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Govt may rechristen OSCs as OBCs, enhance their reservation

Government directs that the notification issued vide endorsement No. SWD-BCC/14/2022 shall come into force from the date as may notified by the Government and shall remain in abeyance till further orders," an order issued today by the Social Welfare Department, said.

Sources said the order granting Scheduled Tribe status to Pahari Ethnic Tribe (Pahari Kabeela), Paddari tribe and Koli & Gadda Brahman, is also expected to be issued simultaneously by the Government along with extending reservation benefits to OBCs.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government is in touch with the Union Home Ministry officials for the purpose, they added.

There has been long pending demand of the OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir that despite application of almost all Central laws in the Union Territory after abrogation of special status, they have been denied reservation though their castes have 27 percent reservation at national level as well as all other States and Union Territories.

Soon after the order adding 15 Castes in the list of OSCs was kept in abeyance, BJP UT chief Ravinder Raina spoke to Union Home Secretary AK Bhalla and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and was assured that fresh and appropriate orders will be issued shortly.

Fifteen new Castes/communities were added to the Social Castes list yesterday.

Another significant change made in Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules yesterday was replacement of words "Pahari Speaking People (PSP)" or "Pahari Speaking People" with

"Pahari Ethnic People".

The Social Caste list was redrawn on the recommendations of the Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission which was constituted by J&K Government in 2020. Former High Court Judge Justice G D Sharma headed the three-member panel.

As reported exclusively by the Excelsior earlier, based on recommendations of Justice GD Sharma Committee report, the Government has also added Paddari Tribe and Koli & Gadda Brahman for accord of Scheduled Tribes (ST) status along with Pahari Ethnic Tribe.

Gujjars and Bakerwals in Jammu and Kashmir already enjoyed ST status in Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit to Jammu and Kashmir from October 3-5, Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah had announced that recommendations of Justice GD Sharma Panel have been received by the Government and that Gujjars, Bakerwals and Paharis will get the benefits but rights of no one will be diluted.

The STs have 10 percent reservations in Jammu and Kashmir which might go up. Nine seats in 90-member Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir have been reserved for the STs. Five seats are reserved for STs in Jammu division and four in Kashmir.

The Scheduled Castes have eight percent reservations in the Union Territory and, for them, seven seats, like earlier, are reserved in the Legislative Assembly. However, out of five, no Lok Sabha seat in J&K is reserved.

MHA cancels FCRA licenses of 2 Sonia-led NGOs

returns, misuse of funds and money laundering while receiving funds from foreign countries, including China.

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of the RGF as well as the RGCT.

The trustees of the RGF are former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former finance Minister P Chidambaram, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Suman Dubey and Ashok Ganguly.

The trustees of the RGCT are Rahul Gandhi, Ashok Ganguly, Banshi Mehta and Deep Joshi.

Set up in 1991, the RGF worked on a number of critical issues, including health, science and technology, women and children and disability support, till 2009. It also worked in the education sector, according to its website.

The RGCT was established in 2002 to address the development needs of the underprivileged people of the country, especially the rural poor.

It currently works in the poorest regions of Uttar Pradesh, one of the least developed States in the country, and Haryana through two development initiatives - the Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana (RGMVP) and the Indira Gandhi Eye Hospital and Research Centre (IGEHC) - according to the RGCT website.

Both the RGF and the RGCT function from the same building - Jawahar Bhawan - located on Rajendra Prasad Road, near the Parliament complex, in New Delhi.

The NGOs came under the scanner in July 2020 after the MHA set up an inter-ministerial committee headed by an

Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer to probe possible violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Income Tax Act and the FCRA.

Another organisation that came under the probe was Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

However, no action has so far been taken against the third organisation.

The probe team comprised officers from the Ministries of Home and Finance, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), besides the ED, and was mandated to investigate if these trusts run by the Gandhi family and other Congress leaders allegedly manipulated any documents while filing income tax returns or misused and laundered money received from foreign countries.

During the Indian Army's face-off with China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Ladakh in 2020, ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) president J P Nadda had alleged that China gave funds to the RGF between 2005 and 2009 to carry out studies that were not in national interest.

Nadda had also alleged that money from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund was diverted to the RGF, which also received funds from fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi.

The BJP had also raised a question that whether the funds received by the RGF were a "bribe" for lobbying for a free-trade agreement (FTA) between India and China.

According to the RGF's annual report of 2005-06, which is available on its website, the embassy of the People's Republic of China is listed as one of its donors under "partner organisations and donors". (PTI)

Dr Jitendra accuses NC, Cong of neglecting Kishtwar during their rule

meeting made a scathing attack on previous Congress and National Conference (NC) Governments and said that during their regimes in the past there was not a single occasion when the region was not represented both in the State as well as Central Cabinet by senior leaders from this area, but in spite of that the area did not receive the kind of attention it deserves.

He hoped that one day the future historians will seek to analyse the political mindset of these parties which allowed the peripheral region to suffer because of vote bank, caste and religious considerations.

Dr Jitendra Singh accused the earlier Governments of not only being reluctant to initiate new projects but held them responsible for even holding up the ongoing projects. Citing instances, he said, it was Prime Minister, Narendra Modi who launched the Pakal Dul Power Project and it was his intervention which enabled the clearing of decks for starting the Kiru Power Project. Not only this, he said, the Rattle Project had been stalled by earlier Government for frivolous reasons and it has been revived now, as a result of which the Kishtwar would be generating more than 6000 Mega Watt electricity and also providing electricity to the regions outside Kishtwar.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged upon the BJP workers and other like minded people to go to masses and educate them about the series of development projects brought up during the Modi regime and a conscious effort to give equitable treatment to all sections of society regardless of caste, creed or religion. "This is a new political culture which is sought to be introduced in the last eight years wherein the elected representatives including the MPs are expected to serve the cause of every section of society regardless of whether it had voted for them or not", he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the past nobody had thought of the

hardship and inconvenience that had to be endured by pilgrims during the annual Machail Yatra. He said, it was only after 2014 when he became MP that their cause was taken up and for the first time the toilets were installed enroute the Machail Yatra bringing great relief particularly to women pilgrims and at the same time, mobile towers were brought up in the area while before that the pilgrims on Machail yatra would get totally disconnected from the rest of the world during the entire course of the Yatra.

Dr Jitendra Singh announced that in the course of developing the Machail yatra region, two important decisions have been taken. One, there will be an exclusive 1 MW Solar power plant installed in Machail, secondly Machail will be included in the new tourist circuit, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that strict instructions have been issued to give employment in the upcoming power projects only to the local youth and local candidates. However, he said, there have been some complaints but that was due to lack of transparency. Therefore, he had suggested that a Committee of civil society be formed which can coordinate with the Deputy Commissioner for the scrutiny of the appointments being made.

District BJP president, Pradeep Parihar and senior leader Tariq Keen earlier welcomed and profusely praised the Minister for the unprecedented development brought by him.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the various codal formalities of the Air strip project taken up under Civil Aviation Ministry GOI, has been completed and on visit of the technical team, the project will be finalised.

Dr Jitendra Singh said to give a major flip to the Tourism Sector in the district, the potential areas of tourism like the religious tourism, trekking and mountaineering, adventure tourism and upgradation of camping sites in the district to attract the larger tourist footfall in district.

He announced that areas of

Machail, Sarthal will be brought under the tourism circuit on priority basis and linking the tourism sector with the Mission Youth schemes for the larger benefit of youths.

In response to a question, that the district Hospital Kishtwar sans facilities, Dr Jitendra Singh said that no serious exercise was made while establishing the new districts in the erstwhile J&K State by the previous regime. He said the

Boards of new district hospitals were installed on the Sub District Hospitals both in Kishtwar and Reasi but parameters were not fulfilled.

He said so far as construction of roads is concerned in the district, the same can be compared with 2014 and one can see a lot of change so far as providing of road infrastructure in the Kishtwar district is concerned.

Ayodhya creates new Guinness world record

Thousands of devotees, the general public and dignitaries along with the entire world witnessed this spectacularly mystical and historic event. The teachers and students of Awadh University, Ayodhya contributed largely to creating the record. Over 15.76 lakh earthen lamps were lit one by one with the chanting of 'Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Ram' as soon as the PM launched the festival.


As the representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records announced the establishment of the record, the entire city of Ayodhya echoed with the chants of 'Jai Shri Ram.' The Chief Minister received the certificate, while the Prime Minister congratulated him on the achievement.

It is noteworthy that as many as 1.71 lakh lamps were lit in 2017, the year Deepotsav started in Uttar Pradesh under the Yogi Adityanath Government. Since then the number is continuously increasing with 3.01 lakh in 2018, 4.04 lakh in 2019, 6.06 lakh in 2020 and 9.41 lakh in 2021.

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Mohani Gurtoo** W/o Late. Chaman Lal Akhooon (Kachroo), originally resident of Batyar Alkadal, Srinagar on Friday, 21st October, 2022 at Virar (Mumbai). **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on Sunday, 30th October, 2022 at Bhayandar beach, Mumbai.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Kiran and A.K. Kachroo
Daughters-in-law and Sons
Rita and Sunil Akhooon
Archana and Pankaj Akhooon
Khashoos, Jalalis, Mozas, Zaifranis, Gurtoos, Dhars and Kouls
7676536724, 9958570345




SMT. MOHANI GURTOO

OBITUARY

One month has passed since our beloved **Sh Prithvi Raj Sudan (Master Raja)** S/o Late Sub Major Gurandita Mall Poonch Wale at present Trikuta Nagar Jammu.

Grief Stricken:
Amrit Kour- Wife
Son and Daughter in law
Vishal Sudan & Archana Sudan
Kunal Sudan - Son
Somya Sudan- Grand Daughter
Ph. 7051902385




Sh Prithvi Raj Sudan (Master Raja)

FROM MAULIN SIDE 10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Nanki Kour** W/o Late Charan Singh Bhat, DySP (Rtd) Rio Hamdania Colony, Bermana, Srinagar on 31st July 2022.

Satsang will be held on 26th October, 2022 (Wednesday) from 4 PM to 5 PM at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons and Daughters-in-law
S. Balbir Singh Bhat and Sdn. Pushpinder Kour
S. Surinder Singh Bhat and Sdn. Narinder Kour
Daughters and Sons-in-law
S. Updesh Kour and S. Kishan Singh Bhat
S. Surjet Kour and S. A.S. Bhatt
S. Bhupinder Kour and S. Sartaj Singh Raina
S. Jyotinder Singh Bhat and Sdn. Iqbal Kour Bhat (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)




Sdn. Nanki Kour

SATSANG

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sdn. Nanki Kour** W/o Late Charan Singh Bhat, DySP (Rtd) Rio Hamdania Colony, Bermana, Srinagar on 31st July 2022.

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Daughters and Sons-in-law
S. Updesh Kour and S. Kishan Singh Bhat
S. Surjet Kour and S. A.S. Bhatt
S. Bhupinder Kour and S. Sartaj Singh Raina
S. Jyotinder Singh Bhat and Sdn. Iqbal Kour Bhat (Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law)



Sdn. Nanki Kour

BARKHI

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Vishal Jamwal** S/o Sh Rattan Singh R/o House No. 55, Ratnuchak, Jammu. **Barkhi** will be performed on 25 October 2022 (Tuesday) at 10.30 am at our residence.

Grief Stricken:
Smt. Kiran Jamwal (Wife)
Brother & Bhabhi
Sh Vikas Narania and Smt. Seema Narania
Sons
Rudra Jamwal & Ragwan Jamwal
Nephew - Sanveer Narania
M No. 9596608567, 9999217019, 9654904019



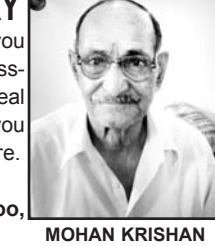
Late Vishal Jamwal

4TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

It has been 4 years on Diwali. Since you have left us. We miss you with every passing day. We know time is not going to heal this world. We pray to Almighty to give you peace and happiness where ever you are.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Raina's Family, Koul's, Bhat, Tickoo, Dass

Ph.No: 9419109207, 9622210390



MOHAN KRISHAN RAINA

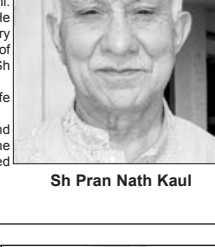
A TRIBUTE

"DEATH ENDS A LIFE BUT NOT RELATIONSHIP"

Sh Pran Nath Kaul, fondly addressed as Bhatlo, bid goodbye to all of us on the 21st of October, 2022 after a brief illness in Delhi. He was amongst the former Trustees and settler of the Trust. He served Bhagawan Gopinathi Trust in the capacity of Secretary for over 26 years. A condolence meeting was held on the 22nd of October, 2022 at which due homage was paid to the memory of Sh. P.N. Kaul.

He was remembered for his extraordinary simple and noble life dedicated to ideals of selfless service. His life has ended but his legacy of wisdom, integrity and courage will go on forever and his life will always be vivid one, the epitome of greatness and sacrifice. His passing away has created a void which cannot be filled. May his soul rest in peace in heaven!

From Devotees of Bhagawan Gopinathi




Sh Pran Nath Kaul

REMEMBRANCE

SAHIB BANDGI

Thirteen years have passed but your everlasting memories are still in our heart. We always feel that your blessings are with us. We pray to Almighty that your pious soul rest in eternal peace.

Deeply Missed & Remembered By:
Smt. Kamla Devi - Wife
And All Family Members
R/o Ward No. 6, Samba
M/s Satyaketu Traders Samba
Mob. 9419233857, 9856501150, 7889644941



Sh Rattan Chand Gupta
Retd Govt. Teacher
D.o.D 24-10-2009

1,500 laws in the winter session of Parliament. I am ready to introduce many more repealment acts," the Minister said.

Rijju also said the Centre gives special focus to the northeast, and there is no reason why the region will lag behind in any sector.

"It is the BJP's desire to make the northeast prosperous and India a powerful nation," he added. (PTI)

The IAS officers allotted Poonch district for tours include Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary, Science and Technology Department and Mandeeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.

Principal Secretary School Education Department Alok Kumar will tour Samba and Principal Secretary Power Development Department H Rajesh Prasad will be visiting Doda district and Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment will undertake a visit to Ramban district.

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department has been assigned South Kashmir's Kulgam district while Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner/Secretary in Social Welfare Department will pay a visit to Ganderbal district.

Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Cooperatives Department will be visiting Ramban district.

Dr Piyush Singla, Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), will be visiting Jammu district.

1500 obsolete Acts to be repealed: Rijju

checking at Zero Point Chenani, a truck (PB08BT-9403) coming from Kashmir towards Udhampur was intercepted and 18 packets of heroin weighing around 21.5 kg were recovered from it.

Police seized the recovered heroin as well as the truck besides arresting the driver, who was identified as Kulwinder Singh, resident of Nawanshahr in Punjab. A

21.5 kg heroin seized, smuggler arrested

case under relevant Sections was registered in this connection and further investigation has been started to unearth all the backward and forward links in the case.

The police patrolling team that intercepted the truck, was led by SHO Chenani, Inspector S D Singh, under the supervision of Addl SP Udhampur Anwaar Ul Haq and SDPO Chenani Ahmed Shaafi.

This was one of the biggest hauls of narcotics in Jammu Kashmir and further investigation into the case may lead to more arrests of the persons involved in the smuggling racket.

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.1 Degree C
Min: 14.1 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 54.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 49.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 05:48 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 06:44 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 20.6 Degree C
Min: 3.6 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 83.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 57.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 11.5 Degree C
Min: -2.9 Degree C

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CINEMA

INDIRA AUDI- 1: B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) 9:45 AM, 12:35 PM, 3:25 PM, 6:15 PM, 9:10 PM.

INDIRA AUDI- 2: VIKRAM VEDHA (U/A) - 10:00 AM, 1:05 PM, GOODBYE (U/A) 4:10 PM, VIKRAM VEDHA (U/A) - 7:15 PM, GOODBYE (U/A) 10:20 PM.

INDIRA AUDI- 3: 1. B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 10:45 AM, 2. GOODBYE (U/A) - 1:35 PM, 3. GOD FATHER (U/A) HINDI - 04:35 PM, 4. B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 07:35 PM, 5. GOD FATHER (U/A) HINDI - 10:30 PM.

APSARA AUDI- 1: DOCTOR G (HINDI 2D) - 09:45 AM, 12:45 PM, 03:45 PM, 06:45 PM.

APSARA AUDI- 2: B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 03:30 PM, 06:30 PM.

HARI THEATRE: MISTER MAJNOO - 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 06:30 PM.

PVR KC AUDI 1: 1. BLACK ADAM (HINDI) 10:00 AM, 2. DOCTOR G (HINDI) - 12:50 PM, 3. BLACK ADAM (HINDI) - 3:40 PM, 4. DOCTOR G (HINDI) - 06:30 PM, 5. KANTARA (HINDI) 09:20 PM.

PVR KC AUDI 2: 1. B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) - 10:30 AM, 2. BLACK ADAM (ENGLISH) - 01:30 PM, 3. KANTARA (HINDI) 04:20 PM, 4. BLACK ADAM (ENGLISH) 07:30 PM, 5. BLACK ADAM (HINDI) 10:20 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 1: DOCTOR G (A) - 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM, 04:00 PM, 06:30 PM, BLACK ADAM HINDI (U/A) - 09:30 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 2: BLACK ADAM HINDI (U/A) - 09:30 AM, 12:05 PM, BLACK ADAM (ENGLISH) 02:40 PM, BLACK ADAM (HINDI) 05:15 PM, 07:50 PM, BLACK ADAM (ENGLISH) 10:30 PM.

WAVE CINEMA AUDI 3: 1. B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) (U/A) 03:15 PM, 2. KANTARA-HINDI (U/A)- 06:15 PM, 3. B.A.BE BHANGRA PAUNDE NE (PUNJABI) (U/A) 09:15 PM.

Edited, Printed, Published by Kamal Rohmetra and owned by Daily Excelsior. Executive Editor Neeraj Rohmetra. Printed at Daily Excelsior and Excelsior Printer Pvt Ltd, Janipura, Jammu and published from EXCELSIOR HOUSE, Janipura, Jammu 180007 (J&K). Phones: 0191-2537055, 2537901, 2539178. Fax: 0191-2537831 and 2530272 Editor's Residence: 0191-2431830, 2433288. E-mail: editor@dailyexcelsior.com. Advertisement Manager Ajay Mengi 9419187959. For Advertisement queries: advt@dailyexcelsior.com (M) 941911428. **Residence Nos: Jammu Bureau Chief:** Sanjeev Pargal (94191-80969), **Special Correspondents:** Mohinder Verma (9419185803), Gopal Sharma (9419180803), Avtar Bhat (9419142184), Nishikant Khajuria (9419143132), **Srinagar Office:** 2 Pratap Park Srinagar. Phone: (O) 0194-2450213, **New Delhi Bureau Chief (Advt):** C.S. Paul 9810068545, 9910997733 (M), 011-23327188 (O), 3/15, INS Building, Rafi Marg. **Mumbai Advertisement Office Incharge:** K.S. Nitin 9322509953 (M) 022-22883904, 22821859 (O) 22845484 (Fax) C/o S. J. Business Centre, Islam Building Room No. 17/18, 1st Floor, 46 Veer Nariman Road.

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54 IAS officers assigned districts for tours during B2V4 from Oct 27

The IAS officers touring Reasi district are Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Administrative Secretary, Transport, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Special Secretary, Revenue Department, Rahul Sharma, Transport Commissioner and Rajesh Sharma, Custodian General.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, Director EDI and Hashmat Ali Yattoo, Administration in Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, are tipped to visit Shopian district during B2V4.

Secretaries to Government Samad Hafeez and Dr Raghav Langer will be touring Bandipora and Baramulla districts respectively while Talat Parvez Rohella will visit Ganderbal, Rukhsana Gani will tour Anantnag and Rehana Batul will be visiting Budgam district.

Mir Tariq Ali will be touring Bandipora, Bhupinder Kumar will visit Kishtwar, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah will undertake tour to Baramulla, Shiv Anant Tayal to Doda, Amit Sharma to Samba, Nazim Zai Khan to Bandipora, Shakeel-ur-Rehman Rather to Baramulla, Pardeep Kumar to Ramban, Narinder Singh Bali to Kishtwar, Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu to Pulwama, Mohammad Akbar Wani to Kupwara, Sheikh Arshad Ayub to Anantnag, Choudhary Mohammad Yasin to Rajouri, Athar Amir Ul Shaffi Khan to Bandipora, Saloni Rai to Ganderbal, Ayushi Sudan to Samba, Minga Sherpa and Faz-Lul Haseeb to Kulgam and Abhishek Sharma to Kishtwar.

Lord Ram's rule inspiration behind 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas': PM

Ram temple and offered prayers to Ram Lalla. He lit an earthen lamp there and performed an "aarti".

Modi was also briefed by officials on the construction going on for a grand Ram temple at the site.

PM Modi also witnessed a 3-D holographic projection mapping show at Ram ki Paidi, along with a grand musical laser show.

Earlier in the day, artistes enacting the roles of Lord Ram, his brother Lakshman and Goddess Sita descended from a "pushpak vimana", a helicopter, at the Ram Katha Park.

They were received by Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Deputies Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak.

Kerala village on way to 100 per cent literacy in Hindi

gender and educational barriers are learning Hindi in the village panchayat, where there is a huge presence of migrant workers from northern states, for some time as part of the civic body's ambitious mission to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the language.

The immense participation of people in the programme was surely due to the fact that the project would help them equip with basic Hindi skills to communicate and deal with the guest workers, who are now an integral part of their social life, authorities said.

Panchayat president Nousheer P P said the project targeted to make every villager aged between 20-70 years as Hindi literate.

"There is no connection between our project and the recent controversy regarding Hindi. The conceptualisation and other basic works of the project began last year. Ahead of the launch, a survey was conducted to identify those who are not well-versed in Hindi and those who are interested to learn the language," he said.

A series of workshops were conducted and an expert panel of instructors was formed from the village panchayat itself to train the aspiring learners.

Besides Hindi teachers, ex-military personnel, Gulf returnees and homemakers who are fluent in the language were also identified and included in the panel, he said.

"With the support of the Hindi teachers of the village schools, a module of teaching and study materials was prepared. Thus, the Hindi study classes began in all the 21 wards of the panchayat using these study materials and instructors," the panchayat president explained.

Even the available time in between the weekly meetings of all-women network "Kudumbashree" and the lunch and tea break amid the MNREGA activities are utilised for Hindi learning in Chellanur these days.

Premises of village houses, courtyards and other common platforms in each ward began to bustle with Hindi words and usages. (PTI)

Xi wins record 3rd term in power

walked in a file with Xi leading the group at the ornate Great Hall before the media. Their appearance was telecast live on the national media.

"I was re-elected as the General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee," Xi said and introduced the other six, two of them were from the previous committee.

The other six are Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi.

Both Zhao and Wang, who is the ideologue of Xi, are the members of the previous committee.

Li Qiang, head of the Shanghai CPC, is regarded as a close associate of Xi and widely expected to be promoted as Premier in March to replace the incumbent Li Keqiang who retired.

Li Qiang's selection has raised eyebrows as Shanghai performed gravely during the recent COVID-19 spike leading to the closure of over 25 million strong city for weeks. The prolonged lockdown during which people suffered for basic necessities invoked strong criticism from the public.

A notable official who was elevated to the Political Bureau is the Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi, 69, who was previously a Central Committee member.

Wang, who is selected in spite of being crossed the retirement age of 68 for top officials, is expected to play a significant role in shaping Xi's foreign policy.

Also, the Political Bureau has reappointed Xi as the Chairman of the all-powerful Central Military Commission (CMC), the overall high Command of the Chinese

With this, Xi will continue to hold all top power centres, the Presidency, the head of the Communist Party and the CMC.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Generals Zhang Youxia and He Weidong were appointed as the Vice Chairmen of the CMC.

The other CMC members included top military officials Li Shangfu, Liu Zhenli, Miao Hua and Zhang Shengmin. They will head different branches of the military, including the Navy and the Rocket Force.

Like his previous two tenures, Xi is the only civilian in the CMC.

Addressing the media, Xi said China and the world need each other and projected a positive picture of the Chinese economy, which is in a slowdown mode especially due to his resolve to implement the zero-COVID policy resulting in lockdowns of several top cities leading to supply chain disruptions.

"Just as China cannot develop in isolation from the world, the world needs China for its development. The Chinese economy has a great reliance potential and latitude. Its strong fundamentals will not change and it will remain on a positive trajectory over the long run. China will open its doors wide," he said.

"We will be steadfast in deepening reform and opening-up across the board in pursuing high-quality development. A prosperous China will create many more opportunities for the world," Xi said, playing down concerns at home and abroad over his emphasis on Marxism and his new goal to turn China into a modern socialist country. (PTI)

With this, Xi will continue to hold all top power centres, the Presidency, the head of the Communist Party and the CMC.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Generals Zhang Youxia and He Weidong were appointed as the Vice Chairmen of the CMC.

The other CMC members included top military officials Li Shangfu, Liu Zhenli, Miao Hua and Zhang Shengmin. They will head different branches of the military, including the Navy and the Rocket Force.

Like his previous two tenures, Xi is the only civilian in the CMC.

Addressing the media, Xi said China and the world need each other and projected a positive picture of the Chinese economy, which is in a slowdown mode especially due to his resolve to implement the zero-COVID policy resulting in lockdowns of several top cities leading to supply chain disruptions.

"Just as China cannot develop in isolation from the world, the world needs China for its development. The Chinese economy has a great reliance potential and latitude. Its strong fundamentals will not change and it will remain on a positive trajectory over the long run. China will open its doors wide," he said.

"We will be steadfast in deepening reform and opening-up across the board in pursuing high-quality development. A prosperous China will create many more opportunities for the world," Xi said, playing down concerns at home and abroad over his emphasis on Marxism and his new goal to turn China into a modern socialist country. (PTI)