.2 Degree Celsius on previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had 8mm of rain or snow even as it recorded a low of 0.1 Degree Celsius against minus 0.4 Degree Celsius on previous night, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir, had 12mm of snowfall and recorded a minimum of 0.0 Degree Celsius against 0.2 Degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Reports reaching said that Bandipora-Gurez road remained closed amid fresh and continuing snowfall. Main Bandipora had 3.4 inches of snow, 2.0ft at Razdan top, 2ft at Tulail and 1.5ft at Dawar, they said.

Reports said that there was 1.5ft of snowfall recorded around Sonamarg in Ganderbal district.

Also Machil, Karna and Keran roads have been closed as higher reaches of Kupwara received 2.0ft of snow.

Jammu recorded a low of 11.6 Degree Celsius, down by two notches from the previous night and normal of 7.3 Degree Celsius for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 7.3 Degree Celsius against last night's minus 7.2 Degree Celsius while Kargil station recorded a minimum of minus 5.9 Degree Celsius, the official added.

Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on December 21.

'Chilleh Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

A meteorological department official said on Wednesday that widespread rain and snow with heavy to very heavy snow (above 2 feet over higher reaches) occurred since Tuesday. He said a "significant decrease" in precipitation was expected from Wednesday evening.

"Expect another (heavy to very heavy) spell during January 7-8th," he said, adding, "People are once again requested not to venture in avalanche prone areas as our data shows that most avalanches are triggered during intense heavy snowfall."

The MeT department official also urged people to follow traffic advisory and maintain proper ventilation of rooms.

Air Traffic Hit For Second...

Srinagar airport today due to inclement weather. Eight flights have been cancelled so far," a senior official of the Airport Authority of India told PTI.

He said the resumption of air traffic would depend on the weather conditions.

Later in the evening, the airport management in a post on its official Twitter handle said "Light snowfall and low visibility today hampered our operations. We had 42 scheduled flights But only five could operate Other 37 were cancelled,"

It has been snowing in most places of the valley intermittently over the past few days but the arterial Srinagar-Jammu national highway is open for vehicular traffic, an official of the Traffic Department said.

He said motorists have been advised to exercise caution while travelling on the national highway in view of the snowfall.

The suspension of air traffic has resulted in hundreds of tourists getting stranded in the valley.

Officials in the Tourism Department said a good number of tourists had arrived in Kashmir for celebrating New Year and were planning to return home now.

Meanwhile, the weatherman on Wednesday said that weather will be "favourable" for flight operation on Thursday and Friday but not so on the weekend when it has forecast heavy to very snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Present weather (moderate rain/snow) is most likely to continue till late night today," an official of the meteorological department said.

He said a significant decrease in precipitation is expected from later tonight.

"Expect another intense spell (heavy to very heavy) during 7(night) -8th," he said in a statement, "Weather will remain favourable for flight operation on 6th and 7th and not favourable on 8th."

He said people are requested not to venture in avalanche prone areas as data shows that most avalanches are triggered during intense heavy snowfall. "Follow Traffic Advisory Seriously," he said, adding, "Maintain proper ventilation of your rooms."

KU Exams For Today, Tomorrow ...

of Kashmir University scheduled on 06-01-2022 and 07-01-2022 are hereby postponed," Prof Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo, Controller of Examinations said in a statement.

He further said that fresh dates for postponed papers will be notified separately,

Pregnant Woman Ferried On Cot...

by her husband Muhammad Saleem with the help locals on a cot after she had complained of labor pain, reports said. Her husband Mohammad Saleem claimed that he had informed Public Health Centre (PHC) Boniyar but the staff failed to reach the village.

"I ferried my wife on a cot with the help of locals for a distance of 5 kilometers before a vehicle from hospital reached there," he said.

However, the health department officials have rubbished the allegations saying that an ambulance was sent to ferry the pregnant woman.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Boniyar Dr Parvaiz Masoodi, also released a video to substantiate his claim.

"A video is being circulated to given an impression that Health Department has made no arrangements in wake of the inclement weather which is not true," he said.

He said the patient Noor Jahan, a resident of Hilan-Hakapatri has been admitted to the hospital and her expected date delivery is January 9.

"The patient is fine and is having no signs of delivery. Some people tried to show it was a case of emergency but it was not," he said, adding "In view of heavy snowfall, we have advised expecting women can be admitted to the Health Centre before the time of delivery"

SDM Uri Harvinder Singh said that Block Medical Officer has also clarified that it was not an emergency case and the patient could have been easily evacuated after clearance of the road.

He further said that all field departments are working tirelessly to ensure that minimum disruption is caused to the services despite heavy snowfall. Men and machinery are on the job.

Covid-19: Govt Gears Up To Tackle ...

department to explore the avenues of implementing the 'Treating Physician' concept in the public sector health facilities.

"The Department was further asked to ramp up medical facilities and prepare for catering to any surge in reported cases of infections. The Department was also asked to stock up on medical supplies and keep all equipment, machinery, and infrastructure in a state of readiness," he said.

Mehta, he said, reiterated the need of promoting COVID Appropriate Behaviour- masking, social distancing, and crowd management; COVID SoPs and protocols among the general masses and directed the enforcement agencies to ensure adherence to the laid down guidelines.

Moreover, the official spokesperson said that the Chief Secretary asked the Departmental HoDs to establish direct communication channels with the medical teams / professionals and undertake an on-ground assessment of the situation and mitigation measures, besides raising awareness through interactive sessions and programmes on electronic and social media.

"To closely monitor the rapidly evolving COVID- 19 situation in the Union territory, a Crisis Management Group under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary has been meeting regularly and taking appropriate preventing and mitigating measures for preventing infection surges in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

100% Spike Cases In Last 24 Hours...

a day earlier on Tuesday.

According to officials, 311 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported from various districts of Jammu division on Wednesday while the remaining 107 from Kashmir valley, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 342419.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 52 new cases of coronavirus, Budgam 16, Baramulla 13, Kupwara 9, Pulwama 8, Ganderbal 4, Bandipora 3 and one new case each in Kulgam and Shopian. Anantnag in south Kashmir was the only district in the Valley where no new cases of Covid-19 were detected on Wednesday.

In the winter capital, officials said, Reasi registered a maximum of 156 new cases of virus, most of them students of

SMVD University, followed by Jammu with 109, Udhampur 15, Kathua 10, Poonch 6, Rajouri 5, Doda, Samba and Kishtwar 3 each and Ramban 1 new case of coronavirus.

"Moreover, 140 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 28 from Jammu Division and 112 from Kashmir," the officials said.

Also, they said that the death toll due to pandemic remains 4530 in J&K--2199 in Jammu and 2331 in Kashmir, as no coronavirus related fatality was reported from J&K during the last 24 hours.

Night Curbs To Return From Today...

that the night curfew would likely be imposed in the Union Territory from January 06. "The decision has been taken to prevent Covid-19 from spreading," they said.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a surge in Covid-19 cases in the last few weeks. The surge in the cases is being recorded at a time when the new variant, Omicron, has created panic across the globe.

Although there have been no Omicron cases at present in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has claimed to have taken steps to tackle any situation.

"This time we have oxygen supported beds in thousands which earlier were just in few hundred besides that there are oxygen plants now in every major, District and some sub hospitals now," the officials had said.

"Government won't lower the guard in fight against the Covid-19, however, public cooperation is must and should continue to follow Covid appropriate behaviour," the official said.

A top official of Health and Medical Education had said that in the last six months, the number of isolation beds in J&K have been increased from 8,000 to 20,000.

Armed Forces To Get 1358 Kanal ...

notification issued by the J&K government to declare any area as strategic area for armed forces after the Ministry of Home Affairs amended The Jammu and Kashmir Development Act-1970 in October 2020 through an executive order under the Reorganization Act.

On June 17, 2020, the J&K administrative council headed by then Lt Governor G.C. Murmu cleared the proposal to amend the J&K Control of Building Operations Act, 1988 and the J&K Development Act, 1970 for notifying "strategic areas" for use by the armed forces and regulating construction through a "special dispensation".

Subsequently, the MHA amended these laws on October 26, 2020 to provide that the Government may on the written request of an Army officer not below the rank of corp commander, declare an area as strategic area within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of armed forces, which may be excluded from the operation of this Act and rules/regulations made there under in the manner and to the extent specified in the declaration and the government may satisfy itself about the reasons cited for declaring the area as strategic area and will have such area notified accordingly with such conditions as may be required--(KNO)

Govt Orders Retirement Of 2...

(presently under suspension).

Meanwhile, sources said that the government has directed the Departments to speed up the scrutinization of cases of "inefficient, non-performing and corrupt employees" for consideration of their premature retirement under the ambit of Article 226(2) of J&K CSRs.

Pak National Among 3 Militants ...

spokesperson, the joint security party retaliated effectively to the militants firing leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, he said, three militants, including Mir Owais and Talha Yasir were killed.

"Regarding the third killed terrorist, although the recoveries made from the site of encounter indicate him to be a foreigner however his identification is being ascertained," he said.

As per police records, the spokesperson said that all the killed militants were part of group involved in attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities and cases were registered against two of those identified.

Owais, he said, was involved in killing of a civilian Azad Ahmad Dar of Kangan Pulwama, while Yasir was mastermind in preparation of vehicle-borne IEDs besides, involved in attack on civilian at Wanpora area of Pulwama.

According to an army spokesperson, Owais was active in the Pulwama district since February last year. Prior to that, he said, the killed militant was an OGW of Jaish and used to provide safe passage and accommodation to the foreign militants of the outfit in Pulwama.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 02 M-4 Carbine and 01 AK series rifle were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," the police spokesperson said.

He quoted IGP Kashmir as congratulating the joint security forces for conducting successful operation without any collateral damage and also appreciated people of the area for their cooperation with the forces by maintaining calm and not resorting to any kind of violence during the course of operation.

"Police have registered case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," the police spokesperson added.

Pertinently, today's gunfight in Pulwama comes a day after police claimed killing two local militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) Amir Ahmad Wani and Sameer Ahmad Khan in an encounter in neighbouring Kulgam district on Tuesday.

A day earlier, police claimed to have killed most wanted Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant Saleem Parry of Hajin and a foreign national Hafiz alias Hamza of Pakistan in two back to back encounters near Shalimar Bagh, here in this capital city on Monday.

In the last five days since New Year, police have claimed to have killed seven militants, including two Pakistani nationals in a series of gun-battles in the Valley.

Cops To Get Bullet-Resistant...

levels of protection and glasses for vehicles, helmets, ultra-wide CCTV surveillance systems and deep search mine detectors, they said.

As many as 7416 BR jackets of level-5 protection and 784 BR jackets of level-6 protection will be procured by the police to provide its personnel involved in anti-militancy and security operations the best possible protection, the sources said.

Levels-5 and 6 indicate a high level of threat and protection. They are tested to withstand at least five shots of a variety of weapons, they said.

The police headquarters recently floated bids on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal for the purchase of these jackets. The jackets should protect police personnel from all sides and be available in all sizes, they added.

These jackets will undergo mandatory ballistic testing at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) laboratory.

The police have also floated bids on the GeM portal for the procurement of 47 BR light motor vehicles (LMVs) of level-3 protection, 15 BR LMVs of level-2, 10 BR LMVs of level-1, 100 ultra wide CCTV surveillance systems, 12 deep search mine detectors and 45 mini drones, among other things, the sources said.

This is aimed at providing an edge to the police force, which is engaged in anti-militancy operations, law and order maintenance and ensuring overall security, they said.(PTI)

Govt Employees Can Get Passport...

It shall be the responsibility of the Controlling/Administrative Authority/Employer of the employee to seek his/her prior vigilance status before acknowledging the prior intimation given by such employee or before issuing the prescribed annexure/certificate in his/her favour, the government said.

"It is also clarified that the Police/CID shall undertake character/antecedent verification at their level independent of the vigilance status of the government employee," it said, adding, "These instructions shall be in amplification of Circular No. 35-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated 16.09.2021, issued on the subject matter."

BSF Lodges Protest With Pak...

Pakistani side are unacceptable.

It also strictly objected to the drone operations carried out by Pakistan regularly violating the International Border, the spokesperson said.

The BSF delegation was led by DIG Border Security Force Surjit Singh. This was the first commander-level meeting in 2022, he said.

During the meeting, various border-related issues were discussed, the spokesperson said.

He said the main emphasis was given by the BSF delegation on the infiltration attempts of Pakistan-based elements and recovery of arms and narcotics along the International Border. (PTI)

Shooting Stone Kills Youth On...

in the on spot death of one and injuries to another.

The deceased person has been identified as Adil Bashir, a resident of Bemina Srinagar.

The identity of the injured person undergoing treatment at District Hospital Ramban is not known so far.

BSF Man Dies After Bus Overtakes...

a bus of BSF bearing registration number JK02AJ-5041 was part of the convoy and was on way from Poonch towards Jammu when it skidded along Jammu-Poonch Highway at Narian Sector Chingus in Rajouri district at around 1350 hours.

A number of personnel onboard the bus were injured and at least three of them needed hospitalization. All the injured were shifted to government hospital Nowshera, he said, as per news agency GNS.

Later, one of them, Head Constable Ram Pal of 146 battalion BSF succumbed to wounds.

Police Post incharge Chhinhus, Sahil Choudhary confirmed to GNS the death of Head Constable. He said a case has been registered as regards the accident which occurred amid continuous rains.

Ladakh Sees 32 New Covid Cases...

162 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said.

Sixteen patients were cured and discharged from hospitals from Ladakh.

Of the total 32 fresh cases, 23 were reported from Leh and 9 from Kargil district, they said.

A total of 785 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative, they said.

Out of 265 active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh, 205 were reported in Leh and 60 in Kargil district. (PTI)

Ranji Trophy Put On Hold Due To Covid Surge



Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Ranji Trophy, India's premier domestic First-Class competition, will not start as scheduled on January 13 due to a big surge in Covid-19 cases across the country.

The BCCI also announced the postponement of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy and Senior Women's T20 League for the 2021-22 season.

"BCCI does not want to compromise the safety of the players, support staff, match officials and other participants involved and hence, has decided to put the three tournaments on hold

till further notice. The BCCI will continue to assess the situation and take a call on the start of the tournaments accordingly," said a statement released by the BCCI.

The first round of the Ranji Trophy was to start in multiple cities on January 13 but it has been put off and the BCCI will deliberate on when to conduct the tournament some time later.

Recently, the West Bengal team reported six Covid-19 cases, including five players, while Mumbai's Shivam Dube also tested positive and is in isolation.

The Ranji Trophy is scheduled to be held in six cities, including Bengaluru and Kolkata.

India Set 240-Run Target For South Africa To Chase

The Proteas reach 34 for no loss at tea break



Agencies

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa needs 240 runs to win the second test against India and level the series, and the team made a solid start to its chase Wednesday by reaching 34-0 at tea on the third day.

Aiden Markram hit five fluent fours for his 24 not out and captain Dean Elgar was 10 not out, leaving the Proteas 206 runs short of sending the three-test series to a decider in Cape Town.

But nothing was guaranteed on a Wanderers pitch that has been tough to bat on throughout the match and was now showing signs of wear and being even more unpredictable for batsmen.

India, which won the first test, still had hopes of bowling South Africa out and clinching its first series win in the country. Anything above 200 has proved difficult to chase at the Wanderers.

India had earlier slipped up in its second innings just as it looked to be building a big, series-winning lead. Half-centuries by Ajinkya Rahane (58) and Cheteshwar Pujara (53) took India to a position of strength at 155-2.

But South Africa's fast bowlers worked their team back into the game and India lost its last eight wickets for 110 runs to be all out for 266.

A three-wicket burst by South Africa pace bowler Kagiso Rabada was crucial in the tourists faltering.

Rahane and Pujara had built a 111-run partnership when Rahane fell for 58, caught behind off Rabada. That sparked a run of India wickets as Pujara fell two overs later for 53, also to Rabada, and the quick bowler collected a third when Rishabh Pant went for a duck.

Lungi Ngidi followed up when he ended Ravichandran Ashwin's (16 off 14 balls) brief counterattack and the momentum had swung. Seamers Rabada, Ngidi and Marco Jansen all finished with three wickets each.

India needed 40 not out from Hanuma Vihari — called in to the India team for this test in place of injured captain Virat Kohli — and a free-swinging 28 from 24 balls from tailender Shardul Thakur to set a competitive target.

Vihari and Shakur put on 41 from 40 balls, with Shakur connecting for five fours and one big six to give India back some of its impetus. (AP)



Team Tigers Win 4 Gold, 3 Silver In Taekwondo C'ship

Adil Hussain Khan

SRINAGAR: The International Tigers Martial Art Organisation has won 4 gold, 3 silver medals in the 1st Indo-Nepal International Taekwondo Championship held in Chandauli Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Around 900 martial artists competed and exhibited their talent in the event, which began on December 27 and ended last week, with participants from the Kashmir-based International Tigers Martial Art Organisation brought home four gold and three silver medals.

Shahid Hilal Malik of Lal Bazar won gold in the 55-59 kg category, Ashiq Sultan Dar of Hawal won gold in the -62 kg category, Irfan Majeed Malik of Lal Bazar won gold in the -56 kg category, and Rabiya Tariq of Dargah, Batapora won gold in the -55 kg category.

Faizan Ali of Lal Bazar won silver in the 68kg category, Naveed Mukhtar of Nowshera won silver in the open weight category, and Raqib Hussain of Hawal won silver in the -32kg category.

Coach Parvaiz Hussain Khan expressed his pride in his students, who all won medals in different age categories in an international event.

"I am happy that they have brought honour to Jammu and Kashmir by earning gold," he remarked.

Irfan Ahmad, who won gold, said it was a wonderful occasion for them because they had put in a lot of effort for the competition.

"We were selected seven players for the event, and our hard work paid off because all of us won gold," he stated.

The team had previously won six medals at the National Hap-

kido Championships in Karol Bagh, Delhi. Around 800 players took part in the tournament.

Rabiya earned gold, while Shakeel, Naveed Ahmad, and Ashiq Sultan each received three silver medals. Rakib Hussain and Faizan Ali, on the other hand, had to make do with bronze medals.

Team tigers students stated that they will continue to work hard in order to make Jammu and Kashmir and the country proud.

Taekwondo Association Chandauli, under the auspices of Uttar Pradesh Taekwondo Association, hosted the competition.

The students also expressed gratitude to the sponsors, which included Jazzbaat 24, TCI Cements, Fashion Fiesta, and the INFOANALYTICA FOUNDATION, for supporting them in this event.

2-Day Open South Kashmir Pencak Silat Championship Concludes

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The valedictory function of a 2-day Open South Kashmir Pencak Silat Championship 2021-22 was held at Awantipora. The event was organised by J&K Police in collaboration with Pencak Silat Association of Jammu at Government Degree College Pampore.

SSP Awantipora Mohd Yousif -JKPS was the chief guest on the occasion. SDPO Pampore, DySP DAR, Principal Government Degree College Pampore and members of Pencak Silat were also present on the occasion. Besides, 300 participants of different age groups across the south Kashmir Range participated in the event.

While addressing the participants, SSP Awantipora congratulated the winners and reiterated that Police is committed to give boost to the sports and other youth development activities in the area to channelize the youth energy in positive manner. He further stated that sports activities are important



for personality development, positivity, good health and keeps the individual away from the negative forces.

Later, SSP Awantipora & Principal Government Degree

College Pampore also distributed cash prizes/medals/certificates among the winners and also distributes participation certificates among all the participants.

Bangladesh Create History, Crush World Champions New Zealand



Agencies

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Bangladesh pulled off a crushing eight-wicket victory over world champions New Zealand at Mount Maunganui on Wednesday.

The tourists needed only 40 runs in their second innings for the historic win, their first ever in New Zealand and only their sixth in 61 away Tests.

The match was wrapped up in one session on the final day as Ebadot Hossain took a career best six for 46 and New Zealand were rolled in their second innings for 169.

It was a "David and Goliath" result, with Bangladesh ranked ninth in the world while world Test champions New Zealand are second. It was also New Zealand's first loss in 16 home Tests over the past four years.

Bangladesh have previously lost all 32 matches played in New Zealand across all formats, including nine Tests, and they arrived to start this tour following back-to-back losses at home to Pakistan.

But they attacked this Test with confidence and apart from a 138-run second-wicket stand by Devon Conway and Will

Young in New Zealand's first innings, the tourists have largely been in control.

After New Zealand were dismissed for 328 in their first innings, Mominul Haque (88) led Bangladesh to 478, a 130-run lead on a pitch which stayed true and did not have the usual bias towards fast bowlers regularly seen on New Zealand wickets.

Then, thanks to a canny reading of the game by bowling coach Otis Gibson, Bangladesh only needed 73.4 overs to knock over New Zealand in their second innings.

Gibson had noted the Bay Oval wicket was not delivering slip catches, which are common in New Zealand conditions, and he called for wicket-to-wicket bowling.

"It's different to how New Zealand bowl, they didn't bowl to length, they went short. That's their tactic, it works for them."

"(Neil) Wagner's very good at it, but we're different, we try to bowl at the stumps a lot more and it's really pleasing to see that it worked for us," he said.

"Maybe the New Zealand batsmen underestimated us. The discipline we've shown is fantastic." Ebadot relished the instruction and produced by far his best bowling figures.

Australia 126-3 After Rainswept Day 1 Of 4th Ashes Test

Agencies

SYDNEY: The fourth Ashes test sprung to life late on Day 1 after sweeping showers threatened to dampen the prospects of both teams for a positive start at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

After rain delays permitted only 21 completed overs in the opening two sessions Wednesday, runs and wickets came more frequently in the final passage of play as Australia reached 126-3 at stumps.

Steve Smith was unbeaten on six and Usman Khawaja was four not out when rain ended play for the day.

Harris and Warner put on 50 for the first wicket before Broad made the breakthrough for England in the 21st over, teasing Warner onto the front foot and finding the edge which carried comfortably through to Zak Crawley at second slip for his 527th wicket in 151 matches.

Warner, who made 30 with six boundaries off his 72 balls, swiped his bat through the air in frustration at his dismissal and not capitalizing after making another good start to an innings in this series.

It was the 13th time Broad (1-34) has captured Warner's wick-



et in tests, the most any bowler has captured the pugnacious left-handed opener.

Marnus Labuschagne joined Harris at the crease, but four balls into the 22nd over show-ers swept back over the ground forcing the players from the field after only 9 overs of play in the middle session, much to the disappointment of the crowd of about 30,000.

Play resumed shortly after tea and Harris and Labuschagne lifted the scoring rate, often finding the gap through cover for runs, and then clipping through square leg as the English bowlers over-corrected their line.

Harris made 38 but, like Warner, failed to capitalise on a good start as he edged a Jimmy Anderson (1-24) delivery through to England captain Joe Root at first slip to have Australia at 111-2. (AP)

ICC Test Rankings: KL Rahul Gains 18 Places

Shami, Bumrah too move up

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India opener KL Rahul has made a huge gain of 18 slots to reach the 31st position among batters in the latest ICC Test rankings after his Player-of-the-Match effort that helped India defeat South Africa by 113 runs in the first Test.

With the win in Centurion, India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series which is a part of the World Test Championship (WTC).

Rahul, whose best in the format is eighth position that he attained in November 2017, struck 123 in the first innings and was associated in an important 117-run opening partnership with Mayank Agrawal (60) as India became the first Asian team to win a Test match at the venue while gaining important points in the WTC points table.

Agarwal has gained one place for his contribution, while Ajinkya Rahane is up two places to 25th in the latest update that is carried out on Wednesdays and includes all matches that are completed



ed by Tuesday each week.

Fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami are other Indians to move up the rankings.

Bumrah was up three spots to ninth after finishing with five wickets in the match while Shami's eight wickets, including a five-for in the first innings, saw him move up two places to 17th.

For South Africa, captain and opener Dean Elgar has progressed two spots to 14th after a fighting 77 in the sec-

ond innings, while Temba Bavuma was up 16 places to 39th for his scores of 52 and 35 not out.

Kagiso Rabada, who grabbed seven scalps, has advanced one place to sixth position while his fellow fast bowler Lungi Ngidi has gained 16 slots and is 30th on the list after finishing with eight wickets in the match.

Debutant left-arm fast bowler Marco Jensen entered the rankings in 97th position.

Senegal Latest Team Hit By Virus Ahead Of African Cup

Agencies

DAKAR: Senegal's national football team was forced to delay its flight to the African Cup of Nations in Cameroon after three more players and six members of the backroom staff tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Senegalese soccer federation named the players on Wednesday as Pape Sarr, Nampalys Mendy and Mame Thiam. They and six members of the management team tested positive on Tuesday, when the squad was scheduled to fly to Cameroon, the federation said.

Federation spokesperson Kara Thioune said the squad was now due to leave Wednesday afternoon and the three players and six officials would remain behind in Dakar until they return negative tests.

The African Cup starts on Sunday and Senegal has little time before its first game of the tournament against Zimbabwe on Monday. Senegal, with stars like Liverpool forward Sadio Mane and Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, is one of the favorites after losing in the final at the last African Cup.

Host Cameroon announced last month that it had positive cases in its squad. Burkina Faso, which plays Cameroon in the first game of the African Cup on Sunday, has had to leave players behind in Abu Dhabi because

of the virus and may not be able to field its strongest team in the tournament.



ment opener in Yaounde.

Like Senegal, Cape Verde and Tunisia have reported new cases in their squads, while Gambia and Ivory Coast were forced to cancel warmup games because of outbreaks in their squads. Malawi left three players behind in Saudi Arabia, where the team had a training camp, because they tested positive. Nigeria left striker Victor Osimhen of Italian club Napoli out if its African Cup squad because of his positive virus test.

Defending champion Algeria has also reported infections.

The African Cup should have taken place in 2021 but was delayed a year because of the pandemic. It faced calls in recent months that it should be postponed again because of the emergence of omicron.

Liverpool-Arsenal Semifinal Match Off After COVID-19 Cases



Agencies

LONDON: A coronavirus outbreak among Liverpool's players and staff led to the team's match against Arsenal in the English League Cup semifinals being postponed Wednesday, adding to the backlog in English soccer caused by the fast-spreading omicron variant.

The English Football League, which runs the cup competition, approved a request from Liverpool for the game to be called off because of a slew of positive tests at the club that has led to the closure of its training ground.

Player availability had already been impacted because of injuries and absences for the African Cup of Nations, which is depriving Liverpool of Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and Naby Keita.

The first leg that was scheduled to take place at Arsenal on Thursday will now be staged at Anfield on Jan. 13. The second leg will take place at Emirates Stadium on Jan. 20.

"The league has accepted Liverpool's request after determining, albeit reluctantly, that a postponement was the only option," the EFL said, "as the club looks to mitigate against the further risk of infection amongst its squad and staff alongside ensuring public health was protected by not traveling from Liverpool to London."

Liverpool thanked Arsenal and the EFL for their understanding "as we continue to navigate through this challenging period."

Pepijn Lijnders, the assistant coach who has been filling in for Jurgen Klopp while the Liverpool manager is in isolation, was one of "multiple players and staff" who tested positive for COVID-19 in the latest round of checks on Tuesday, the club said.

The latest wave of positive tests prompted the club to shut its first-team training facilities on Wednesday after consulting with public-health authorities. Practice was cancelled on Tuesday, too.

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