

India's growth will be clean & green: PM

NEW DELHI, Jan 17:

Citing India's commitment to deep economic reforms and ease of doing business, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asserted that this is the best time to invest in the country as policy-making is focussed on the needs for the next 25 years for a 'clean and green' as well as 'sustainable and reliable' growth period.

In his special address to the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda 2022 summit, Modi underlined a host of reform measures undertaken by his government to stress that it has worked to reduce the

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JE, 4 teachers terminated

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: The Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK) has terminated the services of four more teachers posted across Kashmir for unauthorised absence from their duties while R&B also terminated the services of a Junior Engineer from Srinagar.

As per orders issued here, the services of Ashaq Parvez Mir, Teacher, UPS Kachree in Kupwara, Mohammad Saleem Dar, Teacher, GMS Aripanthan, Budgam, Shazia Shafeeq, Teacher, HS Gundishath, Kupwara and Fatima Jameel, teacher, HS Padshahbagh,

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Govt takes over Kashmir Press Club

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: The Government has expressed concern over the situation which has arisen due to the unpleasant turn of events involving two rival warring groups using the banner of the Kashmir Press Club.

"The factual position is that KPC as a registered body has ceased to exist and its managing body too has come to a legal closure on 14th July 2021, the date on which its tenure came to an end. In its failure to register itself under the Central Societies of Registration Act, further compounded by its failure to

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Largest flypast with 75 aircrafts on Republic Day this year

NEW DELHI, Jan 17:

The Republic Day parade at the Rajpath this year will see the "grandest and largest" flypast ever with the participation of 75 aircraft to mark the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, an IAF official said today.

The flypast will conclude with seven jaguar fighter aircraft flying in the 'Amrit' formation to commemorate the 75 years of Independence.

"The flypast this year will be the grandest and largest with 75 aircrafts from IAF, Army and Navy flying during the Republic Day parade. This is in

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

5 die in Jammu including 3 fully vaccinated, 1093 new cases

As 428 Health workers test +ve in GMC, AHs; Admn deploys Ayurvedic docs, MBBS, Nursing students

39 more CID personnel, 16 at Sectt, 14 Rlys officials test +ve

10 in Assembly, 6 more at Raj Bhawan, 5 PSC, 3 FSL staffers infected

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Jan 17: Five persons, all co-morbid with three fully vaccinated, died of COVID-19 in Jammu division today, four of them in Jammu district alone, while the region recorded 1093 fresh cases even as serious situation emerged in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu and Associated Hospitals where 428 Health workers including

*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

doctors and Nurses have been found infected during last two days prompting the administration to divert the staff of Ayurvedic Hospital and call final year students of MBBS and Nurses for emergency duties to run the healthcare facilities. The UT of Ladakh also reported surge in cases with 175 fresh positive cases.

'Misuse' of huge funds under Central Schemes detected

Nearly 2000 school buildings constructed on politicians' interventions found abandoned

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Jan 17: Shocking it may sound but it is a harsh reality that nearly 2000 school buildings have been found abandoned across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as these were constructed mainly on the interventions of the politicians by misusing the funds sanctioned under two Centrally Sponsored Schemes and without any actual requirement.

Official sources told EXCelsior that during a detailed exercise conducted by the School Education Department on the directions of Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta it has come to the fore



A locality in Udhampur being sealed after it was declared as micro-containment zone on Monday. -Excelsior/K Kumar

In Jammu, the district administration ordered creation of 16 micro-containment zones.

"As many as 428 Healthcare workers in the GMC Jammu and Associated Hospitals have tested positive for COVID-19 during past couple of days but we are trying to run the healthcare facilities to the best possible extent. The remaining staff is working in the Emergency and Wards to run the services but it's very difficult situation," GMC Jammu Principal Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma told the Excelsior.

She said the staff of Government Ayurvedic Hospital has been diverted to the GMC Jammu. Final year MBBS students and Nurses and other para-medical staff under training has been called for duties in the GMC Jammu and Associated Hospitals, she added.

Asserting that the available staff is cooperating and giving duties beyond their working hours to run the Healthcare facilities, Dr Sharma appealed to the people to cooperate with them.

At some of the hospitals, the authorities have made conduct of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) mandatory for patients and their attendants to gain entry while in others the patients have been allowed entry without tests.

Meanwhile, a 55-year-old man hailing from village Nagri Parole in Kathua district, presently putting up at Sarwal Colony Jammu, died of co-morbidities and COVID-19 in the GMC Jammu. He was unvaccinated. An 87-year-old fully vaccinated man from Tali Morh New Plots in Jammu died of ailments and virus at home. A 74-year-old man from Sainik Colony in Jammu succumbed

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Picture clicked by Himveers of ITBP from high altitude areas of Himalayas covered in snow. (UNI)

NH blocked, boy dies in snowslide in Kishtwar

3 of Lucknow family go missing on NH in Ramban, police launches searches

Jammu's temp goes 8 deg below normal, snowfall in Kmr

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Jan 17: A boy died after he came under a snow-slide in remote and mountainous Marwah area of Kishtwar and three members of a family from Lucknow went missing in Ramban area while travelling to Kashmir in a light motor vehicle even as Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was blocked due to massive landslide near Ramban tonight.

Fresh snowfall in parts of Kashmir led to a dip in the maximum temperatures but overnight cloud cover has resulted in higher than expected minimum temperatures across the Valley.

The winter capital Jammu today recorded very low day temperature, about 8 degrees below normal as entire region continued to remain under severe cold wave.

Light to moderate snowfall was reported from many places in north Kashmir, including Lolab, Kupwara, Sopore and

Baramulla today. Some parts of Srinagar witnessed sleet, a mixture of snow and rain -- very briefly. The precipitation has resulted in the mercury falling during the day.

A senior Traffic police official said that due to massive land slide at Seri near

*Watch video on www.excelsionews.com

Ramban at around 8.50 pm tonight, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed. He said the machines were engaged at work but there were bleak chances of road clearance during night.

He further said that earlier during the day, the highway remained blocked for nearly three hours between 2 pm to 5 pm due to landslides in Ramsu area. Mehrar sliding zone also created disruptions in the movement of traffic several times during the day, he added.

Official sources told the Excelsior that three members of a family hailing from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh including hus-

band, wife and their son have gone missing from Ramsu area of Ramban while travelling from Jammu to Srinagar in a private vehicle.

They said as reported by the family members in Lucknow, a retired IOC officer, Mehmood Ali Khan (65), his wife Darakhshan (52) and their son - Shavez Khan (26), were travelling in a private car to Kashmir. They had lost contact with them in Ramsu area of Ramban at around 8 am on Friday when they had stuck due to landslides on Jammu-Srinagar highway. Since then there was no contact with the family. It is suspected that they might have met with some mishap on this highly dangerous highway.

SSP Ramban Mohita Sharma said that after receiving information from the family side in Lucknow and also through a Tweet, the police parties in Ramsu and Banihal areas have launched search operation.

"The relatives have said that after receiving the messages

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Infra to be used for Patwar Khanas, Anganwari Centres

that nearly 2000 school buildings are actually lying abandoned in different districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and not being put to use for imparting education to the students during the past quite long time.

Accordingly, the lists of these school buildings have been furnished to the Government by the School Education Department so that the infrastructure can be put to use particularly for opening of Patwar Khanas, Anganwari Centres, Residential Homes, Haats of Industries and Commerce Department etc.

"The process of formally handing over these buildings to the concerned departments for opening of their field offices has already been set into motion and will be completed as expeditiously as possible as per the directions of the Government", sources informed.

Actually, these school buildings were constructed by utilizing the funds released by the Government of India under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Existence of J&K under BJP in danger'

Getting rid of BJP will be bigger than freedom from British rule: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 17: While accusing the BJP of sowing seeds of hatred among various communities for its vested interests, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti today said that getting rid of the this party will be much bigger than freedom from the British rule in the past.

While addressing Tribal Youth convention here today, the former J&K Chief Minister said that the existence of Jammu and Kashmir is in danger under the BJP and urged the youth to stand up against the challenges faced by the country by spreading 'love and friendship' without getting intimidated by the ruling



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti addressing Tribal Youth convention in Jammu on Monday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

party who are allegedly using Government agencies to browbeat its opponents.

"They have ruined the country. In the present situation, one feels insecure and does not know whether he/she will be

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: Kashmir today reported 1,734 fresh cases of COVID-19 taking the Jammu and Kashmir tally of positive cases to 17,928 while a branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank in Bandipora was closed after four employees tested positive.

A branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank in Kaloosa area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district was today closed after four of its employees tested COVID positive.

In the meantime, five officials of the Regional Transport Office Kashmir today tested positive and the office has writ-

ten to Divisional Commissioner's office to guide it with regard to continuance of public dealings.

"Five officials of this office have been tested COVID positive and many others are having symptoms like fever/cough and sore throat. RT-PCR reports of many officials are still awaited. Besides this, there is huge public rush in view of which it is difficult to follow COVID SOPs", read a communiqué made by RTO Kashmir to Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

"In view of such a situation this office may kindly be guided as to whether to continue with the public dealings or close it till negative reports are received

most likely by the weekend", the communiqué further read.

Those who tested positive today in Kashmir include 618 from Srinagar, 315 from Baramulla, 295 from Budgam, 56 from Pulwama, 139 from Kupwara, 168 from Anantnag, 52 from Bandipora, 22 from Ganderbal, 57 from Kulgam and 12 Shopian.

As per officials figures, 83,013 positive cases including 886 deaths and 78,250 recoveries are from Srinagar, 28,627 including 292 deaths and 25,821 recoveries are from Baramulla, 26,322 including 24,573 recoveries and 222 deaths are from Budgam, 16,094 including 15,608 recoveries and 195

deaths are from Pulwama, 15,699 including 170 deaths and 14,949 recoveries are from Kupwara, 17,604 including 16,563 recoveries and 211 deaths are from Anantnag, 10,761 cases including 10,111 and 111 deaths are from Bandipora, 11,175 including 10,972 recoveries and 82 deaths are from Ganderbal, 12,032 including 11,487 recoveries and 118 deaths are from Kulgam and 5,657 including 5,561 recoveries and 59 deaths are from Shopian.

The number of cases in Kashmir division has reached 226,984 including 213,895 recoveries and 2,346 deaths.

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J&K Bank branch closed after 4 test positive

1,734 test +ve for COVID in Kashmir, J&K active cases 17, 928

5 killed in Rajouri road mishaps

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 17: Five persons were killed while two others injured in three separate road accidents in district Rajouri today.

Official sources said that three persons including a driver were killed while another person seriously injured when a Tipper rolled down into a deep gorge in remote Khawas area of district Rajouri late this evening.

The mishap took place at around 8 pm when the Tipper No. JK-11A/ 6087 belonging to stone crusher owner -Ram Parkash, was going to nearby village Bella. The vehicle went out of control and rolled down into nearly 300 feet deep gorge, resulting into on the spot death of three persons.

The deceased were identified as Vikrant Singh, son of

Sham Lal, resident of Dhalori, driver Satvir, resident of Kenchi Morh and Showkat Hussain, son of Fateh Mohd, resident of Jaglanoo in Rajouri. The bodies of the deceased were shifted to PHC Khawas and seriously injured, Rattan Lal, son of Dev Raj hailing from Dhalori has been referred to GMC, Jammu.

Meanwhile, a youth was killed while another injured in a bike accident near Muradpur in Rajouri today.

Official sources said that at about 11.30 hrs today, Motorcycle No JK 11F- 1957 collided with a truck No JK 02P -6512 at Muradpur, resulting into serious injuries to the two youth.

Both the injured identified as Mohd Zaheer (19), son of Mohd Qadeer and Mohd Arshah (25), son of Mohd

Azam, both residents of Challas, Doongi were shifted to GMC Rajouri. One of the accident victims, namely Mohd Zaheer later succumbed to the injuries at GMC Rajouri, police said.

The police have registered a case in this connection and started investigation.

Another report said that a young bike rider Amit Sharma, son of Madan Lal, resident of Doongi, was seriously injured after his Motor -cycle was hit by a long truck (Tralla), near Muradpur, on Jammu-Poonch highway late this evening.

He was rushed to GMC Hospital Rajouri where he passed away after some time, police said. The body of the deceased was later shifted to mortuary for autopsy. The police has taken cognizance of the matter.

Police arrests 2 militant associates, charge sheet filed against another

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 17: Police arrested two militant associates in Awantipora area of Pulwama district and recovered explosive material from their possession.

They also produced a charge sheet against a militant associate under UAPA before NIA court Anantnag.

Police said that based on specific input, Awantipora Police along with 42RR and CRPF arrested two militant associates linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) identified as Zahid Ahmad Lone son of Ghulam Rasool, resident of Naristan Tral and Shakeel Ahmad Malik alias Abu Dujana son of Ghulam Mohammad, resident of Noorpora Awantipora.

"Incriminating materials including explosive materials have been recovered from their possession", police said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested duo were working as militant associates of proscribed JeM and involved in providing shelter, logistic support and transportation of arms/ammunition to the active militants in Tral and Awantipora areas.

Moreover, both the arrested associates were in touch with Pakistan based militant commanders on different social media platforms and were planning to join militancy. "A case under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Tral and further investigation initiated", police said.

Meanwhile, Police in Kulgam produced charge sheet against a militant associate identified as Suhail Ahmad in case FIR No 03/2020 of Police Station Behibagh.

The case pertained to 26/09/2020, when militants fired indiscriminately upon police personnel near PS Behibagh in Kulgam. Although, alert police personnel had effectively retaliated but the militants had managed to flee from the spot with the help of the associate and under the cover of darkness. "Subsequently, he was arrested by the investigating team which also recovered incriminating material including arms and ammunition from

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WEATHER

JAMMU:	
Possibility of rain/thundershowers	TEMPERATURE
Max: 10.3 Degree C	Min: 9.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning): 97.0 per cent	RH-II (Evening): 95.0 per cent
Sunset on Tuesday: 05.51 p.m.	Sunrise on Wednesday: 07.33 a.m.
SRINAGAR:	
Possibility of rain/snow	TEMPERATURE
Max: 4.6 Degree C	Min: -1.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning): 84.0 per cent	RH-II (Evening): 88.0 per cent
LEH:	
TEMPERATURE	
Max: 0.7 Degree C	Min: -12.6 Degree C