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Can be exchanged, deposited till Sept 30 RBI to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes from circulation

MUMBAI, May 19: In a surprise move, the Reserve Bank of India today announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

Unlike the November 2016 shock demonetisation when old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes were invalidated overnight, the Rs 2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender till September 30.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), however, did not say what would be the status of 2,000 notes in private hands after September 30. Earlier, the Government had made it an

offence to hold the demonetised Rs 500 and 1,000 notes after expiry of the deposit deadlines.

Banks will exchange the Rs 2,000 notes till September 30 and people holding notes beyond the specified date will not invite legal action, sources said.

In an interview to a news channel, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said the decision is different from demonetisation of high value currency notes of 2016 and will have no impact on the economy.

When asked on what will happen to the currency notes not deposited before September 30, he said banks will have a proper system to handle it.

Former Finance Secretary S C Garg said the latest move is

aimed at reducing dependence on high denomination currency notes and promote digital payments.

Half of the Rs 2,000 denomination notes issued as part of remonetisation were already withdrawn from the system and remaining will go out of system through today's decision, Garg said.

As of March 2023, Rs 2,000 notes made up for almost 11 per cent of currency in circulation.

In a statement, the RBI said it has asked banks to stop issuing Rs 2,000 notes with immediate effect.

While the RBI did not specify a limit for depositing the Rs 2,000 currency notes in bank

Highly incriminating material seized ED Srinagar raids 12 locations of Patel, associates in Gujarat

JAMMU, May 19: The Enforcement Directorate, Srinagar Zonal Office, today carried out searches at 12 locations in Gujarat in connection with ongoing investigations against conman Kiranbhai Jagdishbhai Patel alias Kiran Patel and his associates, who had impersonated as Additional Director PMO (Strategies and Campaigns) in Kashmir.

The searches were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at 12 locations in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Morbi and Mehana of Gujarat at the premises of Kiran Patel and associ-

ates.

His associates include Jay Savjibhai Sitapara, Hardik Kishorebhai Chandrana, Vitthalbhai Motibhai Patel, Amit Pandya and Piyush Kantibhai Vasita.

Kiran Patel, with criminal intention and by employing high degree of forged means, impersonated himself as a senior Government official serving in PMO as "Dr. Kiran Patel, Additional Director, PMO (Strategies & Campaigns)".

He resorted to cheating, forgery and impersonation and duped gullible people under a well-knit plan for securing monetary as well as material benefits.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR No.

Info sought by MHA given, order likely soon Centre to amend Rules for grant of Custodian land rights to WP refugees

JAMMU, May 19: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is likely to amend the Rules for grant of nearly 23,000 kanals of Custodian Department land to the West Pakistani refugees as the rules so far don't permit conferment of ownership rights on this land.

"Formalities in this regard are being completed by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Union Home Ministry as both are determined to confer ownership rights of land in possession of the West Pakistani refugees for last over seven decades now since their migration from across the border after independ-

ence," official sources told the Excelsior.

Few days back, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had made all important announcement that the West Pakistani refugees will be given ownership rights of the land in their possession for past many decades. The announcement had come as a major relief for the West Pakistani refugees.

Prior to this, Excelsior had exclusively reported that the Government planned to give ownership rights of land to the West Pakistani refugees who were discriminated a lot by the successive Governments till

Narendra-Modi led BJP Government abrogated special status of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State and brought them at par with other citizens.

"An exhaustive exercise has been carried out by the Jammu and Kashmir Government on land in possession of the West Pakistani refugees. It surfaced during the exercise that nearly 24,000 kanals of State land and around 23,000 kanals Custodian land was in possession of the West Pakistani refugees," sources said.

They added that the land was

HC stays Div Com notification for elections to GPB in Jammu division

JAMMU, May 19: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has stayed the notification issued by Divisional Commissioner Jammu for the conduct of elections to Gurdwara Parbandhak Board (GPB) in Jammu division only.

The stay has been granted by Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal in an application filed by Satinder Singh, who has already preferred a writ petition, which is pending adjudication, challenging the process of conduct of the elections to the Gurdwara Parbandhak Board Jammu and Kashmir issued in terms of Notification No. 301/SGPB/Election/2023/2477-80 dated 28.01.2023 in which, notice has been issued to the non-applicants and the objections have already been filed.

SMVDU, SKUAST-J get new VCs

JAMMU, May 19: Lt Governor Manoj Sinha today ordered appointment of new Vice-Chancellors of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Jammu.

Prof Pragati Kumar, Professor at Delhi Technological University, New Delhi and Dr Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi, have been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU and SKUAST-Jammu, respectively.

Two separate orders in this regard were issued today by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is Chancellor of both the universities.

As per the order, the appointments have been made for a period of three years or until attaining the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, with effect from the date of taking over charge as the Vice-Chancellor.

32 PDD AEEs transferred

JAMMU, May 19: The Government today ordered transfers and postings of 32 Incharge (I/c) Assistant Executive Engineers (Electrical) of the Power Development Department (PDD) with immediate effect.

Vivek Gupta (SD Ramgarh, JPDCL) has been transferred and posted to IT&C Division Jammu (JPDCL) vice Vaneet Gupta, Manoj Kumar Manhas (Projects Wing Jammu, JPDCL) has been transferred to Sub Division Samba (JPDCL) vice Anupam Dutt, Sanjeev Kumar Verma (SD Kathua, JPDCL) to TLM-D-IV SD-II JKPTCL vice Sunil Kumar and Abdul Mateen Sherwani (Electrical Central Store Division Pampore, KPDC) to J&K Police Housing Corporation vice Ajaz-ul-Rehman.

Attar Pal Singh (STD-IV Kalakote) has been transferred to TLM-D-V JKPTCL vice Ashok Kumar Dubey, Faquir Din (Sub

NTA to create temporary exam centres in Kashmir CUET -UG rescheduled for candidates from J&K, deferred to May 26 onwards

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, May 19: Following intervention of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, the National Testing Agency (NTA) today deferred the scheduled Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) to May 26 onwards in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that candidates do not have to appear in the examination centres outside the Union Territory.

"Being sensitive to the needs of candidates and to facilitate the students of Jammu and Kashmir, the NTA is exploring the possibility of creating temporary centres in Kashmir. In view of the above, it has been decided that the CUET (UG) - 2023 will now be conducted from May 26, 2023 onwards in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir," read the statement, issued by Dr Sadhana

Parashar, Senior Director (Exams) of the NTA.

According to the NTA, there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of registered candidates from Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory this year, which is 87,309.

"...It has been decided that

***Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

the CUET (UG) - 2023 examination scheduled for 21 to 25 May 2023 is cancelled in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir," the NTA stated.

Earlier, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had a telephonic conversation with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today and discussed the issue of CUET aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir who have been allotted examination centres

outside the Union Territory. The Union Education Minister assured that the issue would be addressed on priority.

Manoj Sinha personally took up the matter as the National Testing Agency did not respond to the earlier communication of the J&K Higher Education Department, forwarded yesterday by Director College, Prof Yasmeen Ashai explaining the difficulties being faced by the J&K students because of allotment of exam centres outside the UT.

An hour before rescheduling the CUET for the candidates of J&K, the NTA stated that it was exploring the possibility of setting up temporary exam centres in Jammu and Kashmir to accommodate candidates who have been allotted the centres outside the Union Territory.

The NTA said that though all

'India wants normal, neighborly relations' Pak has to create environment free from terror, hostilities: PM

NEW DELHI, May 19: India is fully prepared and committed to protecting its sovereignty and dignity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today and asserted that the future development of the India-China relationship can only be based on mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests.

Responding to questions

over the India-China standoff in eastern Ladakh, Modi in an interview with the Japanese publication Nikkei Asia, also emphasised that peace and tranquility on the border are essential for normal bilateral ties among the neighbours.

"India is fully prepared and committed to protect its sovereignty and dignity," the Prime Minister said while stressing his country's respect for sovereignty, the rule of law and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

He also made it clear that "the future development of the India-China relationship can only be based on mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual

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