

LG inaugurates online booking facility for passenger ropeway from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to Bhairon ji

Releases Panchang Calendar 2024, diary of SMVDSB

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated online booking facility for passenger ropeway from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan to Bhairon ji for the convenience of the pilgrims.

The Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the Shrine Board to provide better facilities and modern amenities to make the pilgrimage convenient and hassle-free. The tickets for Passenger Ropeway are available through online portal www.maavaishnodevi.org which were earlier only available offline at the counters on first come first serve basis.

Initially, the online ceiling



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and other dignitaries releasing Panchang Calendar 2024.

is 2000 tickets per day for the pilgrims and will be scaled up gradually in the coming months. This initiative of Shrine Board will not only facilitate the pilgrims but also reduce annual expenditure of Shrine Board. The Bhawan-Bhairon passenger ropeway has a carrying capacity of 800 persons per hour which remains oper-

ational for 8-10 hours in a day. On the occasion, the Lt Governor handed over the appointment letter to renowned Para-archer Rakesh Kumar.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Para-archer on his appointment as an Assistant Coach in the Shrine Board Sports Complex. He said the

remarkable performance of Sh Rakesh Kumar in the international events is a source of inspiration for many aspiring athletes.

The Lt Governor also released Panchang Calendar 2024 and diary of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

briefed the Lt Governor on the action taken report on recent decision of the Board including construction of new Vaishnavi Bhawan, establishment of medical college at Kakryal, passenger Ropeway from Tarakote to Sanjichhat, widening of track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan and new langar facility at Bhairon ji.

Members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board including Dr. Ashok Bhan, Dr. Neelam Sareen, Suresh Kumar Sharma and Raghu K. Mehta; Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Member, SMVD Gurukul; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor and senior official of Shrine Board were present.



India's technology driven governance practices emulated by other countries: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Technology driven Good Governance Practices developed by India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are being acknowledged globally and emulated by other countries as well, Union Minister Incharge DoPT Dr Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday.

Subscribing to the approach of 'Neighbours First', while interacting with participants of the 29th Capacity Building Program (CBP) for Civil Servants of Maldives & 1st CBP for Civil Servants of Cambodia, Dr Jitendra Singh said we are ready to share our success stories and experiences with others.

Neighbours like Maldives and Cambodia have particularly much to gain from India considering the commonality of our cultural, traditional and historical legacy, he said.

The Union Minister said that India today has achieved a level in Civil Services training which is being emulated by other countries. He said that many students are visiting India from neighbouring



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing Civil Services Officers from Maldives and Cambodia, currently undergoing a training programme at Civil Services Officers' Institute (CSOI), Chankyapuri, New Delhi.

countries for studies.

Dr Jitendra said that PM Modi has focussed on 'Maximum Governance and Minimum Government'.

"Citizen centric reforms initiated by the Prime Minister in the last over nine years has led to 'Ease of Governance', leading to 'Ease of Living' for the citizens," he said.

Underlining on the optimum use of technology, Dr Jitendra said that Civil Servants need to harness the potential of the Digital Revolution and embrace the latest IT innovations as a means to advance Digital

Governance. He said that the emphasis is on e-governance and paperless office, which has made many things easier and simpler.

"More than 1.17 crore pensioners are submitting Digital Life Certificates, including 19.52 lakh DLCs generated using Face Authentication Technique," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Government's priority has been on citizen-centricity, transparency and citizen-participation. He further said that the Government has done away with many obsolete rules and laws.

West Pakistan refugees in J&K celebrate SC's Article 370 verdict

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Refugees from West Pakistan on Tuesday celebrated the Supreme Court upholding the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, saying they look forward to voting for the first time when elections take place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hundreds of West Pakistan refugees organised a celebration in the Chabay Chak area of Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura to "thank" the Supreme Court for "putting an end to Article 370 once for all". The Supreme Court on Monday unanimously upheld the 2019 revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir even as it ordered Assembly elections there by September-end and restoration of statehood "at the earliest". Led by Labha Ram Gandhi, chairman of the West Pakistan Refugees Action Committee, hundreds of people celebrated the verdict with the Tricolour.

"The Supreme Court verdict has driven out the fear psychosis among the community about the return of the ghost of Article 370. Our community members living in scores of border villages are happy. It is like Diwali to us," Gandhi said during the function.

The community is now waiting to exercise their franchise in the elections for the first time, he added.

"When elections to the assembly and the panchayat are held, we will proudly vote for the first time," he added.

He said most of the community members are now registered to vote.

The organisation said there are 22,160 refugee families from West Pakistan, numbering more than 1.5 lakh people.

Ex-servicemen celebrate SC verdict on Article 370 in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A group of retired army personnel affiliated with the Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad (ABPSSP) on Tuesday celebrated the Supreme Court upholding the abrogation of Article 370, saying justice has been done to the soldiers from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

They said the Monday judgment is a tight slap on Pakistan, separatists and the parties that are dividing the people.

"We are happy over the historic decision of the Supreme Court because from Manipur to Rajasthan and Ladakh to Kerala, the soldiers serving in Jammu and Kashmir have sacrificed their lives in Jammu and Kashmir but the irony was that their families had no permission to buy a piece of

land to settle here," president of J&K unit of ABPSSP Colonel (Retd) Sukhvirk Mankotia told PTI.

Mankotia led a group of retired soldiers to celebrate the top court's verdict at Sainik Colony on the outskirts of Jammu. They also paid floral tributes to fallen security personnel including a colonel, a major and a deputy Superintendent of police who laid down their lives in an encounter with the terrorists in Kokernag area of Anantnag district in September.

Mankotia said the Supreme Court has put its stamp on the August 5, 2019 decision of the BJP-led central government to abrogate Article 370, providing joy to the soldiers from other parts of the country who are serving in J-K under challenging conditions.

Ex-serviceman Narinder

Singh said there was a wave of happiness over the verdict among the people except the separatist and the parties that work at the "behest of Pakistan". "The decision is a tight slap on Pakistan and the parties having separatist leanings and dividing people."

Another ex-serviceman, Rakesh Choudhary, said the Supreme Court decision has done justice not only with Jammu and Kashmir but the entire country as the abrogation of Article 370 ended discrimination with various communities.

"The discriminatory Article 370 disenfranchised citizens, especially the soldiers who could serve and make the supreme sacrifice but were not permitted to settle in J&K. The daughters of J-K married outside were denied property rights. Now everyone is happy about its abrogation," he said.

CGPWA organises maiden Sangeet Sandhya

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association (CGPWA), Jammu organised a Sangeet Sandhya in collaboration with Navi Dogri Sanstha at K L Sehgal Auditorium of Jammu Writers' Club in Abhinav Theatre complex, here on Tuesday.

The grand maiden musical evening organised by the CGPWA was presided over by its President Kuldeep Khoda with Ashok Angurana as Guest of Honour. It was a musical feast with a combination of upcoming young and well-known artists of Jammu.

The 2-hour long scintillating musical bonanza, was laced with Ghazals, Hollywood songs, Dogri folk lore and Kannada song by the

artists. It started with the mesmerizing ghazal of Jagjit Singh, Chitra Singh Kaun Kehta Hai Mohabbat Ki Zuban Hoti Hai by Jammu's famous couple Subash and Neelam Langhe, followed by Lata Mangeshkar's famous song of woh koun thi film of sixties, Lag Ja Gale Ke Pir Yeh Hasen Raat Ho Na Ho by Neelam Langhe. It was followed by Ghazal by SAREGAMMA Little Champ fame Barbie & T Dorze.

Dr Chanchal Dogra enthralled the jam-packed auditorium when she sung Dogri folk lore Bhala Sipahiya Dogariya which was also sung by late Lata Mangeshkar. Aditya Bhan, disciple of



CGPWA members posing for a photograph with artists at Sangeet Sandhya.

Ustad Sakhawat Hussain Khan of Rampur Sahasvan Gharana, sung Mehndi Hassan's famous Ghazal Zindagi Mein To Sabhi Pyar Kiya Karte Hain. Bhan, All India Radio's National Awardee, has been credited

with training about 150 artists in Russia where he had conducted workshops. His fiancé Sharanya from Bengaluru sung a kannada song. Rakesh Anand, on the demand of the audience, presented famous song on flute,

Mere Mitwa Aaja Tujh Ko Pukare Mere Geet Re to huge applause of the audience.

A local artist, Rakesh Doel, currently finding his feet in Bollywood, reverberated the audience with his entertain-

ing Karaoke singing. This is a singing by combining four songs with a single antra of each song. He presented Karaoke of golden melodies of yesteryears- Tum Se Achha Kon Hai, Baar Baar Dekho Hazar Baar Dekho...

He is a disciple of Vijay Kumar Sanblyal, nationally reputed classic singer of Jammu, better known as Rangleel Thakur and EC member of CGPWA. The musicians included Rakesh Anand, Krishan K Johnney, Vijay Anand and Amit Anand. Yashpal Yash conducted the program.

Ashok Angurana commended the initiative of the CGPWA in organising such a musical bonanza for pensioners and hoped that such events would be organised in

future as well for the entertainment of senior citizens.

He said that such events would help in bringing out elders out of their homes and end their loneliness. Elaborating his idea of ending loneliness among pensioners, he referred to nine Blue Zones in the world where centuries live and one major reason for their longevity is that they move out of their home daily for four to five hours, mix up and gossip with their friends and enjoy each other's company.

Such types of initiatives should be taken by the CGPWA here too to bring out pensioners for entertainment and excursions.

A literary person himself with couple Dogri books to his credit, recording of his

one of the Dogri Ghazals was played on the occasion.

Later, Kuldeep Khoda and S S Wazir, patron of the CGPWA, honoured the artists.

Earlier, Capt. Lalit Sharma, convener of Navi Dogri Sanstha spoke about their organisation, promotion of Dogri language and binding spirit of music.

K B Jandial General Secretary presented the vote of thanks. Among those present on the occasion included B R Sharma, Dr Ashok Bhan, R L Bharti, P P Sharma, S D Swatantra, B K Raina, J K Vaid, Prem Gupta, members of Executive committee of CGPWA, Prof Anupama Sharma & Harish Kaila, patron and President of Navi Dogri Sanstha.

Over 40,000 families of 1947 POJK DPs must have grown to atleast 1,50,000 families in 2023

22 Feb.1994 India Paliament Demand that 'Pakistan must vacate POJK' is unexecuted even after 29 Yrs

Iron is Hot- PAK is weak - UNSC has failed to get POJK vacated - time for NDA-III to strike for POJK

Since not paid Claims for Properties Displaced POJK DPs 1947 request for getting vacated POJK areas

POJK DPs ask how long they will have to wait for their return to 'parental' hearths in POJK?

DAYA SAGAR

The J&K Cabinet, when initiated some action, on 16th July 2014 could not even discuss to conclusion the compensation/ grants /claims proposals for 1947 POJK DPs since some ministers from Congress wanted to take the issue in more real and rational manner instead of simply rushing through (may be more in view of the then forth coming Nov-December 2014 assembly election) with 'totally' unrealistic proposals like that of one time settlement amount on uniform basis to all POJK DPs. Later on same proposals were sent by state government to Ministry of Home Affairs GOI under D.O. letter No. Rev/Rehab/08/2011 dated 20-10-2014 for REHABILITATION - FOR ONE TIME FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIMS OF THE POJK DISPLACED PERSONS OF 1947 AND CHAMB DISPLACED PERSONS 1965/1971 recommending to GOI there in among other socio economic supports also payment of Rs. 25 Lac per family as one time settlement. Recommending

same amount as final settlement for all was totally irrational and unfair since (i) there were many families who had not been offered/ given even ex gratia of Rs.3500 in 1960s and (ii) there might have been some families who might have claim values at 1947 prices of even a Lakh of rupees and some of value as low as only Rs 5000. To quote one Shri Chiter Sen Bahri could reach India along with his sons Bhushan Prakash and Om Prakash where as his father Uttam Chand Bahri, his wife and one son were killed by raiders while they were fleeing from Mirpur on 25-11-1947. As per the family of Uttam Chand Bahri they had two mammoth havelies, 4 houses and 8 shops along with some joint property in Mirpur and Jehlum. Besides the family was the premier business house of the area. Imagine what would be the worth of their property today. In cities like Jammu where a land that was just worth Rs.1000 in 1947 is not less than Rs.150 Lac to Rs.200 Lac in 2014. Would it be a truthful act to recommend to GOI in 2014 to pay just Rs.25 Lac as

one time settlement to the family of Lt Uttam Chand Bahri, surely not. So, it was unfair even for NC & Congress government to play political games with the unfortunate families just keeping an eye on the assembly elections due in Oct/November 2014.

The year 2014 proposal note of J&K Government mentioned that in 1947 around 31619 families from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir crossed to this side of 'border' and out of these 26319 families settled in J&K where as 5300 families subsequently opted to settle in other parts of the country.

What to talk of rationally taking the issues of 1947 POJK DPs with compassion, it was so painful that even those 1947 POJK DPs whose information is available with the government (included in 31619 families) but are staying in states other than J&K had been unfairly excluded from the definition of 1947



A Look through the Mist Part-IV

DPs from POJK for the purposes of one time settlement amount of Rs.25 Lakh / 1947 family wrongly taking lines from an Act of J&K Legislature passed in

1971 {The Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Persons (Permanent Settlement) Act 1971 Act No X of 1971}. The proposals also made mention of 10065 displaced persons from Chhamb area as a result of in 1965/ 1971 Indo Pak conflicts/ wars thereby making the total number of affected families under immediate reference as 41684 but for one time settlement excluded 5300 families and sent proposals to GOI only for total cash implication of Rs.9096 Cr and 36384 families and not 41684 as beneficiaries (26319 POJK DPs 1947 families plus 10065 1965/71 Chamb Displaced families).

GOI vide D.O. Letter no :31/1/2011R&SO(Part-II) Dated 07-11-2014 and Letter no :31/1/2011R&SO(Part-II) Dated 21-11-2014 wanted some clarifications / more information but the state govern-

ment could not provide the replies pointedly to the information that same could be compiled only through a regular exercise by a regular department but there was no regular department there in place to look after the POJK DPs issues. With the conditions prevailing it was extremely difficult to retrieve the old information even on numbers from the incomplete records that had been all these years handled by only ex officio officials at junior levels in the office of Custodian Evacuee Property. In the meantime a Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs even at Para 3.2.4.3 of one hundred eighty third report problems being faced by refugees and displaced persons in J&K (presented to Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2014) (laid on the table of Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2014) said that The Committee desires that one time compensation of Rs. 30 Lakh per family of 1947 times be paid and not 2 Lakh (although even that was not fair to treat all financially equal.

Anyhow finally in 2016 approval of

GOI was conveyed to Chief Secretary JK Government by Director Rehabilitation vide No 31/01/2011-R&SO dated 22 Dec 2016 of Ministry of Home Affairs FFR Division in response to JK Government letter no R&R -Rehab/CSC /19/2015 dated 16-06-2016 for providing central assistance of Rs 2000 cr for 36384 displaced families from PoJK of 1947 and Chhamb displaced persons of 1965 and 1971 as one time settlement under Prime Minister Development Package, 2015 where under central assistance of only Rs 5,49,562 per family was to be distributed through benefit transfer to eligible families by central government directly and the State Government will transfer state share of Rs.308 per family through DBT. Just Rs.5.5. Lakh even to a family like that of "Uttam Chand Bahri" whose family tells that they had not been paid even Rs.3500 ex gratia in 1960s for which even Rs.30 Lakh would have been too less.

To be continued. (The author is a Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K Affairs. dayasagr45@yahoo.com).