

Yuva Rajput Sabha calls on LG

LG directs for constitution of Govt Committee over issue of holiday on Sept 23

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Representatives of Yuva Rajput Sabha on Sunday called on the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here.

The delegation discussed their long pending demand of declaration of holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh on 23rd September.

The Lieutenant Governor gave patient hearing to the delegation and immediately issued directions for constitution of a Committee at the Government level, over the aforesaid issue.

The representatives of Yuva Rajput Sabha expressed their

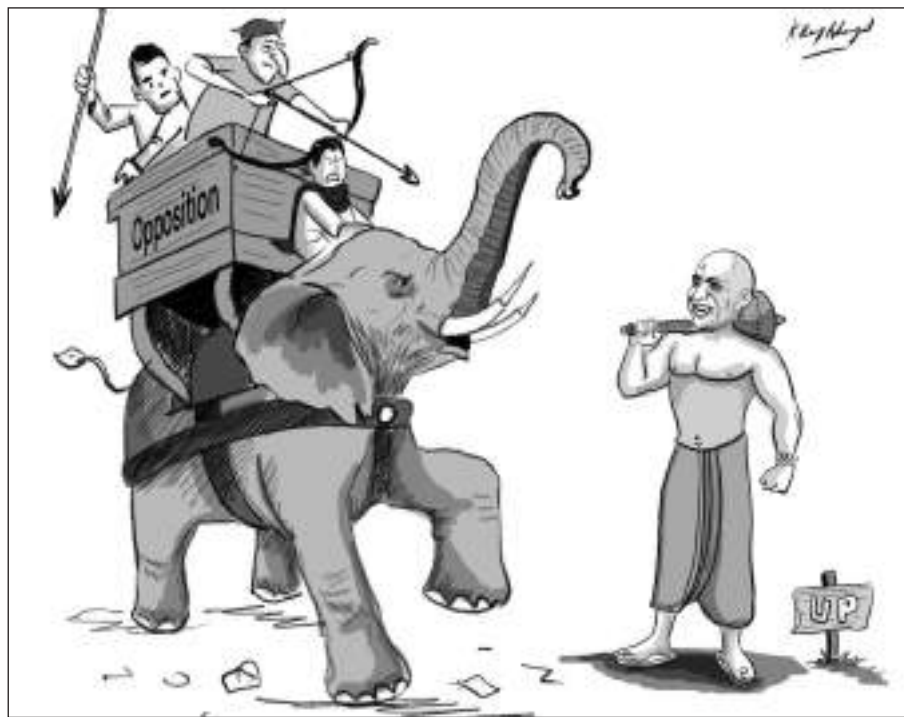


Yuva Rajput Sabha members calling on the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

gratitude and honoured the Lieutenant Governor by tying a traditional Dogra turban, which is a symbol of cultural ethos of the region, as a mark of their respect.

The delegation of Yuva Rajput Sabha included Rajan Singh Happy, President Yuva Rajput Sabha; Mukesh Singh, Senior Vice President; Mandeep Singh, Senior Vice President & Balbir Singh, Member.

Additional Director General of Police Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer were also present in the meeting.



Initiate necessary measures to tackle pandemic before third wave: Sawhney to Admn

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and former Minister

Yogesh Sawhney on Sunday invited attention of Government towards increasing COVID cases in Jammu & Kashmir and asked the administration whether

it is prepared to handle a third wave of pandemic. "Every precaution must be put in place beforehand and hospitals should be equipped to deal with any worst-case scenario. J&K is witnessing a sharp rise in

cases, and we can't afford to be clueless and unprepared this time. It should be noted whether we have enough oxygen and hospital beds, if not they should be ramped up, and all necessary steps must be taken by the administration," he stressed.

Sawhney also urged people to strictly observe COVID SOPs and also the administration to take immediate measures in this regard. While immunization is essential and should be pursued with full force, however new mutations of virus threaten even those who are vaccinated thus it cannot be solely depended upon and all COVID SOPs be followed religiously, he added.

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BSF's weekly 'Beating Retreat ceremony' along IB in Jammu suspended due to COVID

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BSF's "beating retreat ceremony" held every weekend at Suchetgarh Border Outpost on the International Border (IB) here has been suspended till further orders owing to a surge in coronavirus cases, officials said on Sunday.

The ceremony, including a structured parade by BSF personnel, was launched in October last year as part of the border tourism promotion programme and had attracted visitors, including school children, in large numbers.

"In view of the surge in Covid positive cases and latest Covid related SOPs/guidelines, the beating retreat ceremony shall not be held from today (Sunday) onwards, till further orders, the Jammu divisional administration said.

It said the Covid situation would be again reviewed after two weeks by the administration and BSF authorities and a decision regarding the resumption of the ceremony would be taken accordingly.

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a surge in COVID-19 cases over the past week with 655 fresh cases reported on Saturday, taking the virus tally to 3,43,965, while three fatalities due to the disease pushed the death toll to 4,537.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Offset Printers' Association (JKOPA) on Sunday held its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM), Bi-Annual Election Cum Felicitation Function, here.

Avnish Anand General Secretary and Satish Raina Finance Secretary JKOPA read the minutes of 11th AGM & Auditor's Report which was passed by other members.

The newly elected office bearers include Sudesh Kumar Gupta President, Sharat Sharma Senior Vice President, Rahul Mahajan Vice President, Avnish Anand General Secretary, Rajneesh Kaushal Finance Secretary, Satish Raina Secretary and Kulki Ji Bhan Joint Secretary.

The election were conducted under the supervision of Satish Jandyal and Sanjay Soni, Returning and Assistant Returning Officers of Election Committee JKOPA respectively. Sanjay Soni hosted the function.

Sudesh Kumar Gupta President JKOPA, while welcoming the guests & members, thanked them for showing trust in the team and electing them for another term.

He highlighted the activities of the association and the problems being faced by the local

JKOPA elects new office bearers in 12th AGM



JKOPA members and others during annual general meeting at Jammu on Friday.

printing industry.

He said that the printers were facing many hardships as the Government had taken some harsh decisions which are detrimental to our local printing industry like allowing work to non-printers and printers outside the UT.

There are other problems like GST rates should be down from 18% to 12% , treat printing industry as regular industry, price preference in tenders etc.

He informed that the Association has been continuously taking up the issues with the concerned higher authorities & would continue to do so.

He assured the printers that the association would continuously keep taking steps for betterment of printing industry.

He said that any member who is facing any difficulty regarding DIC, Pollution Board,

Labour Department etc. can approach the association & they will try their best to resolve the issue.

The association also felicitated the newly elected office bearers of All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP) President P. Chander; Past President and President World Print and Communication Forum Prof. Kamal Mohan Chopra, Vice President (North), Tarun Anuja, General Secretary, C Ravinder Reddy, Ashvani Gupta former Vice President North and Balbir Singh Jasrotia from Lucky

Processors Jalandhar

P. Chander, while congratulating the new team, said our Industry has a great potential and bright future.

"This is collective responsibility all of us to not ruin it by uncalled and reckless competition. When all other Businesses and Industries strive to make money and earn handsome profits what stops us to not make good profits in order to survive and invest in new technologies. I wish and urge all stakeholders to start thinking on these lines. To quote an example look towards

Paper mills who are collectively commanding the market. Hope our Industry gets the better fruits."

Prof. Kamal Mohan Chopra stressed that all printer brothers should work untidily and have faith in each other.

He urged upon the members to work towards establishing a cluster to survive in future.

He also stressed to work untidily and have a faith in each other. He assured all his help for betterment of printing industry.

The President and office bearers of AIFMP were presented citations of honour by the JKOPA and Calendar was also released.

Present among others were BS Chib, Girish Kapoor, Gurmeet Singh, Rakesh Mehta, Vipin Mahajan, Ashish Chopra, Pankaj Sethi, Arun Gupta and other senior members of the association.

Later Vote of thanks was presented by Avnish Anand, Ravi Gupta IPP and Rahul Mahajan.

Stanzin appointed Ladakh BJP President, replaces Namgyal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Former executive councillor Phunchok Stanzin was on Sunday appointed the new president of the BJP's Ladakh unit, replacing Jamyang Tsering Namgyal.

Namgyal, BJP MP from Ladakh, who was appointed to the post in July 2020, welcomed the new appointment.

In a communication, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh said, "BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda has appointed Phunchok Stanzin as

state president of Ladakh BJP." "The appointment comes into immediate effect," Singh said in his letter, copies of which were also addressed to the state in-charge and the general secretary (organisation) for Ladakh.

Stanzin was working as the state unit vice-president of the party and had earlier served as an executive councillor in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh.

Welcoming Stanzin's appointment as the party

president in Ladakh, Namgyal expressed his gratitude to Nadda and the senior party leadership for their support and guidance during his tenure as the state unit chief.

He also thanked his team members for their cooperation in retaining power at the LAHDC, Leh for the larger interest of Ladakh as well as the nation .

Namgyal expressed his heartiest congratulations to Stanzin and all the members of the BJP for the new leadership.

355th Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh celebrated with religious gaiety

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 355th Prakash Parv (birth anniversary) of tenth Guru Gobind Singh was celebrated with great fervour and gaiety at Gurdwara Digiana Ashram under the supervision of Mahant Manjit Singh of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch. A number of devotees from all walks of life from far and nearby areas participated in the function and paid obeisance. Raagi Jatha Giani Sukhdev Singh from Ludhiana, Dr Gurpreet Singh Parcharak from Amritsar, Bhai Harvinder Singh Parcharak Jammu, Giani Bachan Singh Ragi Jatha Digiana, Giani Daljit Singh Jammu, Giani Ranjit Singh UP Ragi Jatha Jammu, Giani Hardeep Singh Ragi Jatha Jammu performed Kirtan, Katha and highlighted sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh.

Ravinder Raina President BJP J&K, Raman Bhalla Working President JKPCA, ex-Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, Sudershan Singh Wazir Chairman Sikh United Front J&K and Khalid



JKPCC Working President, Bhalla during visit to Digiana Ashram to attend celebrations of 355th Parkash Parv of 10th Guru Gobind Singh.

Hussain former DC addressed the Sangat and extended greetings of the day. The speakers from Sikh community also highlighted a number of demands and expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring December 26 as Vir Baal Divas in the memory of 4 SahibZaadeys.

Speaking on the occasion, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta said that the announcement of observing Veer Baal Divas on December 26 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a fitting tribute to the valour of sons of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikh Community. While extending greetings to

people on the occasion of Gurdurab, Kavinder said that people should take a cue from the life of Guru Gobind Singh as there is no one who can match the credentials of tenth Sikh Guru, who sacrificed his entire family for the cause of Dharma and never fought for personal gains rather his every little step was for the righteousness and dignity of people.

Addressing the congregation, Bhalla described unity in diversity hallmark of J&K's pluralistic ethos. He also eulogized role of Sikh community in socio-economic field. He called on collective efforts for steering J&K to the pinnacles of development, progress, peace and prosperity. Referring to demands put

forth by Sikh Sangat, Bhalla assured that he will project all the issues before the Govt as a representative and an advocate of the community.

Mahant Manjit Singh asked the Sangat to follow all teachings of Guru Gobind Singh and serve humanity without any discrimination on basis of caste, colour, creed, region or religion as all are equal in the eyes of Almighty.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanaya Nishkam Sewa Society J&K and ex- Member DGPC Jammu, Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Rajinder Singh General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal

J&K, Gajan Singh President J&K Motor Transport Company Association, Raja Singh Sarpanch Member DGPC Jammu, Ravinder Singh Sarpanch & General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Kulwant Singh Khajuria Joint Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S S Charanjit Singh, Prof Yodhvir Singh Corporator, Charan Singh Bali Convenor, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Surinder Singh Kala President Fruit and Vegetable association, Surjeet Singh Kukoo President Sikh Naujawan Sabha, Harpreet Singh Chottu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K, Gurmeet Kour General Secretary Istri Akali Dal J&K, Harpeet Singh Lucky President Sikh Student Federation, Manmohan Singh Chairman Gole Gujral, Rasbir Singh, Kuldeep Singh Malik, Kulwant Singh, Kultar Singh, Tejpal Singh, Jagmohan Singh President Gurdwara Nanak Nagar and Surinder Singh Dutt.

GoI has given Sindhu CU & Medical College to Ladakh; so also is the need for HC & CAT Benches

The Ladakh Tableau joining the Republic Day Parade/ Pageant (cavalcade, procession, carnival) for the first time on 26th January, 2021 marking the 72nd anniversary of Indian Republic, in one way, asking the otherworld to see India beyond Kashmir valley, Ladakh to Kanyakumari. So far Ladakh region of erstwhile J&K State had been a little known to outside world and now after it has been made by present NDA Government a UT in 2019, it is being seen as a pointed dimension of Bharat. Government of India, has, in a way set a pointed process of identifying local identities and needs of Ladakh region which very significantly carried the cultural & geographical identities of ancient Bharat Varsh. The initiatives taken by Narendra Modi led Indian Government in August 2019 have started showing signs of positives at socio-economic levels for locals and at the diplomatic levels in relation to foreign affairs.

Before October 31, 2019 although Ladakh 'region' formed a very large part of the then Indian state of J&K (area of Ladakh region that has been illegally encroached by Pakistan and China has been around one Lakh Sq Km or in other words about 8 times the encroached area of other regions) but even then all these years, J&K State related issues and socio-economic needs have been very less addressed w.r.t lands & people other than Kashmir Valley and so have instead the irrational accession related controversies floated by some from valley; too attracted disproportionate attentions of outside world.

A very large part of Ladakh region remains cut off by road for about six months in a year (many areas even don't have easy access to even air travel and a large segment of Ladakh region (presently UT), population is very ill-equipped due to economic constraints for moving out for better higher/ professional education/ criti-

cal health care needs and people remained hard pressed economically. Due to the administrative, economic and geographical constraints, the growth there has remained 'hear' to a few families only. Going by the environment that prevailed immediately after 1947, in late 1950s some frontline J&K leaders from Kashmir Valley had woven a web of strategies for keeping grip on the democratic Governments to follow in Indian State of J&K. Some power-hungry leaders from outside Kashmir valley too walked along 'their' side.

Even till recent past for basic college education the people had to come to Jammu/ Srinagar (presently there are six degree colleges, 4 in Kargil and 2 in Leh). Similarly, for superior legal remedies for/ criminal/ writ matters the people of region have to come to Jammu or Srinagar and the government employees there do not have any



A Look through the Mist

higher court for remedies regarding service disputes. Imagine the fate of the local population that has been and would be even now after 2019

(after 7 decades in Independent India) as regards reaching Higher judiciary (HC) ? No doubt after the Governor's rule was imposed in 2018, pressing needs of the region had been recognised to some extent in view of which University of Ladakh was established in 2019 under the University of Ladakh Act 2018 (enacted by Governor of Jammu and Kashmir - Act no. LVI of 2018) and by virtue of Section2(e) of Act, the six existing colleges of Leh and Kargil district became part of the University of Ladakh.

In the run for betterment of the people of Ladakh it has been after October 31, 2019 that Lok Sabha passed a bill on August 6, 2021 seeking to establish a Central University (Sindhu Central University in

Ladakh) in the Union Territory of Ladakh when in a brief statement on the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed that every year; about 7,000 students go out of Ladakh for higher studies as the university can accommodate about 2,500 students. Another happy note for present UT of Ladakh has been that in September 2019 J&K H&ME Department decided to start a Medical college and 250-bedded hospital in Leh (201 Kanals of land at Shey Sindhu Ghat village was earmarked for Government Medical College in Leh) and as per Dr Pawan Kotwal, college will be taking in first batch in 2022.

But still, UT of Ladakh neither has a separate High Court for Ladakh UT/ region nor even a Court section or wing of High Court in Leh or Kargil like Jammu and Kashmir regions of J&K UT have in Leh or Kargil. Imagine how diffi-

cult it is still for Ladakh UT (region) people to seek total ultimate judicial and administrative justices. Anyone who has to appeal against judgement of Sessions Court or has to file a writ petition has to file the same in Jammu or Srinagar only since wings/benches of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh High Court are in Jammu and Srinagar. Same is the position as regards CAT. Imagine how pressing and expensive it must be for people to file petitions. So since irrespective of the fact that UT of Ladakh has very less population, the geographical placement of the population of UT of Ladakh over-rides any other argument against giving separate wing/bench of High Court in Ladakh as well as a separate bench of CAT in Ladakh, for which demands have started simmering.

{Daya Sagar, Sr Journalist and Analyst J&K Affairsdayasagr45@yahoo.com).