



P5 STATE

1.5 LAKH VOTERS ADDED IN J&K SINCE 2019: OFFICIALS

Over 1.5 lakh new eligible voters have been added to the electoral roll in Jammu and Kashmir and 12,000 voters in Ladakh since 2019, an official said. On account of the

P7

ISLAM BETWEEN PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

THE great Mufasssirs (Exegetes) have found that man is the main focus of the Qur'an, the 'Final Revealed Book'. They contend that if one ponders upon the multifaceted discourses incorporated in the Qur'an, one



P11 SPORTS

ROHIT FIT TO LEAD INDIA AGAINST WEST INDIES

India's white-ball captain Rohit Sharma is fit and ready to lead the side against the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series starting February 6 with the three



Quote!

We know what we are, but not what we may be
- William Shakespeare

NEWS DIGEST

Ayberk Pekcan (Artuk Bey) Dies Of Cancer

Srinagar: Ayberk Pekcan, a prominent Turkish actor, who starred in the popular Turkish series Resurrection Ertu rul, succumbed to lung cancer late Monday. **More on P11**

Explosives' Found In Kishtwar

JAMMU: Police and army claimed to have recovered 1.3 Kgs "commercial grade explosives" in Kishtwar district on Tuesday. "A joint team of Indian Army and JKP has recovered approx 1.3 Kgs of commercial grade explosives in **More on P11**

Srinagar Bound Traffic On Highway Today

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for one-way traffic on Wednesday, officials said. "On 26-01-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions **More on P11**

Ladakh Sees 163 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh has reported 163 fresh coronavirus cases, taking the tally to 24,818 while the active cases in the union territory has come down to 1244, officials said. The union territory has recorded 222 Covid-related deaths -- 164 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last **More on P11**

Three-Tier Security In Kashmir Valley On 73rd Republic Day

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Tuesday placed Kashmir Valley, including capital Srinagar, under a thick blanket of security to thwart any possible militant attack and to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of R-Day celebrations.

According to officials, the security was been put on maximum alert in major towns and districts of the Valley on Tuesday with J&K police, including its members from CID wing and SOG personnel ordered to maintain a strict vigil, amid apprehensions of a possible militant attack to disrupt R-Day celebrations.

Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium (SKCC) **More on P11**



HANDS UP! Security personnel line up passengers deboarded from a public bus for frisking in Dalgate area of the city on R-Day eve. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Grenade Throwing Arrested: Police

Police claimed to have arrested the person involved in Tuesday's grenade attack in the city's busy Hari Singh High Street area that resulted in injuries to several persons. "Srinagar Police arrested grenade thrower who was involved in today's #terror incident at Hari Singh High Street #Srinagar in which a few civilians and one police personnel got injured. #Investigation is going on," Inspector General of **More on P11**

R-Day Function: NC Invited, PDP & PC Ignored

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Barring former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah, most of the mainstream politicians have not been invited to participate in the R-Day function being held in Srinagar on Wednesday.

According to sources from People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the invitation has been stopped to many leaders post abrogation of Article 370.

However, former Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah and Member Parliament Farooq Abdullah has been invited by the authorities to attend the event. Omar confirmed to Kashmir Observer that both he and his father have been invited. He however said that due to Covid-19 they won't be able to attend.

"We have received the invitations however, we can't attend public functions because of close family members testing positive for Covid a few days ago," Omar said.

Sources, from People Democratic **More on P11**

Militants Strike In Srinagar; Police Officer, 7 Civilians Injured

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Eight people, including a police officer and a couple were injured on Tuesday in a grenade blast in Hari Singh High Street area of this capital city, where unprecedented security measures were put in place in wake of R-Day celebrations.

Around 3:25 pm Tuesday, unidentified militants lobbed a grenade towards a police vehicle in the busy Hari Singh High Street market that missed the intended target and exploded along the roadside with a bang, a police official said. In the grenade blast, he said, eight people, including a police officer identified as Tanvir Hussain

with Anti-Corruption Bureau sustained splinter injuries.

The other injured identified as Muhammad Shafi Bhat and his wife Tanveera, Asmat, wife of Zahoor Ahmad, Nusrat wife of Dr Tazeem, Zahoor Ahmad Lone, Imtiyaz Ahmad and Gayas-u-din of Assam were shifted to the SMHS hospital for treatment.

According to reports, the grenade blast at the crowded marketplace created panic in chaos among the pedestrians and traders.

Soon after the grenade attack, the government forces carried out search operation in the area to nab the attackers. The forces, reports said, frisked people **More on P11**

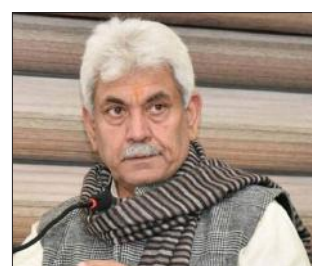
On R-Day Eve, LG Hails Abrogation Of Special Status

11,000 People Given Jobs, Says J&K Poised To Become Latest Success Story

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Terming the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status as a bold and decisive step by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday that the erstwhile state is poised to become the latest success story among Indian states and a model of Socio-Economic development for the country.

In his R-Day message for the



people of Jammu and Kashmir, the LG said that the central government under the strong and able leadership of PM Modi

took the bold and decisive step of breaking the shackles erected in the path of development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"After the historic transformative changes in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become the latest success story among Indian states and a model of Socio-Economic development for the country. The government is committed to build a strong Jammu and Kashmir and we will continue to march ahead with **More on P11**

J&K Logs Record 6570 New Cases, 14 Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 6570 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus, the highest ever spike since the outbreak of pandemic in 2020, while fourteen people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley witnessed a record 5015 new cases of Covid-19, while 1555 were registered from various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by virus in J&K to 409166.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 1450 new cases of virus, Budgam 971, Kulgam 697, Anantnag 416, Baramulla 396, Kupwara 395, Ganderbal 295, Bandipora 243, Pulwama 107. South Kashmir's Shopian was the only district in the Valley to record two digit figures with 45 new cases. **More on P11**

Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 9.2 deg Celsius

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: As Chilla-i-Kalan entered its last week on Tuesday, the minimum temperature in most parts of Kashmir stayed several degrees above the normal for this time of the season, except in the tourist resort of Gulmarg, officials said here.

Srinagar recorded a low of 1.8 degrees Celsius down from 2.8 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 9.2 degrees Celsius up slightly from minus 9.5 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded the minimum of zero degrees Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low **More on P11**

Ceasefire On LoC Holding But Army Vigilant: Lt Gen Pandey

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The year-old ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir is holding and the Indian Army would like it to continue for the benefit of the common people on both sides of the divide but was remaining vigilant as the "enemy is very very devious", a top army commander said here on Tuesday.

General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 15 Corps or the Chinari Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey said while Pakistan is holding onto the compulsions for which



it went for the reiteration of the ceasefire agreement in February last year, "we have to see" what its "aim and intent is in the times to come."

The top officer urged the youths in Kashmir to shun the path of **More on P11**

Gen Rawat Given Padma Vibhushan; Azad Padma Bhushan

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Hindutva poster boy late Kalyan Singh and India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat who died in a helicopter crash recently were awarded Padma Vibhushan on Tuesday, while veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and former West Bengal CM and CPI(M) leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

were given Padma Bhushan.

Cyrus Poonawalla of the Serum Institute of India, which manufactured COVID-19 vaccine Covishield, and Krishna Ella and Suchitra Ella of Bharat Biotech, which produced India's indigenous coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, were also given Padma Bhushan.

Kalyan Singh and General Rawat were given Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, posthumously. **More on P11**

Kargil Poet Nominated For Padma Shri

President Ram Nath Kovind approved conferment of Padma Shri award to a young poet from Kargil this year on the eve of the 73rd Republic Day Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat was nominated for Padma Shri in the field of Literature and Education. In total, President Ram Nath Kovind approved **More on P11**

73RD REPUBLIC DAY

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DIPK-17135/21



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website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: - Filling up of MD/MS Management Seats of Hindu Minority (HM) and Non-Resident Indians (NRI) Quota of ASCOMS, Jammu through Joint Counselling by J&K BOPEE.

Notification No: 007 - BOPEE of 2022 Dated: 25-01-2022

All those NEET - PG 2021 eligible candidates, whose names figured in Provisional Merit List (PML) of MD/MS/PG Diploma and are interested in the MD/MS seats of ASCOMS under Hindu Minority and NRI management quota seats are advised to submit their documents on the prescribed proforma along with all relevant/required documents in BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu w.e.f. from 27th January 2022 to 3rd February, 2022 (only on working days), the details of which is given below:

Total Management Seats of ASCOMS = 23

(i) Open Merit (OM)* = 06 (01= Anatomy, 01= Pathology, 01= Pharmacology, 01= Physiology, 01= Radio Diagnosis/Radiology, 01=Biochemistry)

(ii) Hindu Minority (HM)** = 12 (01=Anaesthesiology; 02= ENT.; 01 = Medicine; 01 = Microbiology, 01 = Obs. & Gynae., 01= Ophthalmology, 01 = Pathology, 01= Pharmacology, 01= Psychiatry, 01 = Surgery, 01=Biochemistry)

(iii) Non-Resident Indians (NRI)*** = 05 (01 = Anaesthesiology; 01 = Medicine, 01 = Obs. & Gynae. 01= Psychiatry, 01= Surgery)

(* 06 OM seats under management quota shall be filled up on the basis of merit cum preference irrespective of religion/category, etc.).

(** 12 Hindu Minority (HM) seats under management quota shall be filled up from the candidates belonging to Hindu Religion only with the condition that they shall produce a latest relevant document/certificate issued by the concerned competent authority).

(*** 05 NRI seats shall be filled up on the basis of merit cum preferences provided the necessary NRI documents are complete in all respects).

Only such candidates shall be considered under management/NRI/Hindu minority quota who are:

(i) Domicile of J&K;

(ii) have applied under NEET-PG 2021 and have qualified; and

(iii) have been found eligible to participate/compete against the J&K seats;

The eligibility criteria for competing under NRI quota seats shall be as under:-

(Category 1): Where applicant himself/herself is NRI and family originally belongs to J&K

(Category 2): Children/Ward of NRI who originally belong to UT of Jammu and Kashmir

Any other condition as notified by the Government of India Government of J&K or any direction given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard to compete for such seats.

Documents Required for NRI Category 1 and Category 2 candidates:

Category No. 1:

(i) NEETPG Score Card-2021;

(ii) NRI certificate issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India or

Indian Embassy Overseas under Ministry of External Affairs with holding of Indian Passport;

(iii) NRI Bank Account preferably in the country where the candidate is residing or of NRI Account in India;

(iv) Copy of Indian Passport;

(v) Copy of Income Tax Return filed in India, if any;

(vi) PAN Card No., if any; and

(vii) Domicile Certificate of the candidate belonging to J&K.

(viii) Any other document as may be required by the Board to its satisfaction.

Category No. 2:

(i) NEET PG Score Card-2021;

(ii) NRI Sponsorship Letter;

(iii) Undertaking of NRI duly attested by the legal authority of that country where sponsor is residing or Indian Embassy Overseas;

(iv) Bank Statement of the Sponsor;

(v) Resident/National Certificate or NRI certificate of the sponsor;

(vi) Pedigree Table/Family Tree establishing relationship of the candidate with the sponsor along with documentary Proof;

(vii) Employment certificate of the sponsor;

(viii) PAN Card No., if any of the sponsor;

(ix) PAN Card No., if any of the candidate/parents;

(x) Copy of Income Tax Return filed, if any;

(xi) Domicile Certificate of the candidate belonging to J&K.

The prescribed Proforma as Annexure "A" and "B" to this Notification shall be available only on BOPEE website www.ikbopee.gov.in

Note:- 1. The above documents are required in addition to all other documents that the candidates were required to submit as notified in earlier notifications through online mode and in conformity with the e- Brochure.

2. The above category is not priority but for determination of eligibility only and the seats shall be filled up on the basis of NEET Merit/PML Rank.

3. The fee shall be as notified in Information Brochure or as may be notified by the Government from time to time.

E&OE

No. BOPEE/Exam-23/2021

(Dr. Sunil. Gupta)

Controller of Examinations J&K BOPEE

Dated: 25-01-2022

DIPK-NB-6761/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BIJBEHARA.

Email: eomcbijbehara@gmail.com

Invitation for proposals under 'Swachh Technology Challenge'

Under 'Citizen Engagement' Component of AKAM 2022 (Swachh technology Challenge) initiated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, GoI, Municipal Committee Bijbehara invites ideas/solutions/proposals from start-ups, individual entrepreneurs, educational institutions, local businesses, research and development organizations, NGO's and other citizen groups in the following four categories:

S. No.	Theme	Description
1.	Social Inclusion (Resulting in better working condition for sanitation workers and waste pickers)	Social innovations for improved waste collection and management in low- income settlements Low-cost efficient mechanical solutions for cleaning septic tanks and sewer lines (Manhole to machine hole) Efficient operation and maintenance of community and public toilets in a hygienic and sustainable manner Safe containment, evacuation, transportation, processing and disposal of used water and fecal sludge & septage
2	Zero Dump	Innovative solutions for tracking segregated door-to-door collection of solid waste Processing and recycling of all segregated fractions of Solid Waste Low-cost portable solution for remediation of legacy dumpsites
3	Plastic Waste Management	Solution of processing and recycling of plastic waste Solutions to minimize degradation of plastic during recycling Plastic waste management in eco-sensitive regions Innovative methods for collection of multi-layered plastic and its disposal Technology for disposal of plastic from legacy dumpsites
4	Transparency	Alternatives of single use plastic Digital solutions to check the overflow of septic tanks and sewer lines Citizen engagement including awareness creation and capacity building IoT based solutions for real time monitoring of operations of Sanitation and Waste Management Infrastructure

The top three solutions in each of the four thematic categories from across the country will be felicitated at the AKAM award ceremony hosted by MoHUA. As an additional incentive, top three state level solutions will also be rewarded at the UT level.

The ideas shall be submitted on the following e-mail address by or before 28th January 2022.

E-mail address: eomcbijbehara@gmail.com

For any queries, plz contact: 9906944021, 9906844273,

No: MC/BIJ/2021-22/ 223

Dated: 21/01/2022

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Bijbehara

DIPK-NB-6735/21

'Heat Dome And Other Climate Events Have Growing Impact On Mental Health'

The impact of climate change on mental health is a harsh reality that has been on the rise in recent many years. Last summer's Western North American heat dome caused more than record-breaking temperature increases -- rising anxiety about climate change is reported in a new study on the weather event's impact on our mental health.

Researchers with the Mental Health and Climate Change Alliance (MHCCA) found significantly higher climate change anxiety following the heat dome. They believe their study, published in the 'Journal of Climate Change and Health', is among the first of its kind to demonstrate direct links between mental health concerns and climate change related

weather events.

The researchers said an ongoing monitoring of climate change anxiety was needed to better understand the impact of individual and compounding climate change-related weather events over time. Their results from data collected from over 850 individuals over the age of 16 found:

The average levels of climate change anxiety increased by approximately 13 per cent among British Columbians after the heat dome.

Most participants reported that they were much (40.1 per cent) or somewhat more (18.4 per cent) worried about climate change after the heat event.

The number of people who felt that it was very likely their region

would be devastated due to climate change increased from 17.5 per cent prior to the heat dome to 29.8 per cent.

The number of people who felt that the industry they worked in would be affected by climate change increased from 35.0 per cent prior to the heat dome to 40.3 per cent after the heat dome.

Most participants reported that they were somewhat (40.8 per cent) or greatly (17.4 per cent) impacted by the heat dome.

According to MHCCA director Kiffer Card, an assistant professor in SFU's Faculty of Health Sciences, "Our research explores an important link between two of the most pressing public health emergencies of the 21st century: mental health and cli-

mate change. In doing so, our work sends a clear message: that planetary health and personal health are one in the same."

Card said the MHCCA will continue monitoring levels of climate distress among British Columbians and hopes to extend its research on climate event-related anxiety nationally. The group has applied for federal funding, though Card notes the lack of availability of federal funding to learn more about the health impacts of climate change remains a barrier. According to the Canadian Research Information System, over the last decade, less than 1 per cent of health research funding in Canada has gone to projects related to "climate change" or "global warming."

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Conduct of J&K Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination, 2021

Notification No. PSC/Exam/2022/03 Dated: 25.01.2022

In continuation to this office notification no.PSC/Exam/2021/66 dated: 27.12.2021, it is for information of all the concerned candidates, who have been declared to have qualified for admission to the J&K Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination, 2021 vide notification no. PSC/Exam/2021/51 dated: 09.09.2021, that the Jammu & Kashmir Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination, 2021, which was earlier scheduled w.e.f 31.01.2022, shall now be held w.e.f 14th of February, 2022, as per the following schedule:

Date /Day	Time : 12:00 Noon to 03:00 PM
14.02.2022 (Monday)	(Qualifying Paper) English
15.02.2022 (Tuesday)	(Paper-I) Legal drafting and Pleading
17.02.2022 (Thursday)	(Paper-II) Constitutional Law
19.02.2022 (Saturday)	(Paper-III) Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
21.02.2022 (Monday)	(Paper-IV) Indian Penal Code, 1860
22.02.2022 (Tuesday)	(Paper-V) Indian Evidence Act, 1872
23.02.2022 (Wednesday)	(Paper-VI) Special Laws I
24.02.2022 (Thursday)	(Paper-VII) Special Laws II

Note: The venue(s) of the examination shall be Notified separately.

DIPK-17157/21

No: - PSC/DR/PO/22/2020
Dated : 25-01-2021

(Vinay Samotra), JKAS
Deputy Controller of Examinations,
J&K Public Service Commission

((Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir))

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TOSAMAIDAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

(Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dt.22-12-2020

Issued by Finance Department).

E-NIT No: 02 /e-tendering/2021-22-DATED. 20-01-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor (UT J&K) , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	P/F Of Retro Reflective Signage's At Various Spots in District Budgam upto Tosamaidan	5.10 lacs	550/-	10200	20 days	DEE	

of AAA/TS:-

Position of Funds.- Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-01-2022 6.00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24.01.2022 09.00 AM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	24.01.2022 from 09.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29.01.2022 upto 02.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29.01.2022 at 02:30 AM in the Office of the Accounts officer Tosamaidan Development Authority

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Toosamaidan Development
Authority.

DIPK-NB-6731/21

No. Works/19/198-201/TDA

DATED: 20/01/2022



بٹ خاندان کو صدمہ اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 27 جنوری کو

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ و افسوس کیساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ مضرہ زوجہ مرحوم غلام رسول بٹ سائن پچھوارہ ڈل گیٹ سربنگر 24 جنوری 2022 بروز سوموار کو انتقال کر گئیں۔ انا اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 27 جنوری 2022 بروز منگلوار صبح 10 بجے 30 منٹ پر اسکے آبائی مقبرہ پچھوارہ ڈل گیٹ سربنگر میں انجام دی جائیگی۔ جبکہ مرحومہ کے ایصالِ ثواب اور بلند درجات کیلئے آبائی گھر میں قرآن خوانی اور دعا سنجاس کا اہتمام کیا جائیگا۔

سوگواران

msk

انتقال پرملا



یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ و افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ محترم غلام نبی شاہ المعروف شاہ صاب ولد محمد بہان شاہ صاحب آج پھرہ فو اکمل سربنگر مورخہ 24 جنوری 2022 کو اس بہان فانی سے رطت کر گئے۔

اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس عطا فرمائے اور لواحقین کو یہ صدمہ عظیم برداشت کرنے کی نعمت عطا فرمائے۔ مرحوم نہایت ہی نیک سیرت، ملنبار، خوش اخلاق اور موم و ملو آؤ کے پابند تھے۔

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 28 جنوری 2022 بروز جمعہ دوپہر 2:30 بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع زورہ نزد یک مقبرہ امد زگر انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران:- شاہ خاندان

موبائل نمبرات:- 9906626286, 9906585656

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R/O Pantha Chowk Sriangar

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भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान पटना

Indian Institute of Technology Patna

Recruitment of CEO for IIT Patna Vishlesan i-Hub Foundation.

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position for IIT Patna's Vishlesan i-Hub Foundation, a Section-8 Not for Profit Company under Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NMICPS) of DST, India. Interested aspirants may send their application & CV (a single .pdf file) to email vishlesan-i-hub-foundation@iitp.ac.in by February 7, 2022 at 5.30 p.m. For further details and application form please visit IIT Patna website under "Notice Board" <https://www.iitp.ac.in>.

Advt. no.: IITP/TIH/Recr/2022/01 dt. 19.01.2022
DAVP/21366/11/0003/2122

Associate Dean (R&D)

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Govt Launches Bus Service For Tourists To Showcase The Heritage Sites In City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 25: Aimed at commemorating the National Tourism Day celebration, the Tourism Department of Kashmir on Tuesday launched 'Srinagar City Heritage Tour Bus Service' for tourists to showcase the heritage sites, cuisines and handicrafts of the city to enhance experience of visitors thronging the region from across the world.

Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez, in presence of Director Tourism G N Ito, today flagged off the bus service which will take tourists to prominent sites of Srinagar city including Burzahama, Hariparbat, Chatipadshahi, Jamia Masjid, Hazratbal, Buddhist Site Harwan, Pari Mahal and other places.

The objective of the heritage tour is to boost heritage tourism

potential of the city in addition to promotion of natural tourism.

Besides, Tourism Department simultaneously launched cross country tours at Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Aru valley, Doodpathri, Baderwah and other famous tourist destinations.

Secretary, while elaborating on this unique initiative of the government, said that the motive of launching heritage tour bus service is to enhance the experience of tourists about heritage potential of city by providing them best facilities. He said it is an appropriate day to launch bus service to heritage sites while referring to the celebration of National Tourism Day.

He said that the government is working under a well planned strategy to ensure that all tourist destinations and resorts remain open during winters while taking good care of safety and comfort



of the tourists which is always of paramount importance for the administration.

He informed that the Tourism Department is mulling to start night skiing and night Shikara events amid strict observance of Covid protocols. He said all the stakeholders associated with travel and tour industry have been fully vaccinated to contain spread of corona virus.

Director Tourism informed that in view of National Tourism Day the department is organizing several snow events at Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Doodpathri and other places besides organizing heritage fame tour in Srinagar.

He said that on the first day of launch of the facility a team from Maharashtra will tour several places of great heritage importance like archeological sites, shrines, mosque, temples besides cuisines and handicrafts.

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
22 Jumada al-Sani
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 06
ZUHR	12:42
ASR	4:17
Magrib	5:58
ISHA	7: 21

This Day In History

- 1531 - Lisbon hit by Earthquake; about 30,000 die
- 1589 - Job is elected as Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia
- 1654 - Portuguese troops conquer last Dutch base on Recife
- 1666 - France declares war on England & Munster
- 1697 - Isaac Newton receives Jean Bernoulli's 6 month time-limit problem, solves problem before going to bed that same night
- 1699 - Venice, Poland & Austria sign Treaty of Carlowitz with Ottoman Empire
- 1748 - Britain, Netherlands, Austria & Sardinia sign anti-French treaty
- 1797 - Russia, Prussia and Austria sign treaty
- 1862 - Lincoln issues General War Order #1, calling for a Union offensive, General George McClellan ignores order
- 1905 - World's largest diamond, the 3,106-carat Cullinan, is found in South Africa
- 1934 - Nazi Germany & Poland sign 10-year non-aggression treaty
- 1939 - Francisco Franco's troops conquer Barcelona
- 1940 - Nazis forbid Polish Jews to travel on trains
- 1942 1st US force in Europe during WW II go ashore in Northern Ireland
- 1945 - Soviet forces reach Auschwitz concentration camp
- 1952 - At least 20 people have been killed and 100s injured during riots in Cairo against the British
- 1956 - Porkkala military base returned to Finland by USSR
- 1958 - H Laskow replaces Moshe Dayan on as Israeli minister of Defense
- 1958 - Japanese ferry Nankai Maru capsized off southern Awaji Island, Japan, 167 killed.
- 1959 - Italy government of Fanfani resigns
- 1961 1st woman personal physician to a US President - Janet G. Travell (to John F. Kennedy)

From KO Archives

Cease-Fire Extended By Another Month

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - Despite reservations from within, government today extended the cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir by a month beyond republic day to give peace every chance and asked Pakistan to curb and control militant activities of organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad.

"The present ceasefire is being extended (for restoring peace in the state) by another month," External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh told reporters outside Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 7 Race Course Road residence.

The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by the prime minister discussed the situation in Jammu & Kashmir for three hours before deciding to extend the truce.

"Yes, the CCS felt that despite the continuing violence unleashed by the militant groups, especially by Jaish-e-Muhammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the government must extend the ceasefire by another month," Singh said.

But the government is still debating the issue of clearing the proposed travel plans of the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference delegation which wants to go to Pakistan for talks with militant commanders based there.

Government believes violence must be ended and peace, which has been welcomed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, given every chance

The CCS took the decision of cease-fire extension notwithstanding views of sections within the government opposing extension. The entire security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly acts of cross-border terrorism and militant acts against civilians, was reviewed at the CCS meeting.

The CCS meeting was attended by home minister L.K. Advani, Jaswant Singh, defence minister George Fernandes, finance minister Yashwant Sinha, deputy chairman of planning commission K.C. Pant, national security advisor Brajesh Mishra, army chief Gen. S. Padmanabhan besides other top officials.

Singh said Vajpayee's peace initiative on Ramadan eve was taken despite heinous acts of terrorism and violence against innocent people.

Asked about the possibility of Indo-Pak talks on the Kashmir issue, he said India has always been in favour of a dialogue and will remain so.

A congenial atmosphere has to be created and the onus for that lies on Pakistan. Dialogue on one hand and gun-talk on the other does not work, he said.

The ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir as well as on the border and the Line of Control (LoC) was reviewed in its entirety, Singh said, adding that chief minister Farooq Abdullah was informed and consulted in the matter.

Singh said the views of major political parties was also taken into consideration while taking the decision.


On Islamabad's stand that it was unable to control militant organisations, including Lashkar-e-


Taiba, which were carrying out violent activities, highly-placed sources today said we do not buy Pakistan's argument that they have no control over these groups: They are controlled and directed by Pakistan.

They said the main aim of Vajpayee government's announcement of extending the cease-fire by a month beyond January 26 was to meet people's desire for peace in Jammu and Kashmir. Tell the international community that India sincerely wanted to end violence and also address Pakistan for a positive response.


We have been able to convince the people in the state that we sincerely want to give a chance to peace, they said adding that the international community has appreciated New Delhi's gesture across the board.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 26 January, 2001)






Ministry of Information
and Broadcasting
Government of India



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav




73rd
REPUBLIC DAY


Republic Day

Greetings to All Fellow Citizens

" The constant effort with the essence of 'Nation First' is becoming the spirit of every Indian today. Therefore, there is unity in our efforts and impatience in accomplishing our resolutions. Today there is continuity in our policies and foresight in our decisions. "

- Narendra Modi





Scan QR code to view a special video on Republic Day

Special Live Telecast of Republic Day celebrations at Rajpath from 9:15 a.m. onwards on Doordarshan network

Internet Restored In Yemen After Deadly Air Strike Causes 4-Day Outage



Agence France-Presse

SANAA, YEMEN: Internet services returned to Yemen on Tuesday after a four-day outage caused by deadly coalition air strikes that marked a dramatic uptick in the seven-year war.

Web monitor NetBlocks said internet was "being restored" in the country and AFP correspondents in the capital Sanaa and port city Hodeida reported they were back online shortly after midnight.

"Connectivity collapsed after a series of deadly airstrikes. The incident severely limited independent media and human rights monitoring efforts," NetBlocks said.

An air raid by the Saudi-led coalition targeted a telecom facility in Hodeida late on Thursday in an attack that was blamed for knocking out the internet nationwide. At least three children

playing nearby were killed.

The strike coincided with an attack on a prison in rebel-held Saada which left at least 70 people dead and wounded more than 100 more. The Saudi-led coalition denied bombing the prison.

The internet outage affected emergency operations after the strikes, where rescuers scrambled through the rubble for survivors and the hospitals in Saada were overwhelmed.

They followed a deadly drone-and-missile assault by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels on the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi, which drew international condemnation and threats of reprisals.

Two more rebel missiles were intercepted over the city on Monday. The UAE is part of the coalition fighting on behalf of Yemen's internationally recognised government.

Queen Elizabeth To Celebrate 70-Year Reign Wrapped In Scrutiny And Scandal



Reuters

WINDSOR: Celebrations this year marking Queen Elizabeth's seven-decade reign will mask a less happy reality for the world's pre-eminent royal family: the British monarchy is being questioned in ways that were unthinkable for most of the last 70 years.

From the US sex abuse court case facing son Prince Andrew to her grandson Prince Harry and his wife's allegations of racism in the royal household, rarely has the family of 95-year-old Elizabeth, who became queen on February 6, 1952, faced such scrutiny and damaging headlines.

Such is the depth of respect for the queen that while she lives, the institution that goes back nearly 1,000 years looks safe. What comes next is less certain.

"The monarchy and the queen are synonymous for most people," Graham Smith, chief executive of anti-monarchy group Republic, which has stepped up its campaigning, told Reuters.

"Once we're past the end of the queen's reign, all bets are off as to where public opinion is going to go."

He said while only an act of parliament would be needed to end the monarchy, it was highly likely there would have to be a referendum first.

The monarchy's fortunes have

ebbed and flowed since her ancestor Norman King William I's 1066 conquest of England, but only during the decade that followed the execution of King Charles I in 1649 has Britain been a republic.

During Elizabeth's reign, lows came in the 1990s amid the failings of three of her children's marriages and the 1997 death of Princess Diana, first wife of heir Prince Charles.

Highs included the public outpourings of support at previous jubilees, the 2011 royal marriage of Elizabeth's grandson - and future king - Prince William, and the birth of royal children. Buckingham Palace said the four days of celebrations in June to mark Elizabeth's platinum jubilee will allow "national moments of reflection on the queen's 70 years of service".

A spokesman declined to comment on questions about the monarchy's long-term future.

ROYAL EXTINCTION?

Supporters see the queen as a stabilising factor, and cite economic benefits the monarchy brings Britain through tourism. Opponents argue the institution is a bastion of undeserved privilege, partially funded by taxpayers and undermined by some members' behaviour.

Andrew, 61, reputed by media to be Elizabeth's favourite of her four children, was stripped of his royal patronages and military titles this month as he fights allegations of sex abuse in a U.S. lawsuit.

India Ranks 85 Among 180 Countries In Global Corruption Index

Transparency Int'l Survey Pushes Pakistan To 140Th Place

Trans Asia News

OSLO: India is ranked 85th among 180 countries in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), 2021. Last year India's ranking was 86.

Denmark, Finland and New Zealand were ranked the least corrupt scoring 88 finishing on top followed closely by Norway, Singapore and Sweden who scored 85 points.

Pakistan scored 28/100 to rank 140 in the list at par with Myanmar.

This is Pakistan's worst drop in these rankings since 2010. In 2010, Pakistan had registered its worst performance and was relegated to 146th rank.

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is the most widely-used global corruption ranking in the world. It measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be, according to experts and businesspeople.

As anti-corruption efforts stagnate worldwide, human rights and democracy are also under assault. This is no coincidence. Our latest analysis shows that protecting human rights is crucial in the fight against corruption: countries with well-protected civil liberties generally score higher on the CPI, while countries who violate civil liberties tend to score lower. The global COVID-19 pandemic has also been used in many countries as an excuse to curtail basic freedoms and side-step important checks and balances, said Daniel Eriksson, Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International Secretariat.

The top performers in Asia Pacific are New Zealand (CPI score: 88), Singapore (85) and Hong Kong (76). However, most countries sit firmly below the global average of 43. This includes three countries with some

To Come Up With Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Following Manifestations Of Corruption In Public Sector Are Taken Into Consideration

1. Bribery
2. Diversion of public funds
3. Officials using their public office for private gain without facing consequences
4. Ability of governments to contain corruption in the public sector
5. Excessive red tape in the public sector which may increase opportunities for corruption
6. Nepotistic appointments in the civil service
7. Laws ensuring that public officials must disclose their finances and potential conflicts of interest
8. Legal protection for people who report cases of bribery and corruption
9. State capture by narrow vested interests
10. Access to information on public affairs/government activities

of the lowest scores in the world: Cambodia (23), Afghanistan (16) and North Korea (16).

Among those with weak scores are some of the world's most populous countries, such as China (45) and India (40), and other large economies such as Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26). A concerning trend across some of these nations is a weakening of anti-corruption institutions or, in some cases, absence of an agency to co-ordinate action against corruption.

From India to the Philippines to China, such leaders have been able to portray themselves as more effective than state institutions and win mandates to gain and stay in power. However, only a few of these countries have managed to make progress in controlling corruption and these gains remain fragile. Furthermore, in most countries, corruption is spreading through severe

restrictions on the very civil liberties - like freedom of association and speech - which allowed people to take to the streets and call for action.

"The case of India is particularly worrying. While the country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening. There are concerns over the country's democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay. Journalists and activists are particularly at risk and have been victims of attacks by the police, political militants, criminal gangs and corrupt local officials. Civil society organisations that speak up against the government have been targeted with security, defamation, sedition, hate speech and contempt-of-court charges, and with regulations on foreign funding," Transparency International said.

SC Issues Notices To Centre, Election Panel On PIL Against Poll Freebies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Supreme Court Tuesday sought replies from the Centre and the Election Commission on a PIL seeking direction to seize the symbol or deregister a political party that promises or distributes "irrational freebies" before polls, saying it is a "serious issue" as sometimes "freebie budget is going beyond regular budget".

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli sought the response in four weeks on the PIL filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay.

The plea, filed ahead of assembly polls in five states, said there should be a total ban on such populist measures to gain undue political favour from voters as they violate the Constitution and the EC should take suitable deterrent measures.

The bench took note of submissions of senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Upadhyay, that a law need to be framed on the issue and steps like seizure of party symbols or taking back the registration of parties or both may be thought of as ultimately it is the citizens who have to pay up.



"Let us see. For the time being, we will issue notice and let the Government of India and the Election Commission come back with some response," the bench said after hearing brief arguments.

The bench said that political parties may be included as parties to the plea later.

"Legally, I am asking some legal questions in the debate. We want to know how to control all this. It is a serious issue, no doubt. Freebie budget is going beyond regular budget and sometimes, as observed by the Supreme Court in this paragraph (of an earlier judgment), it is not the level playing field."

"The parties who make more promises have the advantage and chance of winning the elections even though it does not amount to corrupt practices under the law," the bench said.

It took note of the fact that

the poll panel has conducted only one meeting on the issue of promise of freebies during the polls after the apex court's judgment on the issue.

"The apex court had directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines on this. They have framed guidelines but without any teeth," the senior lawyer responded.

At the outset, Singh said in states, having huge debt, parties are promising freebies and please see, ultimately it is the public, whose money is promised to be given.

Every party is doing the same thing and there has to be some legislation on this aspect, he said, adding "I do not want to name any party".

"If every party has been doing the same thing then why in the affidavit you have named only two (political) parties," the bench said and asked Singh to read the judgment of the apex court on the issue.

UK To Scrap Covid Tests For Fully Vaccinated Travellers



Agence France-Presse

LONDON: The UK government is set to drop compulsory coronavirus tests for those arriving in England, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Monday, as he continues to lift curbs amid declining infections.

The government currently requires British and other citizens arriving into England from most countries to take a lateral flow test for Covid-19 within two days.

Johnson, who last week announced the easing of almost all domestic restrictions after several weeks of falling case rates, noted the change would only apply to fully vaccinated individuals.

"To show that this country is open for business, open for travellers, you will see changes so that people arriving no longer have to take tests if they've been vaccinated," he told reporters on a hospital visit.

Johnson did not specify a date for the change. He noted that this will apply only to arrivals who have been "double vaccinated".

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps was due to update parliament with more details about the change later Monday.

The UK government only sets health policy for England, while devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland administer their own rules.

Johnson earlier this month scrapped the need for arrivals in England to have pre-departure tests and quarantine until they have tested negative.

That had been mandated last month after Britain saw a fresh surge in cases due to the arrival of the Omicron variant in late November.

Announcing that easing of the rules, Johnson said the strain had now become so prevalent that enhanced testing measures for arrivals were having a "limited impact" on infections while imposing "significant costs on our travel industry".

The UK, among the worst hit countries in Europe by the pandemic with a virus death count of nearly 154,000, has seen new cases fall dramatically from record daily levels late last month.

But some have criticised the relaxation of so many curbs so quickly, warning it could prompt a resurgence in cases and questioning whether Johnson has been making the changes for political reasons.

The embattled leader has been engulfed in scandals for weeks, leading to a clamour of calls for his resignation, including from within his own ruling Conservative party.

Many Tory lawmakers have grown increasingly weary of Covid-19 rules, with nearly 100 breaking ranks last month and rebelling against Johnson's beefing up of some restrictions before Christmas.

"Everything Is Frozen": Snow Storm Shuts Down Europe's Busiest Airport



Agence France-Presse

ISTANBUL: Europe's busiest airport shut down in Istanbul on Monday while schools and vaccination centres closed in Athens as a rare snowstorm blanketed swathes of the eastern Mediterranean, causing blackouts and traffic havoc.

The closure of Istanbul Airport -- where the roof of one of the cargo terminals collapsed under heavy snow, causing no injuries -- grounded flights stretching from the Middle East and Africa to Europe and Asia.

Travel officials told AFP it marked the glass-and-steel structure's first shutdown since it replaced Istanbul's old Ataturk Airport as the new hub for Turkish Airlines in 2019.

The winter's first snow created a fun atmosphere across the squares of Istanbul's ancient mosques, where children built snowmen and tourists posed for selfies.

But it proved a major headache for the 16 million residents of Turkey's largest city, where cars ploughed into each other skidding down steep, sleet-covered streets and highways turned into parking lots.

The Istanbul governor's office warned drivers they would not be able to enter the city from Thrace -- a region stretching across the European part of Turkey to its western border with Bulgaria and Greece.

Shopping malls closed early, food delivery services shut down and the city's iconic "simit" bagel stalls stood empty because suppliers could not get through the snow.

The storm blocked roads across central and southeastern Turkey before crossing into neighbouring Syria, where it piled more misery on the war-scarred country's northern refugee camps.

Istanbul Airport serviced more than 37 million passengers last year, becoming one of the world's most important air hubs.

But critics of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had long questioned his decision to place the airport on a remote patch along the Black Sea coast that is often covered with fog in winter.

"Due to adverse conditions, all flights have been temporarily stopped for air safety," the airport said in a statement, posting pictures on Twitter of yellow snowploughs circling stranded aircraft.

SHORT TAKES

Sacked UP Muslim Doc Challenges Yogi



LUCKNOW: Paediatrician Dr Kafeel Khan, whose name surfaced in the 2017 BRD Medical college tragedy in which several children died allegedly for lack of oxygen, said on Tuesday that he may contest against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur if any party supports him.

Dr Khan was terminated from the service on November 9 last year and he has challenged it in the High Court.

"I can contest the assembly election against Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur. If any party gives me a ticket I am ready," Khan said while talking to PTI. When asked if he is in touch with any party or approached by anyone, "He said yes, talks are on. If all goes well I will be contesting the polls."

Gorakhpur is going to poll in the sixth phase on March 3. Khan said that he was made a scapegoat in the August 2017 tragedy in BRD Medical college in which children of 80 families died.

Khan alleged that despite the fact he was not in Gorakhpur, his 70-year-old mother was being harassed by the police, which reached at his home to enquire about him.

"I am active on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, etc., and tell about my whereabouts there. Presently, I am in Mumbai. From here I will be going to Hyderabad and Bangalore for the promotion of my book- 'The Gorakhpur Hospital Tragedy- A Doctor's Memoir of a Deadly Medical Crisis', which has become a bestseller with over 5000 copies sold," he said. -PTI

Rahul's March To Golden Temple



dress a virtual rally of the party from Jalandhar's Mithapur.

The Congress till now has announced 86 candidates and expected to declare other names soon.

According to the party, the former Congress chief will reach Amritsar from Delhi on Thursday morning.

After reaching Amritsar, he will be paying obeisance at the Golden Temple and partook of the langar along with 117 candidates of the party. He will also pay obeisance at the Durgiana temple and Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal.

In the afternoon, Rahul will reach Jalandhar, over 100 km away from Amritsar.

Later in the day at Jalandhar's Mithapur, Rahul Gandhi will address the "Punjab Fateh" virtual rally before returning to Delhi in the evening. The Election Commission on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31.

Punjab will go to the polls on February 20 and Rahul Gandhi's visit is expected to give a boost to party's poll campaign. -PTI

UP: Man Climbs On Tower With Kids Over Wife's Infidelity



Monday near Gandhi Nagar in Akbarpur, when the man threatened to commit suicide after throwing his kids down from a height of nearly 40-feet.

Chaos prevailed around the area and the locals informed the police that rushed to the spot.

After about half-an-hour of convincing, the police managed to bring him and his children down.

The man told the police that his wife's affair was going on with his neighbour. He had complained to the police, but no action was taken. Police said that as per the man, his wife had developed an illicit relationship with a man, living nearby their house. "As per the man, in his absence, his neighbour visited his house often. He said that he had reprimanded his neighbour many times, but to no avail," said the police. -IANS

Shilpa Shetty Gets Relief In Kiss Case



that she seems to be the victim of the act of Gere. A court of metropolitan magistrate Ketki Chavan discharged Shetty on January 18. A detailed order was made available on Monday. In 2007, Gere and Shetty had come together for an AIDS awareness programme in Rajasthan.

On the stage, Gere kissed the actress on her cheeks, causing a stir in the country. "It seems that the accused Shilpa Shetty is the victim of the alleged act of accused no. 1 (Richard Gere). Not a single element of any of the alleged offence is being satisfied in the complaint," the court said in the order. -PTI

J&K Admin Announces Government Awards 2022

Kashmiri Poetess
Naseem Shafaie Bags
Award In Literature

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory administration on Tuesday announced conferment of Jammu and Kashmir Government Awards, 2022 in recognition of contributions made by outstanding achievers in different fields, including arts, literature and crafts, sports, social reforms, healthcare and other categories.

Paying rich tribute to the front-line healthcare workers who sacrificed their lives in the service of people of Jammu and Kashmir without caring for their own lives, the Government has conferred the award upon, Dr. Mohd Ashraf Mir, Medical Officer, District Hospital, Pulwama (Posthumously), Bashir Ahmad Magrey, Sup. Pharmacist, S/o Mohammad Shaban Magrey R/o Ashmuqam (Posthumously), Ratna Devi, Assistant Matron, Government Medical College, Jammu (Posthumously), Abdul Hamid, Class-IV, Government Medical College, Jammu (Posthumously) for their selfless service during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In addition, Shadi Lal Pandita, Director General (Codes), Finance Department and Dr. Jatinder Khajuria, Registrar, Cluster University, Jammu, have also been awarded in the category of Meritorious Public Service for the exemplary service.

For outstanding contribution in the field of Literature, the Jammu and Kashmir Government Award, 2022 for Literature has been conferred on renowned Kashmiri poetess and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Naseem Shafaie and K.D. Maini noted Pahari Writer and Satish Vimal renowned Writer and Poet. These awardees have made remarkable contribution in the field of literature.

The award in the category of Performing Arts has been conferred on Mr. Ramalo Ram a well known Dogri Singer and Dancer whose contribution in promotion of Dogra Art has been acclaimed at national level too and Mr. Waqar Mohammad Khan the noted singing sensation who is particularly famous among youth for his soulful voice.

S. Inder Singh, Chairman, Himalayan Heritage Museum and Arifa Jan have been conferred with award in the category of Arts and Crafts in recognition of their valuable contribution in promotion and preservation of the cultural and traditional heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

In recognition of his contribution for up-liftment of poor and downtrodden sections of the society particularly disabled persons Jasbir Singh founder of Pritam

JKP Bags Highest 115 Police Medals For Gallantry

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has bagged highest number of 115 police medal for gallantry on the eve of Republic Day among all States/UTs across the country.

The union government on Tuesday announced the list of 189 police personnel to receive the police medal for Gallantry on January 26.

According to the list released by the government, among the states, Union Territories (UTs), and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), J&K has bagged the maximum 115 police medals.

Spiritual Foundation has been conferred with the Award in the Social Reforms and Empowerment Category along-with Samiullah Wani of NGO "SHE HOPE" for their contribution in the rehabilitation of specially abled persons and disaster risk reduction, public health, skill development and livelihood generation of other vulnerable sections of population. Late H.L. Maini, Retired Chief Engineer who served the general public of Jammu and Kashmir along-with significantly contributing in the development of critical infrastructure at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and Late Sarwanand Kaul Premi, noted literary personality of Jammu and Kashmir who spent his whole life in serving the mankind have been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Recognizing the role played by Rakesh Kumar, Para Archer and Olympian in the promotion of Para Sports in Jammu and Kashmir and laurels he brought for the Union territory, he has been awarded in the Sports Category along-with Smt. Arifa Bilal, Female Power Lifter who recently won a Gold Medal at National level and Arif Mohammad Khan, Skiing, the only Indian athlete to qualify for the Beijing Winter Olympics, 2022.

Tariq Ahmad Bhat of ANN News and Pradeep Dutta, Bureau Chief, Times Now, Jammu have been conferred with the Award in the category of Outstanding Media Person.

Atul Modi, Chairman, Managing Director and founder of Presvest Den Pro Limited, Jammu, leading dental products manufacturer and exporter which has presence in more than 75 countries has been conferred with the award in Industrial Entrepreneurship category.

SKUAST-K Holds Webinar On Innovation Mining

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir held one day workshop on 'Innovation Mining' for the BSc Fisheries students on Tuesday.

The programme was organised by the university's Faculty of Fisheries under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of SKUAST-K.

The programme was organised to acquaint the fisheries students with various concepts of innovation, startups and entrepreneurship.

Startup coach and Managing Partner of REIN Labs – Mumbai-based innovation, incubation and research organisation – Saurabh Sinha was the main expert of the webinar. He briefed the audience on 'why Entrepreneurship and why to take it as a career option'. He gave a detailed overview of the design thinking process & innovation trends and startup opportunities in fisheries.

He correlated the risk factors of government jobs and entre-

preneurship. The second expert talk was given by Syed Nadeem, General Manager and coordinator Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network J&K. He gave a brief about the opportunities and status of startups in J&K. He enlightened the participants about different collaborations which they have done for the development of society through boosting and infusing the startup culture in J&K UT.

Besides students, division heads, faculty members and scientists, Prof Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof Massarat Khan Dean Faculty of Fisheries, Prof Azmat Alam Co-PI NAHEP, Prof Farooq Ahmad Zaki, HRM consultant, Dr Naveed Hamid, BDA Innovation & Entrepreneurship Cell IDP SKUAST-K participated in the programme.

Prof Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, who was the chief guest at the occasion, in his address put focus on innovation in the fisheries sector by quoting many examples and stressed upon to tap the fisheries resource of Kashmir for innovation and startups.



SOLDIERS CHECKING the bag of a motorcyclist in the high security zone Sonwar area of the city on the eve of R-Day.

Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

1.5 Lakh Voters Added In J&K Since 2019: Officials

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Over 1.5 lakh new eligible voters have been added to the electoral roll in Jammu and Kashmir and 12,000 voters in Ladakh since 2019, an official said.

On account of the 12th National Voters' Day, Jammu and Kashmir's election department had on Tuesday organised an event at Nirvachan Bhawan in Jammu during which Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta virtually administered the pledge to all administrative secretaries, divisional commissioners, district election officers, electoral registration officers and assistant electoral registration officers besides other officials.

This year's National Voters' Day is celebrated on the theme Making elections inclusive, accessible and participative.

Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Hirdesh Kumar said the health of electoral rolls for Ladakh has tremendously been improved after the culmination of the summary revision with 0.6 Elector Population ratio, 94.22 Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) percentage and



1000: 987 gender ratio.

"As for Jammu and Kashmir, more than 1.5 lakh new eligible voters were added during the continuous updation of electoral rolls since the last Special Summary Revision from 01-01-2019 as the qualifying date", Kumar said.

He said the need of the hour is to educate voters about the ethical and qualitative participation in the electoral process as the theme for this year's National Voters' Day focuses on the Election Commission of India's (ECI) commitment to facilitate the active participation

of voters during the elections and to make the complete process hassle-free.

The chief secretary said the ECI's main focus this year is to encourage all segments of electorates, including persons with disabilities, youth, women and senior citizens, besides ensuring that all citizens are registered.

He also highlighted the importance of online facilities provided by the ECI, such as the voter portal (<http://www.nvsp.in>) and voter helpline mobile app, and urged the people to utilize these digital platforms fully.

Centre, J&K To Collaborate For Next Generation Administrative Reforms



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Union Personnel Ministry will collaborate with the government of Jammu and Kashmir for next-generation administrative reforms, an official statement issued on Tuesday said.

The DARPG and the Jammu and Kashmir government will collaborate on creation of an online portal for monitoring progress in 58 District Good Governance Index Indicators, adoption of e-HRMS in the Jammu and Kashmir secretariats, and online monitoring of citizen satisfaction in 150 e-services through Jammu & Kashmir e-services delivery assessment framework, it said.

As a follow-up to the launch of the District Good Governance Index on January 22 by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the roadmap for three key good governance initiatives was drawn up in a meet-

ing held on Tuesday between DARPG Secretary V Srinivas and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta.

Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha were also present during the launch at convention centre, Jammu.

The Jammu and Kashmir District Good Governance Index represents next generation administrative reform in benchmarking governance at district level, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

The District Good Governance Index of Jammu & Kashmir helps identify the impact of various governance interventions at district level and provides a futuristic roadmap for improving district level governance with targeted interventions, it said.

To further strengthen the good governance model of Jammu & Kashmir, the 58 indicators of the District Good Governance Index would be monitored on a dedicated

portal on and evaluated by an external agency the Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad, the statement said.

The data collation formats would be decided by government of Jammu & Kashmir and an online monitoring dashboard would be developed by NIC, it said.

This exercise is expected to be completed by mid-February 2022, the statement said.

The Jammu Secretariat and the Srinagar Secretariat have been transformed into paperless secretariats, with the adoption of e-Office version 7.0, it said.

Taking this initiative forward, it was decided that e-HRMS software for digitalization of all employee records would be adopted by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, the statement said.

The e-HRMS software provides for digitalization of employee service books, leave and travel records of employees, GPF, gratuity and pension benefits into the e-office system, it said.

A project proposal for adop-

Bailey Bridge At Sakhras Closed For Traffic

ANANTNAG: The District Magistrate (DM) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Tuesday ordered the temporary closure of 25 Mtr Span Bailey bridge at Sakhras, Srigufwara for vehicular movement till further orders.

According to the order issued, the bridge connecting Fuhar and Sakhras in Tehsil Srigufwara is in urgent need of repair and in order to avoid any public mishap, the bridge shall remain

closed for vehicular movement of any kind.

Meanwhile R&B has been directed to install temporary barricading at the bridge and SDM Pahalgam and SDPO Ashmuqam have been directed to implement the order in letter and spirit.

The general public is requested to cooperate with the administration and avoid using the bridge for vehicular movement.

Higher Education Department, IIT To Launch J&K Wide Start Up Competition: Kansal

Observer News Service

JAMMU: 14 business plans have been shortlisted in a pitch deck competition conducted by IIT Jammu. These would be evaluated to yield the final list of projects. Besides, the entire process would be enlarged and a J&K wide start up contest would be organized jointly by the Higher Education Department and the IIT Jammu. This was revealed at a meeting held at IIT in order to shortlist the best business plans which were received in the first round of the pitch deck competition organized by IIT Jammu.

The Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Rohit Kansal, while complimenting the efforts of the institute in organizing the competition also assured that the Higher Education department would support and facilitate a larger, J&K wide version of the event which would be organized shortly by the IIT. The Director IIT, Dr Manoj Singh Gaur assured that the IIT would support budding entrepreneurs as well various degree colleges of J&K on a hub and spoke model.

Earlier, the faculty and students of the IIT gave a presentation on the in-house Learning Management System (LMS) developed by the students of this Institute. The model, developed as a start up by the students has unique and desirable features such as student feedback, customised assignments submission facility, attendance checking, assessment,

administrative monitoring and automatic grading available in it.

The presenters also divulged that the platform has different interfaces for students and teachers modelled as per the requirements of each. It was revealed that quiz sessions and automatic marking of the same could also be accomplished using this system besides being safe, trustworthy and effective tool with features appreciated by both the students and teachers as well. It was also said that the platform could well be useful even after the start of offline classes for better management and monitoring purpose.

The Principal Secretary exhorted the Degree Colleges to expeditiously introduce appropriate systems in their colleges, more so in the light of the prevailing COVID situation when most classes were being held online. It may be mentioned that currently, only a few colleges are making use of the LMS as an effective tool. While the Islamia College, Srinagar which is an autonomous institute has an effective automated system, many other colleges are working towards developing similar LMS and ERP solutions for better monitoring, accountability and improving the quality of performance.

The meeting was attended by Director of the IIT, Dr Manoj Singh Gaur, Sanjay Dahiya, Registrar, IIT Jammu; Prof Yasmeen Ashai, Director Colleges; Principals of various degree colleges besides faculty and students of the IIT.

Former BJP MLA Joins Congress In Jammu

JAMMU: Former BJP MLA Dina Nath Bhagat on Tuesday joined the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) here saying he was influenced by the party leadership and its track record.

Bhagat, who resigned from the BJP in November 2020 before briefly joining the National Panthers Party, was welcomed into the Congress fold by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president G A Mir working president Raman Bhal-la and other senior party leaders at the party headquarters here.

Bhagat, who won from Chenani in Udhampur district in the last Assembly elections on the BJP ticket, is a secular thinking leader and a well-known personality who has always served the people. His joining the Con-

gress is a big boost for the party, Mir told reporters.

Bhagat said he had resigned from the BJP on his own after he felt suffocated in the party as there is a lot of difference between words and deeds.

The BJP is not a party of the poor and they are being sidelined. Whenever I raised an issue concerning the poor, I only got negative responses, he alleged.

Lavishing praises on the Congress, he said the party ruled the nation for over 60 years and took it to newer heights.

The present leadership, including party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, are doing a great service to the nation. They want the people to stand united, like a bouquet, as this is the secret to keeping our nation strong, he said.

CONDOLENCE

With profound grief, we inform the sad demise of Khatija Bano. W/o Mohd Qasim Rather, and Sister of Mohammad Jamal Rather, R/o Wahabpora Budgam on Tuesday 24th January 2022. May Almighty Allah grant her Jannat ul Firdous (Aameen). The Fateha Khawani will be held on Friday 28th January 2022 at their ancestral village Wahabpora.

BEREAVED FAMILY
NISAR HUSSAIN RATHER (SON)
PHONE NO. 8491043134

INFO

Police Rescues 6 People Trapped In Heavy Snowfall

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A police team rescued six people who were trapped in heavy snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said on Tuesday.

A distress call was received by station house officer (SHO) of Basantgarh police station Inspector Sohan Singh on Monday night that some of the family members of the caller were stuck at higher reaches of Chochru Galla Top and Khaned Top, they said.

These people were coming from Himachal Pradesh via Malhar of Kathua district and were trapped due to heavy

snowfall, they said.

After receiving the information, a police team led by the SHO swung into action and walked for kilometres through rough snow tough, foggy terrain and reached the site after two hours, according to the officials.

The team rescued all the trapped people, they said.

The rescued people were brought to Shang police post, where they were provided food, shelter and medicare facilities and they were reunited with their families on Tuesday, the officials said.

Rajouri Man Arrested For Insulting PM Modi

Agencies

RAJOURI: A man, hailing from Mohalla Namb of Dehrian village of Rajouri district, was arrested on Tuesday for his 'derogatory remarks' against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Police have lodged a case under relevant sections of law against the accused at Rajouri Police Station.

Official said that a man identified as Showket Hussain, son

of Mohammad Salim of Mohalla Namb, Dehrian village of Rajouri has been arrested, adding that further legal proceedings into the matter are going on, according to news agency KNO.

They said that the accused shared a video on social media platform with the content containing derogatory and objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Serving To Empower

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Central Stationery Deptt
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar

Request for Dasti Quotes, for supply of Computer stationery item i.e Epson Printer ink bottles"

J&K Bank Central stationery Deptt; Nowgam, has extended the date for submission of Dasti Quotes dated 10.01.2022 for the supply of computer stationery item i.e "Epson Printer ink bottles" from local printers/vendors. The interested printers/vendors can obtain Dasti Quote RFQ Document from central stationery Deptt; Nowgam during Business hours and can submit their Quotes(Bids) upto **28th Jan, 2022 till 17.00 hours** in a sealed envelope, addressed to In Charge Central Stationery Department ,Nowgam Bye Pass Srinagar.

Date: 25.01.2022

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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Political Outreach Needed

Inspector General of Border Security Force, Kashmir, Raja Babu Singh said on Monday that about 135 militants are present at launch pads across the border, waiting to infiltrate into India. However, he acknowledged that the overall situation at the Line of Control (LoC) is "peaceful" since the signing of the ceasefire agreement and the number of infiltration bids was lesser last year in comparison to previous years. According to Singh, 58 infiltration attempts were made, in which 31 militants crossed over, five of whom were killed, 21 returned and one surrendered. As against this, 130 militants had infiltrated in 2019 and 36 in 2020. However, when asked about the Taliban threat, the IG Singh said that nothing like that had come to pass so far but that the security forces were keeping an eye on the evolving situation.

It is true that the Taliban control of Afghanistan has markedly altered the security climate of the region. All neighbouring countries fear some kind of fallout. At the same time, the Taliban has assured the world that it won't allow its soil to be used for carrying out attacks against any other country. But the world remains chary of taking the Taliban assurances on their face value. So, this year would be crucial for the region, including also for Kashmir.

Truth is that the situation remains very fluid and its future direction is difficult to predict. An Afghanistan that is stable and at peace with itself is in everyone's interest. But the chances of this happening anytime soon appear slim. In the event that Afghanistan once again becomes a battleground between its neighbours, the consequent instability in the country could have far-reaching security implications.

Kashmir is regarded as one of the places that could be most impacted by a Taliban controlled Afghanistan. Experts in South Asia predict a renewed phase of militancy in the former state, already grappling with three decades of turmoil. But would such a scenario play out again? There is no telling as yet. But as the security experts have also indicated, the Taliban victory could create a challenging security situation for the government. It very well can. Over the last two years, even though the militancy in Kashmir has been low-key, and a large number of militants have been killed, the militancy is very much alive and kicking. It is true that the militancy can receive fresh inspiration and impetus from the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Could this be pre-empted? Difficult to say. But the government shouldn't only tackle the situation arising from the Afghan fallout through the usual iron-fist approach but also urgently initiate a political outreach, something that has been absent for the last seven years.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Not Mild For All

Even at the peak of the second wave in India last year, when no contact tracing was done or was possible, not a word was said about the Delta variant being in community transmission — where the source of infection cannot be traced. But with extremely transmissible Omicron becoming the dominant variant across major cities, INSACOG, the consortium meant to monitor the genomic variations in the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has for the first time officially mentioned that India has entered community transmission; daily fresh cases have been over 0.3 million since January 19. Even as on June 15 last year, when the second wave had peaked here, India claimed to have only a 'cluster of cases' as reflected in WHO's last epidemiological report (weekly) mentioning the stage of transmission in member-States. In contrast, the U.S. declared community transmission in February 2020 when the source of infection was untraceable in one instance; only 15 cases were detected then. The closest India came to admitting community transmission was in October 2020, when then Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said it was restricted to "certain districts in limited States". The deep reluctance to acknowledge community transmission was based on the premise that it marked the Government's inability to control the virus spread and the failure of the harsh national lockdown. As the Government tried in vain to obfuscate the stage of transmission, it only reflected its resistance to acknowledge reality and an unwillingness to be transparent.

INSACOG's weekly bulletin also mentions that the BA.2 sub-lineage of Omicron forms a substantial fraction of cases detected in India. This sub-lineage was detected a month after WHO had designated Omicron to be a variant of concern on November 26, 2021. Though the Omicron variant causes less disease severity intrinsically and most of those who are fully vaccinated have only mild disease, the number of people hospitalised and requiring intensive care has been increasing in the third wave in India. As WHO recently warned, people infected with Omicron can display the "full spectrum of disease" — from asymptomatic infection to severe disease and death. This is especially true in older people, those with comorbidities, and people not fully vaccinated. Though over 67% of adults have been fully vaccinated, and nearly 8.2 million booster doses administered as on January 23, nearly 5.5% of health-care workers, 6.8% of frontline workers, and 16.2% of those older than 60 years have not received their second dose. Fully vaccinating these vulnerable groups should be a high priority. Meanwhile, the need for strict adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour cannot be overemphasised.

The Hindu

State Of Health Care In J&K



THE ALREADY POOR INFRASTRUCTURE coupled with the challenges of the times has led to a retrograde medical infrastructure in Kashmir

Javaid Iqbal and Rofudun Nisa

PATIENTS FROM RURAL regions are directed to urban tertiary care facilities, losing valuable time in the commute, and sometimes even resulting in loss of life. Many hospitals, even at the district level, lack basic facilities such as having a blood bank. Due to the severe shortage of facilities in government hospitals, many families must seek healthcare from private hospitals and pay out-of-pocket (OOP)

THE weight of delivering health care during a pandemic is heavy—it is even more so when this is happening in a society suffering from a protracted socio-political conflict for the last seven decades. This is the reality of a valley nestled in the lap of the great Himalayas: Kashmir.

Since early 2020, the human and structural infrastructure in the valley of Kashmir has been under unimaginable stress, yet the frontline healthcare providers have answered the call of duty without fail. According to the Physicians Foundation, doctors, on average, should see 20 patients per day and spend at least 20 mins per patient. This is because spending time with the patient enables the doctor to build rapport and investigate the cause of the disease. In Kashmir, however, doctors usually have to take care of more than 150 patients in an Outpatient Department (OPD) per day. In addition, doctors have to work up the patients admitted for elective surgery and take care of both admitted and emergency patients concurrently.

The ongoing pandemic has exposed the flaws in Kashmir's healthcare system, with deficiencies in both healthcare availability and delivery. A 2016 survey published by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported that 45% of the Kashmiri population had experienced some form of mental distress, with only 6.4% of the people with a mental illness ever visiting a psychiatrist.

Since 2019, Kashmir has been under a spate of curfews and lockdowns, first due to the revocation of Article 370 and now due to the Coronavirus. This has adversely affected the mental health of the general population—especially the youth. Nearly all mental health services are clustered in the capital city of Srinagar, which makes them inaccessible to patients in rural areas, with COVID intensifying these challenges. Up to 500 suicide cases have been registered in the last year alone. These trends have not spared the children: between 2016-2019, those treated for mental issues has risen from approximately 17000 to 30000. Public Health care institu-

tions in Kashmir deliver care to almost 97% of the population even though they are severely understaffed. The doctor-patient ratio is one of the lowest in India. The World Health Organization recommends one doctor for every thousand patients; Kashmir has a doctor-patient ratio of 1:2000. The valley has 2,459 oxygen-supported beds, only 752 of which could handle high-risk patients. There are only six hospital beds available for every 10,000 patients. This lack of infrastructure is particularly hard on the nomadic Gujjar and Bakerwal communities which constitute 20% of the population.

Patients from rural regions are directed to urban tertiary care facilities, losing valuable time in the commute, and sometimes even resulting in loss of life. Many hospitals, even at the district level, lack basic facilities such as having a blood bank. Due to the severe shortage of facilities in government hospitals, many families must seek healthcare from private hospitals and pay out-of-pocket (OOP). The private hospitals currently in operation are too expensive for the general population. As a result, many middle-class families get bankrupt while trying to keep their loved ones alive.

Multiple women can be seen sharing one bed in Srinagar's main maternal hospital, called Lal Ded. 60% of married women in Jammu and Kashmir have reported at least one reproductive health problem, which is the highest in the country, with 26% of the pregnant women in a tertiary care hospital suffering from a depressive disorder. Studies at the valley premier hospital, the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), report that 15.7% of women cannot have children without medical intervention. An additional 14% are incapable of conceiving due to other medical conditions.

There is also a high prevalence of C-section surgery among women in Kashmir. Due to the financial incentive of performing a C-section, many doctors continue to perform it even when not needed. This method of delivering is known to cause several socioeconomic, psychological, and health problems. According

to Lancet the use of Caesarean section has risen over the past 30 years around 10-15% in developing countries without significant maternal or perinatal benefits. In addition, the technique is associated with short and long-term health effects and healthcare costs, resulting in severe mortality among women and children. According to the French Research Institute Development (IRD), India documented a yearly excess of 18 lakh caesarean childbirths from 2010 through 2016.

Lack of Respect and mistreatment of women in public hospitals and needless interventional procedures in private facilities, are not surprising. Telangana which had the highest rates of caesarean births in the country, has decided to professionally train midwives to improve maternal and infant care. According to WHO data 83% of pregnancy and childbirth related deaths can be avoided if mid-wives are involved. There is growing evidence that midwives are as good as doctors in taking care of pregnant women.

The number of cancer cases has also increased up to 87% since 2011—reportedly due to lifestyle changes. These trends in incidence are particularly worrying for breast cancer: women in Kashmir are mostly diagnosed at an advanced stage, resulting in a poor prognosis. In Jammu & Kashmir, most cancer expenses were met with high out-of-pocket expenses. Health costs also keep people poor and push those just above the poverty line back into poverty.

It is challenging to increase the quality and access to healthcare due to the lack of reliable data in Kashmir. However, the abrupt shift in the profile of diseases in Kashmir makes it urgent for the administration to improve programs that will improve healthcare in Kashmir.

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

The authors Javaid Iqbal is a Health Economist and a Fellow at Harvard Public Health Review and Rofudun Nisa is a Senior Resident at GMC Srinagar



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Expensive Parking Lots

Traffic police in Srinagar can be seen on patrolling duties and levying fines on cars parked along the sidewalks. This patrolling spree has been intensified ever since two parking lots have been opened in city center Lal Chowk. However, shopkeepers complain that this has bare-

ly solved the congestion issue of the market. This is because the parking lots are outrageously expensive for commoners. The rate for parking increases by Rs 10 per hour which doesn't make it feasible for many. Petrol prices have already increased and they show no signs of coming

down. How can the authorities feel that it is acceptable to force people to park when they have made no provisions for an affordable parking space for most. Lalchowk is not a high-end market anymore neither is it a mall. It makes no sense when authorities expect that those who frequent the market

can afford parking fees. Unless and until affordable spaces for vehicles are made available, the government should not go after those, especially the shopkeepers who have no alternative but to park near their shops.

Farooq Ahmad Shah

Islam Between Privilege And Responsibility

Dr. Ashraf Amin

THE great Mufasssirs (Exegetes) have found that man is the main focus of the Qur'an, the 'Final Revealed Book'. They contend that if one ponders upon the multifaceted discourses incorporated in the Qur'an, one can safely reach to the conclusion that the central theme and aim pursued by the Qur'an is the 'training of the human being', as a being conscious of the reason of his existence. The main aim of the Qur'an, if simplified is therefore to reinforce and accelerate the spiritual ascension, together with all the qualities of human being, towards a state of true loftiness and the dignity of which the human being is worthy for he is created in the best of the moulds (Ashraf al Makhluqat). In other words, we can say that the main purpose of Qur'an is to expound truths that are relevant to the 'life of a human being' and the exaltation of his being conducive to attain a life of true happiness. Comprehending the essence of Qur'an, it was the Prophet himself first who shaped his life on the Qura'anic precepts so much so that 'Ayesha (wife of the Prophet) symbolises his morals with the teachings of Qur'an. Imbibing the characteristics of their Prophet, the Companions (Sahaba) strived hard to actualise their life in conformity with the Qur'an. Ali bin Abi Talib is reported to supplicate that reveals how the Holy Qur'an forms 'the chart of life for man'. He prayed: "O Allah! expand my breast with Qur'an, actuate my body with Qur'an, enlighten my sight with Qur'an, liberate my tongue by Qur'an, and help me to mould my life according to Qur'an, so long as You make me live".

Believers are expected to refer to the Quran and the Sunnah of Messenger of Allah in order to learn the secrets of the life in the world and the hereafter; they also refer to it whenever issues remain unsolved through other means. In such respect Qur'an says in Surah al-Nahl (16: 89) "We have sent down to thee the Book explaining all things, a Guide, Mercy and Glad Tidings to Muslims." However, one should not conclude from this verse that the Quran is an almanac or a book of science. It is not a book that mentions provisional scientific theories; it may furnish the clues regarding science but in essence, it is a life guide. It is a manual sent by Allah, Who created us and who knows our nature better than us; it shows us how to use our temporary body in this transient world. "This Quran is not a tale invented, but a confirmation of what went before it, a detailed exposition of all things, and a Guide and a Mercy to any such as believe", says Qur'an in Surah al-Yusuf (12:111). It is the most distinctive feature of the Quran, whose unique aim is the guidance and happiness of human beings, to use a style in compliance with this aim: "to address sometimes the mind, sometimes the feelings, sometimes the conscience and sometimes the heart of its readers, to attract attention to the previous nations, the sky and the earth, the kingdom of plants and



animals, the psychological, sociological, philosophical and ethical realities and to ask its readers to think on these issues", as Said Nursi puts it. The Quran informs man of his responsibilities toward himself, his Lord, the other people and nature. It teaches those who are not aware of their responsibilities and reminds those who forget about their responsibilities.

Qur'an has a unique feature of portrayal of preceding nations. One of such communities described is that of Banu Israel. The community was honoured with the endowment of several Prophets. God bestowed them with multiple favours that were unknown to others. Qur'an abounds in ayahs with respect to the favours done to the said Nation. Thus says the Qur'an: "O Children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favour which I bestowed upon you, and fulfil your covenant with Me as I fulfil My Covenant with you, and fear none but Me. (2:40). "Children of Israel! Call to mind the (special) favour which I bestowed upon you, and that I preferred you to all other nations (for My Message) (2:47).

In fact Banu Israel turns out to be the first nation who received the maximum number of Prophets, a fully detailed and comprehensive Law, and a comprehensive revealed scripture in the form of Torah. "And We gave Moses the Scripture, complete with the best commandments, detailing everything, and a beacon and mercy, that they may believe in meeting their" (Qur'an, 6:154). All such favours deserved obedience to God and service towards mankind. However Banu Israel ended up with Jews and Christians. The former got so intoxicated with the phrase Chosen People that they became racial (Making Yahweh Only their God) and the later held salvation as their exclusive right. They abandoned the spirit of servitude to God, instead developed the fantasies of good life here and hereafter. God had sent them constant reminders recorded in Torah and as endorsed by Qur'an: We [Allah] made a covenant with you [Children of Israel] and raised the Mount [Sinai] above you,

saying: 'Grasp fervently [the Torah] what We [Allah] have given you, and bear in minds its precepts, that you may guard yourselves against evil"(Qur'an, 2:65). Stressing upon the moral and social duties God had revealed: And remember We [Allah] made a covenant with the Children of Israel (to this effect): Worship none but Allah; treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and practise regular charity. Then did ye turn back, except a few among you, and ye backslide (even now) (Qur'an, 2:83). But being carried away by the shower of favours, Banu Israel (contemporary Jews and Christians) remained oblivious of the criteria of being good in the sight of their Lord. As Karen Armstrong puts it nicely, "The title of 'Chosen People' given to Banu Israel spoke more of responsibility than of privilege."

Failing in the fulfilment of Covenants made with Allah, Jews and Christians were succeeded by Muslims as Allah makes it a rule to substitute the irresponsible and insensitive with the responsible and susceptible. Muhammad as a Prophet and his immediate followers (Sahaba) lived up to the spirit that was altogether missing in Banu Israel. According to Qur'anic teaching, service of Allah cannot be separated from service to humankind, or in Islamic terms, believers in Allah must honour both Haquq Allah (rights of Allah) and Haquq al-'ibad (rights of creatures). Fulfilment of one's duties to Allah and humankind constitutes righteousness, as comprehensively stated in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:177), which reads as: Righteousness does not consist in turning your faces towards the east or towards the west; true righteousness consists in believing in Allah and the Last Day, the angels, the Book and the Prophets, and in giving away one's property in love of Him to one's kinsmen, the orphans, the poor and the wayfarer, and to those who ask for help, and in freeing the necks of slaves, and in establishing Prayer and dispensing the Zakah. True righteous-

ness is attained by those who are faithful to their promise once they have made it and by those who remain steadfast in adversity and affliction and at the time of battle (between Truth and falsehood).

creatures (Zakah). Thus, to be a Muslim means in a fundamental way to be both Allah-conscious and conscious of his fellow human beings, and to understand the interconnectedness of all aspects of

“QUR'AN ALWAYS HOSTS AN INTEGRATED vision that contains belief in Allah and Allah's revelation (Iman) and righteous action (amal), or regular remembrance of Allah (Salah) and discharge of one's financial and moral obligations to Allah's creatures (Zakah). Thus, to be a Muslim means in a fundamental way to be both Allah-conscious and conscious of his fellow human beings, and to understand the interconnectedness of all aspects of one's life, of the life of all creation and of our life in this momentary world to life eternal

Such are the truthful ones; such are the God-fearing. Setting themselves right in the colour of above cited teachings of Qur'an, Prophet and his comrades in the full light of history displayed to the world that they represented the group of "chosen people " in the true sense of the word. The successors of Prophet's Companions termed as Tabi'in and their successors known as Tabi'atibi'in did their best to preserve the legacy left by the Prophet and his followers.

However as time passed, Muslims developed signs of negligence towards the ways set by their Prophet under the all wise guidance of God (Allah). The rot deepened to such an extent that Muslims like Jews and Christians felt contended with the title of Khayr-i-Ummat (The Best Community) and Ummat-i-Wasata (The Middle Ummah) at the cost of obligations that the titles brought with them.

In the words of Muhammad Azizan: "It must be made clear that although the Ummat-i-Wasat of the Prophet is recognized by a specific name, they are neither a chosen group nor a saved community of faith. By virtue of exercising the final, concrete and universal form of Islam, they belong to a single community of believers. Thus the model community of the Prophet stands as the final community of the final al-Millal al Hanaffiyah (the absolute monotheistic religion). To be a Muslim today or any day as Rifat Hassan puts it is to live in accordance with the will and pleasure of Allah." She comments: Muslims often say, with joy and pride, that it is easy to be a Muslim since Islam is 'the straight path' leading to paradise. What this means, in other words, is that the principles of Islam are simple and straightforward, free of ambiguities, confusions, inconsistencies or mysteries, and that comprehending them or living in accordance with them is not difficult. The assumption here is that if one somehow comes to "the straight path" by accepting Islam, which is Allah's last and final revelation to humanity, one will fairly effortlessly arrive at the destination which is a state of eternal blessedness in the presence of Allah.

Qur'an always hosts an integrated vision that contains belief in Allah and Allah's revelation (Iman) and righteous action (amal), or regular remembrance of Allah (Salah) and discharge of one's financial and moral obligations to Allah's

one's life, of the life of all creation and of our life in this momentary world to life eternal. Qur'an beautifully summarises this as: "Those who remember God (always, and in prayers) standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and think deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth, (saying), "Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, glory to You! (Exalted are You above all that they associate with You as partners); give us salvation from the torment of the Fire" (3:191).

It is really unfortunate that today Muslims all over the world fail to uphold the ideas of Islam. They are in-serious towards the affairs within their own societies and the global crisis of justice, order, leadership, harmony and peace. Instead of realizing their responsibilities they appease themselves with ideas that they are the favourite Ummah of the Prophet and witness over all Ummam. They don't pay heed towards when Prophet Muhammad will say, "O my Lord! Surely my people have treated this Qur'an as a forsaken thing"(Qur'an, 25:30) or the Hadith of the Prophet like "All are entitled to Jannah except those who deny. Upon asking who will deny going Jannah, the Prophet replied those who cast his Sunnah aside (Bukhari). Instead of applying what Iqbal calls "The Principle of Movement", Ijtihad, (The greatest gift offered by Prophet to the Ummah), Muslims still live in the past mesmerizing themselves with Ideal Madinan society, Khilafat-i-Rashidah, Golden Period of Abbasids, Conquest of Jerusalem, etc. In the context of Kashmir such things turn more interesting. A Kashmiri Muslim anticipates his salvation in his respective sect assessing its conformity more with the Prophetic Era. He reduces the cosmopolitan outlook and universal appeal of Islam to a parochial outlook of his particular sect. He hardly tolerates the religious views of others. He is ready to knock out his fellow Muslim in a sectarian religious debate (Munazarah), but remains ignorant of the Islamophobia, the world is garnering against him. It really is high time for Muslims to come out of delusion and ensure their living presence is felt in the world.

The author is the Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri. Views expressed are the author's own.

Why You May Not Get Covid-19 Even When Those Around You Have It

Dr Amir Khan

Many of us will be familiar with this scenario: Someone we know has tested positive for COVID-19 but despite living with that person, one or more members of their household continue to test negative. How is this possible? We know that SARS-CoV-2 is mainly spread through airborne particles. We have also seen how quickly it can spread through communities. So, how then can the people breathing the same air as those infected, remain uninfected?

According to a new study, the answer may lie in people being exposed to other coronaviruses in the past that enabled them to make memory immune cells, called T cells, which offer protection against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. The term coronavirus is a broad one that encompasses a number of viruses in addition to the one that causes COVID-19. Many of the common colds we see are caused by viruses that belong to the coronavirus family. The study suggests that memory T cells created by exposure to these viruses could be why some people test negative for COVID-19 despite living with someone who has tested positive. Although the different coronaviruses cause different illnesses and the viruses behave in different ways, they do have some shared characteristics that group them together into the same family. Their shared structural similarities enable immune cells that recognise one type of coronavirus to recognise another type.

The study followed 52 COVID-19 household contacts. Its aim was to capture the earliest point at which these people developed an immune response to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Blood was tested for immune cells between day one and day six of when their household contact tested positive

“ACCORDING TO A STUDY, PEOPLE who received two doses of this vaccine had a 25 percent lower risk of infecting others compared with unvaccinated people after 12 weeks, very different to what the doctor suggested. Not only this, but vaccinated people are more likely to clear the virus faster, meaning they are less likely to pass it on to others during the course of the infection

for COVID-19. They found higher levels of memory T cells in the samples of those who tested negative on a PCR test for COVID-19 than those who tested positive.

The authors believed the levels and speed at which the memory T cells became active after being exposed to their household contact of COVID-19 suggests these immune cells were pre-existing from previous coronavirus infections, and not from the current exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This is why this group of people did not test positive on a PCR test. They believe these pre-existing T cells triggered an immune response that quickly dealt with the SAR-CoV-2 virus before it could infect the individual and show a positive PCR test. They did also find these T cells in the group that tested positive but the levels were not as high.

The T cells that they measured not only targeted the spike protein part of the virus but also the nucleocapsid, the core part of the virus that stores its genetic material. They concluded that future vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus may need to induce a wider immune response than



many of the current ones, which create antibodies to the spike protein part of the virus only. Hence they are more likely to remain effective even if new variants arise with new mutations.

As a result, the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines may target core coronavirus proteins as well as the outer spike protein.

Personal Story: Are critical care consultant Dr Steve James's claims about the vaccines true?

A video clip of UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid being told by critical care consultant Dr Steve James that he won't get vaccinated as the "science isn't strong enough" has been shared widely on social media. The conversation took place while the health secretary was visiting King's College Hospital in London. The doctor was being asked about mandatory vaccines for the UK's Na-

tional Health Service (NHS) staff, which are due to come into force from April 1.

"The vaccines are reducing transmission for about eight weeks with Delta. For Omicron, probably less," said Dr James.

I watched the clip, willing Sajid Javid to inform this doctor that his statistics were incorrect and give him the facts. But that was expecting too much. Instead, he mumbled something incoherent and the video cut. So, it has been left to those of us in the know to correct this piece of misinformation.

People who work in the NHS were prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccines when they were first offered. As a result, they will most likely have been given the Pfizer vaccine, the first to be approved in the UK.

According to a study, people who received two doses of this vaccine had a 25 percent lower risk of infecting others compared with unvaccinated people after 12 weeks, very different to what the doctor suggest-

ed. Not only this, but vaccinated people are more likely to clear the virus faster, meaning they are less likely to pass it on to others during the course of the infection.

One study found vaccinated people were 85 percent less likely to be infected after two weeks than those unvaccinated. Although two vaccines are less likely to prevent transmission when it comes to Omicron, boosters are offering good protection against severe illness from this variant.

Dr James went on to say he had antibodies from a natural infection of COVID-19 and implied these would protect him more than the vaccines would. A study by Imperial College London has shown that naturally produced antibodies offer only 19 percent protection against Omicron, so it is best not to rely on these. Natural immunity also requires the need to get the virus, something that most healthcare professionals would advise actively trying to avoid as the infection can be unpredictable in the acute phase and can lead to long-term symptoms for many.

Dr James has said in subsequent Instagram posts that he is not against the vaccines but wants the choice. His comments have of course been seized upon by those opposed to the vaccines; the clip has been used far and wide as a justification for not being vaccinated. I believe in choice, too, and have chosen to have the vaccines based on evidence that they offer the best protection. Dr James will be confronted with the consequences of his decision come April 1, when unvaccinated people who work in the NHS stand to lose their jobs. For those who may have taken his words as reason not to be vaccinated and are not in such a fortunate position, the times ahead may be hard.

The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

Low-Cost Smartphone Based Test Can Accurately Detect Covid-19 In 20 Minutes

Press Trust Of India

Researchers in the US have developed a low-cost smartphone based diagnostic tool for COVID-19 that combines the speed of over-the-counter antigen tests with the accuracy of PCR tests.

The Harmony COVID-19 test developed by researchers at the University of Washington in the US detects genetic material from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the researchers said.

While the conventional PCR tests can take several hours, the Harmony kit can provide results in less than 20 minutes for some samples and with similar accuracy, they said.

"We designed the test to be low-cost and simple enough that it could be used anywhere," said Bary Lutz, an associate professor at the University of Washington.

"We hope that the low cost will make high-performance testing more accessible locally and around the world," said Lutz, senior author of the research paper published in the journal Science Advances.

The test uses a "PCR-like" method to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 RNA genome in a nasal swab sample with the aid of a small, low-cost detector.

A smartphone is used to operate the detector and read the results, the researchers said.

The detector can handle up to four samples at a time and would fit into a standard

car's glove compartment, they said.

The accuracy of COVID-19 tests has been a pressing matter throughout the pandemic.

Many at-home antigen kits for COVID-19, which detect pieces of the proteins the virus creates instead of its genetic material, are 80-85 accurate.

The researchers noted that the accuracy of antigen kits may drop with the Omicron variant, which harbours a relatively high number of mutations not found in other strains.

PCR tests are generally 95 per cent accurate or better but require expensive equipment and a long wait for results.

Initial results show that the Harmony kit is 97 per cent accurate for nasal swabs,

according to the researchers.

The Harmony kit detects three different regions of the virus' genome. If a new variant has many mutations in one region, the new test can still detect the other two, they said.

It can, for example, detect the Omicron variant, which has dozens of mutations in the region of the genome that encodes the so-called spike protein, the researchers said.

Though tests based on PCR are highly accurate, a key limitation is that PCR tests require dozens of cycles of heating and cooling to detect genetic material in a sample.

The new test overcomes this issue by relying on a method known as RT-LAMP, which doesn't have the same stringent tem-

perature-cycling requirements.

"This test operates at a constant temperature, so it eliminates the time to heat and cool and gives results in about 20 minutes," said Lutz.

The team spun out a new company, Anavasi Diagnostics, to develop the Harmony prototype kit into a product and scale up manufacturing to help address the ongoing shortage of COVID-19 diagnostic tests.

Lutz and colleagues hope the kits could be initially made available for use in clinics, as well as other settings such as workplaces and schools.

Later, the researchers said they would like to adapt the test for home use.

Researchers Discover Biomarkers Linked To Autism Risk

Agencies

A recent clinical study led by a team of international researchers has identified molecular signatures of gestational inflammation linked to the risk of developing autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

These findings, which provide insights into abnormal brain development, could eventually lead to a test to screen for ASD at birth. The study was published in the journal 'Molecular Psychiatry'.

The large study was conducted by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the Norwegian National Institute of Public Health.

The new research aligns with growing evidence that the risk of ASD is increased by fetal exposure to inflammation. In earlier studies, the researchers linked ASD risk to prenatal exposure to maternal fever, and to influenza infection and herpesvirus type 2 infection - two of many potential triggers for maternal inflammation and ASD.

In the new study, researchers analyzed the presence of 60 molecular markers of immune response, including cytokines and growth factors. Blood samples were collected during pregnancy (maternal mid-gestational blood sample) and at birth (cord blood) from 957 children, roughly half of whom were later diagnosed with ASD. The study linked ASD risk to groupings of inflammation-related molecules, with different groupings seen in boys versus girls.

Among the most predictive molecules were interleukins like IL1RA and IL4. Four molecules thought to be involved in fetal brain development were also linked to ASD risk in both sexes: TNFa, Serpin E1, VCAM1, and

IL1b. Biomarkers collected at birth were only slightly less predictive than those collected during pregnancy.

"Our research suggests a period of vulnerability during gesta-

Mady Hornig, MD, associate professor of epidemiology at Columbia Mailman School.

"This work illustrates the unique power of prospective cohorts for elucidating the roots of



We found immune signatures in mid-pregnancy blood samples from mothers and in umbilical cord blood from children later diagnosed with autism that correlate with responses to infection, and molecules important for the development of the brain and its blood supply

tion when inflammation can interfere with central nervous system development," said first author Xiaoyu (Jason) Che, PhD, assistant professor of biostatistics in the Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia Mailman School.

"We found immune signatures in mid-pregnancy blood samples from mothers and in umbilical cord blood from children later diagnosed with autism that correlate with responses to infection, and molecules important for the development of the brain and its blood supply," said study co-first author,

disease," said corresponding author, Ezra Susser, professor of epidemiology and psychiatry.

"This paper is the culmination of more than 20 years of data and sample collection and analysis in collaboration with our colleagues in the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Our future research will focus on finding the triggers for inflammation and links between those triggers and genetic susceptibility," said W. Ian Lipkin, John Snow Professor of Epidemiology and professor of neurology and pathology.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com.

Sub:- Application for transfer of registration certificate of Guest House “Chumic” located at Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Mohammad Manzoor Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar has approached this office for transfer of registration certificate of Guest House “Chumic” located at Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar to his name;

Whereas, the Guest House “Chumic” located at Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar is presently registered in the name Mr. Ahmad Furkan Bhat S/o Mohammad Manzoor Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar with this Department since 2016 vide Registration No. Reg/1245/ DTK/383/56/ LT dated 28.12.2016 with 16 rooms and the registration certificate is renewed upto 31.03.2022;

Whereas, the property is owned by the Mr. Mohammad Manzoor Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar and Mafuza Manzoor W/o Mohammad Manzoor Bhat Rs/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar jointly;

Whereas, the owners had rented out the building in favour of Mr. Ahmad Furkan Bhat S/o Mohammad Manzoor Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar (registration certificate holder) vide rent deed executed before Sub-Registrar, Srinagar on 19.11.2016 for operating the guest house for tourist trade purpose only for a period of 5-years with effect from 01.11.2016, which term has already expired on 31.10.2021;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted affidavits sworn by Mrs. Mafuza Manzoor (holder of 50% share in guest house) W/o Mohammad Manzoor Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar before Executive Magistrate 1st class Srinagar- affirming that she has no objection to the transfer of the registration in favour of the applicant & affidavit sworn by Mr. Ahmad Furkan Bhat S/o Mohammad Manzoor Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar before Executive Magistrate 1st class Srinagar- affirming no objection to the transfer of the of the registration in favour of the applicant;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted all the requisite documents including sale deed (ownership documents), rent deed, affidavits sworn by the present registration certificate holder, Registration Certificate in Original, PRC, ID proof, ITR in favour;

Whereas, transfer of registration certificate for the guest house is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said guest house and does not confer any right of ownership or any other proprietary matters connected to the said guest house upon the transferee;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before changes are made in the registration records of this Department in respect of transfer of registration certificate of the above named guest house from Mr. Ahmad Furkan Bhat S/o Mohammad Manzoor Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar in favour of Mr. Mohammad Manzoor Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/o Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/ Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection/s, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections, if any, received beyond the period of 07 days will not be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules & merits, after submission of all the requisite documents and norms.

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration

DIPK-17099/21

No: Reg/1245/592/DTK

Dated: 22.01.2022

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
LANGATEFOREST DIVISIONLANGATE .**

e- NIT NO:- 11of 2021-22 DATED:- 20-01-2022

Name of Work:- Supply of Soil, Humus and Sand and preparation of potting mixture in the ratio of 3:2:1 after sieving soil, humus and sand, separating pebbles and other undesirable materialand mixing net quantities together in desired ratio & volume followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such bags in suitable nursery beds for raising of nursery stock.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

S.No.	Particulars of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1.	1. Supply of potting material consisting of Soil, Humus and Sand for filling up of nursery bags. Soil (3 Parts) = 1258.7cft Humus (2 Parts) = 938.9cft Sand (1 Part)=410cft Total Gross Quantity to be supplied = 2607.6cft 2. Preparation of potting mixture by sieving soil, humus and sand and removing pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantity in the ratio of 3:2:1 & followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such filled bags in suitable beds of nursery for raising of nursery stock. No. of Polypots=41000 No.'s Note:Polybags shall be supplied departmentally. Name of Forest Nursery: Galganza Location of Nursery:-galganza Range:Rajwar Division:Langate Forest Division.	2.51	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest	Rs. 200/=	One calendar month.
2.	1. Supply of potting material consisting of Soil, Humus and Sand for filling up of nursery bags. Soil (3 Parts) = 1105.2cft Humus (2 Parts) = 824.4cft Sand (1 Part)=360cft Total Gross Quantity to be supplied = 2289.60cft 2. Preparation of potting mixture by sieving soil, humus and sand and removing pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantity in the ratio of 3:2:1 & followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such filled bags in suitable beds of nursery for raising of nursery stock. No. of Polypots=36000No.'s Note:Polybags shall be supplied departmentally. Name of Forest Nursery: sanzipora Location of Nursery:sanzipora Range:Mawer Division:Langate Forest Division.	2.20	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest	Rs. 200/=	One calendar month.
3.	1. Supply of potting material consisting of Soil, Humus and Sand for filling up of nursery bags. Soil (3 Parts) = 1381.5cft Humus (2 Parts) = 1030.5cft Sand (1 Part)=450cft Total Gross Quantity to be supplied = 2862cft 2. Preparation of potting mixture by sieving soil, humus and sand and removing pebbles and other undesirable material and mixing net quantity in the ratio of 3:2:1 & followed by filling up of bags, preparation of beds and placement of such filled bags in suitable beds of nursery for raising of nursery stock. No. of Polypots=45000No.'s Note:Polybags shall be supplied departmentally. Name of Forest Nursery: Khamoh Location of Nursery:Khamoh Range:Rafiabad Division:Langate Forest Division.	2.75	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest	Rs. 200/=	One calendar month.

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorred

Position of TS: Accorred.

Publishing Date:-	20-01-2022
Download Start Date :	22-01-2022
Bid submission Start Date:	22-01-2022
Bid submission End Date:	31-01-2022 Up to 06:30 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	01-02-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Mazbugh Sopore.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be notified separately

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: https://jktenders.gov.in. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.

2. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of Bid Security Declaration form duly filled in with time period prescribed and addressed to Divisional Forest Officer. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 45 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

4. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/ Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2021-22, PAN, Valid GSTRegistration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document), etc.

5. The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.

6. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).

7. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.

8. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

9. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No: DFO/LGT/Acts/2021-22/594-600
Dated:- 20-01-2022.

DIPK-17138/21

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Langate Forest Division
Langate

IMF Cuts India's Economy Growth Forecast To 9% In FY22



Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast to 9 per cent for the current fiscal year ending March 31, joining a host of agencies which have downgraded their projections on concerns over the impact of a spread of new variant of coronavirus on business activity and mobility.

In its latest update of World Economic Outlook on Tuesday, the Washington-based international financial institution, which had in October last year projected a 9.5 per cent GDP growth for India, put the forecast for the next fiscal FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023) at 7.1 per cent.

The Indian economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The IMF's forecast for the current financial year is less than 9.2 per cent that the government's Central Statistics Office has predicted and 9.5 per cent that the Reserve Bank of India has estimated. Its forecast is lower than the 9.5 per cent projection by S&P and 9.3 per cent by Moody's but more than the 8.3 per cent projection by the World Bank and 8.4 per cent by Fitch.

According to the IMF, India's prospects for 2023 are marked up on expected improvements to credit growth and, subsequently, investment and consumption, building on better-than-anticipated performance of the financial sector.

The IMF said that global growth is expected to moderate from 5.9 in 2021 to 4.4 per cent in 2022, half a percentage point lower for 2022 than in the October WEO, largely reflecting forecast markdowns in the two largest economies -- the US and China.

A revised assumption removing the Build Back Better fiscal policy package from the baseline, earlier withdrawal of monetary accommodation, and continued supply shortages produced a downward 1.2 percentage-point revision for the United States, it said.

In China, pandemic-induced disruptions related to the zero-tolerance COVID-19 policy and protracted financial stress among property developers have induced a 0.8 percentage-point downgrade.

The global growth is expected to slow to 3.8 per cent in 2023.

"Although this is 0.2 percentage point higher than in the previous forecast, the upgrade largely reflects a mechanical pickup after current drags on growth dissipate in the second half of 2022. The forecast is conditional on adverse health outcomes declining to low levels in most countries by end-2022, assuming vaccination rates improve worldwide and therapies become more effective," said the report.

CS Directs RDD To Ensure Training, Placement Of 60000 Youth Under HIMAYAT

Asks the deptt to train youth in hospitality, industries, housing and urban development, lab technology, tourism sectors



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday directed the Rural Development department to ensure training and placement of 60000 unemployed youth under HIMAYAT during the next fiscal year.

He asked RDD to identify 20 highly educated youth in each Panchayat. Assistance of DDCs and PRIs may be taken.

He said the trainings and consequent job placement of 60000 youth under HIMAYAT and other self employment initiatives launched by the Government will further the Government's objective of driving down the unemployment in J&K to below 5 %.

Dr Mehta made this observation while reviewing the HIMAYAT scheme in a meeting attended by Administrative Secretary, RDD and COO, HIMAYAT.

The Chief Secretary said as the Scheme will close on 31st March, 2023, the department should target short term skill based courses spanning 3-9 months.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandeep Kour in her presentation informed that around 19000 youth have been trained while around 4000 youth have been given job

placements up until now since the inception of the Scheme.

She said most of the trainees have received training in sectors/areas like healthcare, IT-TES, retail, telecom, tourism & hospitality etc. while emphasizing that there is also a need to arrange for trainings in domains like carpentry, masonry, plumbing etc in concert with ITIs as there is general shortage of technicians in these trades in the UT.

It was further informed that the plan for training and placing 60000 youth during the next financial year will be finalized in consultation with existing PIAs by end of February 2023.

She said that the department will engage with BRO to ascertain their requirement of skilled, semi skilled work force and based on their requirements, training courses will be got customized/tailor made to train/ equip the youth for jobs in BRO.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure that trainings under HIMAYAT are arranged in sectors like hospitality, industries, housing & urban development, tourism, medical labs, water testing labs in Jal Shakti department etc, as there is going to be increased

demand in these sectors due to investment in industries, heightened infrastructure development in these sectors and increased tourist activity in J&K.

Dr Mehta advised the department to consult with the concerned authorities in the States which have excelled in the implementation of HIMAYAT like AP, TN and Orissa as well as the officials in the Ministry of Rural Development Department to further improve the implementation of the Scheme in J&K.

While directing the department to ensure that it does not engage such PIAs/TSAs as have failed to file reports with the Government or have not maintained proper accounts or don't have their own websites and have failed to monitor/conduct regular inspections, the Chief Secretary said only those PIAs which have the required capacity to deliver on mandate and which have neither been blacklisted by GoI nor are involved in any case in ACB should be engaged for training/ placement of the identified youth.

Dr Mehta advised the department to put in place a proper institutional mechanism for regular monitoring of the implementation of the HIMAYAT Scheme.

Business Activity Is Now On Pre-Pandemic Level Amid Third Covid Wave: Report



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The ongoing third wave of the coronavirus pandemic has dragged business activity almost back to the pre-pandemic levels, a weekly report tracking the changes said on Monday.

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) -- which compares the activity in a particular week with that of the pre-pandemic levels -- fell further to 100.5 for the week ended January 23 from 102.2 in the previous week, the Japanese brokerage said.

The index fell because of a fall in the mobility levels as seen in the Google workplace and retail and recreation mobility, which fell by 10.7 percentage points

(pp) and 4.4 pp, respectively, while the Apple driving index inched 1.7 pp higher after a massive 84 pp fall over the past two weeks.

The labour participation rate inched up to 39.8 per cent. The rate of increase of new cases has moderated even as new infections breached the 3 lakh a day mark from being at the 2.5 lakh level in the week-ago period, it said, pointing out that Delhi and West Bengal have reported lower rates.

Air traffic is a third lower than the peak achieved in December before the onset of the third wave but railway passenger revenues have stabilised, it said, adding that activity should improve in February or March.

Benchmarks Halt 5-Day Rout As Bargain Hunters Move In; Maruti Spurts 7% Post Results



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Market benchmarks managed closed in the green on Tuesday after five sessions of steep losses as investors accumulated recently-battered banking, auto and FMCG counters amid a supportive trend in European equities.

However, traders said the overall sentiment remains cautious ahead of a crucial two-day meeting of the US Federal Reserve where it will take a call on its rate hike trajectory.

Russia-Ukraine tensions, stubborn inflation and unabated selling by foreign funds are the other risk factors in the near-term, they added.

After plunging below the 57,000-level in opening trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum as the session progressed to finish 366.64 points or 0.64 per cent higher at 57,858.15.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 128.85 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 17,277.95.

Maruti topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 6.88 per cent after the country's largest carmaker posted a consolidated net profit at Rs 1,041.8 crore for the December quarter -- down 48 per cent y-o-y but well above analyst estimates.

Axis Bank, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid and NTPC were among the other

prominent gainers, spurting as much as 6.76 per cent.

In contrast, Wipro, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and UltraTech Cement led the laggards list, shedding up to 1.75 per cent.

"After a week-long consolidation, domestic indices took a breather supported by low-level buying. Western markets also supported, staging recovery following correction in oil markets, and as uncertainties over Fed policy and geopolitical tensions eased.

"However, volatility is expected to linger as investors await the Fed's final policy statement, providing clarity on the timeline of rate hikes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said, "Markets will react to the Fed meeting outcome in early trade on Thursday and we expect volatility to remain high, thanks to the scheduled monthly expiry. Keeping in mind the scenario, we reiterate our cautious view and suggest preferring hedged positions."

Barring IT and consumer durables, all BSE sectoral indices mustered gains. Telecom climbed 2.46 per cent, followed by utilities, power, auto, bank and realty.

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and small cap indices advanced up to 1.03 per cent.

'Indian Economy Has Recovered Handsomely From Covid'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy has recovered 'handsomely' from the pandemic-induced disruptions, former Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya said on Tuesday, while expressing hope that the recovery will be sustained and the growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent will be restored.

Panagariya suggested that the government must now signal its intention to wind down fiscal deficit by cutting it by half-to-one percentage point in 2022-23.

"The Indian economy has recovered handsomely, returning to its pre-COVID GDP... Only private consumption is still below its pre-COVID-19 level," the eminent economist told PTI in an interview.

While an advanced estimate by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) places India's GDP growth in 2021-22, at 9.2 per cent, Panagariya said this is higher than any other country this past year and the recovery has also been across-the-board.

The economy, which was significantly hit by the pandemic, had contracted 7.3 per cent in

the last fiscal.

Panagariya noted that the dominant view among epidemiologists now is that with a large proportion of the population now having antibodies due to past infections from different variants of the virus or vaccination, there is now a high chance that the epidemic is about to enter the endemic phase.

"If this indeed comes to pass, I expect the recovery to sustain and the 7 to 8 per cent growth to be restored," Panagariya said.

Panagariya suggested that the government must now signal its intention to wind down fiscal deficit by cutting it by half-to-one percentage point in 2022-23.

"We should not live beyond our means since it imposes a larger debt burden on the next generation," Panagariya, who is currently a Professor of Economics at the Columbia University said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fiscal deficit ballooned to 9.5 per cent in the first pandemic year 2020-21. The government aims to achieve a fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current financial year (2021-22).

Agri Deptt Stops Sale Of 28,260 Litres Of TSO/ HMO



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its drive against the distribution and sale of unregistered insecticides, the Enforcement Wing of Agriculture Department Kashmir Tuesday prevented the sale of 28,260 litres of unregistered Tree Spray Oil (TSO)/ Horticulture Mineral Oil (HMO) under various sections of insecticides act 1968.

The sale was prevented during an inspection of dealers of insecticides in various districts of Kashmir Division.

In this regard Director Agriculture Kashmir (Controller Insecticides), Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal impressed upon the Enforcement Officers that all the provisions of insecticides act 1968 must be followed in letter and spirit.

He said that the valley wide campaign against unregistered insecticides will continue in coming days and marked the Department's commitment to ensure that only the registered quality insecticides reaches the ultimate consumer i.e farmer.

Iqbal asked the stakeholders including the Enforcement Wing of the Department, Plant Protection Officer Kashmir and Agriculture Chemist Kashmir to work in close coordination so that the farmers' interests are secured.

He directed the already constituted internal monitoring vigilance team as well as district level monitoring teams to remain vigilant and increase random checking of markets so that a strong curb is put in place to avoid sale of unregistered insecticides.

SHORT TAKES

Maruti Q3 Profit Skids 48% To Rs 1,042 Cr

NEW DELHI: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday reported a 47.82 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,041.8 crore in the third quarter ended December 2021, on account of lower sales due to the ongoing semiconductor shortage and increase in commodity prices. The auto major had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,996.7 crore in the October-December period of last fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing.

The fall in net profit during the period under review was due to lower sales volume, high commodity prices and lower non-operating income on account of mark-to-market impact, it noted.

Consolidated revenue from operations declined marginally to Rs 23,253.3 crore in the third quarter as compared to Rs 23,471.3 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total vehicle sales were down 13.1 per cent to 4,30,668 units in the third quarter as against 4,95,897 units in the corresponding period last fiscal.

Maruti Suzuki noted that its production during the third quarter was constrained by a global shortage in the supply of electronic components because of which an estimated 90,000 units could not be produced. (PTI)

Govt Imposes Curbs On Export Of Human Hair

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday imposed restrictions on the export of human hair, a move, according to the hair industry, would help in checking alleged smuggling of the product from India.

Hair exports were earlier allowed without any restriction. But now an exporter would have to seek permission or licence from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Commerce Ministry.

"The export policy of human hair, unworked, whether or not washed or scoured; waste of human hair or any other form of raw human hair... has been put under restricted category, with immediate effect," Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said in a notification.

Welcoming the move, member of Human Hair and Hair Products Manufacturers and Exporters Association of India Sunil Emani said that it was their long-pending demand.

Time and again, he has alleged that this labour intensive industry was facing a peculiar challenge of smuggling of raw human hair to countries like Myanmar and China, which is hurting local industries and exports. (PTI)

Gold Rises Rs 86; Silver Tanks Rs 522

NEW DELHI: Gold prices rose by Rs 86 to Rs 48,555 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on local demand and rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 48,469 per 10 gram.

Silver declined by Rs 522 to Rs 63,907 per kg from Rs 64,429 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee declined by 16 paise to 74.67 against the US dollar on Tuesday.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,841 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.78 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,841 per ounce on Tuesday," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC securities said.

Air India To Check Cabin Crew's Grooming, Body Mass Index; Unions Protest

NEW DELHI: Air India has decided to check grooming and measure the body mass index (BMI) of cabin crew members at the airports just before their flights, according to an official order.

The carrier's two unions -- Air India Employees' Union (AIEU) and All India Cabin Crew Association (AICCA) -- on Monday wrote a letter to Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Vikram Dev Dutt opposing the order on the grounds that it is dehumanising and in violation of rules prescribed by aviation regulator DGCA.

"BMI is a person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in metres. A high BMI can indicate high body fatness," stated the website of US' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The order dated January 20, 2022, has come days before Air India's hand over to the Tata group, which acquired the carrier in a competitive bidding process last year.

Cabin crew, who are well dressed and well groomed according to uniform standards and regulations, present a positive and professional image of the airline, the order stated. (PTI)

'Kupwara Has Vast Tourism Potential To Explore'

KUPWARA: National Tourism Day was observed Tuesday at Kupwara with an impressive function organized at TRC Kupwara under proper Covid protocol.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din presided over the function while, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat who is also Chief Executive Officer Lolab, Bangus, Drangyari Development Authorities and other concerned officers were present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC highlighted the objectives of observing National Tourism Day and said that tourism is the backbone of the economy of every society. He said Kupwara district has a vast tourism potential which needs to be explored.

He stressed upon the concerned officers to put all possible efforts to boost the tourism potential across the district which has a vast range from main tourism to border tourism, pilgrim tourism, sports tourism and adventure tourism.

On the occasion, the DC had a discussion with the concerned officers to explore different ways for boosting tourism activities in the district.

Missing Another Ranji Season Will Be 'A Great Loss'



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Saurashtra skipper Jaydev Unadkat feels players' skills with the red ball have started diminishing and a potential cancellation of a second consecutive Ranji Trophy season will be a "great loss" for domestic cricket in India.

After the COVID-19-forced cancellation of the Ranji Trophy last year, a first in the tournament's rich history, the postponement of the current season due to the third wave of the pandemic has left many players worried.

Two years in a row would be a great loss. One year itself was a great loss. When we started

our pre-season camp before the eventual postponement, it felt like a whole new game," said Unadkat.

"Leaving the ball, bowling with pace and bowling long spells. All that had gone out of the picture. It is going to be difficult for sure if it doesn't happen this year too.

"I hear that BCCI is keen on staging it. If the virus situation doesn't become threatening, we can have it in February with a stricter bubble and more vigilance," said the left-arm pacer.

If February is not possible, then the BCCI must start the next season with the Ranji Trophy, feels the pacer who has played one Test, 7 ODIs and 10 T20Is.

Men's Finalists At Syed Modi Meet To Share Prize Money After 'No Match'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The men's singles finalists at the Syed Modi International badminton event will share the prize money after the title clash was declared a "no-match" with one of the players testing positive for COVID-19.

The two men's singles finalists at the Syed Modi India International 2022 will receive finalist World Ranking points and an equal share of the prize money.

"The men's singles final was declared 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for COVID-19 and the other finalist was deemed a close contact," said BWF in a statement on Tuesday.

The all-French final between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout was scheduled on Sunday.

Indian star P V Sindhu had won the women's singles title beating compatriot Malvika Bansod.

Neeraj Chopra Among Param Vishisht Seva Medal Awardees

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Subedar Neeraj Chopra, who created history last year by winning India's first athletics gold medal in Olympics, was awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal on Tuesday for his distinguished service.

Chopra, a Subedar with the 4 Rajputana Rifles in the Indian Army, had produced a second-round throw of 87.58m in the javelin throw finals at Tokyo Olympics in August 2021 to win the gold medal.

The Indian Army on Tuesday released a "list of Army personnel awarded for their gallantry and distinguished service on the occasion of Republic Day 2022".

Along with Chopra, 18 other serving and retired personnel of the Indian Army have been awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal.



Chopra was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018 and Vishist Seva Medal (VSM) in 2020 for his excellence in sports.

Chopra was enrolled into the 4 Rajputana Rifles as a Naib Subedar on May 15, 2016.

After joining the Army, he was selected for training at the 'Mission Olympics Wing' as well as at the Army Sports Institute, Pune.

The Mission Olympics Wing is an initiative by the Indian Army to identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines for various national and international competitions.

Sania Mirza Exits AO With QF Loss In Mixed Doubles

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Trailblazing India tennis star Sania Mirza's swansong appearance at the Australian Open ended with a quarterfinal loss to local pair Jaimee Fourlis and Jason Kubler in the mixed doubles event here on Tuesday.

Mirza, partnering American Rajeev Ram, lost the match 4-6, 6-7 to wildcard entries Fourlis and Kubler in one hour 30 minutes.

The 35-year-old Mirza is India's most accomplished woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.

She was aiming to add a second Australian Open mixed doubles title to her kitty after making a first round exit in the women's doubles event last week.

The Melbourne Park has been a happy hunting ground for Mirza, who recently announced



that she will retire at the end of this season. Two of her six Grand Slam titles have come at the Australian Open.

Apart from winning the mixed doubles title in 2009 with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi, Mirza also collected to the women's doubles trophy alongside Swiss great Martina Hingis in 2016, which was also her last Grand Slam win.

With Mirza's defeat, the Indian challenge also came to an end in the first Slam of the year.

Rohit Fit To Lead India Against West Indies



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's white-ball captain Rohit Sharma is fit and ready to lead the side against the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series starting February 6 with the three ODIs in Ahmedabad.

However, the team selection meeting, which is set to happen this week, will be an interesting one as some senior players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravichandran Ashwin, after their indifferent performance against South Africa in their 0-3 ODI series defeat, will come under the scanner.

But Rohit is ready to lead the side after a left hamstring injury ruled him out of the South Africa tour. The T20 matches against the Caribbean team are set to be held from February 16 to 20 in Kolkata.

"Rohit is fit and available for the series against the West Indies," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"By the time, the West Indies series starts, it will be more than seven-and-a-half weeks of rehabilitation and recuperation for Rohit. He is already training in Mumbai and is expected to be in Bangalore for the fitness test and get a formal okay from the National Cricket Academy," the source informed.

It is almost certain that for the time being, Rohit will be named the Test captain although BCCI will be looking at other options considering his workload and the responsibility that comes with leading India in two back-to-back World Cups in 2022 and 2023.

It is understood that K L Rahul's first stint as captain hasn't gone as per expectations and

for now, he will have to remain an apprentice under Rohit till he is seen to be ready to lead the national team in the near future.

Under Rahul, India lost all four international games in South Africa and for men who matter in Indian cricket, he hasn't exactly come across as a proactive captain.

It is understood that Rahul's performance as Lucknow Super Giants captain will be keenly monitored during this edition of the IPL.

Hardik Pandya has been bowling in the nets and even though it is not clear whether he can bowl full tilt but Venkatesh Iyer's relative inexperience at No 6 and Rahul Dravid's admission that the colourful Baroda man was missed, can pave the way for his comeback against the West Indies.

Australia Set To Tour Pakistan With Full-Strength Squad

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Australia are set to tour Pakistan with a full-strength squad as no player has so far expressed any reservation about travelling to the country which did not get to host top-flight international cricket for nearly a decade due to security concerns.

The last time Pakistan had an ICC event on its soil was when it co-hosted the 1996 World Cup along with India and Sri Lanka. The terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in 2009 ensured Test cricket remained out of bounds until 2019.

Last year, before the T20 World Cup, New Zealand and England had pulled out of the tour of Pakistan citing security concerns, the Kiwis withdrawing at the eleventh hour.

However, Australia appeared to be on track for undertaking their first tour of Pakistan in 24 years, with national selector George Bailey terming the security plans as "very, very robust and very, very thorough".

"I believe the boards are still working through some of the minor details around that tour, so once that gets the formal tick of approval then we'll announce the squad post that, but we're reasonably well down the track," Bailey told reporters on Tuesday according to Cricket Australia's website.

The last time Australia toured the Asian nation was way back in 1998, under Mark Taylor's captaincy.

It's all positive as far as the Pakistan tour is concerned but uncertainty hovers over the resumption of the Sheffield Shield season, even though the selectors may not be required to see Shield performances for picking the squad after Australia's 4-0 Ashes drubbing of England.

"Whether we need to (see any Shield cricket) or not, I'm not entirely sure what opportunity we will get," Bailey said.



"But the one thing that I think we have to be really just okay with is that we've got to accept what we get at the moment and be flexible.

"I think one of the great things and possibly one of the reasons the players performed so well in the Ashes was there were a number of players who got a good bank of Shield cricket in prior to that series.

"Whether it's for Pakistan or not, you'd certainly hope that there is an opportunity for some Shield cricket at some stage just because of the competition and to continue to see guys improving and getting the opportunity to show their wares," Bailey added.

Death Toll Rises To 8 In Cameroon Stadium Crush

Agencies

YAOUNDE, Cameroon: Eight people have now died after a stampede outside a game at the African Cup of Nations football tournament in Cameroon, as witnesses blamed security officials for errors while news footage showed fans climbing over fences earlier to bypass checks and get into the stadium.

Another seven people are in serious condition in the hospital after the crush, authorities said Tuesday.

The death toll increased after two more fans were pronounced dead outside the Messassi hospital, police said. Injured people had initially been rushed to that nearby hospital by police and civilians trying to help. The hospital quickly became overwhelmed and said it couldn't handle all the casualties.

A total of 38 people were hurt in the stampede, which happened Monday night at the Olembe Stadium in the Cameroon capital of Yaounde. The remaining 31 people had light to moderate injuries. The injured are now being treated at four different hospitals. Communi-



cation Minister René Sadi said. The crush came when soccer fans struggled to get into the stadium to watch Cameroon's team play Comoros in a highly-anticipated knockout game at Africa's top soccer tournament. The tragedy may have been connected to fans trying to avoid COVID-19 checks. Local organizers have made it compulsory that fans show proof of negative virus tests and be vaccinated against COVID-19 if they want to attend games at the African Cup. They need to go through that health screening as well as security checks at stadiums.

Local TV stations broadcast footage showing people jumping over security fences to get into the game and there are reports that police were overwhelmed. The Cameroon government said 57,000 people were at the stadium when the crowd was meant to be restricted to a maximum of 40,000 because of the virus. The Olembe has a capacity of 60,000.

A witness said the stampede at the south entrance of the stadium happened after supporters were directed by security officials toward an entrance gate that was locked. The gate was eventually opened, the witness said, causing a surge and people were trampled. Children were caught up in the stampede, the witness said.

Australian McDermott, WI's Shepherd Eye Maiden IPL Deals

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Australian opener Ben McDermott and West Indies all-rounder Romario Shepherd are banking on their recent impressive performances to bag a maiden IPL deal, having gone unsold in the previous seasons of the lucrative T20 league.

McDermott wrapped up an impressive Big Bash League season, that saw him being voted as the Player of the Tournament on Monday, while also earning a recall to the Australia T20 side for the Sri Lanka series next month.

The 27-year-old was also the BBL's highest run scorer with 577 at a strike rate of 153.86.

McDermott, who has played 17 T20Is and two ODIs for Australia, has never featured in the IPL. He went unsold last season.

bucks and sitting there watching him in our hotel rooms in quarantine in New Zealand."

Last year, the Australian pace duo of Riley Meredith (Rs 8 crore) and Jhye Richardson (Rs 14 crore) had landed hefty contracts with Punjab Kings after a successful BBL season.

Shepherd, on the other hand, blasted an unbeaten 44 off 28 balls to take West Indies within one run of England's total in second T20 International in Bridgetown on Sunday.

The 27-year-old smashed five maximums and a four under pressure while also taking a wicket earlier in the game.

"I try to focus on what is at hand right now and try and put my all in here," Shepherd, who has entered February's auction with a Rs 75 lakh base price, was quoted as saying by 'ES-PNCRicinfo'.

"Eventually, if an IPL contract comes, that would be great for me. I'm not saying that I don't think about it - I do think about it, but I try not to think about it during a game, I just focus on wherever the game is and trying to get ourselves out of a situation," he added.



those people in charge," McDermott was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"I'm excited. It's always an exciting time just to watch, last year I remember Riley Meredith getting picked up for the big

Warner, Marsh Not In Australia Side For Sri Lanka T20 Series



Agencies

SYDNEY: David Warner and Mitch Marsh are among the omissions in Australia's 16-man squad for a Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka in February, while coach Justin Langer will also be absent.

Australia is hosting Sri Lanka in a five-match T20 series, with the games to be spread across the Sydney Cricket Ground, Manuka Oval in Canberra and the Melbourne Cricket Ground from February 11-20.

Langer is among the members of support staff set to be on vacation during the T20 series and ahead of a three-test series in Pakistan starting March 3.

Andrew McDonald will serve as head coach in Langer's absence, as was the case during last year's T20 tour of New Zealand.

Warner and Marsh, who both played key roles in Australia's T20 World Cup triumph in the United Arab Emirates, will also sit out the five T20s ahead of the trip to Pakistan.

Fit-again pace bowler Josh Hazlewood is expected to return from his side strain during the T20 series.

Australia T20 squad vs. Sri Lanka: Aaron Finch (captain), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Josh Inglis, Ben McDermott, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, Adam Zampa.

South Korea, a 2002 semifinalist, has been warming up for the game — and next Tuesday's match with Syria — with a training camp in Turkey. Preparations have gone well with a 5-1 win over Iceland on Jan. 15 and a 4-0 victory against Moldova on Friday.

Iran is even closer to a third successive World Cup appearance and a sixth overall — a win against Iraq in Tehran will be enough. Coach Dragan Skocic has recalled Mehdi Taremi to the squad after previously omitting the FC Porto striker for critical comments made in an interview.

"I have high expectations, he's a great player. I'm glad we resolved the disagreement by talking. We have all the best interests of the national team in mind," Skocic said.

Only the top two are guaranteed a place at the World Cup that kicks off in November.

If the UAE fails to defeat Syria in Dubai then South Korea will secure a 10th successive appearance if it defeats Lebanon in Sidon. Lebanon has collected just five points from six games.

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"I have high expectations, he's a great player. I'm glad we resolved the disagreement by talking. We have all the best interests of the national team in mind," Skocic said.



A man shows traditional firepot Kangri to CRPF personnel during a search operation on the R-Day eve in Hari Singh Hari Street marketplace on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Three-Tier Security

the main venue of R-Day celebrations has been placed under three-tier security cover for Wednesday's main function which will be attended by officials from civil administration, police and army. All routes leading to the venue have been sealed by the heavily armed security personnel from police and CRPF.

"A multi-layered security arrangement has been put in place to secure the venue of the main R-Day function at the Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium," a police official told Kashmir Observer.

"All the high rise buildings around the main venue are being currently used by sharpshooters of J&K Police and CRPF," he added.

As per the official, three-tier security has been put in place in Srinagar with Special Operations Group and CID men in civvies being deployed around the venue and other strategic points of the city to keep a close watch on any suspicious movement. "Anti-sabotage checking, CCTV surveillance, mobile checkpoints, surprise nakas, makeshift drop gates, sniffer dogs and drones have also been put in place to thwart any militant attempt to disrupt the smooth conduct of R-day function," the police official said.

As per the official, SOG men and CRPF troopers have been placed at all the entry points of Srinagar and the vehicles entering the capital city are being thoroughly frisked and the identity cards of the passengers are being carefully checked before allowing the vehicle to enter Srinagar.

Notably, security forces were also seen frisking vehicles and pedestrians in several parts of the city, especially at the roads leading to the venue.

Reports also suggested that strong fortification of Sonwar, Dalgate, TRC, Rajbagh and Bakshi Stadium road has been done by security forces to meet any militant attack.

According to reports, the policemen also visited several areas of the city and collected details from the house owners.

The Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar said on Monday that security has been beefed up across Kashmir to ensure peaceful and incident free R-Day celebrations.

"For the past one week, police with help of the army and the CRPF have been carrying out area domination and other drills. We are also carrying out drone surveillance to ensure peaceful celebrations not only in Srinagar but in all district headquarters," he had said.

Militants Strike

in and around the area and subjected them to identity checks.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a statement issued here on Tuesday said that a few civilians sustained minor splinter injuries in the grenade attack that also caused minor damage to the police vehicle that was on target.

He further said that senior police officers immediately reached the spot.

"Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law and investigation is in progress. Officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime," he added.

Grenade Thrower

Police Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar tweeted. The IGP did not reveal any details about the arrested person.

Four persons including a police officer and two women sustained injuries in the grade blast that took place a day ahead of Republic Day celebrations.

J&K Logs Record

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu detected a maximum of 849

new cases of Coronavirus, Udhampur 121, Doda 114, Samba 112, Rajouri 100, Poonch 82, Kathua 81, Reasi 43, Ramban 41 and Kishtwar 12.

"Moreover, 3789 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1278 from Jammu Division and 2511 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that fourteen more people, seven each from Jammu and Kashmir divisions died of Covid-19 related complications during the last 24 hours taking the death toll in pandemic to 4627 in J&K—2260 in Jammu division and 2367 in Kashmir Valley.

The officials further added that new cases of Mucormycosis were reported Tuesday, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

Gulmarg Shivers

of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius. The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius.

The Met Office said there was fresh light snowfall at isolated places.

It forecast light rain/snow at isolated places over next 24 hours as well.

Afterwards, the weather is likely to stay mainly dry till the end of the month and there is no forecast of any major rain/snow till the end of January, it said.

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

'Chilla-i-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.

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31.

R-Day Function

Party (PDP), however told Kashmir Observer that the Party president Mehbooba Mufti has not received the invitation.

Adnan Ashraf, spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' Conference (PC) told Kashmir Observer that the Party president Sajad Gani Lone and General secretary Imran Ansari have also not been invited.

"Post abrogation of article 370. They were not invited either for the 15 August or 26 January function," Ashraf said.

Communist party of India (M) leader and PAGD spokesperson MY Tarigami also confirmed to Kashmir Observer that he wasn't invited to the Republic Day function.

Talking to Kashmir Observer Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, however denied the allegations and said that they have distributed the cards to party functionaries.

"It is not true, as per practice, we give some cards in bulk to party functionaries and they in turn give to their leaders. I will look into if there is any issue at all," Pole told Kashmir Observer.

LG's Advisor R R Bhatnagar will preside over the function here at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium.

The Mayors and the DDC chairpersons of the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar will be attending the main functions in the respective cities.

On R-Day Eve

Mantra of 4 P's -- Peace, Progress, Prosperity and People first. We are determined to ensure every single citizen of UT enjoys prosperous and

peaceful life," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, also gave details of the reforms made in the last thirty months, and said that government is developing Jammu and Kashmir as the piece of Indian culture and ethos that has the capability to provide opportunity to industries to compete, connect and collaborate with its readily available abundant resources.

"Despite challenges, efforts are underway for turning Jammu and Kashmir into a preferred destination for industrial investment and opportunities," Sinha said.

"J&K is fast moving towards becoming a powerful and self-reliant Union Territory by improving the standard of living of farmers, youth, women, laborers and every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. The industrial revolution started just a year ago has achieved much more than what the Union Territory had clocked in the last 72 years," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson said that after the implementation of new industrial scheme under the guidance of PM and Home Minister Amit Shah, investment proposals worth Rs 48,000 crores have been received.

Sinha, he said, also stated that the land use change policy which was a major impediment for the industrial development of the region has been simplified which is likely to attract more investment.

"However, the people are being misled on this issue too," Sinha said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG assured the land owners and farmers that all these changes have been effected with the sole aim of empowering them.

"There is a section in the society which has always been misleading the people about imaginary issues like demographic change, and on this pretext the most hardworking and needy class of people had been deprived of alienated their own land, or even using it as per their wishes or requirements," the LG said.

He also reiterated administration's commitment to promoting local businesses in real estate sector.

"Jammu and Kashmir recently hosted the first-ever historic Real Estate summit in December 2021, in which investment proposals worth Rs 18,300 crores were finalized," the official spokesperson said.

Highlighting the investments attracted by J&K in the recently concluded Dubai Expo, the LG as per the official spokesperson said that the Global investors exhibited keen interest in investing in Jammu and Kashmir, and investment proposals worth Rs. 3000 crore were finalized in a short span of two days only.

"In total, a target of investment proposal worth Rs 70,000 crores has been achieved within a year," Sinha said, adding "Jammu and Kashmir Private Industrial Estate Development Policy has been introduced, which incorporates mechanisms for Public-Private Partnership in the Industrial Sector."

Speaking about the public outreach programme, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said that as many as 73 Union Ministers and various Parliamentary Committees visited all the districts for public interactions and gathering grass-root level feedback on government policies.

Giving details of the Government's efforts in employment generation in the last one and a half year, the LG, he said, stated that about 11,000 appointments have been made in various government departments in a fair and transparent manner, which was unprecedented in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

"For the first time, children from the disadvantaged and poor sections have secured jobs on the basis of merit, turning their dreams into reality," Sinha said.

"Further, 20,323 additional posts at various levels have been identified and referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board for recruitment. Besides, 1850 appointments have been made in J&K Bank at various levels in a fair and transparent manner. As many as 1,37,870 youths have been provided assistance in their entrepreneurial ventures under various self-employment generation schemes and programmes, he added.

Underscoring the initiatives taken for channelizing the enormous potential of our youth and ensuring their participation in the process of governance, the LG said that 4,500 youth clubs have been set up covering all Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies in the UT through which 63,000 youths have been connected. Playfields have been set up in 4000 Panchayats.

"More than one and a half dozen job-oriented programs have been started through the dedicated initiative of Mission Youth along-with Skill Development Programmes aimed at their future and sustainable livelihood," the LG said.

The LG also highlighted several important reforms undertaken to ensure transparency, accountability in the administration establishing fear-free, corruption-free system of governance besides introducing principles of financial prudence which have revolutionized the project implementation and enhanced financial inclusion and social equity. Every single penny of the government exchequer is now spent on welfare of the people, he added.

"No work is being allotted without following tendering process; no bill is passed without geotagging and physical verification. Project delay which was earlier considered a norm is now a thing of the past. Against 9229 projects completed in 2018 at a cost of Rs. 67,000 crores, around 21,943 projects have been completed at a cost of Rs. 63,000 crore only in the current year. This year, we are hopeful that three-times more projects will be completed," Sinha said.

"J&K has become the first Union Territory/State in the country to have District Good Governance Index for assessing the efficiency of public delivery system at district level and fostering transparency and accountability in the basic unit of governance and fulfilling the aspirations of citizens. Best practices are being identified in each district for replication in others," he added.

While highlighting the milestones achieved in power generation, distribution and transmission sector to improve the power sector, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said that this year we are going to add capacity of 3,015 MVA to our Power Transmission System as against the capacity addition of only 670 MVA last year. Likewise, in Power Distribution Sector, a capacity of 1286 MVA is being added this year as against the capacity addition of 690 MVA last year.

"In comparison to last year, the Kashmir Valley is getting 22 percent more electricity supply owing to improved infrastructure. We have tried to provide adequate electricity to the entire Union Territory during the recent winters and are also hopeful to provide more electricity to Jammu Division during the forthcoming summer season," he added.

Sinha further said that under the guidance of PM, an amount of rupees one lakh crore is being spent on road and tunnel infrastructure. Jammu and Kashmir, which once stood at 10th, 11th position in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), has secured the third rank in the country. Till the year 2018, on an average, 1500 to 1600 kms of road length used to be constructed each year; the same has now more than doubled to 3200 kilometers.

"Similarly, around 2200 to 2300 kilometers of road length used to be macadamized each year which also has more than doubled to 5137 kilometers. We will achieve the target of record 8000 km of road macadamization by the end of this financial year," the LG said.

"The travel time between Srinagar and Jammu has been reduced from 10 hours to 5 hours. International flights have started between Srinagar and Sharjah. Two new airport terminals are coming up at Jammu and Srinagar. Cargo facility has been provided at Jammu and Srinagar airports for the convenience of the farmers and businessmen. Kashmir will be connected to Kanyakumari through rail network by next year. Work on Light Metro Rail in Jammu and Srinagar city at an estimated cost of Rs 10,599 crore shall start this year. Last year, the Qazigund-Banihal tunnel was made operational for traffic. The work on Z-Morh Tunnel on Srinagar-Sonmarg Road is going on at a brisk pace, which has provided an opportunity to tourists to visit the beautiful place in winters as well. Work on Zojila Tunnel on Srinagar-Leh road has commenced at a cost of Rs 4509 crore, which will be completed by September 2026. With the construction of six-lane

Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the travel time from Delhi to Vaishno Devi will be reduced to six hours only," he added.

While speaking about the three-tier Panchayati Raj system which has been put in place to ensure people's participation in socio-economic and developmental efforts, the LG, according to the official spokesperson said that a new leadership at District, Block and Panchayat level is ensuring formulation and implementation of policies, keeping in mind the priorities of common people.

"Special attention is being paid to make grass-root democratic institutions self-reliant, competent and autonomous and for synergizing their developmental efforts," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG observed that Peace in Jammu and Kashmir is a prerequisite for a vibrant tourism sector, which of late has set new employment and revenue generation records.

"Between August and November 2021, about 52 lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir. Keeping in view the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations of 75 years of independence, 75 off-beat tourist destinations are being developed in the Union Territory. Culture is a way of life and it is reflected in the elevated intellectual and spiritual experiences of the land. In order to celebrate rich cultural heritage of the Union Territory, a week-long iconic festival was held in October last year. Well-known personalities from music and literature participated in the event hosted under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," he said.

Retreating J&K Government's commitment towards the welfare of the people of the tribal community who were allegedly neglected by the previous governments, Sinha said while present dispensation trying to give physical shape to their hopes and aspirations, a tiny section is trying hard to provoke and mislead them.

"For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, Tribal community has been vested with forest rights in accordance with the principles of social justice and harmony. An integrated plan has been formulated for the future generation of this deprived community by ensuring their rights on forest products," he said.

"100 smart schools are being built for the tribal children. Transit accommodation for tribal families on eight migratory routes and tribal community centers are being set up at eight important places," he added.

Ceasefire On LoC

violence and said the focus should be on dealing with elements in the country who are instigating them. He also cautioned against the people who are enjoying a good life abroad but are radicalising the youths in the country and spoiling their future.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

We are dealing with an enemy which looks after itself first. So, there were compulsions for which they went for this thing (ceasefire). They are holding on to those compulsions. I look at it for the people of Kashmir on our side and the other side, both have benefited, Lt Gen Pandey said.

He said the Army will like the ceasefire to continue only for the benefit of the people of Kashmir so that there is free movement for trade, farming, business and schooling.

So that they (people of Kashmir on both sides) can live a life of a common citizen while the peace remains. That is the major benefit which has gone to them, he said.

The GoC said while the ceasefire was holding, the Army was very carefully on the watch because the enemy is very very devious.

So, in that, he will keep on instigating the elements, militants to come across. So, while as of now, the ceasefire is holding, we need to be vigilant all the time and see what his aim and intent is in the times to come, he added.

Describing the situation on the eve of the Republic Day celebrations as absolutely fine, the Army official said there is a surge in the demand for the national flag across Kashmir by the people.

This is a great indicator of the mood of the people of Kashmir. This is a positive thing happening... I think there are great times ahead.

"The only thing is that the people should be vigilant against the nexus which is trying to corrupt their minds, and not listen to them in whichever form they try to instigate any such activity which is anti-national and anti-people of Kashmir, he said.

Lt Gen Pandey asked the youths who have picked up weapons to shun the wrong path.

The time has changed, the path has changed, people have become wiser, and return to the meaningful life. Your age is not right to understand why you picked up the gun.

"When you reach the age of 24-25 years, you will understand that this path is wrong, so return to your life, otherwise, there is a rule of law in

our country and whoever is authorised to carry a gun, will carry it, and if someone, who is not authorised carries a gun, he will either be apprehended or you know what will happen to him, he said.

Referring to the continuous instigation from across the LoC, the GoC Chinara Corps said that far more dangerous was how vested elements in India were "benefiting from this".

Those people have got everything, but are instigating our youth... Our enemy cannot take our advantage till something wrong is happening in our own homes. So, we have to focus on that.

Plus, our youth have to see that our diaspora, in foreign countries, using their laptops, mobile phones are running a system of radicalisation.

"The youth have to see to it that they are taking money from the people, living in good places and instigating the people here. The youth have to save themselves from such people, he said.

Gen Rawat Given

Affairs (MHA), the President approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards, including two duo cases, this year. In a duo case, the award is counted as one.

The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri awards. Thirty-four of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 posthumous awardees.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Google CEO Sundar Pichai were conferred Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award.

Late Punjabi folk singer Gurmeet Bawa, actor Victor Banerjee and former Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi have been awarded Padma Bhushan. Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra and singer Sonu Nigam were awarded Padma Shri.

According to the Ministry of Home Kargil Poet Nominated

conferment of 128 Padma Awards this year in the fields of arts, Literature & Education, Trade and Industry, Civil Service, Science and Engineering.

Ayberk Pekcan

Pekcan was 51 years old. The actor had been battling the illness for a while. Born in 1970, he graduated from Mersin University's Theater Department.

He starred in many productions, including the highly popular Valley of the Wolves (Kurtlar Vadisi) series.

He played Artuk Bey character, main protagonist Ertu rul's right-hand man in the blockbuster Resurrection Ertu rul (Dirili Ertu rul) series.

'Commercial Grade

general area of Nagar Nala near Dul in District Kishtwar on 24 January 2022," said Lt Col Devender Anand, PRO (Defence-based in Jammu) in a statement to GNS.

"The recovery included 11 sticks of commercial grade explosives (each weighing 125 gms), one detonator and also the detonating wire."

Srinagar Bound

LMVs(passenger)/ private cars shall be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar (strictly one way) on Jammu-Srinagar highway," a traffic department official told GNS, adding, "TCU Jammu shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

He said cut off timings for LMVs/ private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) would be at 0800 hours to 1200 hours, and from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0900 hours to 1300 hours "(subject to change depending on the road position then)".

He said subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs/ load carriers shall be allowed from Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after assessing the traffic situation on the thoroughfare. He said TCU Udhampur shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs.

"Security Forces are advised/requested not to ply against advisory/ traffic plan in view of traffic congestion on Jammu-Srinagar highway. They may ply from Jammu towards Srinagar after confirming the status of highway."

Ladakh Sees

year, they said.

There was no death reported from union territory on Monday, they said. As many as 174 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh. Of these, 129 were discharged in Leh and 45 in Kargil, they said.

With these, the total number of cured patients is 23,352, they said.

Of the total of 163 fresh cases from the Union territory, 129 such cases were reported from Leh district and 34 from Kargil district, they said.

The total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh has gone down to 1244 including 1044 in Leh and 200 in Kargil district.

R-Day Celebrations Muted This Year Due To Covid, But Spirit As Strong As Ever: President Kovind

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Asking people to celebrate "Indian-ness" this Republic Day, President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said the country has shown an unmatched resolve in the face of the extraordinary challenge to humankind posed by the coronavirus pandemic and that a strong and sensitive India is now emerging.

In his address to the nation on the eve of 73rd Republic Day, President Kovind noted that democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity form the bedrock of India and stressed that the observance of Fundamental Duties mentioned in the Constitution creates the proper environment for the enjoyment of Fundamental Rights.

"The diversity and vibrancy of our democracy is appreciated world-wide. It is this spirit of unity and of being one nation which is celebrated every year as Republic Day," he said.

This year's celebrations may be muted due to the pandemic, but the spirit is as strong as ever, Kovind said.

The President said the pandemic management was bound to be more difficult in India due to its high population and other factors.

"But it is only in such difficult times that the resilience of a nation shines forth. I am proud to say that we have shown an unmatched resolve against the coronavirus," Kovind said.

Doctors, nurses and paramedics have risen to the challenge, working long hours in difficult conditions even at the risk of their lives to attend to patients. Others have kept the nation moving, managing supply chains and utilities, he said.

Hailing the timely interventions by the leadership, policy-makers, administrators and others at the central and state levels during coronavirus pandemic, Kovind said it is a testimony to India's spirit in the face of adversity that the economy is on the move again and is projected

to grow at an impressive rate in this fiscal, after going through contraction last year.

"The impressive economic performance is made possible due to improvement in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. I am happy to note that our farmers, especially young farmers with small holdings, are enthusiastically adopting natural farming," the President said.

As the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Kovind said he was glad to note that it has been a watershed year for women empowerment in the armed forces.

"Our daughters have broken a glass ceiling, and the permanent commission has now been allowed for women officers in new areas," he said, adding that "consequently, our armed forces will benefit from better gender balance".

Also, the talent pipeline for the forces will be strengthened with women coming through Sainik Schools and the prestigious National Defence Academy, the President said.

He said the diversity and vibrancy of the country's democracy is appreciated worldwide and it is this spirit of unity and of being one nation which is celebrated every year as Republic Day.

"India is an ancient civilisation but a young republic. For us, nation-building is a constant endeavour," the President said.

"I am confident that India is better placed today to meet the challenges of the future," Kovind said, adding that new opportunities await the next generation.

Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, President Kovind said he would have liked us to celebrate Republic Day by striving to become better human beings and contributing towards the making of a better India and a better world.

"My heartiest greetings to all of you, in India and abroad, on the eve of the 73rd Republic Day! It is an occasion to celebrate what is common to us all, our Indian-ness," he said.

R-Day Parade To Witness Fly-Past Of 75 Aircraft, Display Of 10 Scrolls For First Time



Agenceis

New Delhi: A grand fly-past of 75 aircraft of the Indian Air Force, cultural performances by 480 dancers selected through competitive process, display of 10 scrolls each of 75 metres length and installation of 10 large LED screens will be happening for the first time at the Republic Day parade on Wednesday, the Ministry of Defence said.

The Republic Day parade (RDP)-2022 is happening in the 75th year of Indian independence, which is being celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' across the country, the MoD's statement on Tuesday noted.

"The grand finale and the most keenly awaited segment of the parade, the fly-past, will for the first time witness 75 aircraft of the IAF displaying a number of formations, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'," it mentioned.

For the first time, the IAF has

coordinated with Doordarshan to show cockpit videos during the fly past, it noted.

Vintage as well as current modern aircraft like Rafale, Sukhoi, Jaguar, Mi-17, Sarang, Apache and Dakota will display different formations -- including Rahat, Meghna, Eklavya, Trishul, Tiranga, Vijay and Amrit -- at the fly-past, the MoD stated.

Ten scrolls each of 75 metres in length and 15 feet in height will be displayed along the Rajpath during the parade for the first time, it mentioned.

"They (scrolls) were prepared during the 'Kala Kumbh' event jointly organised by Ministries of Defence and Culture," it noted.

The scrolls were painted in two phases -- at Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh -- by over 600 renowned artists and young aspirants from across the country, it mentioned.

For the first time, dancers who

performed at the parade have been selected through a nation-wide competition, the MoD noted.

The competition 'Vande Bharatam' began at the district level with the participation of nearly 3,870 dancers in 323 groups progressed to state and zonal levels over a period of two months in November and December, it mentioned.

"Finally, 480 dancers were selected. They will showcase their talent during the parade at Rajpath," it stated.

For a better viewing experience at the parade, 10 large LED screens - five on each side of Rajpath - will be installed, the MoD mentioned.

"Curated films combining footages of previous Republic Day parades, short films on the armed forces and stories related to various events in the run-up to the RDP-2022 will be screened before the parade," it noted.

Thereafter, the screens will show the live event, it mentioned.

CURATED FILMS COMBINING FOOTAGES of previous Republic Day parades, short films on the armed forces and stories related to various events in the run-up to the RDP-2022 will be screened before the parade."

SC Declines To Entertain Plea Seeking To Extend Lapsed FCRA Of Nearly 6,000 NGOs



Agenceis

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a plea seeking an interim relief to allow the continuation of FCRA licenses of nearly 6,000 NGOs, which were only valid till September end last year. The Centre's counsel wondered why a Houston-based association is interested in this matter.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, representing the US-based NGO Global Peace Initiative, submitted that there are thousands of NGOs, which are doing good work for the society. Global Peace Initiative, an organisation incorporated in the US, has an office in India and Dr. K.A. Paul, represents the organisation here.

A bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre whether he has got instructions in the matter?

Mehta pointed at the time limit for the renewal, and added that nearly 11,000 NGOs applied for Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licenses renewal within the cut-off date and it has been extended.

He said the government is well aware of the situation and wondered what is the purpose of this PIL. Mehta said: "Why a Houston-based person is so interested in Chhattisgarh. We are here for them..." Hedge added that nearly 6,000 NGOs have not applied.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C.T. Rajkumar said: "If those 6,000 NGOs have not applied under the present regime, they have

chosen not to continue in the current regime," Mehta reiterated, "How is the Houston-based association concerned?"

The bench said that the petitioner can move a representation before the authorities concerned, with suggestions and the authorities may consider it.

The bench, in its order, said: "In the light of this stand taken by the authorities, we don't intend to pass any interim order as prayed. If the petitioners have any other suggestion, they may file a representation before the authorities which may be considered on its own merits by the authorities".

The petition, filed by the NGO and others, challenged the Central government's decision to refuse renewal of FCRA licenses of close to 6,000 NGOs.

The plea has stated, "The work done by these NGOs helped millions of Indians. The sudden and arbitrary cancellation of FCRA registration of thousands of these NGOs violates the rights of the organizations, their workers as well as the millions of Indians who they serve. This is especially relevant at a time when the country is facing the third wave of the Covid-19 virus."

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 20, 2020, which amended FCRA Act, 2010. The Act regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution by individuals, associations, and companies.

The plea claimed the FCRA Amendment Act, 2020 significantly hampered their activities and operations.



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SHAHEED CONSTABLE
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DILIP MALIK
DY.COMDT.



ANIRUDH PRATAP SINGH
ASSTT.COMDT.



SHAHEED HC
DEEP CHAND VERMA



SHAHEED CONSTABLE
KANAI MAJEE



LATE CONSTABLE
ROHIT KUMAR



ROHIT TIWARI
ASSTT.COMDT.



HC (Now ASI)
GANESH HALDER



SANJEET KUMAR SINGH
ASSTT.COMDT.



VINITH ASHOK MESHAM
ASSTT.COMDT.



HANUMAN RAM
ASSTT.COMDT.



SUB INSPECTOR
AJAY SINGH



SUB INSPECTOR
SUDHIR KUMAR



HEAD CONSTABLE
BALBIR KUMAR SINGH



CONSTABLE
MUKESH KUMAR RANJAN



CONSTABLE
ABHISHEK KUMAR



CONSTABLE
VIJAY ORAON



CONSTABLE
KAMTHE SOMNATH
POPATRAO



CONSTABLE
BHIM SINGH



CONSTABLE
KUMBHAR NITIN SADASHIV



VISHAL KANDWAL
COMMANDANT



CONSTABLE
AJAY BARO



CONSTABLE
CHANDAN KUMAR



AKHAND PRATAP SINGH
ASSTT.COMDT.



HEAD CONSTABLE
SWARNA GAYARY



CONSTABLE
SATNAM SINGH
(1ST BAR TO PMG)



CONSTABLE
JAYANTA HAJONG



CONSTABLE
SAROJ KUMAR PRADHAN



CONSTABLE
RAKESH PATIL



JOHAN BECK
ASSTT.COMDT.



CONSTABLE
D.AYYAPPAN



CONSTABLE
CHAWARE NILESH RAMESH



NARAPAT
ASSTT.COMDT.
(1ST BAR TO PMG)



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