

'People Shouldn't Fear Police': Interview With SSP Srinagar

Auqib Javed

Amid the intensifying anti-drug campaign in the Kashmir valley, the Srinagar police chief has asked people to wake up to the monstrous reality consuming young lives and socially boycott the drug peddlers.

"In the war against drugs, the public support is not up to the expectations," Rakesh Balwal, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) said. "People can't leave everything to the police. They

should come forward and support us to get rid of this menace. They should socially boycott drug peddlers."

In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, the city police chief said that cops aren't merely for operational things in Kashmir, but for resolving the plethora of issues such as drug menace and social crimes.

"I'm continuously trying to remove the police-public gap and all the apprehensions common people have about us," SSP Balwal, who recently completed



one year in office, said.

"My point is that anti-militancy operations will carry on till we've active militants, but

WE'RE OKAY WITH PEOPLE COMING TO THE PRESS ENCLAVE to protest for their basic rights, but they can't cross the red-line."

grievances of the public in no way should suffer due to this. People should come to the police to get any of their issues resolved.

People shouldn't fear us."

The officer termed the 'militancy-free' urban landscape as his continuous priority. "You can witness a relatively calm city now," he said. "We'll try to maintain the peace, come what may. No school has been shut for a single day due to law and order problems this year. Even incidents of stone pelting have almost disappeared now."

Talking about new redlines, the SSP said that police fully accommodates democratic protests regarding roads, water and electricity as per standard

SOPs, but those which cross redlines of challenging integrity and sovereignty of the country are unacceptable. "We're okay with people coming to the Press Enclave to protest for their basic rights, but they can't cross the red-line," he emphasised.

Regarding the recently-held funeral prayers of two separatist leaders, SSP Balwal said that police is fully professional in dealing with these situations and was sure that nothing untoward would happen.

• Read the full interview on Page 7

PAN Invalid If Not Linked With Aadhaar By Mar 2023

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Income Tax department Saturday issued an advisory that those permanent account numbers (PAN) which are not linked with Aadhaar by the end of March next year will be rendered "inoperative."

"What is mandatory, is necessary. Don't delay, link it today!" the department said in a public advisory.

"As per Income-tax Act, 1961, it is mandatory for all PAN holders, who do not fall under the exempt category, to link their PAN with Aadhaar before 31.3.2023. From 1.04.2023, the unlinked PAN shall become inoperative," it said.

The 'exempt category', according to a notification issued by the Union Finance Ministry in May 2017, are those individuals residing in the states of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya; a non-resident as per the **More on PIO**

Cold Wave Tightens Grip On Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Cold conditions tightened its grip in Kashmir as the minimum temperature decreased at most places in the Valley, officials said on Saturday.

However, the meteorological department has forecast respite from cold and dry weather for a few days from Monday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 5.4 degrees Celsius – down from minus 4.8 degrees Celsius Thursday night, the officials said.

They said Pahalgam, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus **More on PIO**

SIA Crackdown On Jama'at Continues

Rs 123 Cr Worth Properties Sealed, Including House Registered In Name Of Syed Ali Shah Geelani

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Special Investigative Agency (SIA) of police on Saturday intensified its crackdown against Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) by seizing properties worth Rs 123 crore of the now banned socio-political group, including the house of Syed Ali Shah Geelani in Barzulla locality of this capital city.

The fresh rounds of

seizures of Jama'at assets comes a week after SIA sealed immovable properties worth Rs 100 crore approximately in Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla districts of North Kashmir and Ganderbal district in Central Kashmir on Saturday last.

Shifting focus to South and Central Kashmir, the SIA on Saturday "unearthed" assets worth hundreds of crores at about a dozen **More on PIO**



NIA Searches 14 Spots In J&K, Punjab; Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at 14 different locations in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi in a case related to militant activities. According to a statement released to media, the NIA said that the case relates to militant activities of chiefs/members of militant **More on PIO**

Pension Applications Can Be Submitted Online: SWD

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The application for grant of pension can be submitted online and beneficiaries no longer need to visit offices, Jammu and Kashmir's Department of Social Welfare said on Saturday, days after a man died while waiting in queue to submit his documents for old age pension.

According to a communiqué issued here, it was given out that the Department of Social Welfare had already accorded sanction to the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir

Integrated Social Security Rules 2022 vide order number 156-JK(SWD) dated September 8, 2022 as per which application for grant of pension under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) shall be submitted online, an official spokesperson said.

The department said that all the existing and prospective beneficiaries shall upload the necessary documents viz. age certificate, ration card and disability certificate etc. on the online portal (<https://jansugam.jk.gov.in/>) in order to receive financial assistance **More on PIO**



ST MARY'S CHURCH IN THE SNOW COVERED Gulmarg Valley was illuminated with colorful lights on Saturday on the eve of Christmas. KO Photo

Now, Jitendra Singh Backs Protesting Dogra, KP Employees

'Better To Close Down Dozen Offices Than Losing A Single Human Life'

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Indicating a thaw in the government's stance on relocation of under-threat Kashmiri Pandit employees from the valley, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said it is better to save a human life even if it means closing down a dozen offices.

He also hit out at the opposition parties accusing them of following the policy of appeasement to the extent of being "inhuman."

He alleged that these parties not only discriminated between people but also went to the extent of discriminating between Line of Control and International Border purely for vote considerations.

"This should be addressed amicably and with sensitivity. My personal opinion is that nothing can be more valuable than a human life," the minister told reporters in Kathua. "If there is a threat even to one life, it is better to save that life even if it means closing down a dozen offices."



Singh was in Kathua to lay the foundation stone of central PMGSY road from Bakhta to Magloor in Jalota area.

Addressing a public rally after the ceremony, Singh said the previous governments headed by opposition parties crossed all limits of ethics and propriety when they allowed reservation for people living along LoC but denied the same benefits to the people living along the IB.

"They did so because their

MLAs were elected from the areas along the LoC, some of whom also became the ministers. They denied the same benefit to the people living along IB or on the Pakistan border, mostly in Kathua and Samba districts, because the people here did not vote for them," the Union minister said.

He said this discrepancy was corrected only after the Modi government came to power when the people living near the IB were given **More on PIO**

Govt Offices In Kashmir Ordered To Hoist Tricolor On Jan 26

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday ordered all the government institutes and offices to hoist the National Flag during the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

These directions were passed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Saturday while reviewing the arrangements for R-day celebrations across the Valley, an official spokesperson said.

Deputy Commissioners, HoDs and representatives of SMC, Srinagar; Academy of Art Culture & Languages, Kashmir; Information department, School Education, Floriculture, Health Services; Regional Transport; Srinagar; PWD (R&B), PHE, KPDCIL, UEED, MED Kashmir; Hospitality & Protocol, Fire & Emergency Services, Youth Services &



Sports, State Motors Garages Kashmir and officers of other departments also attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by DIG police, other senior officers of police & Traffic virtually besides officers from Paramilitary Forces.

At the outset, the spokesperson said, Pole maintained that the main venue of the function of Republic Day will be SK Cricket Stadium, Srinagar and asked all the departments to make **More on PIO**

KPDCL Asked To Complete Smart Metering Before Deadline

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Union Secretary of Power, Alok Kumar on Saturday asked the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCIL) to complete the Smart Metering Project in Kashmir Valley ahead of the given deadline.

Kumar passed these directions while chairing 16th meeting of the Monitoring Committee of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) here, an official spokesperson said.

He said that Joint Secretary (UT), Ministry of Home Affairs; Chairperson CEA; Principal Advisor Energy, NITI Aayog; CMDs of REC/PFC/PGCIL from central government and Principal



Secretary PDD, H. Rajesh Prasad; Managing Director KPDCIL, Yasin M Choudhary besides Managing Director JPDCL, Shiv Anant Tayal from J&K attended the meeting.

Union Secretary, the spokesperson said, had detailed review and discussion on salient features of RDSS and was apprised of progress on the RDSS scheme implementation by KPDCIL. Kumar, he said, **More on PIO**

SHORT TAKES

Indian Driver Wins Rs 33 Cr Lottery

An Indian driver in the UAE has won Dirhams 15 million (Rs 33 crore) as the grand prize in a weekly lottery. Ajay Ogula, 31, who has been working for a jewellery establishment, hit the jackpot after he purchased two tickets for his first-ever participation with Emirates Draw EASV6. Currently working as a driver at a jewellery firm, Ogula came to the UAE four years from his village in southern India. "During a random conversation with my boss, I mentioned reading about someone winning a handsome amount with Emirates Draw, to which my boss advised that you keep wasting money here and there, so why not use it instead on an opportunity like this," he was quoted as saying **More on PIO**

Man Killed In House Collapse

A 32-year-old man was killed and another injured in a house collapse on Saturday in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said. Mohammad Riaz and Mohammad Rakeem, cousin brothers, were trapped when their house collapsed during some repair work in Gadog village, a police official said. He said a rescue operation was launched by the villagers and the duo was evacuated and rushed to the hospital. Riaz was declared brought dead by the doctors, the official said. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation is on, he said.

Arms Cache Recovered In Uri

Police along with Army recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition in Hathlanga Sector of Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. A top police officer said that in a joint operation, Baramulla police along with 3 Rajput of army recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition from Hathlanga sector of Uri. Giving details, the officer further said that 8 AK74u, 24 AK 74 Magazines, 12 Chinese Pistols, 24 pistol magazines, 9 Chinese grenades, 5 Pak Grenades, 5 wheat bags, 81 Pak Balloons, 560 rounds of AK Rifle and 244 rounds of pistol were recovered from the area. Meanwhile a case has been registered in this regard **More on**

LG Greet People On Christmas

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Christmas. In a message, the Lt Governor said: "On the joyous occasion of Christmas, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all and wish everyone a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year". "Christmas epitomises the spirit of forgiveness and peace. It is an occasion to celebrate and imbibe Jesus Christ's message of brotherhood, compassion and forgiveness. May the Christmas this year usher in peace, happiness and joy for all," the Lt Governor said.



Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: GCIL Apprenticeship for Engineering Graduates 2022-23

Description: GCIL Apprenticeship for Engineering Graduates 2022-23 is an opportunity offered by the Grid Controller of India Limited (a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Power) to B.E./B.Tech. degree holders.

Eligibility: Open for applicants who not have completed the 18 years of age as on 31st December 2022. The applicants be a B.E./B.Tech. degree holder in Electrical Engineering from an institute recognized by AICTE, Govt. of India with one year of job experience. The candidates who have undergone apprenticeship training in any organization for any duration.

- Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of INR 15,000
- Last Date to Apply: 08-01-2023
- Application mode: Via email only at - nerldchr@posoco.in; nerldchr@grid-india.in
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-



server/GPIL2

India Smiling Foundation- al Scholarship & Mentorship Programme 2022-23

Scholarship Name 2: Keep

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2022 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, and 4-year BDS Dental course. Annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail of scholarship awards of up to INR 50,000 per year for up to 4 years of studies depending on their current level of education.

- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2022
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KISF6

Scholarship Name 3: India Fel-

low Social Leadership Program 2023

Description: The India Fellow invites applications for the India Fellow Social Leadership Program 2023 from graduates between 20 and 30 years of age. It is an 18-month leadership program for young professionals from various walks of life, willing to work with communities and find their leadership potential to make a difference.

Eligibility: Open for Indian citizens between 20 and 30 years of age. The applicants must be a graduate degree holder in any discipline or about to complete graduation in any field by the fellowship start date. The applicants must be ready for an 18-month full-time commitment to the fellowship and prepared to be placed in any part of the country and in any thematic area.

- Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of up to INR 20,000 and other benefits
- Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IFSL5

How Body Regulates Temperature And Why Knowing That Is Good For You

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have identified the neurons responsible for regulating the body temperature of mammals, but what is body temperature and how is it controlled? Body temperature in humans and many other mammals is regulated at around 37 degrees Celsius, or 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, which optimizes all regulatory functions. When their body temperature noticeably deviates from the normal range, the functions are impaired, which could lead to heat stroke, hypothermia, and, in the worst case, death.

However, these conditions might be treated if body temperature can be artificially adjusted to the normal range.

A research group at Nagoya University in Japan has reported that a group of neurons, called EP3 neurons, in the preoptic area of the brain play a key role in regulating body temperature in mammals. The preoptic area is a part of the hypothalamus that controls the body's vital functions.

They found that activating these neurons led to a decrease in body temperature, whereas suppressing their activity led to its increase.

The study also showed that EP3 neurons in the preoptic area play a key role in regulating body temperature by releasing GABA, or gamma-aminobutyric acid, to send inhibitory signals to dorsomedial hypothalamus

(DMH) neurons to control sympathetic responses. GABA is a major inhibitor of neuronal excitation, the study explained.

The sympathetic nervous system is constantly active at a basic level to maintain homeostasis, which is the condition of optimal functioning for the organism and includes many vari-

skin to facilitate the radiation of the body's heat to prevent heat stroke.

However, in a cold environment, signals are reduced to activate sympathetic outputs, which promote heat production in brown adipose tissue and other organs to prevent hypothermia.

Furthermore, at the time of infec-



ables, such as body temperature and fluid balance.

The study explained that in a hot environment, signals are augmented to suppress sympathetic outputs, resulting in increased blood flows in the

tion, PGE2, a mediator called prostaglandin E produced in response, acts on EP3 neurons to suppress their activity, resulting in activation of sympathetic outputs to develop fever, explained the study.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (1st Call)

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments for the following works

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of 2No. Wash-rooms for Faculty members and Office Purpose at Department of Urdu at Main Campus, University of Kashmir.	4.84Lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.9,680/-	21-12-2022 to 30-12-2022 (6.00 PM)	31-12-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
2.	Providing and Fixing of Wire gauze Shutters at Department of Urdu at Main Campus University of Kashmir.	1.39Lacs	Rs.100/-	Rs.2,780/-	21-12-2022 to 30-12-2022 (6.00 PM)	31-12-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"
3.	Providing and Fabrication of Cupboards in office room and 2 No Faculty room in the Department of Urdu at Main Campus, University of Kashmir.	1.16Lacs	Rs. 100/-	Rs.2,340/-	21-12-2022 to 30-12-2022 (6.00 PM)	31-12-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: - F(Fresh)(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/64/22
DIPK-NB-5732/22

DATED: 24/12/22.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No: 259/Xen/Rew/Bla/2022-2023 Dated.23/12/2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	Construction Beautification of pond at Nambla C under Amrit Sarovar Plan year 2022-23 Block Uri	4.73	200	9460	30days	DEE	Amrit Sarovar Programme	AAA Accorded
2	Construction and Beautification of pond at Baba Fareed Garkote B under Amrit Sarovar Programme year 2022-23 Block Uri	4.87	200	9740	30days	DEE	Amrit Sarovar Programme	AAA Accorded
3	Upgradation beautification of Embankments of Aadipora Pond by way of constructing Edge walls ,chain fencing Sopore under Amrit Sarovar Programme year 2022-23 ,Block Sopore	77.52	1600	155040	60days	AAA	Amrit Sarovar Programme	AAA Accorded
4	Upgradation / Beautification of Harwan 1425 Pond BWO construction of RCC Bunds and dry stone pitching P/H Harwan,Under Amrit Sarovar Programme .Block:-Tujjer,Sharief	7.00	300	14000	30days	CEE, DEE	Amrit Sarovar Programme	AAA Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-12-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23-12-2022 to 02-01-2023 up to 6:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start date	23-12-2022
4.	Bid Submission End Date	02-01-2023 up to 6:00 PM
	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 03-01-2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer,REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

• The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt)that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat.In the event of inadequate response to a tender ,participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted.

- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED IN SOFT: Scanned copy of valid registration card along with Latest Renewal , EMD/TR as per NIT, GST, Latest clearance, PAN.
- The earnest money in favour of un-successful/ non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original, irrespective of Hard copies, failure of submission of tender document fee by the bidder using site shall entail him for blacklisting.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No: 4033-4040

DIPK-15558/22 Dated: 24-12-2022

Executive Engineer.
REW Baramulla



FCS&CA Celebrates 'National Consumer Rights Day'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir Saturday celebrated National Consumer Rights Day on 24th December, 2022 with the theme "Effective Disposal of Cases in Consumer Commissions" at Tagore Hall, here.

This day is celebrated across the country to commemorate the day when the Consumer Protection Act came into being in the year 1986.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K.Pole was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The programme was attended by Officers/officials from District Legal Service Authority Srinagar, District Redressal Consumer Commission, Department of Food Safety and Standards Kashmir, representatives of various trade organizations including manufacturers and sellers.

Addressing the gathering, Div Com appreciated the efforts of the department to initiate a wide range of transparency measures. He specially highlighted the role of the department in distribution of food grains in a most transparent manner through biometric and Aadhar enabled Point of Sale Devices.

He also highlighted that the department has successfully reached out to every nook and corner of the province to deliver the services to the most eligible persons in a hassle free manner. It was also emphasized by the chief guest that the department has come up to the expectations of the public through advanced technological means.

On this occasion, Direc-

tor FCS&CA Kashmir, Dr. Abdul Salam Mir gave a detailed overview of working of the department during the current year wherein several consumer friendly initiatives have been taken by the department to ensure that all the six fundamental rights of consumers are implemented.

It was informed that the Directorate of FCS&CA Kashmir has disposed-off 1299 number of complaints out of 1304 received during the current year through a robust grievance redressal mechanism. Total 765 complaints have been received in the Directorate through its Toll free No.18001807011 and all have been effectively disposed-off.

Besides, it was also given out that the department inspected 10041 establishments and penalized 18097 defaulters and an amount of Rs.8428230 was recovered besides, 230 establishments have been sealed.

Fozia Paul, Secretary District Legal Service Authority Srinagar deliberated upon the legal safeguard and redressal mechanism in the judicial set-up and encouraged the consumers to come forward with their grievances so that the same may be addressed on merits.

Dr. Jahan-Ara, Sr. Faculty of IMPARD Srinagar also highlighted the rights and duties of consumers. Several other speakers also deliberated upon the rights and constitutional safeguards on the occasion.

The programme was attended by representatives of various Trade bodies, representatives of media fraternity and consumers from different walks of life. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Deputy Director FCS&CA Kashmir, Najwan Nazki.



An inside view of Holy Family Catholic Church decorated on the eve of Christmas festival. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Water Supply To Remain Affected In City Areas For 2 Days From Dec 27

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to start renovation of Sindh Extension Canal, the water supply would remain affected in Srinagar areas for two days from December 27 (Tuesday) afternoon.

Executive Engineer Master Plan, Division Srinagar in a public notice, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, said that some mandatory renovation of headworks of Sindh Extension Canal has to be done on

December 27, 2022.

The water supply in this regard would remain affected for two days from December 27, 2022 (Tuesday) from 12:00 PM to December 28 (Wednesday) 09:00 PM.

The areas that would remain affected include Malshahi Bagh, Zakura, Gulab Bagh, Alesteng, Shuhama, Hadoora, Chaterhama, Khulmulla, Basarbagh, Habak, Naseem Bagh, Pandach, Buchpora, Soura, Anchar, Bolajpora, Zonimar, Nowshera, Baghe-

Ali Mardan Khan, Zadibal, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Rajouri Kadal, Nalamar Nawa Kadal, Bohri Kadal, Nowhatta, Lal Bazar, Hazratbal, Sadribal, Nigeen, Saida Kadal, Karan Nagar, Chattabal, Kawdara, Eidgah, Maharaj Gunj, Zaina Kadal, Noorbagh, Saidapora, Bemina, Firdousabad, Qamarwari, Zainakote, Noorabad, Umarabad and adjacent areas.

In case of any urgency, the officials have advised to call on 2477207 & 2452047, the notice reads.

KU VC Inaugurates Workshop On AISHE

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofar Khan on Saturday inaugurated a training workshop on All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) and emphasised on timely submission of quality data by the varsity's affiliated colleges well before the deadline of January 19, 2023.

The day-long workshop was organised by the AISHE Cell of KU's Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) for Nodal Officers for AISHE in affiliated colleges and satellite campuses.

Asserting that AISHE data is very important for accreditation, quality assessment and RUSA funding of the University and its affiliated colleges, Prof Nilofar emphasised on maintaining "complete transparency" in data submission.

She also highlighted the futuristic role of the University in mentoring its affiliated colleges on the National Education Policy-2020. The VC complimented the DIQA for holding

the timely workshop. Ashok Kumar, State Nodal Officer AISHE, Government of J&K and MD RUSA, highlighted the importance of accuracy and quality of data, saying "authentic data will lead to better policy formulation on higher education."

He said the upcoming RUSA 3.0 will focus on enhancement of employability, creation of new model colleges, multidisciplinary research, besides including non-accredited institutions in hilly and remote areas for funding.

Dr Asif Iqbal, Coordinator AISHE State Unit, said "J&K UT recorded 100% uploading of data with regard to universities, over 90% with regard to colleges and over 80% with regard to standalone institutions, thereby placing the UT among top 10 performing States/UTs of the country."

He said with RUSA interventions, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) increased from 24.8 in 2016-17 to 32.4 in 2019-20, while the Gender Parity Index (GPI) of J&K is 1.05, above the national average of 1.01. However, Dr Asif said the concerns

related to the student-teacher ratio, which is 35 as per the 2019-2020 data, need to be addressed by making more recruitments in the regular mode.

Nodal Officer AISHE and Director DIQA Prof Manzoor A Shah said the AISHE data is baseline for national and international accreditations, funding and policy-making on higher education in the country.

He said the quality of data and its 100 percent submission before January 19 are therefore very important for further funding of higher education institutions under RUSA 3.0.

Ritesh Patel, Assistant Director AISHE, MoE New Delhi, also shared his views on the occasion.

Deputy Director DIQA Showket Shafi conducted proceedings of the inaugural session, while Wasim Hussain, Assistant Nodal Officer, AISHE, delivered a vote of thanks.

A detailed presentation on the data capturing system for AISHE in the technical session was followed by a hands-on session in the lab of the Management Studies Department.

Melody King Mohammad Rafi Remembered

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On his 98th birth anniversary, legendary playback singer and the melody king, Mohammad Rafi was remembered by his fans and artists of Cultural Unit Kashmir at Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Srinagar.

The program titled 'Rafi ki yaad mein' was organised by Cultural Unit Kashmir, during which the artistes, singers and music composers of Kashmir paid glowing tributes to the legendary singer. The participants including budding and senior singers sang Muhammad Rafi's favourites on the occasion.

Former station director AIR Srinagar, Syed Humayun Qaiser shared some of his personal experiences while he met Moham-

mad Rafi and watched his live concert some decades back.

He said the melodious voice of Rafi had become the identity of the most of the yesteryear Bollywood icons adding that it was the voice of Rafi that made many yesteryear actors as stars.

Senior broadcaster, poet and AIR Srinagar officer Ghulam Rasool Akhoun highlighted some interesting dimensions of the late legendary Bollywood singer. Akhoun said the songs sung by Rafi Sahab will keep him alive always in the hearts of all music lovers in Kashmir and elsewhere.

The singers who sang melodious songs of Muhammad Rafi include M. Shafi Malik, Bilal Shah Jahan, Sheikh Mushtaq, Suhail Mohi-ud-Din, Jameela Rashid, Waseem Raja, Farooq Ahmad, Shabir Ahmad, Dilbir Singh, Zahid, Sarwar and Basit.

Jashn-E-Chillai Kalan Held In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commanding Officer of 28 Battalion of CRPF on Saturday said the paramilitary force was committed to serve and safeguard the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a gathering during Jashn-e-Chillai Kalan event at CRPF headquarters in Srinagar, he said they are here for the people for any kind of help and also to safeguard them.

He said the paramilitary force was committed to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir and they have been doing it with

utmost dedication.

"The events being organised by the forces are with an aim to bridge the gap between them and the locals citizens so as to make the people feel and believe the men in uniform are for safeguarding them," he said.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the CRPF said that 28 BN CRPF, under the aegis of Srinagar Sector, organised Jashn-e-Chillai Kalan at Battalion Headquarters.

The statement reads the event was one of the legs of a series of events taking place across Srinagar, Budgam & Ganderbal.

"About 50 students from

various schools with their teachers participated in the event. An on-spot painting, singing and debate competitions were organised, where students showcased their artistic and public speaking talent."

Rajesh Sankhla on the occasion shared his vision about childhood and the essence of being a good citizen with children.

He had wide ranging interaction with illustrious people from different strata of the society visiting the event of making everyday efforts to improve social fabric and making responsible citizens out of the young children.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 1444	PRAYERS FAJR 5:44 ZUHR 12:17 ASR 3:47 Magrib 5:27 ISHA 6:51
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This Day In History

- 1973 - 3 Palestinians hijack KLM B747 above Iraq, to Dubai.
- 1979 - Israel returns Alma oilfields in Gulf of Suez to Egypt.
- 1983 - Soyuz T-9 returns to Earth, 149 days after take-off.
- 1983 - Syria & Saudi Arabia announce cease-fire in PLO civil war in Tripoli.
- 1983 - World's greatest robbery 26 million pounds worth of gold, diamonds & cash stolen from the Brink's-Mat warehouse at Heathrow Airport, England.
- 1986 - Iran-Contra affair erupts, President Reagan reveals secret arms deal.
- 1987 - Super typhoon Nina pummels the Philippines with category 5 winds of 165 mph and a surge that swallows entire villages. at least 1,036 deaths attributed to the storm.
- 2005 - Polish Minister of National Defence Radek Sikorski opens Warsaw Pact archives to historians. Maps of possible nuclear strikes against Western Europe, including nuclear annihilation of 43 Polish cities by Soviet-controlled forces revealed.
- 2007 - The first European Parliament election and a referendum on changing the voting system (called by the President and declared invalid because of insufficient turnout) were held in Romania.
- 2009 - Flooding in Jeddah, Saudia Arabia; powerful storm brings 3 years worth of rain in 4 hours, killing over 150 people and sweeping thousands of cars away during Hajj.
- 2011 - Sudden violent storms strike southern Sri Lanka, killing 27 people and drowning many fishermen caught by surprise. Thousands of homes lose their roofs and several more sustain damage. Landslides along with flooding was reported on the mainland.

From KO Archives

Guns Fail To Fall Silent

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Hours after the Ramadhan ceasefire announced by the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, came into effect, reports of escalated violence have come in from various areas shattering the prospects of unilateral truce. Eighteen people, including six security personnel, were killed and 23 others were injured in separate incidents across the state since early morning today.

In a major incident, four security personnel were killed and 14 others were injured when a powerful explosion ripped apart the vehicle they were travelling in at Nowpora-Dooru, 74 km from here on Srinagar-Verinag road in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag this afternoon, official sources said. Condition of most of the wounded soldiers were reported to be critical. The incident took place around 2 p.m.

Officials said militants detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) immediately after the army vehicle carrying jawans of 36 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) passed over it. The explosion was possibly triggered by using a remote control device. The vehicle was blown up killing four jawans and injuring 14 others. All the wounded soldiers were rushed to the base hospital here.

Soon after the incident, the security forces laid scige to the entire area after which fear gripped the people. But no searches had been carried out till the reports last came in.

No Jet up in Begaar, frisking Hizb-ul-Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the incident and said they would intensify the attacks during the month of Ramadhan. Hizb spokesman, Salim Hashmi, telephoned reporters in Srinagar to claim the responsibility for the blast.

"The unilateral ceasefire announced by the Indian government is not a serious effort, but an attempt to ward off international pressure on it to resolve the Kashmir issue," he alleged. A NAFA report said a foreign militant identified as Tan-zeel-ur-Rahman alias Abu Zareen, belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba was killed in an encounter with the troops of 28 RR at Atri Naribal in Rafiabdd area of Bammulla district today.

Rajinder Singh reports from Jammu: Barely an hour after the ceasefire came into force, nine people, including two security personnel and five militants, were killed in a gun battle at Dhana-Sawjian village in the border district of Poonch. Eight civilians were also injured in the encounter.



Covid Test Mandatory For Passengers From China, 4 Other Countries

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India has mandated a COVID-19 negative test report for travelers arriving from China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Thailand, the health

minister said on Saturday. Passengers from those countries would be put under quarantine if they showed symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive, Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

Assam Woman Murdered, Her Baby Stolen By Couple To Give To Daughter: Cops



Agencies

GUWAHATI: Four persons have been arrested for allegedly murdering a woman and kidnapping her 10-month-old baby in Upper Assam, police said. The four accused involve a couple, their son, and the victim's mother.

According to the police, the couple arrested in the case was attempting to hand over the baby to their daughter who is childless.

The body of the woman, Nitumoni Lukhurakhon of Kenduguri Bailing village, was recovered from a drain at Rajabari Tea Estate in Charaideo district Tuesday morning. The woman had reportedly gone missing from a market in Simaluguri Monday evening. The baby was rescued from the inter-state bus terminus in Jorhat the following evening after a joint operation by police teams from Simaluguri, Sivasagar, Charaideo and Jorhat.

According to the police, the baby was supposed to be transported to Himachal Pradesh where the arrested couple's daughter lives. However, acting on a tip-off, the police apprehended a woman named

Pranali Gogoi, alias Hiramai, of Tengapukhuri, and her husband Basanta Gogoi from Simaluguri railway junction on Tuesday. The next day, the police arrested the couple's son, Prasanta Gogoi, and the victim's mother, Boby Lukhurakhon, for their involvement in the case.

"The family abducted Nitumoni and her child with the intention to send the baby to their daughter in Himachal Pradesh. However, by the time the couple was arrested, their son had already boarded a train with the child. But he was arrested on the train. It was a preplanned murder. The Gogoi couple committed the crime to fulfill the dream of their married daughter who stays in Himachal Pradesh but does not have kids," Sivasagar senior police officer Subhrajyoti Borah said.

"The couple invited Nitumoni and her baby on the pretext of some work but tried to snatch away the baby from her. When Nitumoni resisted, the couple attacked her with some blunt object and killed her," Mr Borah added.

All four accused have been sent to police custody by a local court.

"BJP Should Govern Instead Of...": Congress As Yatra Enters Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Nothing can prevent the Bharat Jodo Yatra from moving forward, the Congress asserted asking the BJP to "stop playing politics in the garb of the Covid pandemic" and trying to "stall" the march, which entered the national capital Saturday morning.

Congress leaders alleged the BJP has made and failed in its every attempt to defame Rahul Gandhi and derail the yatra somehow as people from across the country including Delhi are overwhelmingly extending their support. "Covid and health are serious issues and the BJP should not make them a tool of their politics," AICC media and publicity in-charge Pawan Khara told reporters at the Ashram Chowk.

"If you have the courage to stop the Yatra, do so. We will follow all rules and protocols, if any with regard to Covid.

"We know our responsibilities and the BJP should govern instead of giving us advice or directions. They are not declaring norms but their concern is Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra which is getting the support of people," Mr Khara said.

Rahul Gandhi accused the RSS/BJP of spreading fear in the country and said they convert this fear into hatred but



the Congress will not allow that to happen.

Addressing a gathering as the Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Delhi, he said, "They spread hatred, we spread love and embrace all Indians".

"There is Hindustan and 'Mohabbat' (love) in this Bharat Jodo yatra, which does not see any caste, creed, religion, rich or poor and all embrace each other," he told the gathering.

"RSS/BJP's all policies are to spread fear. They want that everyone should have fear in them and they convert this 'dar' into 'nafrat' (fear into hatred). If there is no 'dar', it will not be converted into 'nafrat'. We say 'daro mat'. We spread Mohabbat. We embrace all Indians," he said.

Delhi Congress in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil said the BJP

is scared of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and not Covid.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government should follow rules and norms rather than playing politics.

"Using corona politically is sending the wrong message to the people of the country," he alleged.

Mr Khara added, "They are in government and they should not need the opposition to remind them before acting. If they are so concerned, why don't they stop their yatra in Rajasthan. Instead of creating fear in the minds of everyone, they should announce steps on Covid with the advice of experts."

"The prime minister visits Parliament wearing a mask but attends weddings in the evening without a mask. They should focus on governance not politics," he said.

"Like Caged Birds": Afghan Women Anguished Over Taliban's University Ban

Agencies

KABUL: Women university students across Afghanistan were in disbelief, barred by the Taliban from studying and condemned to a life of feeling "like caged birds".

In Kabul, home to the country's largest universities, students gathered outside campuses dressed in the black cloaks and tight headscarves imposed by the Taliban since they took control last year.

Elsewhere, students sought consolation from friends and family as they digested news of the university ban.

"We all felt like caged birds, we hugged each other, screamed, and cried 'why is this happening to us?'" Amini, a 23-year-old nursing student in Kunduz, told AFP.

She was with her three sisters -- two already barred from secondary school and another studying for a degree -- when social media exploded with the news of the late-night order. Faculties across the country were already closed for the winter break, but students had been able to access campuses for exams or to study in libraries.

In Kandahar, the cradle and spiritual heart of the Taliban



movement, male students were able to sit exams in classrooms still segregated with screens, which until the day before made it possible for women to study.

Now, the university gates shut them out.

"No one will listen" - A Taliban guard told AFP that some women had not been aware of the exclusion until the morning.

"My sister is studying computer science... I didn't inform her last night. I know she would be traumatised," said a young male law student in Kabul, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals.

"It really expresses (the Taliban's) illiteracy and poor knowledge of Islam and human rights. If the situation continues like this, the future will be

worse. Everyone is scared."

In the eastern city of Jalalabad, some male students walked out of their exams in protest against the decision.

Upon their return to power, the Taliban had promised to be more flexible, but they quickly re-enforced a harsh interpretation of Islam that had marked their first stint in power between 1996 and 2001.

The restrictions on women have multiplied in recent months. They are banned from most government jobs or paid a pittance to stay at home, not authorised to travel alone outside their city, and are excluded from parks and gardens.

"We have no power to do anything and there is no one to listen to us," said one 29-year-old, who is doing a masters in Pashto literature in Kabul.

Allahabad High Court Reserves Verdict In Gyanvapi Mosque Case

Press Trust of India

PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad High Court on Friday reserved its judgement on a civil revision petition filed by the Gyanvapi mosque committee challenging a Varanasi court order turning down its objections to the maintainability of a plea seeking permission to offer regular prayers to idols of deities in the mosque compound.

Justice J J Munir reserved its order after hearing the counsel of both sides at length.

On Friday, the counsel for the petitioner, Senior Advocate

Places of Worship Act, 1991, which bars filing of a suit for conversion of any religious place as existed on August 15, 1947.

The present suit is barred by the Act of 1991, Limitation Act and Waqf Act, Naqvi submitted.

He pointed out that even if the claim of Hindu side is accepted, why they did not file suit in 1993 when they were so restrained or thereafter. Hence, this suit filed before the Varanasi court is barred under the Limitation Act, which bars filing of suit for declaration after three years of incident.

Earlier, at one stage the coun-



SFA Naqvi, contended before the court that the claim of the Hindu side that the devotees were restrained from worshipping Shringar Gauri and other deities on the outer wall of Gyanvapi in the year 1993 is an artificial claim and an example of clever drafting.

According to him, no order was passed by the then state government in writing in 1993.

According to him, the aforesaid claim has been made only to avoid the application of the

sels representing the Hindu side had taken the plea that old maps showed the existence of Hindu deities on Gyanvapi mosque and the Hindu devotees were regularly worshipping Shringar Gauri and other deities on the outer wall of Gyanvapi since long and it was only in the year 1993, the then government restrained regular worship.

Hence, the Act of 1991 is not applicable to them. Further, they claim that the place in dispute is not a Waqf property.

Supreme Court Seeks Centre's Response On Caste-Based Census For OBCs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has sought response from the Centre and others on a plea seeking directions for a caste-based census for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the upcoming Census.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha issued notices to the Centre, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and others while seeking their replies.

It also tagged the matter with a similar case pending before it.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Krishan Kanhaya Pal who said that the governments are unable to share the benefits of the welfare schemes with all sections among backward classes due to a lack of caste-based survey and a caste-based census of the OBCs is of 'vital necessity'.

The petition had contended that concrete policies cannot be formulated in the absence of



concrete data.

Pal had stated that despite the announcement made by the then Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in 2018, there would be a census of the OBC population during the 2021 Census, however, the government refrained from tabling the report of the Rohini Commission that was established in 2017.

NEWS MAKERS

Indian, Bangladeshi Fined ₹90 Lakh For Car Crash That Killed 2 Dubai Women

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Two 48-year-old men, one Indian and one Bangladeshi, have been ordered to pay a total of approximately ₹90,18,436 (AED 400,000) for causing the death of two Saudi women in a road accident in Dubai in July.

A court in Dubai found them guilty. "The driver from India was fined AED 2,000 (approximately ₹45,092) and ordered to pay AED 80,000 (approximately ₹18,03,683) in blood money. The Bangladeshi has been told to pay the rest.

According to a local newspaper report, the two men have been ordered by a court in Dubai to pay the blood money to the family of the victims who were killed in a car accident in the Al-Barsha area of Dubai on July 3.

"Dubai Traffic Court was told the men, one from Bangladesh and the other from India, both 48, drove their



cars recklessly on the day of the incident," The National report said, adding that both women died shortly after the collision.

Four other members of the family were moderately injured.

According to the report, the Bangladeshi man

stopped his car in the middle of the main road and started reversing.

"The Indian, who was in another car, failed to see the vehicle and rammed into it. Both cars then hit a third car, with a family from Saudi Arabia inside," said the report.

Dubai-Based Indian Driver Hits Jackpot, Wins ₹33 Crore In Lottery: Report

Agencies

DUBAI: Ajay Ogula, a Dubai-based driver from India, won a prize worth Dh15 million, INR ₹ 33 crore, in the Emirates Draw.

After winning the lottery prize, Mr Ogula said, "I still cannot believe I hit the jackpot", reported UAE daily, Khaleej Times.

Mr Ogula, who hails from a village in southern India, came to the UAE four years ago in pursuit of greener pastures. Currently working as a driver at a jewellery firm, he earns Dh3,200 every month, Khaleej Times reported.

"I will continue building my charity trust with this amount. This will help many people get

the basic needs in my hometown and neighbouring villages," said Mr Ogula.

He said when he broke the news to his family in India of him hitting the jackpot and becoming a millionaire, his mother and siblings did not believe him.

"They will have to believe it now as I will be in the news," Khaleej Times quoted Mr Ogula as saying.

In the same draw, Paula Leech, a 50-year-old British national, won Dh77,777.

According to Khaleej Times, the mother of three has been working as a human resources professional in the UAE for about 14 years.



Defeated Candidate Threatens Villagers With Sword

Press Trust of India

AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA: Angered by his defeat in the recent gram panchayat polls, a 45-year-old man allegedly threatened residents of a village by brandishing a sword in

ber of the gram panchayat, but did not get elected, he said.

Upset about the loss, the accused went around the village brandishing a sword and threatened and verbally abused the villagers, the official said. Members of the accused man's



Maharashtra's Akola district, police said on Saturday.

A video of the incident, which took place in Khamkhed village in Patur taluka of Akola on Friday, has surfaced on social media, an official said.

The accused had contested the elections to become a mem-

family had been elected to the gram panchayat since the last 30 years and this was a sudden loss, he said. Based on a complaint, the police registered an offence under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act against the accused who is absconding, the official said.

Tara Chand Regrets Leaving Congress For Azad

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Resigning from the Congress in support of Ghulam Nabi Azad was a "blunder", former Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief Minister Tara Chand said on Saturday - two days after he along with former minister Manohar Lal Sharma and former legislator Balwan Singh were expelled from the Azad-led Democratic Azad Party (DAP).



More than 100 office bearers and founding members of the DAP announced their resignation from the party in support of the three leaders, who decided to reach out to the people before taking a decision on their next course of action.

Chand, however, said they will remain secular till their last breath and would have no objection in joining the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra when it enters Jammu and Kashmir. "The decision of the DAP to expel us without any reason or justification came as a big surprise to us. Today, we feel that our decision to resign from the Congress in support of Azad was a blunder," Chand, flanked by the leaders and activists, told reporters here.

He said they have a long association with Azad and when he resigned from the Congress, "we felt we should stand with our leader and extend moral support to him".

"The Congress gave me a mandate, made me Congress legislative party leader, speaker and deputy chief minister. We repent our decision today as we feel we betrayed our party, while DAP betrayed us," Chand said.

Asked about their sacking from the DAP, he said "We have not seen such a type of dictatorship in our decades long political careers. Azad rebelled against the Congress leadership, set up a G23 group and even shot letters but he was not sacked by the (Congress) party which believes in internal democracy."

"We opposed the Pradesh Congress Committee (JK&K) president at his behest but the party did not serve us any notice. We were working to strengthen the DAP, the party which is yet to get recognition, and we were accused of anti-party activities and sacked without any intimidation," he said.

Welcoming Azad's deci-

sion, Chand said it had further strengthened them and they are getting support from all across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Many more leaders from Kashmir including former ministers and legislators from DAP and others are joining our group to strengthen the secular vote bank and work for the restoration of the people's rights including the special status under Article 370 of the constitution and statehood.

"Restoration of pre-August 5, 2019 status to Jammu and Kashmir is the popular demand of the people from both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Without naming Azad, he said a "big leader" is saying that it cannot be restored but "we want to tell him that nothing is impossible. It is the popular demand of both the regions and we appeal to the Prime Minister to accept this demand and restore our identity. He is the Prime Minister of the whole country and should hear the voices from JK&K."

Chand said he had enjoyed good friendly relations with all parties as he did not consider any party "untouchable".

"We are secular and will die as a secular," he said when asked whether he would like to join BJP.

"The leaders inclined towards BJP or Congress or any other party should join any of these parties without hoodwinking the public. We have leaders here who are misleading the public and are dividing the secular votes to benefit one particular party," he said in a veiled attack on the DAP chairman who is being accused by Congress of working at the behest of BJP.

"We will not betray the public and we won't play as an 'A' or 'B' team of any party. We will meet the public and after their consultation, will join a party which is secular and going to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On Bharat Jodo Yatra, he said when National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah and leaders of other secular parties have expressed their desire to join the yatra which is meant to unite the country, "we do not have any hesitation to be part of it."

However, he said nobody from the Congress approached them so far.

Chalk Out Middle Path To Address Issues Of KP Employees: Mehbooba To Admin

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti Saturday said instead of giving migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees an ultimatum to join their duty, the Jammu and Kashmir administration should chalk out a middle path taking into consideration the recent targeted killings in the Valley.



The migrant Kashmiri Pandit and Jammu-based reserved category employees left the Valley in May following the targeted killings of two colleagues. They are seeking relocation outside Kashmir.

However, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha last Wednesday asserted that all necessary measures had been taken to ensure the safety of minority community employees, including Kashmiri Pandits, in the Valley and sent out a "loud and clear" message to those demanding a transfer no salary for sitting at home.

Interacting with reporters

on Saturday, Mufti said, "The administration needs to know their problems and try to resolve those. Giving an ultimatum to join otherwise, your salaries will be stopped is wrong."

"Everyone, including the Pandits, has suffered a lot but the government should take into consideration the recent (targeted) killings of the community members."

Mufti said the administration should accept their demand for the time being to provide them a breather.

"When they are satisfied that the situation in Kashmir has improved, they will return but should not be compelled like this," she said.

The government must chalk out a middle way in consultation with the protesting employees who are very perturbed over the past several months and are facing tremendous hardships, the PDP chief said.

Man Arrested For Killing Wife In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A man was arrested for killing his wife on suspicion of having illicit relation with another man in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

The body of 26-year-old Shameema Kouser with her throat slit was recovered from outside her house at village Gundha in Khawas tehsil of the border district on December 21.

During the investigation, the woman's husband Zulfiqar Ali was called for questioning where he confessed to the crime, Senior Superintendent of Police (Rajouri) Mohammad Aslam.

Ali said that he killed his wife over the suspicion that she is having illicit relations with some unknown person, the officer said.

On the disclosure of the accused, a knife has also been recovered, he said.



A WOMAN BREAKS ICE to row her boat in the interiors of the frozen Dal Lake on Saturday..

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

New Assessment, Evaluation Scheme To Take Effect From Next Academic Session: Govt

SCERT To Implement Scheme For All Government, Recognized Schools

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The government has decided to implement the Student Assessment and Evaluation Scheme (SAES) starting with the upcoming academic session, which will require the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) to develop uniform question papers for all government and government recognized schools.

This decision represents a significant change that will put an end to the traditional examination system.

As per the NEP-2020 examination reforms, the purpose of assessment will change from one that is summative and primarily tests rote memorization skills to one that is more regular and formative, is more competency-based, supports our students' learning and development, and tests higher-order skills like analysis, critical thinking, and conceptual clarity.

The pupils will receive a multidimensional report card or a holistic progress card in place of a grade sheet, which would reflect each learner's individuality and progress in detail. Software assisted by artificial intelligence would create a 360-degree perspective of a student's progress and help them choose the best careers would also be used.

With the new curriculum and pedagogical structure of 5+3+3+4 adopted as per the NEP-2020 guidelines replacing the 10+2 pattern in school education, the new assessment and evaluation scheme takes effect right from the foundational stage.

The 'Foundational' stage



is comprised of the first five years of education, the next three are 'Preparatory' followed by another three years in the 'Middle' stage. The final four years included the grades 9th and 10th in Phase-I and 11th and 12th in Phase-II under the head 'Secondary' stage.

The contents of the evaluation mechanism at every level, including the standard operating procedures, are detailed in a 12-page document signed by Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Education who also serves as the Director of SCERT.

The foundational stage's evaluation and assessment procedures are to be carried out by the heads of the schools using the models outlined in the school-based assessment (SBA) document by the NCERT/SCERT.

The evaluation and assessment of the Preparatory and Middle stages would also be conducted by the heads of the schools using assessment tools and model question papers prescribed by the SCERT.

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has been given sole responsibility for the Secondary stage, which includes classes

9th through 12th, and will be administered in accordance with NEP-2020 criteria.

For the formative assessment, co-curricular component, and summative assessment, respectively, the weighting of the marks shall be allocated as 30, 20, and 50 with a qualifying percentage of 33% in each. Recitation, art and craft, role playing, painting, group songs, discussion, debates, health and hygiene, environmental awareness, and IT awareness are some of the activities that form the co-curricular component.

Students who have been designated as potential learners will be promoted to the next class on a proviso basis with plans for extra courses for two to three months during the vacation or at the start of the next session, followed by another assessment of grade-appropriate competencies. Only when the student is unable to meet the eligibility requirements in this reassessment tool may they be held back.

The evaluation shall be carried out in the Complex Head under the supervision of the head of the complex and overall supervision of DIET/SCERT.

BJP Rallies Workers For May '23 J&K Election

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: BJP Jammu and Kashmir In-charge Tarun Chugh on Saturday asked the party workers to prepare for assembly elections which are likely to take place in May next year here.

"The election to form a government is taking place by May and that means we have very little time left now. The (party) cells have a major role

to play in these elections," Chugh said addressing a series of meetings of senior leaders, morchas, and cells at party headquarters here.

Chugh asked party leaders to reach out to voters to ensure the success of the candidates.

BJP National General Secretary Dilip Saikia asked workers to in-form the party about the needs, aspirations, and hardships faced by people in their segments to help party construct a robust ac-

tion programme.

Meanwhile, Wajid Bashir Khan, the Mendhar District Development Council (DDC) member, along with his supporters, joined BJP in presence of Chugh, Saikia, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina.

Chugh welcomed the new entrants into the party fold and said, "The centre has a policy of zero-tolerance against the drug trade and the financing of terrorism from its profits."

Kumar Discusses Modalities For Holding Mock Drill To Check Functionality Of Facilities, Logistics For COVID Management

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary Health & Medical Education, Bhupinder Kumar today convened a meeting regarding Mock Drill to be held on 27th December, 2022 to check functionality in respect of key facilities and logistics for COVID management in healthcare institutions.

The meeting was attended by Director SKIMS Soura, Mission Director NHM, Principals of all Medical Colleges, Director General, Family Welfare, MCH and Immunization, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director (Coordination) New Medical Colleges, J&K, Managing Director, JKMSCL, CMOs of all the districts of J&K

and other senior officers from Health & Medical Education Department.

Secretary informed that there is need to continue with pre-emptive and pro-active approach to keep a check on possible increase in number of COVID cases in J&K in the wake of increase in positive cases being reported globally.

He directed that all the HoDs, in pursuance to the directions issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, shall undertake Mock-Drill exercise across the health facilities in J&K on 27th December, 2022 at 09:00 am to ensure operational readiness for management of COVID with specific focus on

Oxygen Plants, Ventilators, logistics and human resources. The status of the mock drill shall be entered facility wise in the COVID India portal on the same day, he said adding that this exercise shall be supervised by the HoDs of Health and Medical Education Department.

Secretary also discussed the status of COVID supplies and asked the HoDs and Managing Director JKMSCL to ensure availability of sufficient stock of COVID logistics including the testing kits. He directed the Chief Medical Officers to continue with the contact tracing of positive cases as per the prevailing practice.

Doors Of Party Always Open For Secular-Minded People: JK Cong Chief

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani Saturday said the doors of his party are open for secular-minded people and closed for those with a communal mindset.

He termed the Democratic Azad Party headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad branch of the BJP and claimed it is "collapsing under its own weight".

Wani also extended support to the Kashmiri Pandit migrant employees and Jammu-based reserved category staffers who are on protest strike here since May demanding relocation outside the Valley following targeted killings by terrorists.

"The Democratic Azad Party headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad is a branch of the BJP but those who have gone there from the Congress are secular-minded people.

"Our party's doors are open for them and a decision to re-induct them into the Congress will be taken at an appropriate time," Wani told reporters here.

He was responding to a question about whether the Congress will accept the recently expelled DAP leaders, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former minister Mohinder Lal Sharma and ex-MLA Balwan Singh, back into the party fold.

"It (DAP) is collapsing under its own weight, sooner than expected. Those who had joined him (Azad) because of some close proximity soon realized the real game plan of the new party -- to divide secular votes and help the BJP," he claimed.

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief asserted that people with a communal mindset are not welcome in his party.

Wani claimed that those who joined the DAP felt "ditched by the fake slogans of the Azad-led group" which is yet to be registered with or recognized by the Election Commission.

He said all like-minded people, NGOs, political parties and oth-

ers are welcome to join the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra being held against the "politics of hate, record unemployment and unprecedented price rise and other issues the common people are suffering from".

Wani said the Congress has taken strong exception to the approach of the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration towards the agitating migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees and Jammu-based reserved category staffers.

Wani accused the Centre and the Union Territory administration of taking an "unsympathetic approach" towards the issues of these employees.

"These employees were performing their duties for the past 10 to 12 years after the UPA government announced a package for their rehabilitation without raising any such demands as now since they were not targeted," he claimed.

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief accused the BJP of "using the plight of Kashmiri pandits across the country to garner votes".

"Instead of sympathizing with them and resolving their issues, the government is harassing them and threatening to stop their salaries.

"While in opposition, the BJP always forcefully raised the issue of security of Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities in Kashmir. But since 2014 they did nothing and are only shedding crocodile tears for them," Wani claimed.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha last Wednesday asserted that all necessary measures had been taken to ensure the safety of minority community employees, including Kashmiri Pandits, in the Valley and sent out a "loud and clear" message to those demanding a transfer no salary for sitting at home.

Demanding immediate release of pending salaries, the Congress leader said the party workers will not hesitate to join the migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees in their protest.

Northern Army Commander Visits NCC Camp In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday visited the ongoing camp of National Cadet Corps (NCC) here and complimented them on their high standard of physical and mental fitness.

Lt Gen Dwivedi was received by Additional Director General of NCC, Directorate J&K and Ladakh, Maj Gen Tejinder Kumar and subsequently the Army commander reviewed a smartly turned out NCC Guard of Honour and also the NCC marching contingents comprising selected boys and girls from Army as well as Naval NCC Units, a defence spokesman said.

Later, the spokesman said he also witnessed an impressive cultural programme consisting of a group song and innovative ballet on theme 'Growing with NCC' presented by the cadets.

In his address to the cadets, the Army Commander complimented them on their high standard of physical and mental fitness as well as their 'joshi' and dedication.

He acknowledged and complimented the stellar role played by the NCC units of the Directorate operating from Kathua to Turtuk in shaping

the personality of more than 25,000 youth of the region, which has been affected by severe challenges in the past decades.

The NCC provides a large number of opportunities for personal growth and personality development, he said and urged the cadets to make the best use of NCC, aim high, choose the path of growth and grow into responsible citizens of the country.

Lt Gen Dwivedi also highlighted the yeoman service being done by NCC cadets for several social service activities like Puneet Sagar Abhiyan as well as Nasha Mukht Bharat.

The Army Commander was briefed about the peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh regions on an impressive model showcasing various developmental activities and initiatives of the government.

He interacted with the cadets selected for the upcoming NCC Republic Day Camp and the training staff, complimented them for their high standard of training, and wished them well.

The visit by the Army Commander and his highly motivational words thrilled the cadets and strengthened their resolve for continuing their training with renewed vigour and joshi, the spokesman said.

Jammu and Kashmir has always been instrumental in helping political parties in India secure electoral success elsewhere. However unrelated, the ruling party's or the opposition's treatment of the 'Kashmir question' has allowed them to secure electoral wins across states in India. A case in point is the ruling party at center - the BJP.

Within Jammu and Kashmir, different political parties have tied-up with local political leadership on different occasions for electoral wins here.

As it stands at the moment, the strained and ousted Congress finds itself troubled even more in Kashmir, particularly due to Ghulam Nabi Azad's exit. Azad's newly formed DAP and its current tussle with the incumbent Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee Chief and former Azad loyalist Mr. Vikar Rasool Wani is an enigmatic case, potentially capable of not only shaping the destiny of Congress in Jammu and Kashmir but across India.

Ghulam Nabi Azad's Surprise Exit

A cut-throat competition to succeed the then incumbent Congress Chief, Ghulam Ahmed Mir had ensued in Jammu and Kashmir around that time with several political big-wigs having their eyes fixed on the position. The paranoia of G-23 had doused off to an extent, as Azad, one of the frontrunners of the rebellious group within the Congress had joined the Gandhi siblings in a march in Delhi indicating that the issues of the past were probably buried by both sides. Following that, the appointment of the new Congress Chief in Jammu and Kashmir was on the cards; Ghulam Nabi Azad before leaving the Congress surprisingly had recommended Mr. Vikar Rasool Wani's name for the post. It was a surprising move given the limited popularity of Vikar who is a leader confined to his constituency and his political experience as compared to the senior leaders in Congress is much less. After the coronation of Mr. Vikar Rasool as the new Chief in Jammu and Kashmir on 16th of August 2022, Ghulam Nabi Azad dropped a bombshell by posting a long resignation letter from Congress after an association of 49 long years on 26th August 2022.

Vikar Rasool Wani's Bad Blood with Azad

The moment Ghulam Nabi Azad quit and formed his own party, Congress from Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir has been going all guns blazing against him. Vikar has remained no spectator on the fence to this. He actively jumped in the fray and started attacking Ghulam Nabi Azad for representing the "interest of BJP" in Jammu and Kashmir. Once an Azad prodigy, nowadays attacks Azad on every opportunity he gets, quite recently he even called Azad's Padma Bhushan award a "small award," a statement he was forced to withdraw.

In contrast to Vikar's loud mouthed

Political HANDshake

Sheikh Imran



“Vikar is only going to play right into the narratives that the BJP is going to make against congress. Adding to the war of narrative that BJP has already been winning, it will also eventually turn into a huge wrecking ball bringing down the run of Congress for 2024 general elections besides wiping it out from Jammu and Kashmir. What remains to be seen is whether the AICC in-charge will continue to flatter Vikar despite being fully aware of his splintered house of cards?”

diatribe, Azad has generally chosen not to speak much about Vikar, which is a probable tactic of him downplaying Vikar. He rarely mentions him but on the sidelines, keeps attacking the Congress in almost all of his programmes he has held ever since he floated his own party.

Recently, Azad, while being interviewed by a national news channel, was seen making explosive claims yet again. Ghulam Nabi Azad told the interviewer that during his time as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, he had compiled a report of ministers working in tandem with insurgents and sent it to the then Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil who, according to Azad, took no note of it. Following this, in a press statement, one of the DAP spokespersons alleged that Vikar was also involved in it besides being involved in corruption; a charge Vikar refuted and warned of an initiation of legal action against Azad and his party. Vikar even went on to the extent of blaming Azad for compromising national security.

The war of words and its escalation beyond verbal spats or a legal tug of war is yet to be seen but it surely is relentless from both sides and doesn't happen to affect Azad as much as Vikar and his JKPC.

The Azad factor and Vikar's Weak Defense

Azad is an accidental politician who has faced humiliating defeats at home state, yet the legend of his capabilities, substantiated by the grace of the central leadership of Congress, keeps going. Yet, the decision to form his own political party when the sun should've set in his political career, leaves him with a tainted legacy — one of a political opportunist who always preferred power instead of politics. Today, he has stationed himself at an uncomfortable position to gain back what he felt was taken away from him owing to his rebellious behavior in the Congress party, and for which he has chosen to walk over the line of ideological demarcations.

This however isn't much of a challenge or a matter of concern for Azad since there

is rarely a mainstream leader in Jammu and Kashmir who has this distinction.

What this brings for Vikar Rasool is, however, a grave concern for Congress. It is an unconquerable duel in which Vikar seems to fail in offering even a fair contest to his rivals. He now has to battle Azad besides BJP, the arch nemesis of Congress, nationally, relying only on his limited popularity, a narrow political understanding and his awry style of working.

Even with estimated or overestimated merits, sidelined allegations and a fair chance, Vikar Rasool is only going to bring congress a morbid defeat in J&K. Since day one, he has sidelined all senior leaders who otherwise used to have a decisive role in the party. He has replaced them with his select "coterie", in the name of changing the dynamics of his party.

Congress under Vikar Rasool in J&K is set for disaffection, anarchy and total chaos.

The Bumpy Road Ahead for Congress

The political developments in India have forced the principal opposition party, the Indian National Congress, to have a non-Gandhi AICC Chief after over two decades. It has also pushed the Gandhiscion, Rahul Gandhi, to partake in a foot march from Kanyakumari which is to culminate in Kashmir. While it is visibly engaged in an overhaul, its fate cannot be seen in isolation with respect to Kashmir, which is a sensitive spot for average Indian voters. For instance, it's worth recalling that Congress, in its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto, had boldly vowed to strengthen Article-370 and Article-35a, whereas BJP had promised their removal. Amongst other promises, this stood out and appealed to the Indian electorate the most, resulting in BJP securing over 300 seats and restricting Congress to 52.

In the current scenario, with a strong BJP, Kashmir and Ladakh will play important roles. Nationally, Congress is trying hard to consolidate and strengthen itself by pulling out different tricks out of its hat but their ignorance and negligent behavior towards Jammu and Kashmir has them sitting on a powder keg which will bemuse them when the match is lit.

AICC selected Vikar Rasool Wani as the JKPC Chief after Azad recommended his name despite knowing Azad's friction with the Congress this got approved; the word doing rounds in the political corridors is that the Rajya Sabha M.P and the current AICC, Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Rajani Patil personally lobbied for Vikar. He replaced Ghulam Ahmed Mir who is a fairly more known face. Additionally, Vikar's thoughtless public speeches, the usage of unparliamentary and objectionable vocabulary, is fairly and squarely earning the BJP some fair points which they will use to their benefit.

Notably, BJP by far, has largely maintained silence on JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool. Its leadership has a reputation of smartly taking up issues at an appropriate time and then translating them into votes in elections, a tactic often referred to as the "Chanakya Neeti" in the current Indian electoral scope.

Vikar is only going to play right into the narratives that the BJP is going to make against congress. Adding to the war of narrative that BJP has already been winning, it will also eventually turn into a huge wrecking ball bringing down the run of Congress for 2024 general elections besides wiping it out from Jammu and Kashmir. What remains to be seen is whether the AICC in-charge will continue to flatter Vikar despite being fully aware of his splintered house of cards?

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

The author is a Freelance Columnist

Modi Ignores West's Sanctions On Russia

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday marks a new stage in the bilateral relationship between the two time-tested friends, both contextually and from a long-term perspective.

The media may find it alluring to link Modi's call to Ukraine developments despite the Indian and Russian readouts (here and here) making it clear that Russian-Indian bilateral relations dominated the conversation.

Nonetheless, it is very significant that Modi was not deterred by the fact that although this is not era for wars, the Ukraine conflict in all probability will only escalate, and there is a greater likelihood than ever before that Russia may be compelled to seek a total military victory, as the US is leaving it with no option by doggedly blocking all avenues for a realistic settlement and is furtively climbing the escalation ladder.

Without doubt, the Biden Administration's reported decision to deploy Patriot missile in Ukraine is a major escalation. Moscow has warned of "consequences." Again, Moscow has confirmed that the US planned, masterminded and equipped Ukraine with the military capability to attack deep inside Russian territory — hundreds of kilometres, in fact — including against base at Engels where Russia's nuclear-capable strategic bombers are stationed. The two superpowers never before targeted each other's nuclear assets.

So, there is no question that Modi's initiative at this point in time to discuss "the high level of bilateral cooperation that has been developing on the basis of the Russian-Indian privileged strategic partnership," including in key areas of energy, trade and investments, defence & security cooperation, conveys a huge message in itself.

It quietly underscores a medium and long term perspective on the Russian-Indian relationship that goes far beyond the vicissitudes of the Ukraine conflict. Put differently, India will not allow its long-standing ties with Russia to be held hostage to Western sanctions.

For India, the reorientation of Russian economic diplomacy toward the Asian region presents huge business opportunities. Who would have thought nine months ago that Russia was going to be the largest supplier of oil to India, leapfrogging Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the US? According to Reuters, India purchased about 40% of all export volumes of Russian Urals grade oil transported by sea in November, when European countries accounted for 25%, Turkey 15% and China 5%.

The figures speak for themselves: in November, while Russia supplied 909,000.4 barrels of crude oil to India per day, the corresponding figures were for Iraq (861,000.4), Saudi Arabia (670,000.9), and the US (405,000.5) Suffice it to say that when Modi upfront listed energy as his talking point with Putin, it re-

as a potentially significant "trans-shipment" state for Russia's "parallel imports" — that is, Russia can buy not only Indian goods from India but also products from third countries.

Meanwhile, turning away from the European market, Russia also seeks business opportunities for its export basket that includes mineral products, precious metals and products made from them, aluminium and other non-ferrous metals, electric machines, vehicles, pharmaceutical, chemical, rubber products, etc.

Clearly, there are systemic issues to be addressed such as transportation logistics; payment mechanism, collateral sanctions. However, for the near term, all eyes are on the Russian oil exports to India in the time of the G7 price cap.

“The media may find it alluring to link Modi's call to Ukraine developments despite the Indian and Russian readouts (here and here) making it clear that Russian-Indian bilateral relations dominated the conversation.”

confirms that India is giving a wide berth to the G7's hare-brained scheme to impose a price cap on Russian oil exports.

But all good things have a flip side to it. As the volume of India-Russia trade shoots up — with Russia emerging as India's seventh largest trading partner, rising from 25th place — the imbalance in the bilateral trade is also widening, as Moscow prioritises India (and China) as preferred trading partners.

EAM Jaishankar's recent Moscow visit focused on a list of 500 items that Russia would be keen to source from India. Importantly, this is also about a supply chain for Russian industry / economy. Jaishankar reportedly gave an interim reply of India's readiness to start supplying spare parts necessary for airplanes, cars and trains.

Some Russian experts have talked about India

The Russian government daily Rosyyskaya Gazeta reported on Tuesday, "It is expected that Russia, in response to the price ceiling, will adopt an official ban on selling oil under contracts where the "ceiling" will be mentioned or the marginal price for our oil will be indicated." That is, Moscow will insist on an embargo on supplies basically restricted to the G7 and Australia.

China and India are not affected, as they haven't joined the price cap. The following excerpts from the Moscow daily outlines the state of play:

"There are no real mechanisms that could enforce these [G7] restrictions... already, about a third of Russian oil exports leave Russian ports without indicating the final destination. That is, a so-called "grey trade zone" is growing before our eyes, which allows traders to purchase Russian raw materials without the risk of falling under second-

ary sanctions... discount [i.e., fair prices] allows the Asia-Pacific countries, primarily China and India, to increase purchases of Russian raw materials."

The fascinating part is that not only is the so-called "grey zone" expanding steadily but alongside, other suppliers have begun to adjust to the prices of Russian oil in the Asia-Pacific region — that is, to the real equilibrium prices or discounted prices. Curiously, even Western countries are in a position to receive relatively inexpensive Russian oil through third parties.

The bottom line is that the Biden administration's goal was not to limit the volume of Russian oil exports but focused on the revenues of the Russian budget from oil production and the world oil market. Rissyskaya Gazeta concludes: "In fact, so far what is happening does not contradict either our aspirations or the desires of the United States." [See my article Race for Russian oil begins, The Tribune, Nov. 28, 2022]

This new-found pragmatism in the US calculus about the limits to sanctions took a curious turn in Thursday when the US blacklisted the Russian billionaire-oligarch Vladimir Potanin but exempted two of his biggest assets from the purview of sanctions — MMC Norilsk Nickel and Tinkoff Bank — on the specious ground that his holdings are less than 50% in these two companies [but are only 35%!]

Why so? Because, MMC's share in the world market of high-grade nickel is 17%, palladium 38%, platinum 10%, rhodium 7%, copper and cobalt 2% each; and, sanctioning the Russian company could sharply aggravate the world market for non-ferrous metals and can hurt US manufacturers.

Clearly, the law of diminishing returns is at work in the continued weaponisation of sanctions against Russia. Indian business and industry should pay close attention to Modi's far-sighted initiative on Friday.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by India Punchline

‘People Should Socially BOYCOTT DRUG PEDDLERS’



In an interview with Kashmir Observer, SSP Srinagar talks about the civil society, conflict and crime in the city.

Auqib Javed

Amid the intensifying anti-drug campaign in the valley, a top cop has exhorted civil society to wake up to the monstrous reality consuming precious young lives and socially boycott drug-peddlers.

“In the war against drugs, the public support is not up to the expectations,” Rakesh Balwal, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) said. “People can’t leave everything to the police. They should come forward and support us to get rid of this menace. They should socially boycott drug peddlers.”

In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, the city police chief said that cops aren’t merely for operational things in Kashmir, but for resolving the plethora of issues such as drug menace, normal policing and social crimes.

“I’m continuously trying to remove the police-public gap and all the apprehensions common people have about us,” SSP Balwal, who recently completed one year in office, said.

“My point is that anti-militancy operations will carry on till we’ve active militants, but grievances of the public in no way should suffer due to this. People should come to the police to get any of their issues resolved. People shouldn’t fear us.”

The officer termed the ‘militancy-free’ urban landscape as his continuous priority. “You can witness a relatively calm city now,” he said. “We’ll try to maintain the peace, come what may. No school has been shut for a single day due to law and order problems this year. Even incidents of stone pelting have almost disappeared now.”

Talking about new redlines, the SSP said that police fully accommodates democratic protests regarding roads, water and electricity as per standard SOPs, but those which cross red-lines of challenging integrity and sovereignty of the country are unacceptable. “We’re okay with people coming to Press Enclave for protests for their basic rights, but they can’t cross the red-line,” he emphasised.

Regarding the recently-held funeral prayers of two separatist leaders, SSP Balwal said that police is fully professional in dealing with these situations and was sure that nothing untoward would happen.

“We were in touch with the organizers and put on aerial and other surveillance,” he said. “We’re satisfied with the results. The people fully cooperated with the police. The trust in policing is slowly coming back.”

When the gap between police and public won’t be there, he said, people will trust police and their honest intentions.

“But there’ll always be black sheep among the peace-loving people,” SSP Balwal said. “We don’t want to touch them but will definitely go after miscreants. There were only two minor stone pelting incidents in the city in 2022, we tactfully managed the protesters at the ground and then later on we identified them one by one with our latest technologies. They were booked for

their wrongdoing. Likewise, the people are fully aware that if they do anything wrong, there’s no way out to save themselves while no innocent will ever be touched.”

When the baton was passed to you a year ago, what challenges were there for you as SSP Srinagar?

My term started in December 2021 when Srinagar was a little turbulent with sporadic attacks, targeted killings, grenade attacks, etc. The city all of a sudden witnessed a number of killings in October last year. So, my immediate challenge was to bring a sense of security among the common people.

At the same time, I had to remove the trust gap between police and public. The people wouldn’t approach the police in the top, middle and lower levels – which I found very strange because this rarely happens in other states of the country. Police aren’t merely for operational things; it’s there to resolve the issues of people even if it is a minor domestic issue. We all get salaries out of tax paid by citizens and it is the responsibility on the shoulders of police to take care of genuine grievances and problems of the public. During my one year stint, I’ve continuously tried to remove this gap and the apprehensions people have about working in the police. My point is that we should carry on the anti-militancy operations but at the same time, people should come to the police without any hesitation to get their issues resolved.

Another challenge was to deny safe passage and safe havens to militants in the urban landscape of Srinagar. Then there were other law and order issues, like some incidents of stone pelting earlier, but now we all can witness a calm city. We will try to maintain the peace, come what may. The schools didn’t shut for a single day this year because of no law and order problem.

So with this ‘urban peace’ that you’re talking about, can we see security ease-out measures, like omission of bunkers and frisking?

We’ve already given a lot of relaxation in terms of security measures. Even during 15th August and 26 January, or during the VVIP visits, the frisking is relatively less now in Srinagar. The markets remain open and the internet works uninterrupted.

We’ve gone to the next level now where we’re using drones, CCTV cameras to monitor the situation. It was for this reason we asked people to install high-security number-plates so that crimes are cracked easily.

We’re doing smart work to minimise the public inconvenience. These things helped us to redefine our ways of checking and frisking. We mostly frisk and check when there is actionable intelligence input about the militant movement.

But the talk of the town is that there is

a lot of surveillance in Srinagar and then there is an issue of ‘intruding the privacy’ of the people.

We fully respect the privacy of the people but drones and CCTVs are only used to check suspicious movement in public spaces. It’s like this everywhere in the world and the whole country also and they don’t intrude into anyone’s private space. This is for the security of the people and larger public good.

We don’t use CCTVs to see who’s inside a house or shop, doing what, or who’s inside a car.

At the end of the day, if you want a less aggressive posture of security forces in the city, then we’ve to go to the next level of policing driven by smart technology.

But can we expect a possible end of Kashmir’s escalating drug problem in the face of this intensified police campaign?

See, there’s a whole system with handlers across the border behind this. The drugs come from Pakistan via North Kashmir. Kashmir valley historically was only the route for drugs, but now the youth here slowly have become users as well. And the money that is made out of it is being used for the purpose of terrorism as well. But we’re keeping a full vigil on it and many smugglers and peddlers have been arrested and put behind bars.

In this year only, we’ve lodged about 160 FIRs against the peddlers in the city, 250 people have been arrested in cases and around 60 individuals have been booked under Public Safety Act/ PIT and other relevant laws. Large number of recoveries has also been made of drugs/narcotics.

Police have also opened a Drug de-addiction & rehabilitation centre at Srinagar’s Eidgah area for drug addicts. We try to give a new lease of life to the young people. Several steps are also afoot to establish more such centers which is in-line with Nasha mukt Abhiyaan of UT government.

However, the public support is still minimal. The level of cooperation at the level of giving information to police is also very poor. People have to understand that police works at the best level with public cooperation only. People should come forward and support us fully in getting rid of this menace. They should socially boycott the narcotics smugglers/ drug peddlers. People at times have alerted us about the situation at the locality level but this is very less.

But since Kashmir is beset with turmoil, how does it affect normal policing?

See, if terrorist attacks and targeted killings are happening and when grenades are thrown in public places every now and then, the top priority of police will be to ensure a sense of security. We’ll focus more on saving the lives of the people and try to mitigate the threats. As security situation

improves, like it is now, our approach and priorities evolve and we will keep focusing more and more on social issues and on public outreach at par with that in Scandinavian countries.

Having said that, we’ve started organising Thana Diwas every week in every police station in Srinagar, where the police officials led by a gazetted officer interact with the locals and try to resolve their issues. At all levels, the time between 12 noon to 2 pm is kept for grievance redressal. Even I meet all visitors who come to the SSP office. We’re able to do this only because the security situation has improved.

But does the combatant role of police due to the situation pose a challenge in maintaining the cordial cop-civilian relationship?

Our combatant role is directly proportional to the level of violence and terror incidents that happen. If the terror incidents remain low as it is now, we’ll get more and more time for public outreach. The primary job of police is to give the public a sense of security. We’ve to safeguard the life, property and honour of the public. If the lives of citizens are not safe, then police can’t fully focus on the other two duties of it—safeguarding property and honour.

Also, I always believe that the police is just a reflection of society at a particular time. In countries like Denmark, Norway, Sweden, you’ll find fully public-centric policing. The reason is that society has less terror/crime graph. But here in the valley, due to long years of trust with violence, sub-consciously violence is acceptable. Even small kids like to buy toy-guns rather than traditional toys. This is because society has seen and sub-consciously made peace with violence for so long which has affected all generations since 1989.

What do these renewed threats to media-persons indicate? Is the capital back on militancy radar?

See, we’ve only very few categorized terrorists left in the whole Kashmir valley right now. There is only one resident terrorist in whole Srinagar district. Their numbers have come down drastically, recruitment into terror ranks isn’t happening. They’ve lost their edge to do big attacks. And now, handlers based in Pakistan have come-up with an anonymous blog providing low risk and high profit. They’re creating shadowy posters and naming people to create fear psychosis. This creates more noise and hype amongst society, media and in national news channels. And this strategy has proved highly rewarding for them than doing any terror attack for which they have lost capability.

It’s a ploy to create fear among reasonable and rational sections of society including those in journalism. This is a low-cost and high reward thing as it sends alarm

bells across the media fraternity and in the security establishment. But we’re fully aware of this, cases have been registered and many revelations have come forth during investigations.

Talking of challenge, we lately saw the funeral procession of top two separatist leaders being allowed in Srinagar. Was it a calculated move or a step to test waters?

We knew how to deal with it and were sure that nothing wrong would happen. We were also in touch with the organizers and had put on aerial and other surveillance. We’re very satisfied with the results. The people cooperated with the police and I am happy that slowly trust in policing is coming back.

When the gap between police and public won’t be there, people will trust the police and their intentions. But there’ll always be black sheep among the peace-loving people. We always respect common people but miscreants and habitual offenders can never be spared. There were only two minor stone pelting incidents in the Srinagar district in 2022 and we managed the protesters at the ground during that time and then later on we identified them one by one with our latest technology. They were booked for their wrongdoing. Likewise, the people know if they do anything wrong, there’s no way out to save themselves.

Are there any redlines for people now, given how police are vigilant about peace at the moment?

The people shouldn’t indulge in violence and take law and order into their own hands. We always accommodate protests regarding roads, water and electricity under our SOP. It is part of democracy and we are okay with it, but you can’t cross the line. You can’t say things against the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.

What about the city’s crime graph?

The nature of crime in Srinagar has changed. The crimes happening in big cities of the country are happening here as well. There’re more cybercrimes as well, land frauds, property crimes, blackmailing, etc. There are criminal gangs operating – luring gullible youth for jobs.

Over 50 per cent of the people coming to my office for grievance redressal are related to property crimes/land issues. 30 per cent relate to women related crimes/ family and matrimonial issues, while the rest 20 per cent come for other issues.

But we’re ready for it and have created different cells to monitor different cases. We’ve the capability to prevent and investigate any type of crime in Srinagar.

My long term objective is to have public-centric policing in Srinagar leading to drastic reduction in crime resulting in a vibrant and peaceful capital city in my tenure as SSP here.

What Are Remote Fear Memories? How Are They Stored And Retrieved?

Press Trust Of India

A mouse study demonstrated that remote fear memories formed in the distant past are permanently stored in connections between memory neurons in the prefrontal cortex, or the PFC.

But what are remote fear memories? A remote fear memory is a memory of traumatic events that occurred in the distant past - a few months to decades ago.

"It is the prefrontal memory circuits that are progressively strengthened after traumatic events and this strengthening plays a critical role in how fear memories mature to stabilized forms in the cerebral cortex for permanent storage," explained the lead researcher Jun-Hyeong Cho.

How are remote fear memories stored and retrieved? According to the UC Riverside study, the brain uses distinct mechanisms to store recent versus

remote fear memories. Previous studies have suggested that while the initial formation of fear memory involves the hippocampus, it progressively matures with time and becomes less dependent on the hippocampus.

The researchers focused on the PFC, a part of the cerebral cortex that has been implicated in remote memory consolidation in previous studies.

"We found a small group of nerve cells or neurons within the PFC, termed memory neurons, were active during the initial traumatic event and were reactivated during the recall of remote fear memory," said Cho.

Could we prevent the recall of these remote fear memories? "When we selectively inhibited these memory neurons in the PFC, it prevented the mice recalling remote but not recent fear memory, suggesting the critical role of PFC memory neurons in the recall of remote fear memories," explained Cho.



"Interestingly, the extinction of remote fear memory weakened the prefrontal memory circuits that were previously strengthened to store the remote fear memory," Cho said.

"Moreover, other manipulations that blocked the strengthening of the PFC memory circuits also prevented the recall of remote fear memory," said Cho.

“ We found a small group of nerve cells or neurons within the PFC, termed memory neurons, were active during the initial traumatic event and were reactivated during the recall of remote fear memory

Covid Vaccine Protects Patients With Blood Cancer: Study

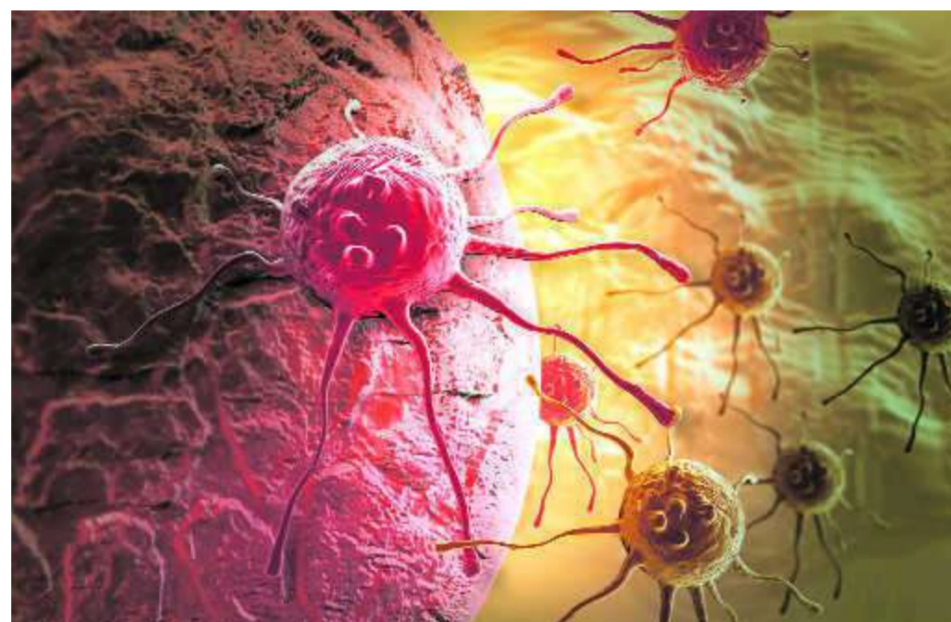
ANI

People with blood cancer usually have a weak immune system, putting them at an increased risk of becoming very ill from Covid-19. Furthermore, several cancer treatments cause these individuals to develop little or no antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 after Covid-19 vaccination. On the other hand, vaccination can activate T cells, which are responsible for the long-term immune response.

A team led by physicians Dr Andrea Keppler-Hafkemeyer and Dr Christine Greil from the Medical Center-University of Freiburg and virologist Prof. Oliver T. Keppler from LMU Munich has now characterised in detail the course over several months of the immune response of patients with blood cancer who had received a total of three vaccinations against Covid-19. The results allow inferences to be made about the protection that vaccination gives these patients against serious illness from SARS-CoV2.

Strong T cell response to Covid-19 vaccination The study focused on patients with two kinds of blood cancer: B-cell lymphoma and multiple myeloma. "Our results show that almost all study participants had a strong T cell response to Covid-19 vaccination," explains Dr. Andrea Keppler-Hafkemeyer. "This could be one reason why breakthrough infections turned out to be mild to moderately severe even in study participants who had been unable to form any specific antibodies after vaccination because of their therapy," adds Dr. Christine Greil. The co-principal investigators and lead authors regularly look after blood cancer patients in the Department of Medicine I at the Medical Center - University of Freiburg.

The research group led by Prof Oliver T. Keppler is specialised not only in analysing the concentration of antibodies after



“ This could be one reason why breakthrough infections turned out to be mild to moderately severe even in study participants who had been unable to form any specific antibodies after vaccination because of their therapy

vaccination, but also their quality.

This depends particularly on the strength of the bonds between antibodies and the viral spike protein. In addition, the ability of antibodies to neutralise different SARS-CoV-2 variants in cell cultures plays a major role. As the next step, therefore, the scientists compared the quantity and quality of antibodies and T cell responses to the spike protein among blood cancer patients and healthy study participants after two and three Covid-19 vaccinations.

High-quality antibodies against different SARS-CoV-2 variants The study revealed that patients who can form antibodies tend to produce antibodies of partic-

ularly high quality. After their second vaccination, they are already able to neutralise and thus deactivate different SARS-CoV-2 variants. This ability is considerably more pronounced in this patient cohort than in vaccinated healthy people.

"Covid-19 vaccination can generate very broad antiviral immunity - including highly potent neutralising antibodies - in patients with various types of blood cancer. Consequently, multiple vaccine doses can be recommended for patients with B-cell lymphoma or multiple myeloma without interrupting therapy," summarises Prof Oliver T. Keppler.

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates Department
Zonal Office Srinagar-J&K 190001
W: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from Owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its ATM/CDM Maisuma Bazar Amira kadal, on Ground Floor, as per the details given below:

S. No	Name of the ATM/CDM	Location	Carpet Area in sq. ft (approx.)	Built up Area/Land Area (approx.), in case of outright purchase basis
01	Maisuma Bazar Amira Kadal	Locality: Maisuma Tehsil: South District: Srinagar	100 sq. ft	N.A

Further details, requirements, terms and conditions, Technical Bids and Financial Bids proforma relating to the same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office Srinagar during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 24/12/2022 under the link "EOI & Tender / Notification" in the Quick Access Tab.

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before 13/01/2023 (05:00PM IST) at Zonal Office Srinagar

Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: 22/12/2022 Zonal Head

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510QJK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-5735/22 DATED: 24-12-2022

District Police Office Pulwama
E-mail: dpopulwama@jkpolice.gov.in tele 01933-241237 fax: 01933-241932

Ct. Mohammad Yousuf Malik
No: 1194/PI
S/o Gh. Mhd Malik
R/o Saidpora Iedgah Sgr.
P/s Safakadal Now P/S Sangam

Final Show Cause Notice

01 Whereas, you Ct. Mohammad Yousuf No. 1194/PL EXK111420 while your posting in DPL Pulwama was found unauthorized absent during morning fall in on 24.08.2021 at around 08:30 am, subsequently, marked unauthorized absent in the DD of DPL Pulwama vide DD NO. 05 dated 24.08.2021.

02 Whereas, you were placed under suspension vide this office order No. 25/22 dated 21.01.2022 on account of your pro-long unauthorized absence from Government duties.

03 Whereas, you were re-instated into services as well permitted to resume duties vide this office order No. 204/2022 dated 26.05.2022 with pending departmental enquiry.

04 Whereas, you again willfully absented yourself from Government duties w.e.f. 15.06.2022, marked unauthorized absent in the DD of DPL Pulwama vide DDR No. 03 dated 15.06.2022 at 08:15 hours and didn't turn up for duties so far, which clearly indicates that your absence is planned in nature.

05 Whereas, you were again placed under suspension vide this office order No. 252/2022 dated 23.07.2022 on account of your planned absence from duties and a departmental enquiry was ordered into your conduct and entrusted to SDPO Litter for its finalization.

06 Whereas, Enquiry Officer SDPO Litter by virtue of chain of communications vide No's SDPO-L/D-E/2022/5851 dated 03.12.2022, SDPO-L/DE/2022/4423 dated 10.09.2022, SDPO-L/DE/2022/352Q dated 26.07.2022 and SDPO-L/DE/2022/4425 dated 10.09.2022 through L.O. DPL Pulwama directed/informed you to attend the office of Enquiry Officer in connection with pending departmental enquiry. Lines Officer DPL Pulwama informed/directed you through SHO P/S Sangam vide No. DPLP/ABS/22/763 dated 20.07.2022 to turn up for duties otherwise disciplinary action as warranted under rules will be taken against you, but you always paid deaf ear by neglecting departmental procedures despite repeatedly being informed.

07 Whereas, an Attendance Notice was served to you by SDPO Litter vide his office letter No. SDPO-L/DE/2022/5003-05 dated 18.10.2022 through SHO P/S Sangam to which SHO P/S Sangam vide his office letter No. 899/5A/SGM/22 dated 22.10.2022 intimated that you (erring Constable) were informed accordingly.

08 Whereas, Enquiry Officer while submitting his findings to this office vide No.SDPO-L/DE/2022/5874 dated 05.12.2022 has recommended that Ct. Mohammad Yousuf No. 1194/PL EXK111420 may be removed from Services on account of his pro-long unauthorized absence & service misconduct.

09 Whereas, you were once again informed by this office through Final Attendance Notice vide No. Estt/E-2/2022/241487-89 dated 10.12.2022 to turn up for duties within 07 days failing of which it shall be presumed that you are in-efficient employee and disinterested to serve Police Department any more, but you failed to report back for duties within prescribed time period,

10 Whereas, a pro-long willful absence from Government duties amounts to serious service misconduct on your part which attracts stern punishment/loss of appointment under rules. And above all being a member of disciplined force such kind of delinquency casts a bad impact on the other members of the organization.

Therefore, you are hereby directed/informed through medium of this Final Show Cause Notice to explain as to why you should not be Removed from Services. Your reply must reach this office within 07 days positively failing of which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve Police Department anymore and you are in-efficient Police personnel and will be Removed from Services/struck off from the rolls of this District.

No: Estt/e-2/2022/25229-32
DIPK-15600/22 Dated: 24-12-2022

Gh. Jeelani Wani-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police
District Pulwama

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ABDULLAH NEWS AGENCY	AMIRA KADAL	BUDSHAH NEWS AGENCY	AFTAB MARKET
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GUPKARI NEWS AGENCY	LAL CHOWK	RAFIQ NEWS AGENCY	BATMALOO
KHAN NEWS AGENCY	REGAL CHOWK	MEHRAJ NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE
RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAN	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR
KOHINOOR NEWS AGENCY	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA
SHEIKH NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA	AL NOOR NEWS AGENCY	NOWGAM
FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB
AL FALAH NEWS AGENCY	NATIPORA	FIDA NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH
FIRDOUS NEWS AGENCY	PIRBAGH	HARMINDER NEWS AGENCY	GOGJI BAGH

TANTRAY NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH	BASHIR NEW AGENCY	NOWHATTA
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MUSHTAQ KALASH-PURI	KALASHPORA	HABBAKADAL NEWS AGENCY	HAB-BAKADAL
ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	FATEHKADAL	FAROOQ NEW AGENCY	GOJWARA
JEELANI NEW AGENCY	KHAWAJA BAZAR	DAR NEWS AGENCY	QAMAR-WARI
NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
KHALID NEWS AGENCY	HAMDANIYA COLONY	JONSON NEWS AGENCY	SEKIDAFAR
BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH-RA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH-RA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL
AJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA

FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327

PAN Not Linked With Aadhaar By End Of March 2023 To Be Rendered Inoperative: I-T Dept

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax department Saturday issued an advisory that those permanent account numbers (PAN) which are not linked with Aadhaar by the end of March next year will be rendered "inoperative".

"What is mandatory, is necessary. Don't delay, link it today!" the department said in a public advisory.

"As per Income-tax Act, 1961, it is mandatory for all PAN holders, who do not fall under the exempt category, to link their PAN with Aadhaar before 31.3.2023. From 1.04.2023, the unlinked PAN shall become inoperative," it said.

The 'exempt category', according to a notification issued by the Union Finance Ministry in May 2017, are those individuals residing in the states of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya; a non-resident as per the Income-tax Act, 1961; of the age of 80 years or more at any time during the previous year and a person not a citizen of India.

A circular issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes

(CBDT) on March 30 said once a PAN becomes inoperative, an individual shall be liable to all the consequences under the I-T Act and will have to suffer a number of implications.

The person shall not be able to file I-T return using the inoperative PAN; pending returns will not be processed; pending refunds cannot be issued to inoperative PANs; pending proceedings as in the case of defective returns cannot be completed once the PAN is inoperative and tax will be required to be deducted at a higher rate.

"In addition to the above, the taxpayer might face difficulty at various other fora like banks and other financial portals as PAN is one of the important KYC (know your customer) criterion for all kinds of financial transaction," the circular said.

The CBDT frames policy for the Income Tax department. While Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India to a resident of India, PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the IT Department to a person, firm or entity.



J&K To Push For GI Tagging Of Apple, Harissa, Gustabha, Khanyaari Haakh

Committees' set-up for undertaking tagging of 24 products

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has decided to push for Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of 24 different crops and products including Apple (Ambri and Maharaji), Harissa, Gustabha and Khanyaari Haakh.

The Union Territory's Agriculture Production Department has set-up different committees for undertaking GI tagging of 24 crops and products of Jammu & Kashmir.

The products for which J&K would push for GI tagging includes Apple (Ambri), Apple (Maharaji), Pear (Naak-Tang), Grapes (Repora), Walnut, Kala Zeera, Red Rice, Shallots (Pran), Kashmiri long chilli, Nadru water chestnut, apricot, Haanz Haakh, Khanyaari Haakh, Kuth, Gozaban, Pumble Challan, Kod, Meat products like Harissa, Gustabha, Tabakhmaaz, Dried Fish (Hogaad), Smoked Fish (Phar), Mountain Garlic, Pine Nuts (Chilgoza), Red Rice, Milk Cake (Abdullian, RS Pura), Gatia Thom (Hill Garlic), Moth (Poonchi), Chandak Basmati (Poonch) and olive.

According to an order issued by the Department, these committees shall collect all the relevant information pertaining to the crops and products in terms of their specialty, yield, process etc. to make it eligible for G.I.



The committee shall also provide specific characteristics and origin of the crop to be GI tagged and any other specific characteristics which will qualify it for tagging.

According to the order, the committees shall complete the process within a period of six months and submit the report to the concerned Authorities for further necessary action.

The GI tagging is registered under the Geographic Indication and Protection Act 1999 by the Department of Industry

Promotion and International Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The government has also set-up an apex level committee headed by Financial Commissioner, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Duloo for G.I. registration of these crops and products.

The panel also comprises Padma awardee Dr. Rajnikant (GI tagging expert), Dr. J.P. Sharma (VC SKUAST Jammu), Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganai (VC SKUAST Kashmir) and Sachin Dhaniya, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. (KNO)



FCS&CA Kashmir Celebrates 'National Consumer Rights Day'

Deptt has come up to the expectations of the public through advanced technological means: Div Com

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir Saturday celebrated National Consumer Rights Day on 24th December, 2022 with the theme "Effective Disposal of Cases in Consumer Commissions" at Tagore Hall, here.

This day is celebrated across the country to commemorate the day when the Consumer Protection Act came into being in the year 1986.

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K.Pole was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The programme was attended by Officers/ officials from District Legal Service Authority Srinagar, District Redressal Consumer Commission, Department of Food Safety and Standards Kashmir, representatives of various trade organizations including manufacturers and sellers.

Addressing the gathering, Div Com appreciated the efforts of the department to initiate a wide range of transparency measures. He specially highlighted the role of the department in distribution of food grains in a most transparent manner through

biometric and Aadhar enabled Point of Sale Devices.

He also highlighted that the department has successfully reached out to every nook and corner of the province to deliver the services to the most eligible persons in a hassle free manner. It was also emphasized by the chief guest that the department has come up to the expectations of the public through advanced technological means.

On this occasion, Director FCS&CA Kashmir, Dr. Abdul Salam Mir gave a detailed overview of working of the department during the current year wherein several consumer friendly initiatives have been taken by the department to ensure that all the six fundamental rights of consumers are implemented.

It was informed that the Directorate of FCS&CA Kashmir has disposed-off 1299 number of complaints out of 1304 received during the current year through a robust grievance redressal mechanism. Total 765 complaints have been received in the Directorate through its Toll free No.18001807011 and all have been effectively disposed-off.

UIDAI Urges Aadhaar Holders To Update Documents Submitted 10 Years Ago

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has urged Aadhaar holders who were issued the unique identity 10 years back and who have never updated their records, to revise their information in its database.

Aadhaar holders can update their unique ID records by uploading supportive documents (proof of identity and proof of address) either online through myAadhaar portal or offline by visiting the nearest Aadhaar centre, UIDAI said in statement.

"Residents who had got their Aadhaar issued 10 years back, and have never updated after that in these years, such Aadhaar number holders are encouraged to get their documents updated," the statement said.

During the past decade, Aadhaar number has emerged as a universally accepted proof of identity of residents in India. More than 1,100 government schemes and programs, including 319 run by the central government, use Aadhaar based identification for delivery of services.

Besides, many financial institutions like banks and NBFCs use Aadhaar to authenticate and onboard customers seamlessly.



idents to keep their Aadhaars updated with current proof of identity and proof of address," it added.

The UIDAI said keeping the documents updated helps in ease of living, better service delivery, and enables accurate authentication.

"UIDAI has always encouraged residents to keep their documents updated, and the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) (Tenth Amendment) Regulations 2022 notified on November 09, 2022 was another step in that direction.

"The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) once again urges and encourages residents to update their documents for continued accuracy of information in the Aadhaar database," the statement said.

More Initiatives On Anvil To Boost Steel Sector In 2023: Union Minister

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: With increasing steel production in the country, the focus in 2023 will be on boosting raw material supplies and producing more special grade steel, according to Union minister Fagga Singh Kulaste.

India produced 113.43 million tonne of crude steel in January-November 2022, which is 10 per cent higher compared to the year-ago period. The government aims to double the country's annual crude steel making capacity to 300 MT from 150 MT at present.

In an interview to PTI, Kulaste, the Minister of State for Steel, said more initiatives to boost steel sector will be taken in 2023.

Last year, the government introduced the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel to enhance the production of the high-end alloy.

Special grade steel is used in various sectors, including power, shipping, railways and auto. The demand for this steel is being met through imports.

"Our focus will also be on taking measures to support



industry besides finding new markets as the production of steel continues to grow in the country," he said.

Ensuring the raw material security for steel production will be a key focus area for the government as the country is mostly dependent on import of raw materials like coking coal. While other minerals are available in sufficient amounts, Kulaste said India is dependent on imports for coking coal.

The country imported 57 MT of coking coal in FY22 to produce 120 MT crude steel.

New reserves of coking coal are being identified. The country has around 34 billion tonne of coking coal, of which about 18 billion tonne

have already been proven, the minister said.

"The development of technology for mining and washing can make the country self-reliant besides ushering in huge employment opportunities and accelerating the process of development of urban, semi-urban and rural areas," Kulaste said.

In 2022, the government took various measures to support the steel industry by removing the export duty on steel items and extending export benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to products of iron and steel for a specified period.

'With 8-9% Growth, It Takes 20 Years For India To Become Developed Nation'

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Noting that the achievement of USD 5 trillion economy is a short term 'aspirational goal,' former RBI Governor C Rangarajan on Saturday said even after that India will still be known as middle income country with per capita income USD 3472.

Rangarajan further said in order to reach the level of an upper middle-income country, it will take another two years and to be classified as a developed country, the per capita income will have to be at a minimum of USD 13,205 and that will take more than two decades of strong growth of between 8 to 9 per cent to achieve it.

Speaking at the 12th Convocation of ICAFI Foundation for Higher Education here, he said at aggregate output level, India is the fifth largest economy in the world now. That by itself is an impressive achievement. But in terms of per capita income, India's rank according to IMF is 142 out of 197 countries.

"The immediate focus of policymakers must be to raise the growth rate of the economy. Achievement of a USD 5 trillion economy is a good short term aspirational goal. This will take a minimum five years of sustained growth of 9 per cent. Even then, at the end of it, India's per capita income will be only USD 3472 and we will still be classified as a lower middle income country," he noted.

"We have thus to go a long way. This only shows we must certainly need to run fast," the former chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister said.

Advisor Bhatnagar Inaugurates 10 Day Exhibition- 'Gandhi Shilp Bazaar'

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Saturday inaugurated 'Gandhi Shilp Bazaar', a 10 day Exhibition cum sale of Exquisite Handicrafts at Bahu Plaza, Gandhinagar here.

The Exhibition has been organised by Rural Artisans Welfare Society and sponsored by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Addressing the participants, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this Shilp Bazar is a first of its kind event being organised at Jammu and therefore it will provide a significant platform for the rural artisans from all over India to showcase their products to the general public. He added that this exhibition will also contribute towards the economic development of Artisans.

The Advisor further said that Handicrafts are part of



our rich cultural heritage and reflects our centuries old traditions and values for which our country is known across the globe. He added that the event reflects the vision of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi under 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

Highlighting about different government interventions of government for development of Handicrafts sector, Advisor Bhatnagar said that the J&K Administration is organising various events and training camps for skilling the Artisans of

Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the artisans are being helped in design, marketing as well as in acquiring required skills and techniques.

The Advisor further said that the Government is in process giving GI tagging to different handicraft products which will eventually benefit the artisans at large. He called upon the people of Jammu city to take part in this exhibition and boost the morale of artisans.

Advisor Bhatnagar on the occasion also complimented the Artisans who have come from different regions of India for participating in this exhibition.

ESIC Plans To Fill 6,400 Vacancies Soon, Says Union Minister Yadav

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has planned to fill 6,400 vacancies including over 2,000 doctors and teaching faculty posts, wiping out the backlogs for manpower, Union Minister for Labour, Employment, Forest, Bhupender Yadav said on Saturday. Stating that health is at the core of the nation-building strategy, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is focused on ensuring easy access to medical services to all.

Delivering the second Graduation Day address at the ESIC Medical College and Hospital at K K Nagar here, the Minister said ESIC is also working towards providing skill-based training programme to the workers for paramedical jobs and has launched certificate courses in 10 disciplines.

"As part of the Centre's modernisation initiative under the Nirman Se Shakti' we are setting up 23 new 100-bedded hospitals across the country. We are also setting up over 60 dispensaries that will ensure the delivery of quality medical care service to insured workers and their dependents in the vicinity of their residences," Yadav said.

"This ESIC Medical College has provided Out Patient Department service for 5,76,329 beneficiaries with a daily average OPD Census of 2,153 since January this year. Today, we are working towards Pan India coverage under ESIC and are constantly creating more infrastructure and capacities. We have introduced a cathlab at ESIC hospitals in three cities in India," he said.

No Amount Of Money, Material Compensation Can Erase Trauma Of Accident Victim: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: While no amount of money or other material compensation can erase the trauma and suffering that a victim undergoes after a serious accident, monetary compensation assures restitution, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench of justices Krishna Murari and S Ravindra Bhat said taking the type of disability into concern, just compensation should be awarded to the person aggrieved.

"Whilst no amount of money or other material compensation can erase the trauma, pain and suffering that a victim undergoes after a serious accident, (or replace the loss of a loved one), monetary compensation is the manner known to law, whereby society assures some measure of restitution to those who survive, and the victims who have to face their lives," the bench said.

The observation from the top court came while awarding a compensation of Rs 9.30 lakh to a woman labour who was injured during construction of government hospital at Bidar in Karnataka.

On July 22, 2015, the appellant fell down from second floor to ground floor when the centering plate collapsed on her head.

The top court noted that the doctors who treated the appellant have held that she sustained fracture of spinal bone and compound fracture on various parts of the body.

The apex court said ideally, the compensation should be provided to the employees against the hazards of employment to which an employee is exposed.

"This also includes any occupational disease or industrial accident that the employee may encounter arising out of or during the course of employment which leads to disability or death," the bench said.

"The position of the appellant after the accident, incapacitated her from carrying out her vocation as a labourer, we are of the opinion that the impugned order passed by the High Court is not liable to be sustained.

"The functional disability of the appellant is liable to be assessed as 100 per cent and, accordingly, the compensation is to be determined," the bench said.

Centre Asks States To Ensure Availability Of Oxygen, Functional Life Support Equipment At Hospitals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: With some countries witnessing a surge in Covid cases, the Centre on Saturday urged states and union territories to ensure the availability of Liquid Medical Oxygen, adequate inventory of cylinders and functional life support equipment such as ventilators at hospitals to face any challenge.

The health ministry asked them to ensure Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen generating plants are kept fully functional and regular mock drills are conducted to check them.

In a letter to all states and UTs, Health Ministry Additional Secretary Manohar Agnani said the operationalisation and maintenance of these medical infrastructure is of utmost importance to meet any eventuality even though the number of cases in the country is low now.

He said medical oxygen is an important resource in all clinical settings, particularly during pandemic and reliable oxygen supply is critical for saving lives.

In the letter, the official requested additional chief secretary/principal secretary, secretary (Health) of all states and UTs to direct departments concerned to ensure that PSA plants are kept fully functional and regular mock drills are conducted to check them.

"The availability of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in the health facilities and uninterrupted supply chain for their refilling should be ensured. Adequate Inventory of Oxygen Cylinders along with backup stocks and robust refilling system is maintained," the letter said.

States have also been urged to ensure the availability of functional life support equipment such as ventilators, BiPAP and SpO2

systems along with their consumables.

Oxygen control rooms should be reinvigorated at states and UTs level for prompt resolutions of oxygen-related issues and challenges, the letter said.

"On-boarding of all healthcare facilities utilizing oxygen to ODAS platform for daily oxygen demand and consumption be monitored for implementation," the letter stated.

During the COVID pandemic, the Centre supported States/UTs by installing and commissioning PSA plants, oxygen concentrators, cylinders, and other oxygen-related infrastructure to ensure availability of medical oxygen at a cost effective and reliable manner in public health facilities across the country, the letter said.

The support for ventilators was also extended by GoI to ensure better patient management, it added.

Dense Fog Cover Over Delhi, Cold Wave In Ridge Area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: A dense layer of fog engulfed parts of the national capital Saturday morning reducing visibility to 100 metres, and affecting road and rail traffic, while the Ridge area recorded a cold wave.

The Safdarjung Observatory, the national capital's primary weather station, recorded the minimum temperature at 5.4 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The mercury dropped to 4 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal, at the Ridge weather station, making it the coldest place in the capital.

Aynagar recorded a minimum temperature of 4.4 degrees Celsius and Mungeshpur 4.1 degrees Celsius.

Foggy weather delayed 14 trains by 1.30 to 3.30 hours, railway officials said.

At 5:30 am, visibility was 100 metres at Palam and 200 metres at Safdarganj, two Delhi weather stations. Among other cities, it was 25 metres at Patiala (Punjab) and Ganganagar (Rajasthan), and 50 metres at Churu.

IMD officials said a layer of fog was seen mainly over Punjab,

north Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. Another layer is seen over some parts of Bihar, while regions in Uttar Pradesh are free from the fog cover, they said.

According to the IMD, 'very dense' fog is when visibility is between 0 and 50 metres, 51 and 200 is 'dense', 201 and 500 'moderate', and 501 and 1,000 'shallow'.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital stood at 364 at 9 am, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor" and 401 and 500 "severe".

In the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave if the minimum temperature dips to 4 degrees Celsius. A cold wave is also expected when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches below normal.

A "severe" cold wave is when the minimum temperature dips to two degrees Celsius or the departure from normal is more than 6.4 degrees Celsius.

When the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below the normal, it is said to be a 'cold day'.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PAN Invalid If Not

Income-tax Act, 1961; of the age of 80 years or more at any time during the previous year and a person not a citizen of India.

A circular issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on March 30 said once a PAN becomes inoperative, an individual shall be liable to all the consequences under the I-T Act and will have to suffer a number of implications.

The person shall not be able to file I-T return using the inoperative PAN; pending returns will not be processed; pending refunds cannot be issued to inoperative PANs; pending proceedings as in the case of defective returns cannot be completed once the PAN is inoperative and tax will be required to be deducted at a higher rate.

"In addition to the above, the taxpayer might face difficulty at various other fora like banks and other financial portals as PAN is one of the important KYC (know your customer) criterion for all kinds of financial transaction," the circular said.

The CBDT frames policy for the Income Tax department.

While Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India to a resident of India, PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the IT Department to a person, firm or entity.

Cold Wave Tightens

6.4 degrees Celsius -- down from Thursday night's minus 5.5 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in frontier Kupwara district settled at minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minus of 4.4 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Kokernag recorded a low of minus 3.9 degrees Celsius.

The MeT Office has forecast mostly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir till December 26.

Afterwards, the weather is likely to remain generally cloudy between December 26-30 in the UT with a possibility of light to moderate snowfall over the higher reaches, it said.

There would be a slight improvement in the minimum temperature leading to some respite from the cold and dry weather from December 26-31, the MeT office said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies 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. Most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

'Chillai-Kalan' begins on December 21 and ends on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) following it.

SIA Crackdown

locations in the four districts of Pulwama, Kulgam, Budgam and Srinagar.

The properties were sealed and barred with restrictions on usage and entry after being notified by concerned District Magistrates on the recommendation of SIA, an agency spokesperson said Saturday.

The move, he said, is aimed to choke the availability of funds for secessionist activities and to dismantle the ecosystem of anti-national elements and terror networks hostile to India's sovereignty.

"These premises/ structures have been barred and entry and usage has been prohibited reads the notification. Besides Red entry to this effect has been made in the relevant revenue records," he said.

During the seizure proceedings, the spokesperson said that it was found that about a dozen business establishments in Kulgam, including shopping complex at Magam are currently running from these Jel properties on rent basis.

"After due diligence, it was decided that these would be allowed to continue so that private persons who may not have any connections with Jel and are only tenants paying rent to Jel, are not penalized and their livelihood not impaired," he added.

Among the properties sealed by SIA on Saturday, includes land, shops, business establishments, shopping complex, school and residential house. The assets, the spokesperson said are the fourth set of properties to be notified in a series of properties belonging to Jama'at in Jammu and Kashmir.

In Srinagar, the agency sealed 3 kanal land at Khushipura locality of Shalteng, besides a double storey house over 17 marla & 199 Sft at Barzulla registered in the name of late Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Firdous Ahmad Asmi of Eidgah.

The SIA spokesperson said that the ground floor of the house comprising four rooms with kitchen and 2 bedrooms for residential purposes as per rent deed has been occupied by one Shahzada Aurangzeb of Shopian since November 2018.

"Shahzada Aurangzeb is himself a permanent Rukn of Jel and has also served as Amir-e-Zila District Shopian. He is presently working as Academic Officer at Jamait-u-Banaat (a women college affiliated with JKBOSE and University of Kashmir) Lal Bazar, Srinagar since 2020. Earlier he has also served as Principal at Siraj-ul-Uloom Shopian," he said.

He further added that a notarised Rent Deed has also been executed in this regard in September 2020 for a period of five years at a monthly rent of Rs 1000.

"However, no rent has till date been paid. From the search carried out one Mobile phone of the tenant with one SIM inserted in it has been recovered & seized" the spokesperson said.

In Kulgam district, he said, the SIA sealed non-functional Darsghah over 4 marlas of land at Nowbal, land measuring 14 marlas on which a mosque & 4 shops exist at Qaimoh, 1 building and 3 shops over land measuring 1 kanal & 14 Marla at Redwani, land measuring 1 marla on which a Kuthar exists at Hawoora and land measuring 16 kanals & 18 marlas in main town Kulgam.

Similarly in Pulwama, the spokesperson said, Al-Huda Health Care Centre, Shops &

school building over land measuring 6 kanals 18 marlas & 3.25 sirsai and a four storey building on land measuring 1 kanal & 3 marlas at Awantipora were sealed.

In Budgam district, land measuring nearly 14 kanal, besides a shopping complex were sealed.

"The action would uproot the menace of militant funding to a great extent in J&K, besides being a stepping stone in ensuring rule of law & a society without fear," the spokesperson said.

The SIA, he said, has identified as many as 188 Jel properties across the UT of J&K which have either been notified or are under the process of being notified for further legal action.

"These are as a result of investigation of case FIR number 17 of 2019 U/S 10, 11 & 13 of Police Station Batmaloo being investigated by SIA," the spokesperson added.

NIA Searches

organizations, such as Khalistan Liberation Force, Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation etc.

"Such activities include smuggling of militant hardware, such as arms, ammunition explosive, IEDs etc. across international borders, for use by operatives/members of militant outfits and organized criminal gangs operating in various parts of the country for carrying out militant acts like bomb explosions, targeted killings," the statement said.

It said that this case was registered suo-moto by NIA on 20-08-2022 as RC 37/2022/NIA/DLI, adding that during the searches conducted today, incriminating materials, including digital devices and documents have been seized.

"Further investigations in the case are in progress," the statement added.

Pension Applications

under the scheme.

Applications and documents shall be submitted through online mode only and the concerned applicants are not required to visit the offices of the Department of Social Welfare for the said purpose, it said.

However, for special assistance in filing online applications and documents, the concerned persons may contact social workers of the department or visit Tehsil Social Welfare Offices/District Social Welfare Offices for the same, the department said.

Sonallah Bhat, a 62-year-old resident of Malangam in Bandipora district, died at the Tehsil Social Welfare office on December 20 while he was waiting for his turn to submit his documents for verification.

Thousands of old age pensioners in Kashmir are being made to run from pillar to post for the past several months now for regularising their pension as the payment process has been moved to the online mode.

Now, Jitendra Singh

justice with the grant of four per cent reservation, the same as people living along LOC. Singh also said the government was making efforts to set up a satellite hospital and Tata Cancer Centre in Kathua. "This will provide the latest hi-tech facility for cancer patients from J&K, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh."

On Keedian Gandyal bridge, he said it was

not constructed over the last 70 years because it would have benefitted mere 2,000 people, but "we had the courage and conviction to construct a bridge for these people at a cost of over Rs 150 Crore."

Along the route of the holy Machil Yatra before 2014 there were neither toilets, nor mobile connectivity, nor electricity because these people did not figure in their list of the vote bank, he said.

"It is this government which set up toilets and mobile towers there and recently sanctioned one exclusive solar power plant for the village," he added.

Referring to one of the first Industrial Biotech Parks which has been set up in Kathua, Singh said people will realise its worth over a period of time.

He said that due to the Modi government the Shahpur Kandi project was revived after 40 years, and the Ujh multipurpose irrigation project, which was conceived for the first-time during Maharaja's rule, is also scheduled to take off very soon.

Govt Offices

arrangements accordingly. Addressing the meeting, he said, the Divisional Commissioner passed several directions to the concerned officers for smooth conduct of the National event with fervour and gaiety.

Pole, the spokesperson said, directed officers of line departments to play a comprehensive and active role with full responsibilities in a close synergy.

He said that the Div Com issued directions to concerned departments for selection of contingents, cultural programmes, rehearsals, and transportation facilities for participants, traffic management, security, refreshment, installation of screens/ LEDs, illumination of Government buildings and other important arrangements for smooth conduct of the event.

The spokesperson said that the information department was asked to play Shahnaiwadan from 7:00am to 10:00am in the morning besides provision of PAS System and installation of LED Screens at Jahangir Chowk, Lal Chowk and TRC to webcast Republic Day celebrations.

Div Com, he said, also directed Cultural Department officer to make arrangements of 3-5 cultural contingents besides directed for singing, dancing and drama programmes based on patriotism.

In the meeting, the spokesperson said, it was informed that in addition to band contingents, contingents of CRPF, Police, Armed Police, BSF, ITBP, IRP, UTRF, Fire & Emergency, Forest, Lady Contingent of police are participating in the parade besides NCC contingents of School Education and Colleges.

"Also, for the live commentary, Div Com directed concerned officers, police, Information Department and Radio Kashmir to depute versed commentators. Div Com also directed Floriculture departments to make more decorative and creative floral arrangements in addition to the past practice," he said.

Besides, the spokesperson said, Pole directed the Health department to deploy doctors, paramedical team, ambulance besides first aid team at the venue of Republic Day Celebration.

"He also directed for making arrangements of snow clearance at parking places, roads and selected venue in case of snowfall," he said, adding "Further, he exhorted upon all concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in time for smooth and successful celebration of the Republic Day."

KPDCL Asked

discussed and took stock of an action plan for reduction of AT&C losses to 12-15 per cent by 2024-25 and reduction of ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25.

"Union Secretary was informed about the development of smart metering projects and loss reduction schemes vis-a-vis LT AB cabling under RDSS scheme of KPDCL," the spokesperson said, adding "He also discussed 13 tender packages under Distribution Infrastructure Works for Loss Reduction and was apprised of its detailed progress."

During the meet, the spokesperson said, Smart Metering Project was also taken up for discussion and Union Secretary directed the officials of KPDCL to complete the project before the given deadline.

"Union Secretary appreciated the ground-work of KPDCL which has resulted in decrease in AT&C loss of the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited. He directed the officials to speed up appointment of PIAs so that the remaining projects are taken up at an earliest," he said.

The Corporation, the spokesperson said, assured the Union Secretary that they will continue their efforts with same zeal and devotion to further bring down the AT&C losses to around 15% by the end of 2024-2025.

Indian Driver

by the Gulf News. Following his employer's advice, Ogula installed the Emirates Draw mobile app and purchased two lottery tickets, it said.

As the eldest child, he felt obligated to support his family, including an ageing mother and two younger siblings who reside in an old, rented house.

"I was out with my friend when I received the congratulatory email. I thought, perhaps it's a smaller winning amount, but when I started reading, the zeroes kept adding up, and I practically lost my mind when I learned the final figure," he said.

Ogula plans to invite his family members to Dubai and then build a house for them in their village and also start a construction company to become self-sufficient, the report said.

"Congratulations to our Grand Prize winner, Ajay Ogula, on his epic win. Emirates Draw is not just about numbers and winners; it is about making a difference in people's lives and has been the goal from day one and will remain at the heart of all we do," said Mohammad Behroozian Alawadhi, Managing Partner, Emirates Draw.

"Our entire team is ecstatic for Ajay Ogula, and we are confident that this win will positively change his life and all the people around him," he said.

Arms Cache

and investigations have been taken up.

BAN vs IND: Mehidy Mauls India To Spice Up Mirpur Test

Press Trust of India

MIRPUR: Bangladesh spinners, led by their talismanic skipper Shakib Al Hasan and young Mehidy Hasan Miraz, forced Indian batters to press the panic button in a tricky chase of 145 as the visitors ended an engaging third day's play, tottering at 45 for 4 in the second Test here on Saturday.

Having dominated for the better part of two and half days, Bangladesh's lower middle-order, led by Litton Das (73 off 98 balls) and supported by Nurul Hasan Sohan (31 off 29 balls) and Taskin Ahmed (31 off 46 balls), counter-attacked to take their second innings score to 231, giving their bowlers something to defend.

If India happen to lose this game, the 118 runs scored by the last four Bangladeshi pairs would haunt them as much as not using a third spinner in Kuldeep Yadav on a track that became increasingly venomous as the match progressed.



If they overhaul 145, it will be their highest successful fourth innings chase at this ground as the top three winning scores are 209, 205 and 103.

KL Rahul (2), who had a horrendous game as a skipper as well as a batter, would like to forget this game

in a hurry while the stodgy Cheteshwar Pujara (6) suffered his downfall because of his anxiousness to negate any turn on offer. Shubman Gill (7) had his worse day on the tour, increasing India's worry.

In case of Rahul, he tentatively poked a Shakib (1/21 in 6 overs) de-

livery that turned enough to kiss the outside edge of his bat into the keeper's gloves. Pujara, for the second time, came out to play the delivery from Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3/12 in 8 overs) before it could turn. The ball hit his bat and pad before a crawling Nurul effected a smart stumping.

However, the pitch was showing its true colours and there was turn and bounce with the ball skidding occasionally as well as keeping low, making batting that much more difficult.

In fact, India's head coach Rahul Dravid, with his tactic of sending night watchman Axar Patel (26 batting) with more than 15 overs left, made it clear that there was a certain sense of nervousness as to what happens if Virat Kohli (1 off 22 balls) would get dismissed in the third evening itself.

While Gill was stumped off a doosra, becoming Miraz's second victim, Kohli had no choice but to come out late in the evening as the pitch, at times, was starting to re-

semble a snake pit with deliveries hissing past the willow.

Just like it happens on turners, the close-in fielders started applying more pressure on batters as well as umpires with Kohli needing a DRS to save himself from getting adjudged leg before to Taijul Islam.

But he was just a delivery away from getting dismissed as Miraz bowled a lovely flighted delivery drawing Kohli forward and got a classical bat-pad dismissal for Mominul Haque standing at forward short-leg.

With Kohli not inspiring highest level of confidence, Rishabh Pant, who has shown how to bat on this track, could again play the decisive role and help India manage to log home full points and prevent Bangladesh from winning their first game against India in 22 years of bilateral Test cricket.

At stumps, Axar and night watchman Jaydev Unadkat (3 batting) were

at the crease.

But in the first two sessions, it was Axar Patel (3/58) along with Mohammed Siraj (2/41) and Ravichandran Ashwin (2/66) who had Bangladesh on the mat at 113 for 6 before Nurul came out and attacked the spinners in his little cameo.

At the other end, Litton was celebrating his maiden IPL contract with some lusty blows and the 60-odd run stand with Taskin during which India also dropped a few catches which proved costly.

While the Indian team management can claim that the bowlers did their job getting Bangladesh out for 227 and 231 in the two innings but they would be the first to admit that any score in excess of 120 odd on this track would always be a tricky game.

Jaydev Unadkat (1/17), the third seamer India used as they were "confused" looking at the greenish tinge, was used for only nine overs out of the 70.2 that they bowled.

Five Players From Jammu Set To Feature In IPL 2023

All players from Kashmir go unsold



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Five players from Jammu division are set to feature in IPL 2023 but not a single cricketer from Kashmir could get through during the auction.

The players bought in the auction on Friday in Kochi include Vivrant Sharma who was bought by SunRisers Hyderabad for Rs 2.6 crore, Avinash Singh for Rs 60 lakh by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Yudvir Singh for base price of Rs 20 lakh by Lucknow Super-giants, while Umran Malik and Abdul Samad were retained by SunRisers Hyderabad.

As many as 21 cricketers from Jammu & Kashmir were included in the Indian Premier League 2023 Player Auction but all players from the Kashmir division

went unsold in the auction.

J&K had the highest representation in IPL 2023 auction, as 21 players were selected to undergo the hammer.

The biggest surprise in the pick up is 24-year-old fast bowler Singh Avinash from Jammu. He hasn't played any level of domestic cricket but it is being said that he impressed the RCB franchise with raw pace during trials in Jammu.

Yudvir Singh Charak whose ancestors are from Rajouri and now living in Roop Nagar Jammu from last five decades was bought by the Lucknow Super-giants in the players' auction for a price of INR 20 lakh.

He has played at various levels including Mushtaq Ali, Ranji Trophy and others from Hyderabad side. (KNO)

Odisha Ready To Host 2023 FIH Hockey Men's World Cup



Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: The 2023 FIH Hockey Men's World Cup is set to begin in Odisha from January 13. The state government of Odisha will host the 15th edition of the Hockey World Cup at Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The competition is set to end on January 29.

Odisha has already hosted FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in 2021 and the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup in 2018, sponsored by government of Odisha itself.

Now the officials are primed and ready to ensure a smooth-running and fairly contested tournament. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said that hosting Men's World Cup at Bhubaneswar-Rourkela is a huge honour and "we cannot wait to welcome the world's top hockey players to India."

"All the preparations for the tournament are on track and we are very excited to organize the biggest hockey tournament," he said.

Secretary, Department of Sports & Youth Services R Vi-

neel Krishna said Bhubaneswar and Rourkela will witness the high-octane action between the world's best sides.

Odisha is all set to rise in sports in coming years and necessary modern amenities are on anvil, the Secretary said. "Under Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's guidance, the state has created enviable sports facilities. Around 100 multipurpose indoor stadiums have been constructed in urban areas with facilities of gym, badminton, table tennis and other sports like Poll volt, khokho, Rugby, Yoga Asana and others activities to attract talent pools," he added.

A total of 21 Astroturf fields are under construction in the blocks of Sundargarh district including Rourkela and would be completed before the Hockey World Cup. The district is known as the cradle of Indian hockey.

It is for the first time in the history of hockey, that a world cup would be played at two places, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

A total of 16 teams from five confederations will compete at the tournament.

From CA's Point Of View, I Didn't Really Have Any Support: Warner On Leadership Ban

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: David Warner on Saturday slammed Cricket Australia (CA) for their lack of support during his leadership ban appeal, adding that the issue affected his mental health ahead of the first Test against South Africa.

Warner had been handed a lifetime leadership ban because of his role in the 2018 ball tempering scandal.

The 36-year-old had launched an appeal against the ban earlier this year and both Warner and CA wanted a closed-door hearing.

However, the board-appointed independent commissioners insisted on it being public, forcing Warner to withdraw his appeal earlier this month.

"Leading into the Perth Test, my mental health probably wasn't where I needed it to be at to be 100 per cent. And that was challenging at the time," Warner said ahead of his 100th Test.

"If I had it my way we would



have had it all sorted. From the CA point of view, I didn't really have any support.

"My teammates and the staff in our team were absolutely amazing, and my family and friends - they really got me through that period," he added.

Warner, who has recently come under fire for his Test form, was out for 0 and 3 in the Perth Test last week. He hasn't scored a Test century since January 2020.

The opener said he was un-

able to understand why the process had taken so much time.

"We reached out in February. So we have no idea how it went on this far and only CA can answer that and they'll probably give you the same thing that they always give everyone else, they don't really give an answer," Warner said.

Despite his struggle in the longest format, Warner backed himself to do well in the Boxing Day Test.

"Yeah my back's up against the wall, but it's in my DNA to keep being competitive, come out here with a smile on my face and take on whatever opposition we're going to face," he said.

He added that he will have a conversation with the board after the South Africa series.

"I'll have that conversation once that series is done. For me, it's about staying in the right frame of mind to take on the South Africans.

"I'm pumped to play another Boxing Day Test and more importantly we've got a series that's on the line."

Chetan's Committee To Select Teams For SL Series, KL Rahul Might Face T20 Axe

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The outgoing selection committee led by Chetan Sharma will be picking the two white ball Indian squads for the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka, starting January 3, as the new panel will not be named before another week's time, according to BCCI sources.

It is expected that the interviews of the short-listed candidates to pick the selection committee members by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will happen between December 26 and 28. "The old committee will probably select the Sri Lanka white ball squad," a BCCI source privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"As of now, it doesn't look like Rohit Sharma's finger will heal enough before the T20Is and in that case, Hardik will lead the side. As far as KL Ra-



hul is concerned, his T20I days seem to be numbered."

There is a possibility that the T20I side to be named will comprise only the specialists of that format. Some players like Virat Kohli might also be given a break from the T20 format.

While the entire committee led by Chetan was sacked for its non-performance after the Indian team's T20 World Cup semi-final ouster, the process

to find new selectors has taken a bit longer than expected.

"Chetan and his committee are still watching domestic cricket. They watched the full Vijay Hazare Trophy and also the first two rounds of Ranji Trophy. Debashish Mohanty was present at Eden Gardens to watch Bengal vs Himachal Pradesh. Basically, they got a two-month extension till December 25," the official said.

LPL: Jaffna Kings Complete Hat-Trick Of Titles, Defeat Colombo In Final

Agencies

COLOMBO: Jaffna Kings created history as they clinched the Lanka Premier League (LPL) title for the third year in a row after defeating Colombo Stars by two wickets in a thrilling final. Colombo Stars made 163/5 in 20 overs before Jaffna Kings chased down the target in 19.2 overs in the match held on Friday.

Batting second, the Kings started their innings on a positive note as openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Avishka Fernando dispatched every bad

ball towards the boundary line. Gurbaz went back to the Pavilion after scoring 36 runs of 18 balls including four boundaries and two sixes. However, Fernando stayed on the crease and completed his 50 of 43 balls. He also built a 72 runs partnership with Sadeera Samarawickrama (44) for the third wicket before Suranga Lakmal removed both batters. The Kings lost five quick wickets after Samarawickrama went back to the Pavilion. However, it was a little too late for the Stars as Binura Fernando (4*) took his team to victory in the last over.

Suranga Lakmal and Benny Howell were the top bowlers for the Stars as they took three and two wickets, respectively. Earlier, Colombo Stars had a bad start after losing the toss. They lost Nishan Madushka (1) on just two runs. Dinesh Chandimal continued his good form as he built up a 75 runs partnership for the second wicket with Charith Asalanka. Chandimal scored 49 runs of 40 balls, while Asalanka hit 31 runs on just 23 balls before Ravi Bopara (47 not out) played another brilliant knock to take the Stars to a fighting total. (ANI)

Afridi Named Interim Chair Of PCB Selection Committee



Reuters

Former captain Shahid Afridi has been appointed interim chair of Pakistan's men's national selection committee, the country's cricket board (PCB) announced on Saturday. The all-rounder retired from international cricket in 2017, playing more than 500 international games across all formats after his 1996 debut.

He replaces Mohammad Wasim, sacked this week following a year in which Pakistan were beaten in the finals of the Twenty20 World Cup and the Asia Cup, before their 3-0 defeat to England in a home test series. Afridi's appointment comes in the build-up to New Zealand's two-test tour of Pakistan, beginning on Monday.

"We need to get back to our winning ways and I have no

doubts that through meritocratic and strategic selection decisions, we will help the national side to perform strongly in the series against New Zealand and reclaim the confidence of our fans," Afridi said in a statement. "I will soon convene a meeting of the selectors and will share my plans with reference to the upcoming matches."

Rao Iftikhar Anjum and Abdul Razaq have been added to the panel, the PCB said. PCB management committee chair Najam Sethi said that despite limited time, he was sure the committee "will make brave and bold decisions that will help us produce a strong and competitive side in the series against New Zealand".

The appointments, the latest step in a shake-up of PCB's operations, follow the sacking this week of Ramiz Raja as chairman.

PCB Trying To Bring Back Mickey Arthur: Sources

Agencies

KARACHI: The cricket management committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) headed by Najam Sethi is trying to convince South African Mickey Arthur to return as head coach of the national team, according to sources.

A well-informed source told PTI that Sethi had approached Arthur who is presently attached with the Derbyshire team in England. Arthur was Pakistan head coach between 2016 and 2019

and saw the team win the Champions Trophy in 2017 with Sarfaraz Ahmed as captain.

"Efforts are on to bring back Arthur and some other options are also being looked at and they are all foreigners," the source said.

The development came after the committee under Sethi decided to bring in a foreigner to manage the national side as current head coach Saqlain Mushtaq is stepping down from his role after the home series against New Zealand.

Man Utd Trigger Contract Extensions For 4 Players



Reuters

Manchester United have triggered one-year contract extensions for four first-team players, including England forward Marcus Rashford, manager Erik ten Hag said. Rashford, Diego Dalot, Fred and Luke Shaw were all in the final year of their deals but had an option to extend their contracts by 12 months.

Rashford has rediscovered his form this season under new boss Ten Hag, playing 20 matches in all competitions and scoring nine goals. Dalot, Fred and Shaw have also been heavily involved, each making more than 15 appearances in all competitions. "Yes, I can confirm it," Ten Hag told the club's website in an excerpt from an interview to be published on Tuesday.

"We are happy because the squad is going in the right direction and those players (have) a massive contribution in that direction. We want to develop, we want to support those players and we want them to keep in our process. "So, that's why we came to those decisions, I'm sure they are the right decisions. We want to construct a team for the future, so for longer years, and those players have to be part of it."

Goalkeeper David de Gea, who is also in the last year of his contract and has a similar option for an extension, is yet to come to an agreement with the club. Ten Hag said in October he hoped the Spaniard would stay on at Old Trafford. United, who are fifth in the Premier League standings, next face 18th-placed Nottingham Forest.

Bethlehem Rebounds From Covid Pandemic, Lifting Christmas Spirits



AGENCEIS

The biblical town of Bethlehem is gearing up for what residents hope will be a merry Christmas, with thousands of visitors expected to descend upon the traditional birthplace of Jesus as it rebounds from the coronavirus pandemic.

Tourism is the economic lifeblood of this town in the occupied West Bank, and for the past two years, the pandemic kept international visitors away. This year, visitors are back, hotels are full and local shopkeepers have reported a brisk business in the runup to the holiday.

"We are celebrating Christmas this year in a very much different way than last year," said Palestinian Tourism Minister Rula Maayah. "We're celebrating Christmas with pilgrims coming from all over the world."

Just before midday, crowds

businesses prepared for the celebrations.

Police were erecting barricades in Manger Square, as marching bands played drums and bagpipes. Foreign tourists meandered about and snapped selfies with the town's large Christmas tree behind them.

Latin Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the top Roman Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land, was expected to arrive from nearby Jerusalem to greet well-wishers. Later, he was to celebrate Midnight Mass in the nearby Church of the Nativity, built on the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born.

Still, present-day reality was visible at Manger Square as banners showing photos of Palestinian prisoner Nasser Abu Hamid were prominently displayed. The veteran prisoner died of cancer last week in an Israeli prison clinic after spending some 20 years behind bars for his conviction in

'No Need To Ban Flights Or Impose Lockdown In India': Experts

AGENCEIS

India's present Covid scenario does not warrant restricting international flights or imposing a lockdown, but there is a need for strengthened surveillance and vigilance in view of the rise in cases in some countries, experts have said.

They also said that a fresh outbreak of severe Covid cases and hospitalisation is unlikely as people in India have the advantage of 'hybrid immunity' that is natural immunity due to infection reinforced by vaccination.

"Overall, there is no increase in Covid caseload and India currently is in a comfortable situation. Under present circumstances, there is no need to restrict international flights or impose a lockdown," Dr Randeep Guleria, a former AIIMS director, said on Friday.

Past experiences show that banning flights is not effective in halting the transmission of infection, he said. "Moreover, data suggests that the Omicron sub-variant BF.7, which is driving the surge in China, has already been found in our country."

Asked whether a lockdown could be needed in the coming days, Dr Guleria said, "A fresh outbreak of severe Covid cases and hospitalisation is unlikely as the Indian population already has hybrid immunity because of a very good vaccination cover-



age and natural infection."

"Considering the current situation and a good degree of hybrid immunity in the population, there does not seem to be a need for a lockdown," Dr Guleria said.

Dr Neeraj Gupta, a professor in the Department of Pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine at Safdarjung Hospital, said India needs to exercise caution given the surge of Covid-19 cases in China and some other countries but a "lockdown-like situation is not envisaged in near future given the current India scenario".

"Covid-appropriate behaviour needs to be reinforced since complacency has crept in because of very low number of Covid positive cases. We cannot be slack given the global scenario since the pandemic is still not over," he said.

He added 'hybrid immunity' makes a person more secure against future infections with morbidity/mortality benefits.

"India has the advantage due to citizens taking voluntary actions like prevention, early diagnosis and good vaccination strategy," he told PTI.

He also opined China comparatively is more vulnerable right now possibly because of low natural immunity, "poor vaccination strategy where young and healthy peo-

Europium Molecule's Rotation Shows Promise For Quantum Computers



AGENCEIS

Scientists at the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory report they can precisely rotate a single molecule that could lead to new technologies for microelectronics, quantum computing and more, according to a study.

The key ingredient is a single atom of europium, a rare earth element. It rests at the centre of a complex of different atoms and gives the molecule many potential applications, it said.

"Our primary mission is to understand at the level of atoms the properties of rare earths, which are critical materials to US industry," said Saw Wai Hla, physicist at the Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM), a DOE Office of Science user facility at Argonne, and a physics professor at Ohio University.

The term "rare earth" is deceptive. The rare earth elements are not exactly rare but are critical materials used in many electronic devices, such as cellular phones, computer hard drives, solar panels and flat screen monitors.

"We are able to rotate this europium complex by 60 or 120 degrees to the right or left," said Hla. "The ability to control the motion of a rare earth complex such as this could impact a wide spectrum of technologies."

The capability to rotate this europium molecule on demand could expand their applications

into next generation microelectronics that run with relatively low power, quantum computers and more, according to the study.

Rare earths readily combine with other elements in the Earth's crust. It is thus difficult and costly to produce pure rare earths for devices. It is also expensive to harvest them from rare earth containing waste.

The team's europium complex would reduce the amount of rare earth needed for a particular device and would be much less expensive to manufacture in mass quantities, the study said.

Key components in the complex are a single europium atom with positive charge and two small molecules with negative charge. The europium atom sits at the centre of the complex, while one of the small molecules is on the side and the other at the bottom, the study said.

According to the study, because opposites attract, these negative and positive charges keep these components together without the need for a chemical bond. And the small molecule at the bottom anchors the complex to a sheet of gold. This sheet acts like a table to hold the whole complex in one place, just as you need a flat solid surface to spin a bottle.

"Normally, if you attach a complex like ours with positive and negative charges to a metal sheet, the charges dissipate," said Hla. "So, we were thrilled when that did not happen here."

ALL INDIA JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS' FEDERATION

(Affiliated to AIBOA)
M. A. Link Road Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir
Email: riyazbhat66@gmail.com

Ref: No: AIJKBOF/3 Dated: 24.12.2022

PRESS RELEASE

The central committee meeting of The Federation was held today at Jammu which was attended members from all constituent units of Kashmir, Jammu, Delhi and Maharashtra and also special invitees from Jammu. The participants deliberated upon the issues of present state of country's economy resulting in no employment generation, disparity in concentration of wealth generation in pockets of society, continuing inflationary pressures affecting purchasing power of masses including Bank staff which was opined as result of policies pursued by present ruling class. The participants further took note of impact of these policies on country's banking industry and concluded that it has been devastating affecting business of banking industry. The participants further expressed their concern on increasing work stress on bank staff which has been coming by pursuing of half-baked business plans devised by bank managements. The meeting concluded that these plans have been formulated in isolation without taking present state of economy into consideration and the management executives are employing coercive tactics on operative levels for achievement of these unreasonable business goals. The meeting concluded with adoption of various resolutions to set its future agenda for the office of The Federation which include calling upon it to formulate a strong response against the high handedness of various Management executives. The office took strong note of humiliating language of reviewing authorities towards operative staff in internal meetings and resolved to strongly fight such kind unethical attitude with all its might while synchronizing its member's struggle with working class of the country against exploitive policies under leadership of All India Bank Officers Association. The central committee demanded immediate removal of violations of all national and bank level settlements ensuring of industrial peace in the industry and JK Bank.

Sd/-Riyaz Bhat
Gen Secretary

ABBAS ADS: 7006444730

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