

LG pays homage to George Fernandes on death anniversary

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday paid floral tributes to the former Defence Minister, George Fernandes during his second death anniversary commemoration conclave organized by George Fernandes Foundation, in collaboration with Hind Mazdoor Kissan Panchayat, J&K Unit and Step India J&K Unit at Press Club. Remembering the former Union Minister, the Lt Governor observed that George Fernandes was a fearless leader, who tirelessly worked for the upliftment of the underprivileged. He worked for multidimensional development of the society and will continue to inspire the nation with his courage and selflessness, said the Lt Governor. The Lieutenant Governor, while addressing the gathering,



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha speaking at a programme held on death anniversary of former Defence Minister, George Fernandes.

shared his experiences of working with the former Union Minister and recalled the great leader as a well-wisher of the downtrodden. He was an extraordinary personality and able leader. He was instrumental in the eradication of many social inequalities and always worked for the welfare and development of the people. Throwing light on the working of the former Union

Minister, the Lt Governor observed that while being the Minister for Railways, George Fernandes made Konkani railways a reality connecting Mumbai with Mangalore through many crisscrossing rivers, valleys and mountains. The Lt Governor said that George Fernandes advocated transparency in the Government Systems and always stood firm for equal

rights for every citizen of the country. Underlining the importance of transparency and accountability, the Lt Governor said that the present dispensation has laid a mechanism to make information of all Government works available in public space. He observed that people have equal responsibility in government decisions and their active participation is always sought by the UT

Government. Dr Arun Kumar, Former MP and President, George Fernandes Foundation gave a brief overview of the life of George Fernandes. George Fernandes worked for making India a global leader; he added. Ashutosh Pathak also shed light on the life and vision of George Fernandes. "The former Defence Minister; an inspiration for the young generation, was a symbol of simplicity. His work was focused on the welfare of the marginalized and underprivileged sections of the society", he said. Prominent among others present were Uttam Gade from Hind Mazdoor Kissan Panchayat and Mohd. Hafiz, J&K Convener of the organization, besides Labour leader from Mumbai, Pramod Gaonkar; and prominent persons from all walks of life.



Army recruitment rally at Sunjwan Military Station, online registration gets underway

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army Recruitment Rally of Sepoy Pharma will be conducted for eligible candidates of Punjab besides Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territory from March 1 to 10, 2021 at Sunjwan Military Station, Jammu.

the venue on given date and time as mentioned in the Admit Card.

The communique further said that the candidates will be screened as per qualitative requirements as mentioned in the website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in and relaxation in physical standards is either for wards of servicemen/ex-servicemen and would be in addition to the Special Physical Standards.

According to the COVID-19 advisory issued by the agency, all candidates will have to produce a COVID-19 free/asymptomatic certificate and No Risk Certificate when they report to the rally. Besides, all candidates will be thermally screened at the rally site and those having temperature or showing related

symptoms will be directed to report again on a designated day earmarked by Headquarters Recruiting Zone, for all such cases. If the candidate is again having symptoms, he will not be allowed to participate in the rally. All candidates will have to carry masks and gloves besides all ground staff will be well equipped/protected.

For more details regarding the rally, the desirous can contact at 0181-2260885. The terms and conditions, given in the notification and on the website are subject to change and should, therefore, be treated as guidelines only. In case of any ambiguity, the existing policies, rules and regulations of Indian Army/Government of India will be final.

Arbitrary transfer of JK Bank shareholding to UT of Ladakh unfair: Bukhari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday expressed serious concern over the procedure adopted for transferring around 8.23 per cent shareholding of Jammu and Kashmir Bank to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Addressing the media on the sidelines of a joining ceremony, Bukhari said the government of Jammu and Kashmir should have taken all the stakeholders on board while apportioning the assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the decision, Bukhari termed the administrative diktat as unilateral and arbitrary in nature. He said J&K Bank is a prized possession of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir whose asset division is being unfortunately carried out without taking the actual stakeholders on board.

"The J&K bank has remained the spine of our economy for decades. It has grown and flourished because of the support of locals who have always put their unflinching faith and trust into it," Bukhari remarked.

He said: "An arbitrary decision of transferring 4.583 crore shares to UT of Ladakh is creating a sense of gloom among the natives of Jammu and Kashmir. Government should revisit its decision and take all the stakeholders on board before taking any final decision in this regard." Similarly, he said that the government has unfairly transferred assets of the J&K House Chanakypuri to the UT of Ladakh resulting into discrimination with the residents of J&K.

"The decision with regard to transfer of JK House assets was also unfair for the reasons that the population of the UT of J&K is much larger than the pop-

ulation of UT of Ladakh. Besides, the number of employees is also many times more in J&K than Ladakh. Similarly, the accommodation meant for the VIPs like Honble legislators and Judges of J&K High Court has been transferred to the UT of Ladakh which has no legislative assembly," he added.

Such decisions, Bukhari observed, have been conceived without any formal consultation with the stakeholders from Jammu and Kashmir.

"Presently, the majority of the people from J&K feel alienated with the mode of governance. Even though having a cadre of resolute and highly efficient local officers, the prized positions in different administrative departments are being accorded to the non-resident officers in J&K" He said Bukhari urged the Lt. Governor led J&K government to halt the trend of capricious decision

making and put serious efforts to win the trust and confidence of the locals in the region while respecting their wishes and aspirations.

"The people of J&K had yearned for a change. A change that would have addressed their long pending demands of fair representation in decision making. The developmental model projected by the government of India for J&K didn't envisage any indiscriminate with the majority community while upholding the interests of the minorities," he remarked.

Bukhari observed that if the measures with regard to the fair apportionment of assets and liabilities between J&K and UT of Ladakh were not taken on priority, the alienation among the residents of J&K will eventually grow and that is what the elements inimical to peace would desire for.

Nitishwar Kumar reviews progress of digital services, other developmental works

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar on Friday chaired a weekly meeting to review the status of three works each for all government departments, progress of digital services, besides other developmental works taken up for 2020-21 fiscal. The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, various Heads of Departments and other senior officers from their respective departments. All Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory attended the meeting via video conferencing.

The Principal Secretary reviewed department-wise progress on implementation of the directions of Lieutenant Governor; Manoj Sinha with regard to achievements in public services delivery through the digital platform. At the outset, Commissioner Secretary Forest, Environment and Ecology Department briefed the Principal Secretary about the achievements with respect to the targets and progress on digital services in her respective department. Similarly, Secretary Jal Shakti



Principal Secretary to LG, Nitishwar Kumar chairing a meeting.

Department informed the chair that all the three projects taken up by the department for this fiscal are going on smoothly and would be completed on set target accordingly.

While reviewing the physical achievements of Youth Services & Sports Department, the Principal Secretary was informed that two indoor halls are nearing completion, one each at Tral and Bijbehara areas of south Kashmir and would be dedicated to the people of the area very soon.

The Principal Secretary also reviewed the progress of works in the Tourism sector wherein he was informed that three projects were taken for this fiscal and the projects would be readied on time. The Principal Secretary also enquired about the pace of works under

PRASAD project at Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar wherein, he was informed that most of the components under the project are nearing completion, with around 80 percent of work having been completed.

The Principal Secretary while reviewing the targets set for the year 2020-21 fiscal under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna (PMAY), impressed upon all Deputy Commissioners to expedite the process of identifying, tracing beneficiaries and accordingly sanctioning process for them.

While reviewing the status of SEHAT Scheme, he was informed that the registration process and issuance of Golden Cards are picking up across J&K. Besides, the Principal Secretary also reviewed Land Acquisition process with regard

to different projects of various departments. The Principal Secretary also reviewed functioning and achievements and set targets for the financial year 2020-21 for Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Floriculture, Tourism, Culture, Cooperative Department, Horticulture, Youth Services and Sports, Labour & Employment, Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, and other departments. While reviewing the functioning of the Information Technology Department, he was informed that an alternative platform SWAN (State Wide Area Network) for video conferencing is being introduced in Jammu and Kashmir. The Principal Secretary asked the concerned Deputy Commissioners to identify five offices in their respective districts so that those offices could be connected to the SWAN platform on priority basis. On the occasion, the Principal Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing pace of works and hoped that all the three works and other set targets would be finished on time.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana on Thursday exhorted Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to take a considerate view with regard to demands of the Kashmiri Pandit migrants, residing at Jagti Township, who are on sit-in Dharna for the past over four months.

"Till their safe and honourable return to their homes and hearths in the Valley, every effort is needed to be made to mitigate the sufferings of the migrants", Rana said during his visit to the Jagti Township and interaction with those sitting on Dharna.

As a mark of solidarity, he along with leaders of the National Conference Minority Cell, sat with the protesters, who are demanding increase of cash relief from Rs. 13000 per month to Rs. 35000 per family, disbursement of pending amount of compensation for their damaged properties and retrieval of their encroached lands and houses in the Valley.



National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana protesting with Jagti residents.

The protesting migrants have also been demanding filling up of the remaining 3000 posts under the Special Prime Minister's Employment Package announced due to strenuous efforts of the then government led by the National Conference. They also demanded issuance of appointment orders in favour of 45 and 83 candidates under the PM's Package, whose appointments were stayed and subsequently vacated by the Court.

The agitating migrants also sought adequate accommodation for the migrant employees posted in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley.

During their interaction with the Provincial President, the agitating migrants said that the

Lieutenant Governor had assured them of looking into these issues during his visit to the township in September last year but nothing concrete has emerged so far. Rana assured the migrants that he would take up their demands with the Lieutenant Governor for earnest redressal.

Provincial Vice President Anil Dhar besides President Minority Cell M. K Yogi and Jatin Bhat also spoke to the protesting migrants and expressed their solidarity with them.

Anil Dhar and Yogi described the demands as genuine and said that these need to be fulfilled earnestly. They also hoped that the administration would reach out to those on Dharna and resolve the issues to their satisfaction.

Bollywood planning big shooting schedules in Kashmir in 2021

Troupe visits 'Bobby Hut' where 'Ham Tum Ek Kamre Mein' was shot in 1973 & Shiva Mandir where 'Jai Jai Shiva Shankar' was shot in 1974

■ AHMED ALI FAYYAZ

SRINAGAR: A 24-member ensemble from Bollywood has arrived in Kashmir to explore the possibilities of shooting a number of films and music videos at the famous tourist resorts and picturesque locales later this year. Weeks after actress Sana Khan enjoyed her honeymoon trip and industrialist Anil Ambani witnessed a snowfall, the Bollywood delegation on Thursday visited the exquisite locations in Gulmarg. This is where many of the top notch producers, directors and matinee idols created the Indian silver screen's big hits in the halcyon days before 1990.

The celebrities who visited Kashmir recently also include singers Jubin Nautiyal, Guru Randhawa and Salman Ali, music composer Salim Merchant of Salim-Sulaiman duo besides TV host, anchor and playback singer Aditya Narayan. With the famous Dal Lake freezing under an unrelenting cold wave, pictures of a video shoot went viral in social media.

Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam were virtually the second home for matinee idols like Shammi Kapoor, Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachhan, Rekha, Hema Malini et al before militancy broke out in 1989-days after classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar performed for Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and others at Gulmarg. It was years after the South Indian stars MG Ramachandran, J Jayalalithaa, Sivaji Ganeshan and many others had left their footprints on the lush green meadows.

Director Subodh Mukherjee filmed his 1961 magnum opus 'Jungle's hit song "Yahoo! Chahe koyi mujhe jungle kahe" on Shammii Kapoor and Saira Banu at the alpine ski slopes of Gulmarg. 'Jungle' saw its Telugu version 'Sarada Ramudu' being shot on N.T. Rama Rao and Jaya Sudha in 1980.

In 1964-65, when Pakistan was pushing in its armed intruders of 'Azad Kashmir Regular Force' under Operation Gibraltar, director-producer Ramanand Sagar was shooting 'Arzoo' with Rajendra Kumar, Sadhana and Feroz Khan at Gulmarg. Songs like 'Jab Ishq kaheen ho jata hai', 'Aji rooth kar ab', 'Bedardi balma tujhko mera dil yaad karta hai' and 'Aey nargise mastana' broke records of popularity.

In 1964, director-producer Shakti Samanta completed an extensive shooting schedule of his magnum opus 'Kashmir Ki Kali' in the valley even as the rain gods played spoilsport for 21 days, confining the whole crew along with the lead pair Shammii Kapoor and Sharmila Tagore.

In 1973, director-producer Raj Kapoor filmed parts of his super hit 'Bobby', with Rishi Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia in the lead roles, at Gulmarg and other locales. 'Ham tum ek kamre mein bandh houn aur chabi khojaye' was shot in a hut at Gulmarg that is still known as 'Bobby Hut'. Betab Valley in Pahalgam was named after a shooting for director Rahul Rawail's 1983 film 'Betab' starring Amrita Singh and Sunny Deol.

Director-producer J. Om Prakash filmed parts of his super hit 'Aap Ki Kasam' in 1974 at Gulmarg and other places. On Thursday, the Bollywood troupe at Gulmarg was keen to have a look of the Shiva temple where Rajesh Khanna and Mumtaz had played 'Jai jai shiva shankar' and the 'Bobby Hut' where Rishi Kapoor with debutant Dimple Kapadia had immortalised the team of R.D. Burman, Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar. The delegation was thrilled to see both as also Maharaja Palace where a number of films had been shot 1960s through 1980s.

The world does still remember Kashmir for the super hit Bollywood songs 'Kora kagaz tha yeh man mera' (Rajesh Khanna, Sharmila Tagore/Aradhana), 'Yeh chaand sa roshan chehra' (Shammi Kapoor, Sharmila Tagore/Kashmir Ki Kali), 'Tum se achha kaun hai' (Shammi Kapoor, Sapna/Janwar), 'Pardeyion se na akhiyan milana' (Shashi Kapoor, Nanda/Jab Jab Phool Khile), 'Kabhi kabhi mere dil mein khayal aata hai' (Amitabh Bachhan, Raakhee/Kabhi Kabhi), 'Lilke jo khat tujhe' (Shashi Kapoor, Asha Parekh/Kanyadaan) and 'Bekhudai mein sanam' (Shashi Kapoor, Babita/Haseena Maan Jayegi).

In 1975, director Gulzar created 'Tere bina zindagi se shikva' for 'Aandhi', his political drama on then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, on Sanjeev Kumar and Suchita Sen at the architectural ruins of the Sun Temple of Martand, exactly where Vishal Bhardwaj picturised 'Ae dile bulbul bulbule bismil' for

'Haider' on Shahid Kapoor; Shraddha Kapoor and Tabu in 2013.

While hundreds of the Bollywood films were shot in Kashmir before 1990, Vishal Bhardwaj's Haider (2014) and Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 'Mission Kashmir' (2000) and 'Shikara' (2020) are among a dozen-odd films which were made in the valley in the last 31 years of militancy. Significantly, all 18-odd cinema theatres were shuttered down under threats from militants indefinitely on 31 December 1989. Three of these were reopened when Farooq Abdullah was Chief Minister in 1996-2002 but closed down again after two terror attacks.

CEO of Producers Guild of India Nitin Tej Ahuja, CEO of Ajay Devgan Films, Meena Iyer, celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor with wife Alyona Kapoor, Rajesh Rawal of Endemol India Pvt Ltd, CEO of LYCA Productions, Aashish Singh, Abhijit Chawathe of Sanjay Dutt Productions, Fatema Nagree of Reliance Entertainment, CEO of Rohit Shetty Films, George Cameron, Pranav Shastri of Zee Studios, Asit Modi of Neela Films (Gujarat) and Kanchan Adhikari from Adhikari Brothers in the Bollywood troupe that is visiting Gulmarg, Srinagar, Pahalgam and other places for four days and exploring the possibilities of resuming shooting in the valley in a big way this year.

Officers from the Directorate of Tourism are arranging the troupe's visits and meetings with the local artists, producers and line producers.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To carry out various upgradation/repair works, the power supply to the Mandrya and its adjoining areas fed from 11 KV Mandrya feeder shall remain affected on January 30 from 9:00 AM to 1:00

PM. Similarly, the power supply to the Part of DCP office Janipur and its adjoining areas fed from 11 KV DCP feeder shall remain affected on January 30 and 31 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

PRASAR BHARATI
(INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER)
PRASAR BHARATI SECRETARIAT
(PPC Wing)
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

"Scheme for regularisation of irregular appointments/engagements in Prasar Bharati (All India Radio & Doordarshan)"

Attention is invited to the Prasar Bharati Circular No. 03/04/2019-LC dated 16.12.2020 uploaded in IARS Portal inviting online applications from ad-hoc, casual, contractual engagees/appointees working in the Directorate General of AIR/Directorate General of Doordarshan/DG(NSD)/DG(DD(News)) or CCW-AIR and their respective field formations who are desirous of being regularised in accordance with the "Scheme dated 22nd August, 2019 for regularisation of irregular appointments/engagements in Prasar Bharati (All India Radio & Doordarshan)". It is hereby notified to all applicants that the last date for submitting online applications has been extended till 15.02.2021. Applicants may visit <http://iars.prasarbharti.org> for details.

DDG (LEGAL & CA)
PRASAR BHARATI SECRETARIAT