

LG flags off IAF-UWM Vayu Veer Vijeta Car Rally



LG Manoj Sinha flagging off 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally at Srinagar on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday flagged off the 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally, organised by Indian Air Force in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial.

Interacting with the Air Warriors at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor extended his felicitations and conveyed best wishes to all participants of the car rally.

"Indian Air Force has the proud legacy of valour, courage and sacrifice. Serving the nation and its

people in difficult circumstances is in the DNA of Indian Air Force," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also lauded the significant role played by the IAF in times of war, rescue operations and natural calamities. Enroute Air Warriors will address the local youths in various universities and colleges and inspire them to join armed forces.

"The nation is grateful to the armed forces for ensuring a more secure and peaceful environment to enable India's speedy march

towards all-round progress and prosperity," the Lt Governor said.

He further highlighted that in the last 10 years, infrastructure and connectivity of border areas has been strengthened under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Earlier, to mark the 92nd anniversary of Indian Air Force, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave warm send-off to 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' car rally from National War Memorial, New Delhi. The Adventure Cell of IAF is leading and coordinating the

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- ▶ Serving nation, its people in difficult circumstances is in IAF's DNA
- ▶ Nation grateful to armed forces for ensuring more secure, peaceful environment to enable India's speedy march towards all-round progress, prosperity
- ▶ Traveling from Thoise to Tawang, covering total of 7,000 kms, the rally will raise awareness among people about glorious history of IAF and inspire youth to join armed forces

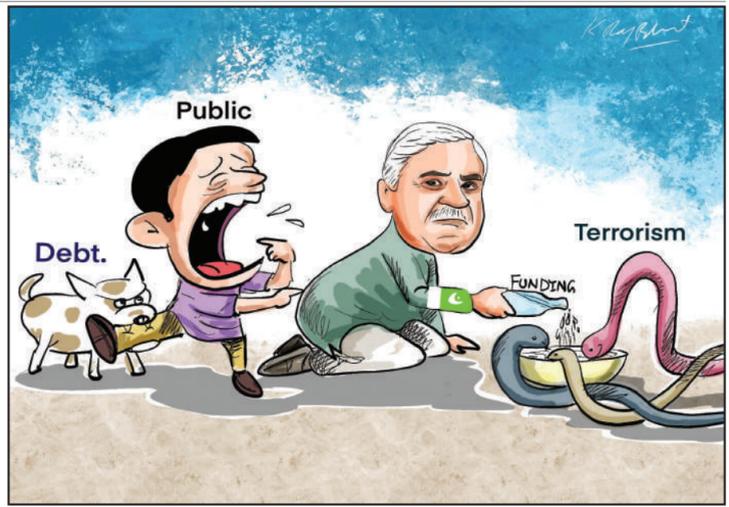
rally.

Over 50 air warriors, who are undertaking an expedition from Thoise in Ladakh to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, covering a total of 7,000 kms, will raise awareness among the people about the glorious history of IAF and inspire the youth to join the armed forces.

The formal flag-off took

place from Thoise, which is one of the world's highest altitude air force stations at 3,068m above mean sea level.

Air Officer Commanding Srinagar, Air Commodore Prabhath Malik (Vayu Sena Medal); Team Leader Wing Commander Vijay Prakash Bhatt; Rally Chairman, Tarun Vijay and other senior officers were present.



Shat Chandi Yagya concludes with spiritual fervour at Vaishno Devi Shrine

Over 4 lakh devotees throng Shrine during Navratras

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Concurrent with the Navratra celebrations, the sacred nine day long Shat Chandi Maha Yagya organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) for world peace, prosperity and human well-being concluded with great reverence and devotion on Mahanavami.

This auspicious event took place at the Yagrasala, a dedicated space created for large-scale religious rituals at the Shrine recently inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT and Chairman of the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB).



Havan Yagya being performed at Katra.

Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Dr Neelam Sareen, Members, SMVDSB, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Vikas Anand, SDM Bhawan; other officers and staff of the Shrine Board, besides pilgrims participated in Purnahuti and other religious ceremonies performed amidst Vedic mantras on the occasion.

This spiritual occasion was further sanctified by a group of Pandits led by the esteemed Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, who conducted the Maha Yagya.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine witnessed an overwhelming influx of devotees from across the country and abroad during these Shardiya

Navratras.

The Shrine Board unveiled a range of initiatives to make these Navratras more memorable.

The key additions included the launch of Langar Sewa at Adhkarwari, enhanced health-care facilities through inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Bhawan and a complimentary 11-minute Virtual Darshan experience, ensuring a seamless and sacred journey for all devotees. During Navratras, the Shrine Board made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims' comfort and convenience. These included decorative flower arrangements at the Bhawan, Atka, and surrounding areas, round-the-clock water and power supply along the tracks and in the Bhawan area, sanitation and sanitization measures and special "fast-related" food at the Board's Bhojanalaya.

Additionally, attractive lighting illuminated the Bhawan

area, while facilities like accommodation, battery-operated vehicles, passenger ropeway and helicopter services operated smoothly.

Pilgrims also benefited from free food at Tarakote Marg, Prasad Kendra at Sanjichhat and Langar Sewa at Bhairon Ji apart from Langar sewa at Adhkarwari, ensuring a seamless and spiritual experience for the devotees.

Other highlights during these Navratras were spellbinding Bhajan and Bhaint performances by illustrious artists - Lakhwinder Wadali, Jubin Nautiyal, Hemant Brijwasi, Sunanda Sharma, Prakash Mali, Dimple Bhumi, Ashok Bhardwaj, Ninja, Raj Pareek, Vishal Mishra, Sanjoo Kohli, Jyotika Tangri, Neelam and Poornima.

The talented students of SMVD Gurukul also showcased their musical talents, blending tradition with youthful energy and elevating the spiritual experience.

Dr Jitendra presents Indo-US awards, underlines AI enabled collaboration

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: While presenting the Indo-US Endowment awards to 17 winning teams of young innovators, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS (I/C) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr-Jitendra Singh underlined AI enabled collaboration between the two countries.

The Department of Science & Technology and the USA are working together to elevate and expand the Indo-US strategic technology partnership and to connect scientists from both the countries to collaborate on emerging technologies such as AI and smart connected cities," said Dr-Jitendra Singh.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after presenting Indo-US Endowment awards at New Delhi on Saturday.

United States Ambassador Eric Garcetti also participated. These awards are given in the field of Critical and Emerging Technology.

Dr Jitendra congratulated all the 17 winning teams who have been given the opportunity to work together to develop AI-enabled technologies, decision support system, GPT-powered AI, development of technologies for quantum communication, robust quantum sensors under themes of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies.

Dr-Jitendra Singh said, "I am happy to say that as a part of the U.S.-India initiative on Critical and

Emerging Technology (iCET), new implementing agreements have been executed between the science agencies to expand international collaboration in a range of areas to build a robust innovation ecosystem. The DST - National Science Foundation joint call in the areas of (i) Computer and Information Science and Engineering, (ii) Cyber-Physical Systems and (iii) Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace has resulted in the award of 11 high pitch proposals."

India and the US are at the pivotal point with the technologies shaping up for the future like Artificial Intelligence,

Advanced manufacturing, block chain, green energy, quantum computing, getting ready to make one of the biggest technology transformations of the century.

Appreciating the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said, the Government of India is creating an enabling innovation ecosystem with recent reforms like design linked incentives for semiconductors, PLI schemes for automobiles, drone policy and removing barriers through initiatives like faceless assessment.

Advancing the Research

and Innovation Value chain and fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in young minds has witnessed phenomenal growth in India, said Dr Jitendra Singh, as evident from the Start-Up ecosystem gathering speed, scale and momentum. From 350 odd start-ups in 2014, the number swelled to over 1,40,000 Start-Ups. India is also home to over 110 Unicorns where 23 of them emerged only last year, which is a sign of India's rapid upward ride on STI (Science, Technology & Innovation) ladder.

Governments of both the countries established the USISTEF in 2009 for supporting joint US India entrepreneurial initiatives on co-developing products or technologies that are beyond the ideation stage. Over the years, the program has had a significant impact, both in terms of the development of new products and technologies and in seeding new sustainable collaborations between US and India inventors.

Crime Branch registers FIR against MD, Director & ors for multi-crore cheating

Cheaters collected money from several persons in Jammu on pretext of doubling their amount

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Crime Branch has registered FIR against Managing Director (MD), Director (DIR.) and other promoters of M/S Future Maker Life Care Pvt. Ltd. Hissar, Haryana and promoters of the company belonging to Maharashtra and Jammu namely Nitin Patel, Partner Rishi Kesh, Uttam Karan, Dheeraj Gargal, Rajinder Singh, Sachin Lambhda, hatched criminal conspiracy and committed cheating by duping them of over two crores of rupees on the pretext of providing double amount. On receiving the

complaint, preliminary verification was conducted and a case has been registered for in-depth investigation.

SSP Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that a case u/s 420, 120-B RPC has been registered at Police Station Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu against six Cheaters/fraudsters of Jammu & Maharashtra including MD and Director of M/S Future Maker Life Care Pvt. Ltd. Hissar, Haryana and investigation is underway.

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Challenges faced by new government, aspirations of people

MASROOR AHMAD
SRINAGAR: The National Conference-Congress alliance, which is all set to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir will have to carefully negotiate governance challenges as key areas of administration, such as police and public order are assigned to the Lieutenant Governor.

As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that split the former State into two Union Territories - J&K and Ladakh, the J&K Legislative Assembly may enact laws with respect to any of the matters mentioned in the Concurrent List and State List, excluding police and public order; in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The biggest challenge before the new government would be to bridge the deep political divides between the Jammu region and Kashmir Valley - as unfolded by the just concluded Assembly elections. Another key issue before the new government would be to maintain cordial working relationship with the Lieutenant Governor and avoid situations that Delhi's elected government headed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and its Lieutenant Governor were caught up in. Recently, the Centre vested more powers in the UT's Lt. Governor for taking decisions including matters related to police and all-India service officers. Omar Abdullah, while thanking Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, for complimenting the NC over its "commendable" performance in the J&K assembly elections, had said that he looked forward to "a constructive relationship in the true spirit of federalism so that the people of J&K may benefit from continued development and good governance". The BJP has won 29 of the 43 Assembly seats-all in the Jammu region-whereas it failed to make any mark in the Kashmir Valley. For Omar Abdullah and his government, it would be an uphill task to create a sense of belonging among the vast sections of population who voted for the BJP in this election. The NC-Congress combine's big win, Omar Abdullah sought to drive home an important message that those who sent the BJP triumphing in the Jammu heartland will not be left out, nor should they feel the issues and problems they face would be discounted by the new dispensation. He said, "I will ensure that, the people of Jammu don't feel they have no stakes in the new government. We have to ensure equality between the people of mountainous areas of Jammu and plains of Kashmir".

On Wednesday while speaking to reporters here, he reassured, "It won't be a government of those that voted for us. It will be a government of every single individual of J&K regardless of who they voted for or whether they voted at all. And in that special emphasis will be placed

on giving a sense of ownership and a voice within the government to those areas from where MLAs in this coalition will be less in number."

On the other side, People of Jammu and Kashmir are very aspirational with new government, but both regions have their own urges. Traders in Jammu demanded resumption of century old Darbar Move practice, which was the highest source of income for traders. According to Jammu traders, the Darbar Move was a disaster for the Jammu as their trade was completely collapsed. A few years ago, the Lt. Governor-led administration discarded the practice on the plea that apart from other difficulties it devours millions of rupees from the state exchequer every year. The second demand was GST and railway parking, which was given to non-locals, jobs and mine contracts were given to non-locals as a result of which local people are becoming jobless. While as, Kashmiri people want full Statehood with honour and dignity. In addition, they also want the revival of the horticulture sector, protection of government jobs and protections of land.

Keeping in view the larger demand from Jammu, sources said that as a first step towards bridging the barriers, the new government will restore the Darbar Move practice, the seasonal shifting of the government between Srinagar and Jammu.

Parliament deserves credits for providing nomination of POJK DPs & Kashmiri migrants to J&K Legislature but they expected more care

POJK DPs and Kashmiri Migrants are now Looking for their nominations to Legislative Assembly

DAYA SAGAR
Section-15A and 15(B) were added in J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, Act 34 of 2019 making strength in Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K 93-95. But it is not out of place to mention here and is also worth taking note that the provision (Section-15) regarding the nominated woman members may not be even executed (is conditional) but those as regards Kashmiri migrants (Section-15A) and POJK DPs (Section-15B) may surely be executed.

As regards the nominated members out of POJK DPs [section 15B it could be said that LG may nominate one person from POJK DPs and as regards nominated members out of Kashmiri migrants LG may upto two persons i.e not more than two (not necessarily two) nominate Kashmiri migrants out of which one has to be a woman where in one could ask in case only one is nominated then should that be only woman? Any how let us go for process of nomination. In these days utmost need has arisen for believable fairness of any action

that designated authority takes and particularly when the power to authority is 'almost' discretionary and J&K is a UT.

As regards the nomination of woman members (upto to two) the Act authorizes the LG (Section 15) laying down that if in his opinion, women are not adequately represented in the Legislative Assembly, so for this nomination first need is to ascertain the felt need and that could be done only after the results of elections held are declared. The results to elections held have been declared on 8th Oct and as per the ECI website three woman have also been elected as MLAs (Shagun Parihar BJP Kishitwar, pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Electronics, defeating Sajad Ahmed Kithloo over 500 votes; Sakeena Masood, Kulgam and Shamim Firdous, Habbakadal of the National Conference). And in case one out of the two nominated MLAs out of Kashmiri Migrants happens to be a woman then there will be atleast 4 woman MLAs in LA and before nominating upto two more woman members in the LA the LG has to ascertain whether with 4

members woman are inadequately represented in the LA?

But as regards the Kashmiri Migrants and POJK DPs are concerned they may be nominated as necessity but the issues there too are not that simple and if left to simple choice of LG or even choice of LG supported with the advice from the council of ministers there are all possibilities of people raising questions for fairness even when it is expected that a senior elder in the Chair of LG would be for all fairness.

But still it could be opined that in case the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 had instead provided for election of two additional members of LA of J&K UT out of the registered Kashmiri Migrants voters who are already provided the facility for casting their vote for 90 regular members of LA in polling stations to be set up outside Kashmir Valley (in Jammu, Udhampur, Delhi) and similarly for the registered POJK DPs to elect specifically one addi-

tional member of LA out of the POJK DPs (although there has been no regular registration for them still it could be estimated that their times may be more than 42000 families and /1965/1971 times may be more than 10000 families and taken together may be more than 150000 families this day) that could be better done by direct election by giving opportunity to the electorate instead of picking out members for nomination. The POJK DPs are already expressing their concern for naming only one member for nomination out of them even when for Kashmiri Migrants two members have been named for nomination.

As per Relief Commissioner Migrants Jammu as on March 2022 there was registration of 44089 Kashmiri migrant families in Jammu (Relief Category: Families:20822 & Persons:66387, Non Relief Category: Families:23267 & Persons:83886). Similarly religion wise numbers in March 2022 for Kashmiri

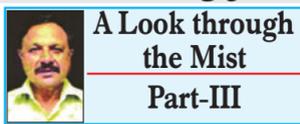
migrants were (1) Hindu: Families:39868 & Persons:133326 (2) Muslim: Families:2574 & Persons:11092 (3) Sikh: Families:1642 & Persons:5836 (4) Other: Families:5 & Persons 19. No doubt some Kashmiri migrant families are registered in Delhi also. Numbers quoted here are just for broader idea.

It is not out of place to mention here that there is a good number of organizations of Kashmiri Migrants and POJK DPs who had been working for their cause. There are many who also say that a good number of their demands have not been fulfilled so far during the times of different governments. So some have been suggesting that the members out of them should not be nominated but should be elected out of them with a condition that seats particularly dedicated to them be filled out of the POJK Migrants/ POJK DPs should put to open elections with the voting rights limited only to Kashmiri migrants / POJK DPs since they fear that in case there are nominations then the nominated members may find it difficult to raise questions on those

who had favoured them in nomination..

No doubt POJK DPs and Kashmiri Migrant families need a very compassionate & fair attention. Ofcourse the present Parliament deserves credits for creating such provisions for POJK DPs and the Kashmiri migrants but still something more could be done. So still in case provision for elections is created in the Act it would further strengthen faith of communities in the truthful intentions of the Parliament of India and it would not be of any loss in case the their election takes 3 to 4 months more after formation of government in J&K and that would also provide all sanctity to providing voting right to the nominated members in the Assembly regarding constitutional matters. During this period it could also be seen whether more POJK DPs members are the need looking at their numbers since some are already expressing that POJK DPs have been given lesser representation compared to the Kashmiri migrants.

(The writer is Sr Journalist, analyst J&K affairs and social activist).



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