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Country correcting mistakes ...

lumens 4K projector. An invisible, high gain, 90 percent transparent holographic screen has been erected in such a way that it is not visible to visitors. The size of the hologram statue is 28 feet in height and 6 feet in width.

Pregnant women, employees...

to 25, while banquet halls in all the districts are permitted to allow gathering up to 25 vaccinated persons (with verifiable RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen Tests not older than 72 hours) or 25 per cent of the authorised capacity (whichever is less), preferably in open spaces.

Cinema halls, theatres, multiplexes, restaurants, clubs, gyms and swimming pools are permitted to function at 25 per cent of the authorised capacity with due precautions such as CAB and adherence to SOP, the order said.

As regards the education institutions, it said all colleges, schools, polytechnics, ITIs and coaching centres would continue to adopt online medium of teaching.

The night curfew would continue to remain in force in all districts from 9 pm to 6 am with complete restriction on non-essential movement, the order said, adding there shall also be complete restriction on non-essential movement in the entire Union Territory from every Friday 2 pm to Monday 6 am.

All Deputy Commissioners shall intensify testing and ensure full utilisation of available RT-PCR and RAT capacities, besides all districts shall intensify efforts to ensure timely administering of the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.

The SEC said the asymptomatic incoming passengers to J&K, carrying a valid and verifiable final certificate report of COVID-19 vaccination or valid RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen report taken within 72 hours, shall not be required to undergo RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test on arrival.

The RT-PCR would, however, be conducted on symptomatic incoming passengers by air, rail and road to Jammu and Kashmir, the order said.

It said the inter-state movement of passenger transport of State Road Transport Corporation and stage contract private passenger buses would be permitted for fully vaccinated persons or persons with verifiable RT-PCR not older than 72 hours or based on Rapid Antigen Test on spot with strict compliance of CAB.

The SEC said the entry into parks would continue to be permitted to vaccinated persons only with due verification.

Sinha calls for...

moral responsibility to bring change in the social perception, increase awareness on the importance of girls' education, and their health and nutrition, the Lt Governor said. The efforts put in by all those working towards empowering the girl child are commendable, the Lt Governor added.

The National Girl Child Day is being observed on January 24 with an objective to generate awareness about the rights of girl child and spread the message on the importance of girl education, health and nutrition.

6,253 new coronavirus...

treatment, taking the number of recovered cases in Ladakh to 22,999. There are 1,275 active cases in the UT. Of them, 1056 are under treatment in Leh and 219 in Kargil, the officials said.

They said the positivity rate was 3.9 per cent.

Sher-e-Poonch Ex-MLC...

The entire leadership, rank and file of the Congress Party pays humble tributes to the deceased leader and prays for peace to the departed soul, said an official handout.

Prominent those who condoled his demise include Working president Raman Bhatta, Vice President Mula Ram, Th Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, T S Bajwa, Manmohan Singh, Ved Mahajan, Th Shiv Dev Singh, Rajnish Sharma, Th Hari Singh Chib, Th Balbir Singh, Vinod Sharma, Gurdarshan Singh, Rajinder Singh, Amolak Singh, Maheshwar Singh, Udey Bhanu Chib, Pawan Raina, Pankaj Dogra, Sahil Sharma and Hussain Buffa.

Senior Congress leaders of Rajouri Poonch also condoled his demise and termed him as a fearless voice & towering personality of the border belt of Rajouri Poonch.

Those who issued the statement include Ravinder Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Jahngir Hussain Mir, Ch Zaffarullah, Sain Abdul Rashid, Shakeel Mir, Qayoom Mir, Masood Chaudhary, Iftikhar Ahmed, Nisar Ahmed, Sushil

Sharma, Sajad Tariq, Rajesh Bittu, Zahid S Malik, Parveen Sarwar, Ch Aiyaz, Lalit Mahajan, Ashok Kumar, khusheed Mir, Lovely Gupta, Sanjeev Mangoo, Pushpinder Gupta, Sdr Isher Singh, Vijay Bakshi, K D Sudan, Som Raj Khajuria, and several others.

Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Yashpal Sharma, former MLC from Poonch, saying his passing away has left a vacuum in the public life.

"While Jammu and Kashmir has lost a seasoned, public spirited and dedicated politician, Poonch has lost its loved, respected and broad hearted leader who kept public service above everything", Rana said and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

In his message, Rana said Yashpal Sharma was a very noble and humble man of the masses, whose death is a great loss to Jammu and Kashmir. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved members of family and his vast base of well wishers to bear this irreparable loss.

Ex MLC Yashpal Sharma was a leader of common masses and fondly known as Sher E Poonch. He was a stalwart leader and always remained involved in humanitarian activities.

General Secretary, Bar Association Poonch Advocate Bhanu Partap said that Yashpal Sharma was a true statesman, a bold and fearless leader.

He said that tomorrow the Bar Association Poonch Shall hold condolence meeting and refrain from Court work in solidarity with the bereaved Sharma family. Others who were present SSP Poonch, ADC Poonch, Ex MLC Pardeep Sharma, Rydham Singh State Youth Voice President JKPC, Ex MLA Shah Mohd Tantary, Sunil Gupta, Er Mohd Rafiq Chisti, Shamim Ghani, Shamim Dar, Bopar Mandal President, Gurdeep Singh Khalsa, Parmjeet Singh Minto, Advocate Mahroof Khan, Rafiq Chisti, District President NC Bagh Hussain Rathore, Sanjeev Sharma, Nitan Sharma and Bashir Khaki.

An emergent meeting of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) was held under the leadership of Chowdhary Hamid, vice president of the party to condole the untimely and sudden demise of veteran party leader and ex-MLC Yashpal Sharma.

While paying tributes to Yashpal Sharma, vice president of PDP Choudhary Hamid said that the party is shocked over the sudden demise of veteran leader, who was a voice of people.

Chowdhary Hamid, while paying tributes to Yashpal Sharma, said that he was the undisputed leader of Poonch and was a guide and mentor for the people.

"He dedicated his life to the people and was one of the most respectable politicians of J&K", he said.

Chowdhary Hamid said that the death of Yashpal Sharma is not an irreparable loss of the PDP also but for the whole society in general and people of Poonch in particular.

Recalling the contribution of Yashpal Sharma in the polities of Jammu and Kashmir, Hamid Chowdhary said that Sharma Ji remained associated with the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed throughout his life. He said that since the days of Janta Dal, Yashpal Sharma Ji was a close confidant of late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

A two-minute silence was also observed during the meeting and party leaders expressed sympathy with the family. Meeting prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family members to bear the irreparable losses.

Those who present in the meeting included Amrik Singh Reen, general secretary, Rashid Malik, Master Tassadiq Hussain, M R Qureshi, Sukhvinder Singh, Satpal Charak, Rajinder Manhas, Balbir Singh, Vijay Dogra, Sohit Sharma, Varinder Singh Sonu, Sunil Bhat, Kuldeep Sharma, Bhushan Lal Dogra, Chatter Saini, Ranvir Singh Manga, Harmesh Slatia and others.

Jammu Kashmir Sharnarth Action Committee (JKSAC) in a meeting held at Jammu under Gurdev Singh, President, condoled the demise of Yash Pal Sharma, Sher-e-Poonch, a former MLC and a veteran political leader of J&K.

Tarlok Singh Tara, President JKSAC District Poonch termed him as a great visionary, honest and sincere political leader of J&K.

He served the people of J&K particularly of Poonch, irrespective of caste, creed and religion to the best of his ability.

He always stood for people and fought against injustice. The people of Poonch particularly displaced community of 1947 lost a most sympathizer, dedicated and a good human being.

The participants observed two-minute silence for ultimate salvation of departed soul and prayed to almighty to grant strength to his bereaved family and people of Poonch to bear this irreparable loss.

Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Kathua Police while continuing its "War on Drugs" putting concrete efforts to eradicate the drugs menace from the society and in consequence District Police Kathua on Sunday recovered approx. 06 grams of Heroin like narcotics and arrested one person.

As per the details, on the overall directions of SSP Kathua, R.C Kotwal, a team of Police Station Kathua led by Insp. O P Chib SHO Kathua under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua Shammi Kumar during patrolling/ Naka checking duty at Chack Drab Khan near Shamshan Ghat noticed one suspicious person who was coming from Chak Drab Khan link road towards Housing Colony was directed to stop for checking.

On Physical search, approximately 06 grams of heroin(chitta) like narcotics was recovered from the possession of person namely Jasbir Singh, son of Lt. Krishan Chand, resident of Chak Drab Khan Tehsil & District Kathua. The accused was arrested and FIR No. 34/2022 under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered against him at Police Station Kathua.

Woman found hanging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENANI: A woman was found hanging in her house on Sunday at Chenani.

As per the details, Saro Devi, wife of Brij Lal, resident of Panchal was found hanging in her room by her family members who shifted her to hospital where doctors declared her as brought dead. Police has registered a case and started investigation.

Accused wanted in kidnapping & rape case nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Sunday nabbed an absconder who was wanted in kidnapping and rape case.

As per the details, acting on a tip off, Panjthirthi police raided a suspected location and nabbed the accused who has been identified as Aslam, resident of Mahore.

Suspicious car put security agencies on alert

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBALI: Alert was sounded after three suspects were spotted in a car on the Jammu Pathankot National Highway. However, when the security forces stopped the car and checked it, no suspicious person or activity was found there.

Police along with CRPF personnel have been deployed on the highway in view of security arrangements ahead of Republic Day. Barricades have been put up on the national highway and intelligence agencies are active to keep an eye on anti-national elements. The security grid has been put on high alert and security has been tightened at all important installations along the highway in the border districts of Kathua and Samba. In wake of R-Day celebrations, security forces have asked people living along border area to inform them if they saw any suspicious person or activity. Security forces are conducting search operations in the forests of Maqbal, Sambal, Fla Mandal, Nikki Tawi, Bhagwati Nagar and Raika. The SOG jawans are also putting up surprise check-points in the city and questioning the people in the vehicles and checked their identity cards.



India's economy has some bright spots, number of very dark stains: Raghuram Rajan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy has "some bright spots and a number of very dark stains."

"The bright spots are the health of large firms, the roaring business the IT and IT-enabled sectors are doing, including the emergence of unicorns in a number of areas, and the strength of some parts of the financial sector," he said.

Known for his frank views,

Rajan also said the government needs to do more to prevent a K-shaped recovery of the economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Generally, a K-shaped recovery will reflect a situation where technology and large capital firms recover at a far faster rate than small businesses and industries that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

"My greater worry about the economy is the scarring to the middle class, the small and medium sector, and our children's minds, all of which will come into play after an initial rebound due to pent up demand. One symptom of all this is weak consumption growth, especially for mass consumption goods," Rajan told PTI in an e-mail interview.

Rajan opined that Omicron is a setback, both medically and in terms of economic activity but cautioned the government on the possibility of a K-shaped economic recovery.

"We need to do more to prevent a K-shaped recovery, as well as a possible lowering of our medium term growth potential," he said.

The country's GDP is expected to grow over 9 per cent in the current financial year that ends on March 31.

The economy, which was significantly hit by the pandemic, had contracted 7.3 per cent in the last fiscal.

over the next five years coupled with the setting up of an independent fiscal council to opine on the quality of the budget would be very useful steps.

"If these moves are seen as credible, the debt markets may be willing to accept a higher temporary deficit," he said, adding that to convince markets that "we will be responsible, we should strengthen the institutional support to future fiscal consolidation."

Further, Rajan said that one way to expand budgetary resources is through asset sales, including parts of government enterprises and surplus government land.

"We need to be strategic about what we can sell, and how we can improve the economy's performance through those sales... Once we decide to sell, though, we should move fast, something we have not done so far," he opined.

Regarding the upcoming budget, Rajan said that he would be happy to see more tariff cuts and far fewer tariff increases, and far fewer sops or subsidies to specific industries.

"Particularly, (I) would welcome an independent assessment of the Production Linked Incentive schemes".

Punjab polls: Nominations to start from Jan 25

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer S Karuna Raju on Sunday said the filling of nominations for the next month's assembly polls will start on January 25 and will continue till February 1. Voting for Punjab's 113 assembly seats will be held on February 20 and the counting of votes will take place on March 10. Raju said the scrutiny of the nominations would be done on February 2 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature would be February 4, according to an official release.

The nominations for the upcoming elections would be filed in the office of respective returning officers from 11 am to 3 pm from January 25 to February 1, said Raju. The CEO said January 26 is a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and therefore, nomination papers cannot be presented to the returning officer on that day. January 30, being Sunday, is also a holiday, he said. The Model Code of Conduct came into force in the state on January 8. There are total 2,12,75,066 registered voters in the state and of them 1,00,86,514 are female, 695 third genders, 1,44,667 PWD, 1,10,163 service voters, 1,601 NRI voters and 5,13,229 aged above 80.

20 DySPs promoted...

Deputy Commandant IRP 13th Bn; Syroz Ahmad as Deputy Commandant JKAP 14th Bn; Ajiaz Ahmad as Deputy Commandant IRP 4th Bn; Chanderjit Singh as Deputy Commandant IRP 17th Bn.

Jammu-Srinagar NH...

temperature in most parts of the valley dropped, officials said. Several areas in the valley, especially in the south, received fresh snowfall during the night, the officials said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir, and the nearby Kokernag town, recorded about six inches of snowfall.

Anantnag town, also in south, recorded three inches of snowfall, the officials said.

The other south Kashmir districts of Shopian, Pulwama and Kulgam also received snowfall ranging from two to seven inches, they said.

The famous resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam received around two inches.

There are reports of snowfall in other areas in the upper reaches of the valley as well, they said. The officials said the administration has pressed men and machinery into the job to clear the snow.

Other parts of the valley, including Srinagar, were lashed by rains which were going on when the last reports came in, the officials said.

However, the flight operations at the Srinagar airport here were going on normally as the visibility was around 1000 metres, the officials said.

The minimum temperature at most places in the valley on Saturday night went down slightly. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius down from 2.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 6.0 degrees Celsius half-a-degree up from the previous night.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius up from the previous night's minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, they said.

The officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of zero degree Celsius, while the nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 0.7 degrees Celsius. The minimum in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius. The MET Office has forecast widespread light to moderate rain/snow in JK till Sunday evening.

Thereafter, there are chances of rain or snow at isolated places over two days, it said.

Afterwards, the weather is likely to stay mainly dry till the end of the month and there is no forecast of any major rain/snow till the end of January, it said.

Kashmir valley is currently under the grip of the 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on December 21 last year.

'Chilla-i-Kalan' is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive