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For 1st time in last 5 yrs, decline noticed in Jammu's air pollution on Diwali Day

year as there was no control on the bursting of crackers particularly those which generate much dust particles, sources in Pollution Control Committee said. No doubt there were instructions for selling only green crackers but the compliance was minimal because of varied reasons and all sorts of crackers were easily available to the people.

It was only due to rainfall of new days back that air pollution level remained less as compared to previous years. The showers which lashed Jammu and other parts some days back settled the dust in the air up to large extent and because of this even after pollution caused by bursting of crackers the level of RSPM in the air was far less as compared to previous years.

The data further reveals that noise pollution at Bikram Chowk on October 18 was 75.1 decibel

but on Diwali Day the same increased to 87.8 decibel. Similarly, the noise pollution at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, Bakshi Nagar and Kachi Chawani on October 18 was 73.9, 74.1 and 75.5 decibel respectively but on Diwali Day the same increased to 87.4 at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, 84.7 at Bakshi Nagar and 82.2 at Kachi Chawani.

As per the standard limits, in industrial area the noise level should be 75 decibel in day time and 70 decibel in night time. Similarly, in commercial areas, the noise level should be 65 decibel in day time and 55 decibel in night time. Likewise, in residential area the noise level should be 55 decibel in day time and 45 decibel in night time.

The analysis of data and standard limits clearly reveals that on Diwali Day the noise pollution increased by more than 10 decibel in most of the places.



BSF and Rangers exchange sweets on the occasion of Diwali festival.

CDS visits forward posts in Rajouri, calls for operational preparedness

occasion of Diwali festival yesterday.

The Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistani Rangers exchanged sweets at various Border Outposts (BOPs) on Jammu frontiers yesterday.

"The BSF offered sweets to Pakistani Rangers at several posts along the International Border and the latter reciprocated," a BSF spokesman said.

He added that such gestures help build a peaceful atmosphere and cordial relationships on the border between both border guarding forces.

Exchange of sweets also took place at some posts along the Line of Control (LoC) between Armies of India and Pakistan in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

"The BSF has always been on the forefront in creating peaceful and congenial atmosphere on the border while dominating the borders effectively," the BSF spokesman said.

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J&K Universities Bill envisages appointments through PSC & SSB, nomination of Registrar

other action as appropriate without an inquiry.

The Act says that the Chancellor may, where he feels that in the interest of academic excellence or administrative exigency necessary to do so and after such consultation with the Vice-Chancellors of the Public Universities concerned as he may deem necessary, transfer any employee from one university to another university constituted under this Act.

As per the new Act, the Vice-Chancellor shall be the Principal Executive and academic officer of the University, the Chairperson of the Academic Council and co-chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee and shall be entitled to be present and speak at any meeting of any authority or other body of the University and shall in the absence of the Chancellor preside over the meetings of the Governing Council. He shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall, on the expiration of his term of office, be eligible for reappointment to that office for a second term: Provided that no person who has exceeded the age of sixty-five years can continue to hold an appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

The Registrar shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the University. The Government shall nominate any serving officer of the administrative services or any eligible serving civil servant of appropriate seniority, to act as the Registrar.

Further, there shall be a Finance Officer for the University, who shall be appointed by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir on a deputation basis and his remuneration and allowances shall be paid by the University. He shall exercise general supervision over the funds of the University and advise the Vice-Chancellor as regards the finances of the University; hold and manage the funds, property, and investments, including trust and endowed property, for furthering the objects of the University, with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor; monitor the state of the cash and bank balances and investments; ensure effective revenue management by regulating the process and progress of the collection of revenue, and advise the Vice-Chancellor on the methods to be employed in this regard; audit the accounts of the University audited, regularly; ensure that the registers of buildings, land, equipment, machinery, and other assets are maintained up-to-date and that the physical verification and reconciliation of these assets and other consumable materials in all offices, colleges, and other institutions and stores of the University are conducted regularly.

However, the Controller of Examinations shall be a whole-time officer of the University. He shall be responsible for the due custody of all records pertaining to the conduct of examinations.

The Act says that the Governing Council, Finance and Audit Committee, Management Council, Academic Council and such other bodies shall be authorities of the university in taking decisions.

Governing Council, the top decision making body of the Universities, shall consist of the Chancellor, Chief Secretary, Vice-Chancellor; Administrative Secretary of Higher Education Department; Administrative Secretary Finance Department; two Deans of the University, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor on rotation for three years from the date of nomination; three teachers to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from amongst the teaching faculty of the University, one each representing the Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor, based on seniority and rotation in the respective cadres; two persons nominated by the Chancellor, out of a panel submitted by the Higher Education Department.

In the case of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, the panel shall be submitted by the Shrine Board, and in the case of Islamic University of Science and Technology and Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, the Higher Education Department shall consult the Department of the Government entrusted with the subject of Auqaf before furnishing the panel to the Chancellor.

The Academic Council of a University, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor as Chairperson; the Deans of the Faculties of the University concerned; the Head of the Department of the University concerned, shall control and regulate the standards of teaching and examinations in the university.

All universities established and regulated under the Act shall refer all Open and Direct posts of officer cadre and all teachers and equivalent positions in their universities to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) for an all India advertisement and screening. Every post referred to the JKPSC by the public universities shall be processed on a fast-track basis and the entire process from advertisement to screening shall be completed within three months.

The screening process shall comprise a written test and an evaluation of the Academic Record and Research Performance or Academic Record, Qualifications, background and experience of the candidate. The written test shall comprise a compulsory general studies paper common to all subjects and faculties and a subject-specific paper depending on the position applied for. The syllabus of the papers shall be as prescribed by the JKPSC.

Based on the results of the written screening test and the academic record and research performance or academic record, qualifications, background, and experience score sheet of the candidate, the JKPSC shall recommend candidates in the ratio of 1:4 for Personal Interview/lecture demonstration and final selection by the concerned University.

For all positions in the officer cadre as well as for teaching, except Professor and equivalent positions in the universities, weightage for the written test shall be 75 percent, academic record and research performance: 10 percent and Personal Interview : 15 percent.

The eligibility condition and qualification for the post of Professor in the universities shall be the same as prescribed by the UGC or other regulatory bodies. The final selection shall be based on the cumulative score of Academic background (25 percent weightage), Assessment of Research performance (30 percent), Assessment of Domain Knowledge and Teaching Skills (15 percent) and Performance in the Interview (15 percent).

For the appointment of non-gazetted employees, the universities shall refer all direct posts, not fewer than twice a year, to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board to select the suitable candidates. The university shall be empowered to suggest technical and other skills and qualification for the posts referred by them to the SSB while the posts referred to in this section shall be open only to the domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir.

Every post referred to JKSSB by the public universities shall be processed on a fast-track basis and the entire process from advertisement, screening and appointment shall be completed within three months while as per the Act, selection to all posts upto and including posts carrying a pay scale equivalent to pay level 6 in the Government shall be made solely on the basis of a written test and no oral test/interview shall be conducted.

Such regularization cases of the DRW/WC employees engaged before March 31, 1994 and covered under SRO-64 dated 24-3-1994, are required to be examined and processed by the Empowered Committee of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2015, under the provisions of said SRO or had been pending before the said Committee prior to the bifurcation of the State.

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The order of confirmation of attachment, the DB added, passed by the Adjudicating Authority is just like a decree of a civil court which becomes executable the moment it is drawn. Just like execution of a decree of civil court is not to wait the period of limitation for filing an appeal before the appellate court.

"Similarly, an order passed under Section 8(3) of the PMLA is to be acted upon immediately and it cannot await the expiry of period of limitation for filing appeal against the said order. Thus, the respondents were well within their powers to issue the impugned notice, which is in tune with the legal position as discernible from the provisions contained in Sections 8 and 26 of the PMLA read with Rule 5(2) of the Rules of 2013", DB clarified.

The DB after perusal of the attachment notice and auction notice issued by the ED against the accused persons said, this brings to the fore that while an aggrieved person has a right of appeal against the order of attachment passed by the Adjudicating Authority which the aggrieved person has to avail within 45 days of receipt of order of attachment, the authorized officer or the Director has the jurisdiction to forthwith take possession of the property attached.

"The expression 'forthwith' is of great significance, inasmuch as it gives power to the Director or authorized officer to immediately proceed against the person whose property has been attached by virtue of order of Adjudicating Authority.

The jurisdiction to proceed under Section 8(4) of the PMLA court said, would come into play immediately upon passing of the order of attachment by the Adjudicating Authority. There is no scope to interpret the provisions contained in Section 8(4) and Section 26 of the PMLA and Rule 5(2) of the Rules of 2013 to hold that for taking action under Section 8(4) of the PMLA, the authorized officer has to await the expiry of period of limitation i.e., 45 days.

The ED counsel and Deputy Solicitor General of India, appearing for the respondents argued that Section 8(4) of the Act clearly provides that owner or occupier of the attached property can be evicted forthwith after the order of attachment is confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority under Section 8(3) of the Act.

The DB said that after following the procedure prescribed, the Adjudicating Authority may confirm the attachment of the property made under law or retention of property or record seized or frozen under the Act. Once the provisional attachment made under Section 5(1) is confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority, the authorized officer is entitled to forthwith

"Sweetness and brightness of my Diwali is amid you," he told the Army soldiers.

Praising the soldiers for their bravery, the Prime Minister said, Drass, Batalik and the Tiger Hill have been the witnesses of their lofty courage. "In Kargil, our soldiers have managed to crush terrorism. I'm witness to the event".

After becoming the Prime Minister in 2014, Modi has been visiting different border areas to celebrate Diwali.

He celebrated Diwali at Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, in Ladakh with the Army soldiers in 2014 while in 2015, on the 50th anniversary of the 1965 war with Pakistan, he visited three memorials in Punjab where the Indian armed forces had fought pitched battles that proved to be key to the country's victory.

In 2016, Modi met the ITBP, Dogra Scouts and Army personnel at Sumdoh near China border while in 2014, he joined jawans on Diwali in Gurez sector of Kashmir. In 2018, the PM celebrated Diwali with the jawans at Harsil in Uttarakhand while in 2019, he visited Rajouri sector on the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan. In 2020, he spent Diwali with jawans at a border post of Longewala in Punjab. In 2021, he was in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on the occasion of Diwali.

"Our armed forces had crushed the hood of terror in Kargil (in 1999) and people still remember Diwali that was celebrated back then," he said, adding he witnessed the Kargil war closely.

"It was my duty that had brought me to Kargil back then. There are many memories of that time when the sounds of victory were reverberating all around," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to reforms in Armed Forces, he said that Government has worked on them by deploying new technologies, developing infrastructure in border areas and opening up positions for women in the forces.

Asserting that induction of women in the armed forces will boost our strength, he said the reforms were required for decades and they are now being implemented.

India taking tough stand against enemies, always considered war as last option: PM

war with Pakistan where Kargil hasn't seen victory, adding that Diwali symbolised the "celebration of the end of terror".

Indian Army and Air Force fought Pakistan troops and invaders in Kargil heights from May 3 to July 26, 1999, code-named as 'Operation Vijay' and won. July 26 is every year celebrated as Vijay Diwas since then as India recaptured all heights in Kargil on this day and declared victory.

The Prime Minister said India is now respected globally.

"While you protect our borders, we are talking a tough stand against our enemies. If we are challenged, then our armed forces know how to give a befitting reply to their enemy in their own language," he said, adding, all three defence forces including Army, Air Force and Navy—have taken steps to reduce their dependence on imported equipments.

He said the 'Aatamirbar Bharat' is most important to nation's security and the country's dependence should be minimum on foreign weapons and system.

Elaborating on "war as last option", Modi said: "We have always seen war as the final resort. We are in favour of global peace. However, peace can't be achieved without strength".

Maintaining that armed forces have strategies as well as strength, he added: "If anyone dares cast an evil eye on us, our three armed forces know very well how to give a befitting reply".

Modi recalled his visit to Kargil in the aftermath of 1999 conflict when the Indian military had crushed the hood of terror.

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Govt releases over Rs 180 cr under NHM, NAM for J&K as Central share

Deposit without prior concurrence of the Finance Department.

The Mission Director, NHM had been directed to send a status report about the scheme in terms of physical and financial progress made during the current financial year as well as the Utilization Certificates (UCs) of the funds as early as possible and positively before 31-03-2023 to the Government of India in the prescribed format.

Further, it has been noted that all the sanctions/ approvals and clearances shall be in place before the draw of money from the treasury while the expenditure, it has been directed, shall be incurred strictly as per the guidelines of the scheme and the conditions laid down in the sanction letter of the concerned Ministry of Government of India.

At the same time, the Director, Ayush, J&K has also been directed to send the Utilization

Meets Major after 21 years

over as the State's Chief Minister in October.

"Today they met again in Kargil and it was a very emo-

tional meeting," an official said.

The picture shows Amit and another student receiving a shield from Modi.

NHM J&K releases ranking of Public Health facilities

Government Dental College Srinagar, Bone & Joint Hospital Srinagar and Government Medical College Kathua.

In the category of District Hospitals, they said first rank has been bagged by District Hospital Samba followed by District Hospital Poonch, District Hospital Bandipora, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar (Jammu) and District Hospital Kulgam.

Similarly, they said, the first rank in the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs) has been clinched by CHC Seer, followed by CHC Bijbehara, CHC Yaripora and Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Jammu and CHC Kreeri whereas in the category of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and UPHCs, first rank has been bagged by PHC Kakapora followed by

PHC Aishmuqam, PHC Zadibal, PHC Mattan and PHC Boniyar.

Pertinent to mention here that Jammu and Kashmir has started implementation of Hospital Management Information System which is named as JK e-Sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration J&K) in different types of facilities i.e. Tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some new type of PHCs.

In first phase of implementation, 575 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in phased manner. JK e-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) and 104 Centralized Health Helpline for outboard calling.

Bilal Lone likely to leave HC, to join mainstream

Conference Sajjad Lone. His father was a three-time MLA before joining the separatist ranks.

A source close to the PIM said that Lone is likely to join active electoral politics soon.

The reports suggested that Lone will soon part ways with Hurriyat Conference as he has firmly decided to fight the upcoming Assembly elections from his ancestral "strong hold" North Kashmir.

The source said that Lone has decided to contest from all six assembly segments of Kupwara district - Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara and Langate- whenever the elections are held.

Lone's joining of mainstream politics will be the second major exodus of any Hurriyat leader after his brother Sajad Lone bid farewell to the separatist politics.

His joining politics will be the main challenge for his brother Sajjad Lone as it will divide the votes of the PC.

However, Lone denied joining mainstream politics but told Excelsior that since he is in politics, he is doing some political activities.

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**WEATHER**

JAMMU: Mainly dry

TEMPERATURE: Max: 29.6 Degree C, Min: 13.4 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY: RH-I (Morning): 73.0 per cent, RH-II (Evening): 59.0 per cent

Sunset on Wednesday: 05:48 pm, Sunrise on Thursday: 06:45 a.m.

SRINAGAR: Mainly dry

TEMPERATURE: Max: 21.4 Degree C, Min: 4.8 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY: RH-I (Morning): 90.0 per cent, RH-II (Evening): 56.0 per cent

LEH: TEMPERATURE: Max: 12.4 Degree C, Min: -2.6 Degree C

**CINEMA**

INDIRA AUDI- 1. BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) 9:45 AM, 12:35 PM, 3:25 PM, 6:15 PM, 9:10 PM.

INDIRA AUDI- 2. VIKRAM VEDHA (UA) - 10:00 AM, 1:05 PM, GOODBYE (UA) 4:10 PM, VIKRAM VEDHA (UA) 7:15 PM, GOODBYE (UA) 10:20 PM.

INDIRA AUDI- 3. 1. BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 10:45 AM, 2. GOODBYE (UA) - 1:35 PM, 3. GOD FATHER (UA) HINDI - 04:35 PM, 4. BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 07:35 PM, 5. GOD FATHER (UA) HINDI - 10:30 PM.

APSARA AUDI- 1. RAM SETU - 09:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 2. THANK GOD - 03:45 PM, 3. RAM SETU - 06:45 PM, 4. THANK GOD - 09:30 PM.

APSARA AUDI- 2 - 1. THANK GOD - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 2. RAM SETU - 03:30 PM, 3. THANK GOD - 06:30 PM, 4. RAM SETU - 09:00 PM.

HARI THEATRE: MISTER MAJUNO - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM.

PVR KC AUDI 1- 1. BLACK ADAM (HINDI) 10:00 AM, 2. DOCTOR G (HINDI)- 12:50 PM, 3. BLACK ADAM (HINDI)- 3:40 PM, 4. DOCTOR G (HINDI)- 06:30 PM, 5. KANTARA (HINDI) 09:20 PM.

PVR KC AUDI 2- 1. BABE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI)- 10:30 AM, 2. BLACK ADAM (ENGLISH)- 01:30 PM, 3. KANTARA (HINDI) 04:20 PM, 4. BLACK ADAM (ENGLISH) 07:30 PM, 5. BLACK ADAM (HINDI) 10:20 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: RAM SETU (UA) - 09:00 AM, 2. THANK GOD (UA) - 12:05 PM, 3. RAM SETU (UA) - 02:30 PM, 4. THANK GOD (UA) - 05:30 PM, 5. RAM SETU (UA) - 8:00 PM, 6. THANK GOD (UA) - 11:00 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: 1. THANK GOD (UA) - 09:15 AM, 2. RAM SETU (UA) - 11:45 AM, 3. THANK GOD (UA) - 02:45 PM, 4. RAM SETU (UA) - 5:15 PM, 5. THANK GOD (UA) - 08:15 PM, 6. RAM SETU (UA) - 10:45 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3 - 1. BLACK ADAM - HINDI (UA) - 09:45 AM, 2. HONEYMOON - PUNJABI (U) - 12:15 PM, 3. RAM SETU (UA) - 3:00 PM, 4. HONEYMOON - PUNJABI (U) - 5:40 PM, 5. BLACK ADAM - HINDI (UA) - 08:30 PM, 6. HONEYMOON - PUNJABI (U) - 10:55 PM.

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Artistes present a cultural show in Srinagar on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Shakeel

Govt working to preserve, revive culture, folk traditions: LG

coming generations; preservation of folklore, UT writers camp, national theatre festivals, inter-state cultural exchange programmes, international visits and cultural events in far flung areas will strengthen our traditional cultural richness," the Lt Governor informed.

"Our artistes are reflection of social values, social progress and the administration is fully committed to their welfare," he said.

"We are aware of the difficulties being faced by many such senior artistes, writers who are not active today due to ill health and the hardships of the families of those artistes who are not with us anymore. The Government will ensure such artistes, writers or their dependents are provided with financial assistance," the Lt Governor informed.

Appreciating the role of voluntary organizations and institutions for the promotion of literature, folk art, music, he informed that the scheme of financial assistance for the registered societies related to various arts has also been approved.

Sinha also highlighted the efforts being made to document and preserve folk treasure of songs and tales.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the artistes for their excellent contribution in preserving and promoting the local art, culture and folk traditions.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board in her address lauded the contribution of the artistes who are the face of culture and values of J&K and the country. She said that the LG-led UT administration has provided a new lifeline to the field of art and culture in J&K.

Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Chairman, All J&K Folk Artists Association expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for providing continuous support to art, culture and artistes of J&K. He said the renewed energy being filled in the field of art and culture of Jammu Kashmir has brought prosperity in the life of all artistes across the UT.

On the occasion performances of different folk music and dance were presented by the artistes from across the UT.

Mustaque Ali Ahmad Khan, Cultural Activist delivered the vote of thanks.

Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Mohammad Majaz, DC Srinagar; Bharat Singh Nanhas, Secretary, JKAACL, besides prominent personalities from the field of art, folk and culture attended the inaugural ceremony at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

Ladakh Admn to process DRWs' cases

NEW DELHI, Oct 25: #WhatsAppDown," one user tweeted.

Twitter users had a field day as they took a dig at WhatsApp. "People coming to Twitter to see if WhatsApp is down," a user tweeted.

WhatsApp is extremely popular outside of the US, where many people use it for everyday communication.

"How are we going to communicate since Whatsapp is down? Professor: and that's where Twitter comes in," a user tweeted.

According to Downdetector, WhatsApp faced problems since 3:17 AM EDT (12:47 pm). Users in Asia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Europe experienced the issue while sending and receiving texts and videos on WhatsApp.

This was WhatsApp's first major outage since October 5, 2021, snag that took down WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook together, affecting millions of users for several hours before services were restored.

Tuesday's outage happened ahead of a partial solar eclipse that was to begin at 2.28 pm. The two events are, however, not linked. Amid an extended period of festivities in India comprising Diwali and Bhai Dooj, users began experiencing and reporting disruption of services on the popular messaging platform on Tuesday.(PTI)

it has come to the notice that various departments have pending regularization cases of DRWs/Work Charged employees under SRO-64 which have either been cleared by the Empowered Committee of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2015, under the provisions of said SRO or had been pending before the said Committee prior to the bifurcation of the State.

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