

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! No Govt job ...

time in all schools, colleges, Panchayats across the Kashmir Valley. When asked as to what was the political roadmap for J&K, the LG said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his recent visit to the Union Territory has already announced that elections will be held after the Delimitation exercise culminates and then after Statehood will be restored. He said only Parliament can restore the statehood, and the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have spoken on this issue in detail in Parliament and to the country.

When asked as to what had changed in the past two year in Jammu and Kashmir after Article 370 abrogation, Sinha said the people of the Union Territory can better answer this question. He, however, gave you some metrics to understand what has changed and said in 2018-19, after spending Rs 67000 crores less than 10000 projects were completed, whereas in 2019-20, more than 21000 projects have been completed after spending only Rs 63000 crores.

"Executing more projects with comparatively less expenditure is what has changed in the UT", the LG said adding that 11000 candidates have secured government jobs in the most fair and transparent recruitment process in the history of J&K. Average income of farmers in J&K is around Rs 19000, which is fifth highest in the country. In road construction, three years back J&K used to be at 11th, 12th in the whole country, he said adding that in the last two years, the Union Territory has graduated to 3rd place achieving road construction 2.5 times the previous years. On average per year 2500-2600km of road used to be macdamised in a year but last year 5600 kms were macadenised and this year 8000 kms would be completed. He said 25 national Highways are under construction in J&K.

Sinha said that more domestic flights have started in J&K and International Flights to Sharjah were also started from Srinagar.

Referring to the power sector, Sinha said the maximum realized power potential was only 3500MW and with the new power projects the generation will be doubled in next 5 years to move towards self sufficiency in the sector.

In Health Infrastructure, he said, J&K had only 3 Medical colleges while 7 new Medical colleges have now been established. 2 new AIIMS, two new Cancer institutes besides many nursing colleges have also come up.

On the New Industrial Policy, the LG said that the proposed investment that the government has already received has crossed Rs. 31,000 Cr, twice what was expected.

"Proposals worth Rs.15000 Cr. already approved", he added.

Sinha said that the tourist footfall has increased manifold in the UT during winter months. From 1935 tourists in June 2020, the number has increased to 1282572 in September 2021. Winter season is witnessing 100 per cent high-end-hotel occupancy in Srinagar and at prominent tourist destinations, he said.

Enumerating the benefits of Article 370 abrogation while answering to a question, the Lieutenant Governor said that reservation benefits have percolated to all eligible communities, who remained deprived since long. Certain communities of J&K like Khatri, Mahajans etc were not allowed to purchase agricultural land and that has been changed now. He said the Forest Rights Act has been implemented in toto while Domicile rights to women are restored. He said marginalised communities are being brought into mainstream.

Sinha envisioned a fear-free, corruption-free, democratic, and developed Jammu and Kashmir contributing for a developed India.

"Overall, the people of Jammu and Kashmir want peace, prosperity and growth", the Lieutenant Governor summed up.

## Two SHOs among...

Station Hiranagar to DPL Kathua; Inspector Sumect Sharma from Police Station Lakhapur to MTO DPL Kathua; Inspector Yash Paul Sharma from Police Post Hatli to Police Station Hiranagar as SHO; Inspector Rajinder Khajuria from Police Post Ramkot to Police Post Hatli as Incharge; Inspector Arun Slathia from Police Post Chadwal to DPL Kathua; Sub Inspector Sarvan Kumar from MT DPL Kathua to DPL Kathua; PSI Ravinder Singh from Police Station Billawar to Police Post Ramkot as Incharge; PSI Rohit Manhas from Police Station Kathua to Police Post Chadwal as Incharge.

## Army to introduce...

new combat uniform has been finalised after wide-ranging discussions and analysis of military uniforms of several countries, the people said.

They said the new uniform will be much more durable as well as comfortable in both summers and winters.

The uniforms, which will feature a mix of colours including olive and earthen, have been designed taking into considerations aspects like areas of deployment of the troops and climatic conditions in which they operate.

The Navy had rolled out a new camouflage uniform last year.

## NGO sealed for...

at the incident, Dr Mehta directed that joint teams of social welfare education department, Magistrates from DC office and police be set up to verify the records of nari ashrams, bal ashrams, concerned NGOs and trust and orphanages and asked the social welfare department to coordinate the synergised departmental response in the matter.

Secretary, social welfare department informed that the matter has been taken up with IGP, Kashmir to ensure immediate legal action under the relevant laws.

It was further informed that child welfare committees have been asked to meet covid orphans identified by the department and submit a report to the department.

Dr Mehta directed social welfare department to conduct audit of the human resource and the accounts of these centres for the last 5 years.

He asked the social welfare department to obtain the report regarding the welfare of covid orphans from the field and share it with his office by Thursday evening.

The Chief Secretary asked Home department to ensure that every such centre was inspected by the nearest police station in the UT and a report shared by them with the Home department by evening.

Giving details of the NGOs dealing with child and women welfare in the UT, Director I&C, Jammu informed that there are around 6000 such NGOs registered in J&K.

It was further informed that post reorganisation of the J&K State into UTs of J&K and Ladakh, the department has begun the process of re-registering these societies under the central act.

So far less than 1000 societies have been re-registered and their details are also available on Darpan portal.

Dr Mehta also advised the I&C department to share the list of all NGOs operating in the space with SWD and police department.

He also directed that the SWD should get the verification of 6000 NGOs done in concert with district administration and PRIs within a month and shared the findings with the government.

The Chief Secretary asked the I&C department to put all those NGOs, which have not re-registered, on notice stating that if they do not re-register within 15 days, they will no longer be allowed to operate.

He also directed I&C department to share the details of those NGOs, which don't re-register, with the district and divisional administration so that appropriate law enforcement action is initiated against them.

The Chief Secretary asked the SWD to take steps in consultation with health department to verify all the children hospitals/gynecological sections/ neonatal sections of the hospitals in the UT within next fifteen days.

Dr Mehta directed Law department to seek details of the trusts operating in the space for the last 10 years from the judiciary for purpose of their verification.

The Chief Secretary laid emphasis on tracking cases of child/women trafficking in the cyber domain and asked the Home department to ensure proper cyber surveillance though anti trafficking units of the police department in both the divisions.

Stating that begging and trafficking syndicates can't be allowed to have a free run in J&K, he directed to maintain special watch on placement agencies, organisations scouting young girls and boys for talent hunt programmes, beauty pageants, escort services etc. so that incidents of child and women trafficking do not happen in future.

## 3 terrorist associates...

arrested persons, two grenades were recovered.

"Investigations also revealed that the arrested persons were given instructions by the terrorists across the border and aim behind the attacks was to create an atmosphere of fear and chaos and to draw reaction against Kashmiri youth outside the UT," he added.

## India reports 2...

He said the person was isolated in a hotel and underwent Covid test at another laboratory. "This time, his reports came negative and he left for Dubai on November 27 as scheduled," Gupta said.

Gupta said all the 24 primary contacts and 240 secondary contacts of the foreign national have tested negative. "But they are still kept under watch."

The Bengaluru doctor had tested positive on November 22 and has no travel history to South Africa or any other country, he said. On developing tiredness, weakness and fever the doctor got tested on November 22, following which he tested positive, he added.

The doctor's 13 primary contacts and 205 secondary contacts have been tested, Gupta said. "Three primary and two secondary contacts have tested positive. They have been kept under isolation and samples have been sent for sequencing."

According to officials, both the persons were inoculated with two doses of Covid vaccine.

Agarwal said that following the detection of the two Omicron cases through the INSACOG network, all their primary and secondary contacts were traced in time and tested.

"We need not panic about the Omicron detection but awareness is absolutely essential. Follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and avoid mass gatherings," ICMR Director-General Dr Bahram Bhargava said, adding that increased COVID-19 vaccine uptake was the need of the hour.

"Do not delay in getting fully vaccinated," he told the joint news conference in Delhi.

Health Minister K Sudhakar said detection of the new variant proved that aggressive testing has helped in faster identification.

"How it (Omicron) spreads, we can't say as of now, but there is no need to worry as all the six cases identified so far don't have any major health issues. We have seen the Delta variant, it had intensity, more issues like breathing, such things have not been noticed so far. Symptoms here are mild," he told reporters in Bengaluru.

Sudhakar said the Doctor and his five contacts have been isolated and admitted to a government hospital in Bengaluru and are being monitored. "There are no major issues, they have mild symptoms, which is a matter of comfort."

Participating in a discussion on the Covid pandemic in the Lok Sabha, Opposition members demanded that the government should inform the House about the roadmap for full vaccination and the booster dose.

"Questions need to be answered over issues such as booster dose of Covid vaccine, whether the gap between Covishield doses could be reduced and status of vaccination for children," said Amul Ramsing Kolhe of the Nationalist Congress Party(NCP).

Responding to a question at the press briefing, Agarwal said the scientific reasoning for boosters at what timing for which vaccine all that is under examination.

"Our priority is the complete task of receiving both vaccines and this is the strategy which will give us the best dividend".

About the possibility of clamping a lockdown given the detection of the Omicron variant in India, NITI Aayog member (health) Dr V K Paul said, "Under the current situation, there is no need for it."

"Pandemic situation is under control. This is a new challenge which we will address and we have tools to tackle it. We will not panic or fear.

"We have the responsibility of wearing masks, staying in well-ventilated areas and not crowd spaces. Mask is the universal vaccine," Paul added.

About vaccine coverage, Agarwal said 84.3 per cent of the adult population in India got the first dose while 49 per cent got the second dose.

On the detection of the Omicron variant in India, Poonam Khetrapal Singh, the regional director of WHO South-East Asia in a statement said, "It was not unexpected given the interconnected world that we live in."

"This emphasizes the need for all countries to step up surveillance, be on alert, rapidly detect any importation and take measures to curtail further spread of the virus," she added.

After two cases of Omicron variant of coronavirus were detected in the country, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it was sad that international flights were not stopped from the affected countries.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also held a meeting in Delhi with airport and port health officers as well as other authorities over screening and surveillance at all points of entries amid concerns over the 'Omicron' variant, official sources said.

The health ministry has been advising states and Union territories to keep a strict vigil and undertake surveillance of international passengers coming to the country through various airports.

Testing of samples of international travellers coming from at risk' countries on the first day and of specified category of passengers on the eighth day needs to be scrupulously done, it had stressed.

International passengers from at-risk countries are being advised to wait at airports till the report of the RT-PCR test is available.

List of countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing are those in Europe, including the United Kingdom, besides South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.

On the significance of vaccination in view of the new variant, NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul said despite this new challenge vaccination is the most critical tool.

"We are fortunate that we have the tool (vaccination) in plenty and there is no doubt that coverage of vaccines has to increase. Look at the big picture, we have this tool and we must protect every eligible individual with this tool".

On contact tracing approach of individuals detected with Omicron in India, Dr. Sujet Kumar Singh, Director, National Centre for Disease Control, said the government is tracing three types of contacts - primary, secondary and tertiary.

"Remote contacts are also being traced...it comes in the state government domain and state surveillance officers are cooperating for it. In this case (2 cases of omicron) -the primary, secondary and tertiary contacts have been traced."

## India hits out...

Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"Referring to proscribed terrorist organisations as 'armed groups' demonstrates a clear bias on the part of OHCHR," the MEA spokesperson said.

He said as a democratic country with an abiding commitment to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens, India takes all necessary steps to counter cross-border terrorism.

Bagchi said national security legislations like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) were enacted by Parliament to protect the sovereignty of India

and ensure the security of its citizens.

"The arrest and subsequent detention of the individual referred to in the statement was done entirely as per the provisions of law," he said.

"Authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights. All such actions are strictly in accordance with the law," the MEA spokesperson added.

## Six Jammu hotels...

"Dheeraj Kumar, Inspector State Taxes Department, Jammu (Mobile No 9419186747) has been appointed as Nodal Officer of aforesaid COVID Care Centres," it added.

## J&K reports 177...

said. The death toll due to the pandemic was 4,477 as no fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours.

The officials said there were 49 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the Union Territory as no fresh case was reported since Wednesday evening.

Meanwhile, with 23 fresh, Ladakh's COVID-19 tally has climbed to 21,601, while the number of active cases of the infection has gone up to 285 in the Union Territory, officials said.

Ladakh has registered 214 Covid-related deaths -- 156 in Leh and 58 in Kargil - since the outbreak of the pandemic last year; they added.

Fourteen patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh in the last 24 hours. The total number of recoveries in the Union Territory now stands at 20,102, the officials said.

All the 23 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in Leh, they added.

A total of 1,198 sample reports were found negative for the infection in Ladakh in the last 24 hours, the officials said.

Of the 285 active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh, 259 are in Leh and 26 in Kargil.

## Three Kashmiri students...

students have also sought transfer of their trials to Mathura, saying that the entire bar of Agra is not ready to appear on behalf of the applicants before the court and defend the case".

A bail plea is first made to a magisterial court in the district and then to a sessions court and subsequently to the high court following its rejection by the lower courts.

The three Kashmiri students - Arsheed Yusuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai are students of an engineering college in Agra and were arrested on October 27, 2021 by the Agra police.

They were booked under sections 124 A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505 (1) (B) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 66-F (cyber-terrorism) of the Information Technology Act for allegedly sending WhatsApp messages "against the country" after the match.

The matter will come for hearing in the high court in a few days.

## Centre extends timeline...

these Smart Cities have tendered out 6,452 projects worth Rs 1,84,998 crore. Out of these, work orders have been issued in 5,809 projects worth Rs 1,56,571 crore and 3,131 of those projects worth Rs 53,175 crore have been completed, it said.

Till the same period, the Central government has released Rs 27,235 crore to states and Union territories for their smart cities.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on Thursday, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said the period of implementation of the Smart Cities Mission has been extended up to June 2023.

Asked whether more cities are being considered under the mission in Gujarat, the minister said that presently, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Central government.

## State of relationship ...

relationship goes off in this direction," he added.

Referring to China bringing in forces to the border that triggered the row, Jaishankar said the neighbouring country violated commitments.

"In terms of bringing forces to the border, it is not an impression that we had or we thought we had an understanding. We had it in cold print in two agreements. So there is no ambiguity on that score," he said.

"There were very, very clear-cut commitments not to mass forces on the border and those commitments stand violated as of 2020 spring," the minister said.

He said the issue at the end of the day is that the sight of woods should not be lost for trees, adding, "I think the trees are individual incidents or attempts to unilaterally change the status quo or to violate the LAC (Line of Actual Control)."

Jaishankar said the troops of both sides are deployed "sometimes uncomfortably closely" and discussions are going on between the two countries to resolve the issues.

Asked about the situation in Afghanistan, he said the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2593 was an expression of widespread concern in the world on a set of issues.

The UNSC resolution, adopted on August 30 under India's presidency of the global body, talked about the need for upholding human rights in Afghanistan, demanded that Afghan territory should not be used for terrorism and that a negotiated political settlement to the crisis should be found.

Jaishankar said the most prominent of the issues was would the Afghan soil be used by terrorists and foreign fighters to target other countries. Also, the nature of the regime in Afghanistan, would it be inclusive, and the nature of governance, the treatment of women, children and minorities, freedom of movement for Afghans, he said.

"I would say a lot of those concerns...remain live concerns," he added.

Jaishankar said India has been deliberative about its choices in Afghanistan and careful about assessments and is not being led by arguments that others are doing it.

On the humanitarian situation, he said the general consensus has been that there is a need to do something for the Afghan people, notwithstanding the difficult situation.

The minister said India offered to send 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan and favoured unhindered access to the country, besides pitching for distribution of supplies in a responsible and fair manner.

Asked about the Quad, he said, "It is for something, it is not against somebody."

He said the agenda of the Quad is focussed on COVID-19 vaccines, trusted and secure technologies, promoting reliable and resilient supply chains, connectivity projects and ensuring maritime security and safety.

Asked what India will bring to the "Summit of Democracy" being hosted by the United States, Jaishankar said he is "very confident" about the state of the Indian democracy.

He said Indian elections and the electoral process are not in doubt, and popular participation in elections is rising.

## Some respite from...

at a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a low of minus 1.5 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag's minimum temperature settled at minus 1.4 degrees Celsius. The meteorological office said the weather will most likely remain dry but cold till December 3.

A weak western disturbance is likely to hit the region towards the weekend, officials said, adding the precipitation will end the dry spell of weather in the valley.

The wintry conditions in the valley set-in much ahead of the beginning of extreme harsh weather conditions which usually start around the third week of December.

'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir, begins on December 21 every year.

## Bharat Priye urges youth to take part in sports



Congress leader Bharat Priye felicitating winner team.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: Mile Di Khui defeated Bardloh team in the final and won the trophy of cricket tournament played at Bardloh village of border Chhamb assembly constituency, here on Thursday.

Batting first, Bardloh's team scored 97 runs in the allotted overs and in reply, Mille Di

Khui achieved the target in 10 overs.

While felicitating the winner and runner-up teams, Congress leader Bharat Priye said that the objective of this tournament is to promote sports talent of the youth and keep them away from drugs.

"If youth participate in sports, they can avoid getting caught in

the clutches of drugs. There is no death of talent among the youth," he said.

"These youth can achieve success in any national and international levels competition but they need to be given the right platform and guidance," he said and demanded for the opening of the stadium of the youth here. Due to lack of stadium, youngsters are not able to practice well. While exhorting the youth to stay away from drugs, Bharat Priye said that a person ruins his life by getting caught in the clutches of drugs. He causes misery for himself as well as his family. Therefore, youth should invest their power and potential in positive things and stay away from drugs.

## BBC young reporter training workshop held at MVIS

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: An 'Online Workshop' under the theme 'BBC Young Reporter India' was organised for the students of classes 9th and 11th in MV International School (MVIS), here on Thursday.

It is a media education programme launched by BBC News World Service, in partnership with INTERNEWS in collaboration with DATALEADS that helps school students in India to develop media literacy skills, challenge online misinformation and become more informed citizens of tomorrow.

The programme was

organized by Arehana Kumari, Senior Assistant Professor from Central University of Jammu; she is also Principal Lead, JETREG South Asia Regional Research Hub.

After this workshop, the students have got an opportunity to submit activities to demonstrate workshop learning outcomes in form of posters/videos/bulletins/photographs/poems etc-that may be featured/published in a BBC newsletter or media content.

Students and staff of the school participated in this interactive workshop with enthusiasm.

## NSS GGM Science College organises Clean India Slogan Signature campaign

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: NSS GGM Science College Jammu under the patronage of Principal Dr. Ravender Tickoo and guidance of NSS PO Dr. Deepali Mahajan on Thursday organized a Slogan Signature Campaign in the college campus under Clean India Campaign on National Pollution Control Day. This day is observed on 2nd December every year in remembrance of the people who passed away in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984. The main theme for National Pollution Control Day 2021 is making people aware of the things that we can do in order



NSS volunteers along with faculty during the event.

to prevent pollution and control the pollution of the world. The signature Campaign was started by Principal, Ravinder Tickoo followed by NSS PO, Dr. Deepali Mahajan, staff, students and volunteers. All need to work together as a group to let others know the importance of cleanliness, Dr. Deepali said adding that the campaigns

are an effective source for the growth of environmental awareness.

"Everyone must share the responsibility to keep their surrounding clean and educate others about its importance. There should be absolutely no tolerance for environmentally hazardous substances such as polythene and plastic," she added.