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Offline teaching for...

February 2022 must carry a vaccination certificate with them," the order reads further. The Heads of Institutions must ensure vaccination is done of every student above 15 years of age in their respective institutions, it said.

"The vaccination adherence shall be ensured through coordination with the Department of Health and Medical Education J&K. Every school must further ensure full compliance to Covid Appropriate Behaviour and SOPs. They must also ensure screening and testing of any symptomatic students to contain any possibility of spread of the virus in their Institutions."

Regarding the offline mode of teaching for other classes in Summer Zone Schools which shall begin from February 21, the Heads of Institutions shall be responsible for adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour in their respective schools and prepare proper plans for the same, the order reads further. "Symptomatic students should not be allowed to attend school. No student should be allowed to attend School without mask." The SEC underlined that Enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) was critical in determining the need for additional restrictions.

"The District Magistrates (Chairperson, DDMA) of respective Districts of J&K shall adopt a Zero Tolerance policy towards non-compliance of CAB and shall ensure due action against defaulters under relevant sections of the Disaster Management Act, Epidemic Act and the Indian Penal Code".

The DMs, the SEC said, shall constitute inspection teams of district officers to check whether the instructions contained for enforcement of CAB are being implemented by the concerned with due responsibility.

"Further, the DMs shall constitute joint teams of Police and Executive Magistrates for intensifying enforcement of Covid Appropriate Behaviour and ensure no violator is let off," it said, adding, "The joint teams shall submit daily report regarding activities carried out by them and their assessment of compliance level."

Farooq calls for...

for women empowerment and emancipation and said this is necessary for promoting leadership roles among them.

Provincial president of the women wing Satwant Kour Dogra introduced the new office-bearers.

Congratulating them, Abdullah said due to the prevailing situation the women of Jammu and Kashmir have been the worst sufferers.

"Discrimination and depravity at the societal and domestic-level with our mothers and sisters is not unknown in this part of the world. Rising unemployment and inflation in J&K is also having a cascading effect on our promising women, he said.

"Having women in politics, it goes without saying, will attune party policies towards the needs of women and prepare them for the leadership roles to face the challenges of the present and future, he said.

"The need of the hour is to provide a platform to aspiring women and help in creating impactful voices to take on the looming challenges, he said and hoped that the functionaries would reach out to the people and help solve their problems.

J&K: 'Janbhagidari Portal'...

portal is a one-stop interactive and user-friendly website that gives detailed insights to users into the nature, status, and the number of developmental works underway in their areas.

The works could be searched by entering the name of the district, block or municipality, and village.

The portal also provides the option to users to send feedback about any work being done by the government in their areas.

It has links to schemes like MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission Urban, Swachh Bharat Mission Rural, and PMGSY, the spokesperson said.

Vote only for...

status under the revoked Article 370 of the Constitution.

The article was revoked by the Narendra Modi government on August 5, 2019, a decision which has been challenged by many parties in the Supreme court.

Whether we stand united or fight separately, you have to vote those who do not betray your vote in the assembly. I request you to take this message to every nook and corner that we have to choose among the PAGD constituents and vote for their candidates, Mehbooba said addressing a party function at Surankote in Poonch district.

She said attempts are to divide the people and the interim report of the delimitation commission was part of the process to pit Hindus versus Muslims, Muslims versus Muslims, Gujjars Vs Pahari-speaking people and one versus other.

These attempts are aimed at getting enough seats for the BJP and its people so that they can form the next government in J&K and put a stamp on the August 5, 2019 decision to weaken our case in the Supreme Court.

The talk of an election is premature as the time has not come yet but remember my words. If you do not like PDP (candidate), vote for any other candidate among the PAGD constituent and likewise if the other candidate is not of your liking, vote for the PDP candidate, she said.

You have to make a choice among them only and not vote independents or any other candidate, the former chief minister said.

She said her party or National Conference have not lost anything alone but it is the people of the entire J&K who have been deprived of their rights and they have to fight for the restoration of their snatched rights.

Mehbooba said August 5, 2019 was not just a tragedy for the people of Jammu and Kashmir but it struck them like an earthquake.

An earthquake ends within a few minutes but we are still being hit by aftershocks. They are still snatching from us on a daily basis to finish our identity, culture and traditions. They are forcibly taking away land from the people, she said.

She said the land which was under the occupation of the people for over a century is being taken away to give it to big industrialists in both Jammu and Kashmir regions and the way the government is working, the day is not far when our youths will not get a foothold to stand up.

Mehbooba also criticized the government for the dismissal of state employees on the grounds of supporting militancy and massive raids.

They are doing everything to break the backbone of the people of J&K. The unemployment is growing with each passing day and deliberate attempts are being made to make people poorer so that they are silenced and are not able to stand up, she said.

She said they want dead souls as it suits their narrative of a peaceful atmosphere in J&K which is, in fact, the silence of a graveyard.

The BJP is behaving like the East India Company and the only difference is that they are from this country. They are selling the national resources at a big loss, she said, adding people have to raise their voice in a peaceful manner as Mahatma Gandhi did against the British rule.

Referring to the delimitation commission draft proposal to merge Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu with Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in Kashmir, Mehbooba said instead of giving a separate seat to the Rajouri and Poonch districts, they merged it with Anantnag Lok Sabha seat to sow the seeds of hatred among the people of Kashmir and this region.

The PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed built Mughal Road to bring the two districts of Rajouri and Poonch closer to Shopian district of Kashmir. They want to create a wedge as both sides would like to have their own Parliament member to represent them and want us to fight each other. There is no other reason, she said.

She alleged that they have no pain for the region or Chenab valley.

They wanted to have only one face, one dress and one food. The situation could be worse than this if we do not stand up and fight their onslaught as graveyard type of silence suits them, she said.

Defending her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's decision to form the previous government with the BJP, Mehbooba said, It was done to protect Article 370, state flag and constitution under a strategy. It took Mufti three months to stitch an alliance with the BJP and the government was formed on our terms.

After Mufti's death, we functioned as per our agenda which was not of their taste as they found us an obstacle in their original plan and the rest is history, she said.

TERROR FUNDING CASE...

from a private hospital as well as those from the AIIMS, the special NIA court said Watali's bail application deserves dismissal as it has been rejected by the Supreme Court.

However, till further orders, the court said, Watali could be moved to a house from where he shall be allowed to visit hospital for his treatment or diagnostic centre for test.

"During the period of house arrest of the accused, except his immediate family members and the lawyer, nobody shall be allowed to visit the accused," the court order said.

The court said the accused is aged and his health condition is precarious and he needs to be treated immediately as well as given assistance for his daily activities, for which he needs to be outside the jail.

"But the seriousness of the offence precludes me from granting him regular bail. Thus, I find that it is a fit case for immediate removal of the accused from jail and put him in judicial custody under house arrest," the judge said.

The counsel for the accused had opposed his house arrest on the plea that his grandchildren would form an adverse opinion about him as they were not aware about him being in custody.

Understanding the anxiety expressed on behalf of the accused, the judge said, "The children will have to be confronted with the truth but the fact that taking the accused out of the jail can save his life outweighs the disadvantage of breaking the news of his custody to his grandchildren."

The NIA arrested Watali in August 2017 for his alleged links to a Jammu and Kashmir terror financing case.

The NIA said in its charge sheet that the probe was based on scientific and oral evidence, which had "conclusively established that for carrying out all these terrorist and subversive activities, the gang of the accused persons is receiving funds from Pakistani agencies through hawala conduits such as accused Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali and others and also raising funds by generating illegal profits from LoC barter trade by doing under-invoicing and cash-dealings".

Watali had been granted bail by the Delhi High Court, which was turned down by the Supreme Court, saying "ample material has been collected to show the linkages between the Hurriyat leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir and terrorists/terrorist organisations and their continuous activities to wage war against Government of India".

While cancelling the relief granted to Watali, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and

Ajay Rastogi had said in 2019 the high court "adopted an inappropriate approach" while considering his bail plea by discarding all the material and evidence placed on record before it by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

"The elaborate examination or dissection of the evidence is not required to be done at this stage (of grant of bail). The court is merely expected to record a finding on the basis of broad probabilities regarding the involvement of the accused in the commission of the stated offence or otherwise. From the analysis of the impugned judgment (of the high court), it appears to us that the high court has ventured into an area of examining the merits and demerits of the evidence," the bench had said.

LG announces launch...

subject in post-graduation in Kashmir University; development of Aharbal as offbeat iconic tourist site of J&K with better facilities, promotion and branding and involvement of local community; promoting Financial Literacy and launching special drive to facilitate delivery of financial services, respectively, the Lt Governor passed directions to the concerned departments and officials to take necessary measures on the valuable insights received from the citizens and incorporate them in their policies.

Referring to the suggestion made by Aditya Sangotra from Udhampur for creating a robust and vibrant eco-system for scouting and training of young sporting talent in the UT, the Lt Governor observed that investment in sports-related skills is one of the many ways to reap demographic dividend.

We have rolled out the historic J&K Sports policy-2022 which focuses on creating world-class infrastructure, coaching, training of sportspersons including para-athletes and players, and varied opportunities for growth in sports, added the Lt Governor.

On Prof. Geer Mohammad's suggestion on intervention programmes, preventive education and awareness generation, capacity building, treatment & rehabilitation in vulnerable districts for Nasha-Mukt J&K, the Lt Governor said that J&K Government is fully committed to strengthening the action framework and taking a firm stance against drug abuse, besides providing practical solutions to build a drug-free society.

Vidhusi and Nandini Sharma of Rajouri raised the issues of mental health and emotional well-being of students, to which the Lt Governor said that the government understands the need for providing psycho-social support to students.

The Lt Governor also mentioned about a letter from Luv Khajuria of Akhnoor suggesting various measures for JKP personnel welfare and significant steps to keep their morale high, and appreciating the government's decision to increase the ex-gratia assistance to NoKs of martyrs from J&K.

Shammi Maniyal, a young entrepreneur from Samba and Sonu Singh, a progressive farmer from Kathua, received a special mention in today's programme for emerging as a source of inspiration for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with their innovative approach. Our commitment is to ensure every citizen enjoys equal opportunity to grow, and reasonable & affordable access to basic amenities," Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also urged the people to dedicate themselves to the betterment of society. We should strengthen our faith in the goodness of mankind and inspire one and all to lead a virtuous life. Let us all take a pledge today to follow the path of equality and social harmony, and build a Jammu Kashmir where all sections of the society together contribute to shaping the future of this beautiful Union Territory, added the Lt Governor.

Active COVID cases...

on December 30 last year.

The active cases comprise 0.52 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has further improved to 98.28 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 29,552 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year.

J&K reports 151...

Positive (1030in Jammu Division and 919in Kashmir Division), 445611 have recovered and 4746 have died; 2324 in Jammu division and 2422in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 22820926 test results available, 452306 samples have tested positive and 22368620 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 67,209 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours.

Till date 6046136 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 33832 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 1949 in isolation and 445760 in home surveillance. Besides, 5559849 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Meanwhile, Ladakh's COVID caseload increased to 27,801 as 55 more people tested positive for the viral disease during the past 24 hours, officials said.

There are 398 active cases in the Union Territory, of which 325 are in Leh district and 60 in Kargil district, the officials said.

According to the officials, the COVID-19 death toll remained unchanged at 228 with 16 fatalities in Leh and 60 in Kargil.

Of the new cases, 50 were detected in Leh and five in Kargil, while 62 patients- 45 in Leh and 17 in Kargil were discharged after undergoing successful treatment, the officials said.

They said the total number of recoveries has increased to 27,175.

People realised ground reality under BJP's Government, want a change: Sawhney

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former -MLA Jammu East Yogesh Sawhney on Sunday held a Public meeting at Ustad Mohalla, Ward-9 in Jammu to listen to grievances of people under Mass Contact Programme of party. The meeting, organised by Sikander Khan, Ward President, was attended by a number of locals, who also highlighted their grievances on the occasion including infrastructural concerns like poor sewerage, old pipeline etc. Speaking on the occasion, Sawhney said that under the Mass Contact Programme of Congress, party wants to meet and listen to problems being faced by people on grass-root level and do whatever is needed in that regard. "After hearing concerns of people, I have realised that people are carrying a lot of resentment towards government because a lot of their problems have been ignored. The poor drainage and sewage system is a major health hazard and people are also worried about the attitude of the government. The quality of life is deteriorating due to the inaction of

the appropriate authorities and many issues need timely redressal. People now know reality of BJP Government and need a change," said Sawhney adding that Congress would continue to meet people and strengthen Mass Contact programme in coming days.

The locals expressed disappointment with the government for the polarising and dividing nature of their governance. They said that the government should not indulge in acts that polarise community and pose danger to peace and harmony. They said that many issues in their locality needed urgent attention and there's a lot of repair work, development work and fixing that needs to be done, which is being ignored by authorities. The people added that they would support Congress for addressing their concerns which have been ignored.

Prominent Congress leaders present in the meeting included Pradeep, Jaipal, Mohd Farooq rao, Allah Rakha Khan, Tariq Mirza, Mohd Pervez Dar, Javed Iqbal, Tariq Hussain Dar, Nazir Ahmed Mir, Mohd Yaqoob, Peer Iman Ullah Khan, Tahir Akbar Rana, Mohd Asif, Saleem Mughal, Wahid Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed Mir, Shahzab Khan, Muneer Khan, Zafar Khan, Gulzaman Khan, Abdul Aziz Rao, Raza Iqbal, Muzammil Bhat, Mehfooz Sheikh, Shahid Dar, Mujahid Dar and Saleem Sheikh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Citing the decline in COVID-19 cases, the Election Commission Sunday restored the number of star campaigners a party can field for campaigning in the ongoing polls in five states.

Now, recognised national and state parties can field a maximum of 40 star campaigners. Other parties which are registered but not recognised can now have 20 star campaigners. The Commission had in October 2020 reduced the number of star campaigners for recognised national and state parties from 40 to 30, as large gatherings were witnessed during campaigning in Bihar assembly elections and bypolls in several states amid the coronavirus

CRIME REPORT

Truck rams into house; wall, gate broken

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MIRAN SAHIB: A truck rammed into a house in village Simbal Tikri of Miran Sahib area on Sunday, however family members had a narrow escape as they were not sitting outside.

As per details, a truck (JK02AB-8157), on its way to Simbal camp, rammed into a house near Police Line Simbal Tikri, as the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a sharp curve, thereby breaking wall and gate of house. On hearing sound of collision, family members and locals gathered on the spot but driver managed to escape from the spot. Police was informed which rushed to the spot and seized the truck.

Couple booked for forcing people to conversion

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A couple was booked for forcing people for conversion in Nagbani area on Sunday.

As per details, Gulshan Kumar, Akshay Kumar and Ashwani Kumar lodged a complaint with police that a couple residing in Nagbani area namely Kamal Kumar and his wife Raj Laxmi, who have opened a Christian Prayer House in their residence and operating an NGO, are forcing people to get convert to other religion offering financial help. They further alleged that now they are threatening them for conversion.

Driver killed as truck fell into gorge