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HAPPY BIRTHDAY




Bhoomika

DOB:-

17th Jan

JKPS Panjtirthi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Reyansh Gandotra

Class:- UKG

DOB:- 17th Jan

JKPS Panjtirthi

NOTICE

I, Ameesh Chadha S/o Inder Parkash Chadha R/o 127 Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu have purchased a vehicle (Swift Car) bearing Regd. No. JK21-6286 from Prabsimran Singh S/o Ragbir Singh R/o H.No 235 W.No 2 Tehsil Haveli District Poonch. Now I am applying for transfer of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days.

NOTICE

I, Ravinder Kumar Sharma S/o Faquir Chand R/o Bharakh, Pouni, Reasi have purchased a vehicle bearing Regd. No. JK20A-0565 from Mohd Basim S/o Allah Rakha R/o Bhabbar Rasyalan. Now I am applying for transfer of the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to ARTO Reasi within 7 days.

New-interim body framed for Kashmir Press Club

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: With Kashmir Press Club lying defunct for last six months when tenure of previously elected body ended, a new interim body was elected on Saturday with veteran journalist M Salim Pandit as President.

The three-member body also includes journalists Zufigar Majid as General Secretary and Arshad Rasool as Treasurer, till formal elections are held in a free and fair manner. The other details mentioned in the take-over document as duly signed at Kashmir Press Club vide No: KPC/002/2022 dated: 15-01-2022, reads, "It is an open fact that Kashmir Press Club at Poloview

Srinagar founded in 2018 with immense efforts of Kashmir based journalists, who unanimously handed over the responsibilities of Club to veteran journalist M Saleem Pandit, as the founding President.

With passage of time, however, Kashmir-based journalists held elections of its executive body on July 15, 2019. The elected body served its tenure for a period of two years, which ended on July 14, 2021.

As previous committee delayed elections for unknown reasons, the Club was headless for around six months, putting media fraternity to unwanted trouble. Now, therefore on January 15, 2022 various journalist organisations

across Kashmir valley unanimously decided to form an interim body of three members with M Saleem Pandit (Times of India) as President, Zulfikar Majid (Bureau Chief of Deccan Herald) as General Secretary and Arshid Rasool (Editor Daily Gadyal) as Treasurer of Club till elections are held in free & fair manner.

The interim body besides running day-to-day affairs of Club, will also be authorized to form a required executive body which will help KPC to flourish and grow into a modern Press Club." Speaking on the occasion, the newly nominated body has pledged to ensure welfare of journalists as its top priority.

Mission Youth initiative enables many Kishtwar youth to earn livelihood with dignity

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KISHTWAR: Flagship Mission Youth initiative of Jammu and Kashmir Government has enabled many Kishtwar youth to earn their livelihood with dignity.

To facilitate the youth to secure a sustainable livelihood in the transport sector, the J&K Government has started a customized Livelihood Generation Scheme 'MUMKIN' under which the interested youth are provided financial assistance for purchase of small commercial vehicles.

The 'Mumkin' is a livelihood programme designed primarily for unemployed young people in the age bracket of 18 to 35. Under the 'Mumkin' scheme, small commercial vehicles are being provided to the youth with the banking partner extending the loan facility to

the extent of 100 percent of the on-road price of the vehicle to be purchased, while "Mission Youth, J&K provides an amount of Rs 80,000 or 10 percent of the on-road price of the vehicle (whichever is lesser) as upfront subsidy and the vehicle manufacturers (scheme partner of government) provide an upfront special discount, not less than the amount of subsidy.

Under this scheme district Administration Kishtwar, headed by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Ashok Sharma, has provided vehicles to scores of unemployed youth.

"AD DE&CC Kishtwar has received around 300 applications till date, and about 100 cases have been approved by DLIC under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar and 41 eligible youth have been

handed over the light commercial motor vehicles".

It has been fruitful on the ground level, as a number of unemployed youths of Kishtwar have been benefited, said the AD DE&CC Kishtwar.

Bhanu Badyal of Wassar Kishtwar considers him very lucky to have secured his livelihood out of this Scheme. Sharing his ordeals Bhanu Badyal said that he was a final year student when the corona crisis shattered his hopes of a bright future by shifting his family's burden on his shoulders.

He belongs to a family with no bread earner and aspired to shoulder this responsibility after his graduation. "But due to the corona pandemic my education was affected and I found my career on the downside with the economic crisis hitting my family badly" said Banu.

To his good luck, one day he got information about the MUMKIN scheme through the District Administration's social media facebook page and also through some local whatsapp group.

"Losing no time I rushed to the District Employment and Counseling Centre at DC Office Complex Kishtwar where I got full information about the scheme. The officials asked me to apply for registration that I did readily" narrated Banu. Few weeks later, after the DLIC approved his case, he was called to take home Big Bolero Pick up for which he had applied under the Scheme.

"I did not pay even a single penny from my pocket, because under the scheme the vehicle was fully financed by the Bank, that too with 20% discount on road price" he said blissfully. "The earn-

ings have added to my dignity in the family and society, only the MUMKIN scheme has made it possible," said Bhanu Badyal.

There are many other youth including women and girls of the age of 18-35 who have been benefited by Tejaswani and Mumkin schemes in the district under the patronage of Mission Youth. After losing hope to get a government job, Nazir Ahmed Lone got information about the Mumkin schemes from his friend. In no time after he registered himself on the Mumkin portal and completed other formalities, he got his own small commercial vehicle and now he is earning his daily livelihood happily.

He says that Kishtwar district being a hub of the Hydro electric power Projects has a huge potential in the transport sector.

Army provides computers to Govt schools

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAJOURI: Army has been committed towards providing better educational facilities in schools across J&K, as it is a firmly believes that investing in the education of the youth is ensuring a brighter future for the Nation. Giving a boost to the standard of computer education, two computers each were provided to Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Sasalkote, Govt High School, Kallar and Govt High School, Doongi of Rajouri District, as part of

ongoing Sadbhavana projects.

Through these projects executed under the Op Sadbhavana, Indian Army is making earnest endeavors to supplement the efforts of the civil administration and meet the aspirations of the local populace. This initiative of Indian Army was a noble step towards ensuring quality education opportunities for students of border areas, thereby enabling them to scale greater heights of educational qualifications and contribute positively to

the society. The Officer present during the event also interacted with the students and motivated them to work hard for ensuring a bright future for themselves. He assured students that the Indian Army was determined to improve education standards of students in remote villages and would continue to support them in future also. The event was appreciated by all students, teachers and parents who expressed their sincere gratitude for the initiative taken to address their needs.

Over 1.47 lakh children lost parents due to COVID, other reasons since April 2020: NCPCR to SC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has informed the Supreme Court that a total of 1,47,492 children since April 1, 2020, have lost either their mother or father or both parents due to COVID-19 and other reasons.

Giving the details in a suo motu matter on children in need of care and protection due to loss of parents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCPCR said its figures are based on data uploaded by states and Union Territories on its 'Baal Swaraj Portal-COVID care' up to January 11. That it is most humbly reiterated that the data of children uploaded on the 'Baal Swaraj Portal-COVID care' by the States/UTs comprises of both categories of children, wherein the child has lost both or either of the parent to COVID-19 disease or otherwise from April 2020 onwards, the affidavit filed through advocate Swarupama Chaturvedi said. The Commission said the data

uploaded up to January 11 showed the status of children in need of care and protection included orphans (10,094), lost either parent (1,36,910) and abandoned (488) taking the total to 1,47,492.

In the gender-wise break-up, the commission said, out of the 1,47,492 children, there are 76,508 boys, 70,980 girls and four transgender.

It said that the maximum number of children are between the age group of eight to 13 years (59,010), followed by children in the age group of 14 to 15 years (22,763) and age group of 16 to 18 years (22,626) and four to seven years (26,080).

The Commission also gave the current status of shelter of children and said that maximum of the children are with their single parent -1,25,205, while 11,272 children are with family members, followed by 8,450 with guardians.

It said that 1,529 kids are in children's homes, 19 in open shelter homes, two in observation homes, 188 in orphanages, 66 in special adoption

agencies and 39 in hostels.

Giving the state-wise details of children who lost either their mother or father or both parents to COVID and other reasons since April 2020, the Commission said that the maximum number of such children are from Odisha (24,405), followed by Maharashtra (19,623), Gujarat (14,770), Tamil Nadu (11,014), Uttar Pradesh (9,247), Andhra Pradesh (8,760), Madhya Pradesh (7,340), West Bengal (6,835) Delhi (6,629) and Rajasthan (6,827).

The Commission said that it is taking steps to ensure that children should not be or are less adversely affected in the pandemic.

In this context, NCPCR has been conducting virtual meetings with state commissions for protection of child rights of each States/UTs to know the updated status of preparedness in the event of a third wave of COVID pandemic, if at all such a wave comes, it said. The Commission informed the top court that it

has been conducting zone-wise meetings with SCPCR's of each state/UT and a virtual meeting with North-East states is scheduled to be held on January 19.

The discussions with the SCPCR's are being done to take an updated status of health care facilities, institutions for Children-schools/residential educational institutions, child care institutions, children in street situations and status of implementation of court's order, it said.

Indian Army Day celebrated

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
DODA: Indian Army celebrated 74th Army Day at Gundna in District Doda to salute the valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and its citizens. Indian Army addressed the youth and screened a motivational movie to showcase the capabilities and achievements of the Indian Army.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The countrywide vaccination drive against COVID-19 on Sunday completed one year, during which over 156.76 crore vaccine doses were administered.

According to health ministry officials, over 93 per cent of the adult population have received at least one dose while over 69.8 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

A commemorative postage stamp on indigenously developed vaccine Covaxin was released to mark one year of the inoculation drive.

Earlier in the day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a tweet, said that India crossed the landmark milestone of administering 10 crore vaccine doses on April 1 last year.

As many as 25 crore vaccine doses were administered on June 25, crossed 50 crore COVID-19 vaccine dose on August 6 and

75 crore on September 13, he said.

"As a result of the country's solidarity and Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's commitment during the Corona crisis that the country not only manufactured a vaccine but also inoculated a large part of the population in a very short time. This one year of vaccination campaign shows India's resolve," Mandaviya said in another tweet.

The drive was rolled out on January 16 last year with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase. Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified comorbid conditions.

Vaccination of all people aged over 45 from April 1. The government then decided to expand the

ambit of the inoculation drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1. The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from January 3 this year for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years.

India started administering the precaution dose of Covid vaccine to healthcare and frontline workers, which include polling personnel deployed in the five poll-bound states, and comorbid people aged 60 and above from January 10 in a bid to stymie the coronavirus spread driven by its Omicron variant.

The health ministry has claimed that India's vaccination programme has been one of the most successful and largest inoculation programmes when compared to many developed western nations with a significantly low population base to vaccinate. In the vaccination drive, the country has achieved several milestones, which have

no precedent in the world, including administering over 100 crore doses in less than nine months, administering 2.51 crore doses in a single day and several times administering one crore doses in a day, it said.

Covid vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 100-crore mark on October 21 last year. The cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 150-crore mark on January 7.

With the administration of more than 66 lakh vaccine doses in a day, India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 156.76 crore, according to provisional reports till 7 am on Sunday.

More than 43.19 lakh precaution doses of the vaccine have been administered. Also, 3,38,50,912 first doses have been given to beneficiaries in the 15-18 years age group.

Amit Shah compliments Modi, citizens for successful completion of 1 yr of COVID vaccination

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday complimented Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the successful completion of one year of India's Covid vaccination drive and said the country has set an example for the world how the government and the people together can conquer impossible challenges.

The countrywide vaccination drive against COVID-19 on Sunday completed one year, during which over

156.76 crore vaccine doses were administered.

Shah also congratulated the scientists, health workers, Covid warriors and the people of the country for this endeavour.

"With the efficient leadership, determination and constant efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, India has set an example in the world that if the government and citizens unite in the interest of the nation and set a common goal, then the country can over-

come the impossible and conquer every challenge," he tweeted in Hindi with a hashtag one year of vaccine drive.

"I congratulate the talented scientists, health workers, all corona warriors and citizens on the successful completion of one year of the world's largest free vaccination campaign in the fight against Covid under the strong and inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," Shah said in another tweet.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: India's overall macroeconomic situation is in a recovery mode but the growth is concentrated at the top end, which is a worrying trend, according to former World Bank Chief Economist Kaushik Basu.

Amid the rising inflationary trends, including the sharp increase in retail inflation last month, Basu, who has also served as Chief Economic Advisor to the Indian government during the UPA rule, said the country is facing stagflation and "very carefully curated policy interventions" are required to address the situation.

Currently, Basu is a professor of Economics at the Cornell University in the United States.

While the aggregate economy is growing, "the bottom half of India" is in recession, he said and noted that it was sad the country's policy over the last few years has been largely focused on big businesses.

"India's overall macroeconomic situation is in recovery mode... The worry stems from the fact that this growth is concentrated at the top end," Basu told PTI in an interview.

He also said the youth unemployment rate in the country touched 23 per cent, among the highest globally, even before the COVID-19 pandemic started. Workers, farmers and small businesses are seeing negative growth, he added.

While India's GDP is estimated to grow 9.2 per cent in 2021-22, Basu said since this comes after a contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2019-20 due to the pandemic, the average growth rate over the last two years is 0.6 per cent per annum.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) in its first advance estimate has projected a GDP growth of 9.2 per cent in April 2021 to March 2022 fiscal year while the Reserve Bank of India has forecast 9.5 per cent expansion during the same period.

The World Bank has been the most conservative projecting 8.3 per cent growth while Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has pegged GDP expansion at 9.7 per cent.

On whether the government should be going for fiscal consolidation or continue with stimulus measures in the upcoming Budget, Basu said the current situation in India is a

big challenge to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the entire fiscal policy apparatus.

The Indian economy is facing stagflation, which is much more painful and requires very carefully curated policy interventions, he said, adding that 15 years ago, inflation was even higher, close to 10 per cent, but there was one big difference.

"At that time, India's real growth was close to 9 per cent... so, even with the inflation, the average household was becoming better off per capita by 7 or 8 per cent," he pointed out.

According to Basu, what makes the current situation so grim is that the near 5 per cent inflation is occurring over a fall in real per capita income over the last two years.

"Since this is a stagflation situation, the big task is to create jobs and help small business... the task now is to create jobs while at the same time increasing output," he observed.

Retail inflation rose to 5.59 per cent in December 2021, mainly due to an uptick in food prices, while the wholesale price-based inflation bucked the 4-month rising trend and eased to 13.56 per cent last

month, as per latest official data. Stagflation is defined as a situation with persistent high inflation combined with high unemployment and stagnant demand in a country's economy.

While the standard Keynesian policy of making workers do any work, even unproductive, and paying them, works in boosting the economy during deflation, Basu said it is a mistake to do this during stagflation.

"For this reason, the ongoing work on the Central Vista project in the middle of a pandemic and with so much economic suffering, with the enormous expenditure -- by some estimates this will cost the government around USD 2 billion -- is an embarrassment," he said. It does not enhance productivity.

Basu suggested that the aim should be to direct money into the hands of the poor and even some of the middle classes but it needs to be ensured that there is a simultaneous increase in output, strengthening of infrastructure, and easing of supply bottlenecks.

"I know India's finance Ministry has enough expertise to design these changes but I do not know

if it has the political space to do them," he opined.

Asked about the impact of 'taper tantrum' or withdrawal of monetary stimulus by the US Federal Reserve on India, Basu said he does not think the US Fed policy will be that worrying for India because "we have enough foreign exchange reserves now to be able to weather this".

On cryptocurrencies, Basu said he believes what India is doing on cryptocurrencies is right.

"I have no doubt that ultimately -- and in the not too distant a future -- the whole world will stop using paper currency," he said, adding that blockchain technology will be used even by central banks and cryptocurrency will become widespread.

"This is a complex subject and to do this hastily, with politicians doing the design, would be a mistake. I am glad the government is showing awareness of this," he noted.

India is planning to bring a bill in Parliament to deal with the challenges posed by unregulated cryptocurrencies.

Currently, there are no particular regulations or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country.



Army officials posing for a photograph with people during a programme.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NOWSHERA: A lecture and awareness drive on the theme "Know Your Army" was conducted for students, teachers and local populace at Panchyat Ghar, Bajnowa Nowshera.

The day long programme under "Know Your Indian Army" initiative was specifically organised to spread

awareness amongst students and locals about routine functioning of the Indian Army. During the drive they were shown various equipment followed by a motivational movie and a presentation on various entry schemes available for joining the Indian Army. The people populace and students appreciated the effort of the Indian Army towards con-

ducting such an interaction and motivating the fertile minds of the youth towards treadng the path of professionalism and patriotism.

This endeavor by the Indian Army served as a genuine effort towards exhorting the youth to strive for a better future and become an active element of the Nation's mainstream.