

LG inaugurates Wildlife Week 2021; e-inaugurates online entry permission for Dachigam, Hangul Eco-Stop near Parimahal

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SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Wildlife Week, 2021 to be observed from 2nd October to 8th October, on Saturday at SKICC.

The Lt Governor also e-inaugurated the online permission for entry to Dachigam National Park, Hangul Eco-Stop near Parimahal, and released Hangul census report and brochures of Trekking Routes.

While speaking on the occasion the Lt Governor said that observation of the Wildlife Week in J&K along with rest of the country is a sincere effort to create awareness among people for the protection of precious wildlife resources.

"J&K's wildlife has rich and rare assets in the form of its flora and fauna, biodiversity, and wildlife sanctuaries. Government is giving focused attention towards conservation and protection of invaluable natural resources", he added.

The Lt Governor said that the government has opened Dachigam National Park for the public and to provide easy access, permission will be granted through an online portal operated by J&K Forest & Wildlife Department. We have also opened several trek routes to promote eco-tourism in Jammu Kashmir, he added.

Wildlife plays an invaluable role in sustaining human and other forms of life. The basic premise of our culture has been the co-existence of nature and human civiliza-



Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha addressing a gathering at SKICC.

tion, but unfortunately, the indiscriminate use of natural resources has gradually turned this coexistence into Man-Animal Conflict, the Lt Governor observed.

We need a perfect balance between Digital River and Natural River in the fast-paced world. With dedication for the conservation of forests, wildlife, and the environment we can discharge our responsibility to handle man-animal conflict and climate change, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor while recalling Mahatma Gandhi's observation on the deteriorating wildlife ecosystem called for launching a mass movement with the help of public representatives to conserve our biodiversity.

The spirit of wildlife preservation should become a part of our everyday life. There is an urgent need to protect our new generation from the threat posed by climate change, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Forest and Wildlife Department for the new ini-

tatives, new resolutions to preserve and protect the wildlife ecosystem. It is the result of the strenuous efforts of the stakeholders that today J&K's total green cover is above 50%, he said.

In order to conserve and protect the wildlife, the government has notified 11.5% of the total geographical area, which is much higher than national average of 5.5%, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also inspected the stalls installed by the Department of wildlife protection. A video clip on wildlife of J&K and animated jingle on Human- wild Animal conflict was also screened on the occasion.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion highlighted the significance of Wildlife and Bio-diversity of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He called for community participation in wildlife conservation efforts to ensure that forest & wildlife areas are plastic free. He also advised to involve the

schools in conservation efforts by constituting the Eco-clubs.

Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, informed about various activities being undertaken by Department of Wildlife.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF spoke about the importance of wildlife week and informed about the efforts being undertaken by the forests department to address the issue of human-wildlife conflict besides protection and conservation of wildlife habitats.

Suresh Kr. Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K in his welcome address gave historical perspective of wildlife conservation in Jammu & Kashmir, major achievements after the implementation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and various initiatives taken by the department for wildlife conservation & protection.

Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Athar Aamir-ul-Shafi Khan, Commissioner, SMC besides senior officers of UT administration, members of Civil society were present on the occasion.

Largest Khadi National Flag unfurled in Ladakh



Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur after unfurling National Flag atop a high mountain in Leh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: A 1,000 kg handwoven khadi Tricolour, the largest in the country, was unfurled atop a high mountain overlooking the Leh valley on Saturday to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti and the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, a defence spokesman said.

Fire and Fury Corps organised a historic event at Leh Garrison where a monumental National Flag was unfurled by Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur on a hill feature overlooking the Leh valley, Srinagar-based PRO Defence Col Emron Musavi said.

He said Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane and GOC-in-C Northern Command Lieutenant General Y K Joshi also attended the event.

Lieutenant General PGK Menon, GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and senior military and civil officials were also present.

The grand ceremony was held to celebrate the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi along with 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', commemorating the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, the defence spokesman said.

He said the flag which was unfurled is the largest handwoven and handspun cotton Khadi flag ever manufactured in India and it measures 225 feet by 150 feet and weighs

1000 kg.

The flag is made by Khadi Dyers and Printers based in Mumbai which is affiliated to the Khadi Village and Industries Commission.

The Sura-Soi Engineer Regiment was entrusted with the responsibility of bringing the national flag from Mumbai to Leh and also with the task of installing it at the top of the high mountains for the unveiling ceremony. The ceremony included a series of events to mark the momentous occasion, Col Musavi said. The event commenced with the Brass Band of Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre along with the students of Ladakh Ignited Minds performing the National Anthem when the flag was unveiled, he said. The PRO Defence said advanced light helicopters of the Army Aviation Squadron carried out a fly past and showered flower petals over the tricolour, followed by students of the Lamdon Model School singing a patriotic song symbolising the spirit of nationalism.

The chief guest addressed the gathering of about 500 people which included personnel of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Vikas Battalion, besides veterans, veer naris, NCC cadets and school children, he added.



Advisor Bhatnagar participates in Gandhi Jayanti celebrations of GGF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Saturday today paid rich tributes to Father of Nation; Mahatma Gandhi at a function organised by Gandhi Global Family (GGF) on his 152nd birth anniversary organised at Dewan-E-Aam, Mubarak Mandi here.

The event started with a message of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Gandhi Jayanti, read by young Gandhian Manish Joshi.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted the role of Mahatma Gandhi in promoting peace across the world and termed him as the greatest messenger of peace.

The Advisor remarked that Mahatma Gandhi was a man of exceptional leadership quality and courage who led India to the path of freedom. "Celebrating his Jayanti gives us an occasion to look back into the freedom struggle and value our freedom and equality", Advisor Bhatnagar said.

While speaking on the ideals propounded by Gandhiji, Advisor Bhatnagar said that by honouring the great Bapu today we are honouring India because we consider him to be the Father of our Nation. By honouring him we are also honouring the universal and eternal values that he stood for; his philosophy of Satya and Ahimsa; the Advisor added.

"Bapu's life is an inspiration to all of us and he was clear that serving humanity makes life meaningful and gives immense satisfaction Advisor Bhatnagar remarked.

Asking people to follow ideals of Mahatma Gandhi,



GGF members presenting memento to Advisor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar.

Advisor Bhatnagar said that on this Gandhi Jayanti, we should rededicate ourselves to the teachings of great Bapu and follow his ideals of Non-violence, peace, tolerance which will strengthen our democratic nation for which our great country is known.

He also emphasised on the Swachhata Abhiyan as a people's program. On the occasion, the Advisor appreciated the role of Gandhi Global Family J&K in promoting peace in Jammu & Kashmir and efforts during the Covid Pandemic. He also praised the organization for spreading the messages of Mahatma Gandhi among youth.

Speaking at the event, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Raghav Langer said that together we can bring the much needed change in our society by encouraging the youth to imbibe the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi in their daily life. He appreciated the role of Gandhi Global Family in consistently promoting the Gandhian values among next generation in Jammu & Kashmir and other adjoining States and UTs.

While welcoming the dignitaries and people from all

walks of life, President, Gandhi Global Family J&K, Padmashri Dr. S P Varma informed the gathering that about 350 relief camps were organised by GGF J&K COVID19 Relief & Response Team in Jammu & Kashmir during pandemic where 1.1 Lakh souls were benefitted.

On the occasion, Mahatma Gandhi Seva Puraskars were presented to individuals and different organisations in the fields of art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, environment and peace building.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Capt Bana Singh, Parmavir Chakra awardee; Army veteran Gen. G. S. Jamwal; Army veteran Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma; Padmashri awardees- Dr. Jitendra Udhamपुरi, Prof. Ved Ghai, Rajinder Tickoo N. D. Jamwal and Prof. Shiv Nirmohi; Air Force Veteran Wing Com M M Joshi; Senior Advocate M K Bhardwaj; Chairman Organising Committee, G.R. Bhagat; social activists, people from different walks of life and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Retreat ceremony fulfilment of long pending demand, CCI hails PM Modi

Will give major push to businesses, local economy



CCI President Arun Gupta speaking at a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu on Saturday landed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, LG Manoj Sinha, MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, Member Parliament Avinash Rai Khanna and Jugal Kishore for giving a nod to Retreat Ceremony on the lines of Wagah Border here at Suchetgarh BoP by the BSF claiming that the same will give thrust to the local economy in a big way.

In this regard a meeting was held at Chamber house under the Presidentship of Arun Gupta along with the office bearers Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta Jr. Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary.

Arun Gupta said that surely

this is the much required step for boosting the economy of the region as it is likely that people in large numbers will come to witness the parade and in turn change the socio-economic condition of the entire belt. He said that CCI extends its wholehearted support to this farsighted step by the government and is anticipating that the government will soon rope in Pakistan also to make this event fully vibrant and internationally acclaimed like the one at the border near Amritsar city in Punjab.

He said that this was CCI Jammu's long pending demand and after governments nod it is expected that this will bring in vibrancy in the business activity in Jammu region with a push to hotel and transport industries besides creating new avenues

for generating jobs and opportunities to open up new ventures. He hoped that the people of Jammu will support this endeavour of the government by giving a warm welcome to tourists and showing traditional hospitality.

The CCI President said that the decision on retreat ceremony has raised hopes of people of Jammu region that soon other development projects including tourism infra will also see the light of day, making Jammu an independent tourist destination offering all the modern facilities to visitors with no shortcomings whatsoever. He said it is time to celebrate the moment which the Modi Government has provided to the people by taking this momentous decision for boosting tourism and economy.

Jammu's interests can't be compromised: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Declaring that the assertive Jammu won't compromise with its interests anymore, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana today said the people of the region are determined to end the era of despondency, deprivation and neglect by fighting for their just and legitimate rights.

"Jammu & its sub regions want fair-play in development, jobs and above all in the mechanism of governance as equals without dominating any other region or being dominated", Rana said while interacting with a deputation from the Nagrota Assembly Constituency this evening, adding that the assimilative spirit of the region should not be construed as its weakness.

Rana said repeated attempts of undermining the Jammu interest has firmed up the resolve of the people of



NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana interacting with a deputation.

the region, irrespective of religion, caste or creed, to seek their just rights peacefully and democratically. There is no question of compromising with the interests of the people, come what may, he said sidelining Jammu would mean insulting the self-respecting people, who have always been big-hearted despite being marginalized in every sphere over the years.

"We are the inheritors of the political philosophy of

unity in diversity and single entity of J&K", he said, adding that this bonding cannot be disturbed by any elements.

Rana said equal opportunities of progress and development is imperative for the harmonious growth of Jammu and Kashmir and that is what the people will strive for. Besides, participation in the decision making should not only appear to be core of the governance mechanism but it should also be

visible on ground in immense measure with nobody or no region or sub-region nurturing the sense of dominance.

Rana pleaded for course correction saying this will happen when all the regions and sub-regions get their share as a matter of right and not charity. No region or religious group should feel marginalised, as they are needed to be tied in the bonds of amity and camaraderie, he said, adding that this spirit will remain the guiding force for any struggle to regain the pristine glory of this region.

Earlier in the morning, National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana paid rich homage to the Father of Nation, on Gandhi Jayanti during a function organized by organised by President, Gandhi Global Family J&K, Padmashri Dr. S P Varma at Dewan-E-Aam, Mubarak Mandi saying this is an occasion to make a resolve to realize the dream of

Mahatma Gandhi by strengthening the bonds of amity and tranquility.

Accompanied by the former ministers and senior party leaders Surjeet Singh Slathia, Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Shah Bukhari, Dharamveer Singh Jamwal former Dy Mayor and Corporator Ashok Singh Manhas and Sucha Singh, the Provincial President said there is immense need to understand and implement Gandhian philosophy of truth and non-violence to make this world a better place to live in.

Rana said Mahatma Gandhi was a strong believer of communal amity and worked all his life in strengthening it. "The best tribute to him therefore would be to sustain this spirit", he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir is known for preserving the glorious traditions of secularism.

Youth Congress takes out Tiranga march in Jammu Need to counter fallacious agenda of BJP: Bhalla



Senior Congress leaders taking out Tiranga march in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Pradesh Youth Congress today took out a Tiranga march on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri birth anniversary at Bahu Fort in Jammu.

On the occasion, Raman Bhalla Vice President JKPC, Manmohan Singh General Secretary JKPC and PYC President Uday Bhamu Chib. The rally was organised by Latish Sharma JKPYC Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion, Raman Bhalla said that said that in view of the prevailing scenario across the nation today, there is a dire need to counter the fallacious agenda of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has been befooling especially the people of the Jammu and Kashmir by propagating false narratives of unprecedented development and transparency galore in this sensitive region of the nation. He asserted that BJP has failed the nation on all fronts as the common masses continue to suffer due to rampant corruption in J&K while the spine breaking inflation has already made the life of common man a hell.

Manmohan Singh General Secretary

JKPC, in his address, said that BJP has committed biggest crime by denigrating J&K's stature to Union Territory. He said that BJP has steered the country to complete mess by its visionless and myopic misdeeds that it will take long time to bring India back on tracks.

Talking to reporters, Uday Chib said that BJP has been indulging in lowest level of politics by raking up groundless and concocted issues to deflect people's attention from the disastrous performance of its leadership which is steering the nation. He said that despite assurance by Home Minister Amit Shah regarding restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir no road map has been prepared by the BJP lead Union Govt in this direction till date. He added that BJP's promise of providing employment to the youth of J&K also turned out to be hollow its failure on this front can be well gauged from growing disillusionment and frustration among the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

JKYC Youth Congress Chief said that there is a dire need to counter the hollow policies of the BJP by exposing them at the grass roots level.