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P6 LIFE & TIMES

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SENSOR TO DETECT FATTY LIVER DISEASE

Researchers have developed a diagnostic tool, based on nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), that could be used to detect fatty liver disease ...

P4 INTERNAL ISSUE VS. EXTERNAL DISSENT

Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, became the first foreign leader to make a statement on ...



P8 NEWS

'BHARAT BANDH' FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM ON TUESDAY: BKU

'During the bandh essential services would not be curtailed and office-goers can move freely'



Wisdom Quote!

"Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can." —Hillary Clinton

news DIGEST

Hoteliers seek lease extension, vow to promote winter tourism

Re-elect Chaya as Chairman

SRINAGAR: With an eye on winter tourism, J&K Hoteliers Club has urged Lt Governor administration to extend the lease of the hoteliers at various tourist resorts.

J&KHC Chairman Mushtaq A Chaya while addressing a media here said the hoteliers are in stress due to the expiry of the lease which, administration had from time to time assured to extend.

Chaya said due to recent snowfall especially at Gulmarg, travellers have started visiting the Valley and are expected to come in large numbers in coming months.

"However, to host them properly, the government has to provide every support to the hoteliers without pushing them to the wall," said Chaya.

ACB registers case against JMC officials in graft case

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday registered a case against four officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and a restaurant owner for illegal construction here, a spokesperson of the anti-graft body said.

Searches were conducted at the houses of the accused which led to the recovery of incriminating material, he said.

The verification revealed that one Sanjeev Bhasin sought the permission for renovation of his commercial building being run as a restaurant 'Hot Billion' to the extent of existing area in ground floor (102 sqft), proposed area in ground floor (127.5 sqft), totalling 229.5 sqft and proposed 229.5 sqft area in first floor which was granted to him on July 22, 2013," he said.

During the probe, it was found that the owner had initially constructed the whole building illegally in connivance with the then officers of JMC and under the garb of new permission, he raised a huge three-storied commercial building.

Power shutdown

SRINAGAR: According to the Power Controller, Kashmir Province, in order to replace GOAB switch with new serviceable one in 33kV line at Bemina Residential Colony, shutdown of 33 kV lines shall be observed as per programme below.

During the shutdown, the power supply to Receiving Stations Bemina II, JVC and PC Depot fed from Bemina-Bemina II shall remain affected on 10 December from 10 am to 10:30 am, and power supply to Receiving Stations Rakh Arth, Narkara, Jawahar Nagar and K P Bagh fed from Bemina- K P Bagh shall remain affected on 11 December from 4:30 pm to 5 pm.

Similarly, to execute DDUGJY/IPDS/ PMDP Package-A works, shutdown of 33 kV

'Fake News Is Deadly And Needs to Be Curbed'

AASHIQ HUSSAIN ANDRABI

As a data editor and media trainer, Sanjit has over a decade experience in the digital news and data space and has conducted media trainings across Asia.

Before working as a certified trainer of FactShala which is a news and information literacy programme, he worked with some of the top news sites — handling strategic editorial positions in organisations like TheQuint, Moneycontrol, IndiaSpend, Firstpost,



FactChecker.

In a candid chat with Kashmir Observer, the fake news buster talks about the menace of misinformation and the need of strengthening the newsroom fact-checking system.

To begin with, let's talk about FactShala.

FactShala is a news and information literacy programme launched in India



by Internews in collaboration with DataLEADS with support from Google.org and the Google News Initiative.

This programme aims to educate the Indian people about media literacy and empower them to consume information critically. It's designed to help people across India — especially in states with low literacy to understand the nature and characteristics of content published online.

I'm associated with FactShala as a trainer and we have trained to empower people to consume information critically.

More On P2

We're not just fighting an epidemic; we're fighting an infodemic

JK Admin Seeking Modification Of Order on Roshni Act

High Court To Hear Petition Next Week

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday adjourned till next week the hearing on a petition filed by the administration seeking a review of its earlier order scrapping the Roshni Act in totality.

The petition filed by Special Secretary in Revenue department Nazir Ahmad Thakur on December 4 for modification of the nearly two-month-old judgment pleaded that a large number of common people would suffer unintentionally including landless cultivators and individuals who are themselves residing in dwellings on small areas.

It said there was a need to distinguish between the common people and the wealthy land grabbers among the beneficiaries, and favoured that landless labourers or those with one house in personal use be allowed to keep the allotted land.

The High Court has adjourned the case till December 16, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmad told PTI.

Ahmad is representing Prof S K Bhalla who had challenged the Roshni Act in the court, which

on October 9 finally declared the Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable" and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of the land under this law.

In its petition filed three months after the judgment amid criticism over its role in not defending the Act in the court, the government which has started releasing separate lists of beneficiaries of Roshni Act and encroachers of government land said the common people are unfortunately clubbed along with rich and wealthy land grabbers who have obtained a title over state land through the provision of now struck down Act.

There is a need to distinguish between these two classes of people; the fact of being either a landless cultivator or householder with at the most one dwelling house in personal use, would be the primary criteria for differentiating between two classes, the petition read.

The petition prayed for permission to formulate an appropriate mechanism to enable people like landless cultivators and single dwelling owners to continue to remain in possession of their land, subject to an appropriate ceiling

and on payment at appropriate rates.

It also raised apprehension that the High Court verdict may lead to an unintended roving inquiry by the CBI, which may go on endlessly without generating the results sought by the high court.

On November 1, the Union Territory administration cancelled all land transfers that took place under the JK State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 - also known as the Roshni Act - under which 2.5 lakh acres of land was to be transferred to the existing occupants.

The principal secretary and the revenue department have been asked to work out a plan to retrieve large tracts of state land vested under the Act.

According to the high court order, a total of 6,04,602 kanals (75,575 acres) of state land had been regularised and transferred to the occupants. This included 5,71,210 kanals (71,401 acres) in Jammu and 33,392 kanals (4174 acres) in the Kashmir province.

"Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department shall also work out the modalities and plan to evict encroachers from such State Land and retrieve the State land within a period of six months." Principal

4th Phase of DDC Polls

Valley Records 31.95%, Jammu 69.31%

KO Photo: Abid Bhat



AGENCIES

JAMMU: The 4th phase of DDC elections recorded voter percentage of 50.08 percent across different constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. While Kashmir reported 31.95 percent voting, 69.31 percent was recorded in Jammu division, State Election Commissioner K K Sharma said addressing a presser.

In Kashmir Division, he said Kupwara recorded voting percentage of 44.35%, Bandipora 45.22%, Baramulla 47.43%, Ganderbal 56.28%, Budgam 38.04%, Pulwama 6.70%, Shopian 1.96%, Kulgam 8.73%

and Anantnag 27.04%. Similarly, in Jammu division, Kishtwar recorded voting percentage of 70.32%, Doda 75.03%, Ramban 67.39%, Reasi 62.67%, Kathua 61.23%, Samba 71.97%, Jammu 71.80%, Rajouri 71.22% and 75.42%

The voting was conducted in 34 constituencies, 17 each from Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, for which 1910 polling stations, 781 in Jammu division and 1129 in Kashmir division were set up for the smooth conduct of elections.

Moreover, in 4th phase, 717322 electors were eligible to cast their votes including 376797 males and 340525 females. (GNS)

Country will not have to wait too long for COVID-19 vaccine: PM Modi



One thing, which I will definitely remind you is that the wait

for a vaccine is on but in the past few days, I have met scientists, and feel that the country will not have to wait too long for it," PM Modi said.

LUCKNOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the country will not have to wait too long for the coronavirus vaccine even as he cautioned people that there should be no laxity as far as prevention of the infection is concerned.

He was speaking while inaugurating the construction of the Agra Metro project via video conferencing.

Before ending his speech, the prime minister said, "One thing, which I will definitely remind you is that the wait for a vaccine is on but in the past few days, I have met scientists, and feel that the country will not have to wait too long for it."

"However, there should be no laxity from our side as far as prevention of the infection is concerned. Masks and a distance of two yards is very necessary," he said. —PTI

3 Kashmiris Among 5 Arrested In Delhi After Encounter: Police

NEW DELHI: Five people including three Kashmiris were arrested after an encounter with police in East Delhi's Shakarpur area and it is suspected that some of them might have links to militant groups, officials said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said, "We have apprehended

five persons after an exchange of fire. Weapons and other incriminating material have also been recovered from their possession."

Two of them are from Punjab and three belong to Kashmir, he said. Some of them are suspected to have links with militant groups but this is being verified, he said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Families vouch for the innocent

BUDGAM: Three families of Central Kashmir's Budgam Monday refuted the claims of Special Cell of Delhi Police that trio from Kashmir arrested by them have links with militant outfits.

Today five men, three from Kashmir and 2 from Punjab were arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police from Shakarpur area of Delhi. Police said these arrests were made after a gunfight in the area.

Three Kashmiri men who were arrested by police hail

from Central Kashmir's Budgam district. They are Reyaz Ahmed Rather and Shabir Ahmed Gojri, both residents of Nasrullah Pora and Muhammad Ayoub Pathan of Gondhpora village.

The family members of all these arrested men talked to news agency Kashmir News Trust and vouched for their innocence.

Shaista- wife of Shabir Ahmed Gojri said her husband visits the shrine of Ajmeer Sharif every

Forces Launch Search Operation After Militants Escape In Narbal

SRINAGAR: State forces launched a search operation after a militant allegedly opened fire on CRPF personnel posted at the Narbal crossing on the Srinagar-Gulmarg road here on Monday, officials said.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers at the crossing claimed that they signalled a driver of a car to stop, but he drove past and stopped after a short distance, they said.

There were militants in the car and one of them got off, fired and they escaped, according to the troopers, the officials said, adding that the matter is being probed. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation launched to track the militants, they said.

Initially, police had said that a CRPF trooper's rifle went off accidentally, but now officials said that it is being investigated as to where the shots were fired from. The firing caused panic in the area and people ran helter-skelter. While running to safety, Showkat Ahmad fell down and suffered injuries, police said. —Agencies

2 Minor Sisters From Pck Who Inadvertently Crossed LoC Repatriated

POONCH: Two minor sisters from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (Pck), who were detained after they inadvertently crossed the Line of Control (LoC) into Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, were repatriated on Monday, officials said.

Laiba Zabair (17) and her younger sister Sana Zabair (13), residents of Kahuta Tehsil in Pck, were detained on Sunday after being spotted moving into this side by Indian troops.

"Two girls of Abbaspur, Tehsil Forward Kahuta of PoK, who had inadvertently crossed into Indian side in Poonch, have been repatriated from the Chakan Da Bagh (CDB) crossing point today," a defence spokesman said.

Avalanche Warnings Issued in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh

SRINAGAR: Snowfall will start from northwest Kashmir, Pirpanjal, Gulmarg, Sonamarg Zojila Drass axis and gradually affect the entire valley, hilly areas of Jammu and some parts of Ladakh especially Kargil, Zaskar and higher reaches of Leh by Tuesday, MET office said on Monday.

Minimum temperatures continued their upward rise on Monday in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh areas as the authorities improved their preparedness to meet challenges posed by heavy snowfall

forecast in both union territories.

Avalanche warnings were issued on Monday for people living in avalanche prone higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir following an advisory by the weather office that moderate to heavy snowfall is likely in the Valley and Kargil district of Ladakh region beginning Monday afternoon.

Vehicles in Srinagar-Jammu highway have been advised to cross Nagrota from Jammu side and Khanabal from valley side before 2 p.m. so that they are

Covid-19 claims 9 more lives, J&K toll 1755



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported nine more deaths due to novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours, taking the number of those who succumbing to the virus to 1755. Among those who died include five from Jammu and four from Kashmir including a 41-year-old

man from Sangrama Soporein Baramulla district. The other victims from Valley include an 85-year-old man from Mamar Kangan Ganderbal, a 65-year-old man from Qazigund in Kulgam district and a 70-year-old man from Khanpora Baramulla.

The victims from Jammu include two from the J&K's winter capital, Jammu-2 besides one each from Udhampur, Kishtwar and Reasi.