

Unveils Silver Jubilee issue of Shri Raghvendra Panchang

Panchang reflects composite culture, rich heritage of our country: LG



LG Manoj Sinha unveiling Silver Jubilee Issue of Shri Raghvendra Panchang at University of Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday unveiled the Silver Jubilee Issue of Shri Raghvendra Panchang, at University of Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated Chander Mouli Raina, the editorial team of the Panchang and all the members of Shri Raghvendra Jyotish Sansthan Trust on the occasion.

He also commended the efforts of the Trust on making people aware about traditions and for carrying forward the legacy of Panchang which reflects the composite culture and rich heritage of the country.

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- Says, our research on astrology, ancient scriptures should touch lives of people from all walks of life
- We must promote global good. We need to focus on spreading importance of spiritually rich life, value-based living among our citizens
- Emphasises on understanding history to develop our thinking, decision-making capabilities to build better future
- One should get back to roots for a clear vision, goals of future

among our citizens," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasized that we should understand history to develop our thinking and decision-making capabilities to build a better future. "One should get back to the roots for a clear vision and goals of the future," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also advised the Shri Raghvendra Jyotish Sansthan

Trust for digital publishing of the Panchang and mobile application for value addition.

The knowledge and wisdom present in our ancient traditions should be made easily accessible to the people, especially the young generation, he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated several organizations and individuals for their contribu-

tion towards promotion of Sanskrit.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor University of

Jammu; Prof. Devi Prasad Tripathi, former Vice Chancellor, Uttarakhand University; Chandra Mouli Raina, President, Shri Raghavendra Jyotish Sansthan Trust; Prof Ram Bahadur Shukla, Head, Department of Sanskrit, Jammu University and prominent citizens were present.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Rajinder Sharma, former Mayor, JMC were also present on the occasion.



Slathia pays tribute to Martyr 2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal PVC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: MLA Samba and Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia on Wednesday paid glowing tributes to martyrs, who stood firm like a rock in defense of the nation in most challenging situations and offered their supreme sacrifices.

"We salute the valour of our brave jawans and officers, who laid down their lives while defending the integrity and sovereignty of the nation", Slathia said while leading people in paying tribute to Martyr 2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal PVC, at a homage giving function at Veer Bhumi Park Samba, The commemorative Memorial Service was organ-



ised by Samba Social Club with the assistance of 66 Armoured Regiment.

"By offering supreme sacrifice, 2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal PVC has made his village and the entire Jammu and Kashmir proud", Slathia said, adding that martyrdom of brave soldiers and officers remain source of inspiration

for the compatriots, especially the youth. The nation will always remain indebted to the valiant martyrs who give their today for secure tomorrow of the country, he maintained.

The former minister, who was chief guest at the homage giving function, said Samba in particular has been the land of Warriors who have con-

tributed immensely in defence of the country, especially in the past over seven decades. He lauded the heroic role of the armed forces in coming to the rescue of the people during the times of distress like natural calamities and defending the borders at the pearl of their lives.

Slathia exuded confidence that the sacrifices of valiant heroes will serve as an inspiration for the youngsters to be part of the world's bravest Indian Army that has a track record of record of heroism. The stories of valour scripted by brave hearts has made every Indian proud, he said, adding their saga of valour remain inked with golden letters in the country's military

history.

Slathia said that the best tribute to the martyrs would be to join the efforts of rebuilding India and making it the Vishwa guru, the mission initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The local functionaries and the prominent citizens, including the organisers paid floral tribute to the warrior.

Special Guest Mukesh Khetrapal, Guest of Honour District Development commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Varinder Singh Manhas and other officers also paid homage to the martyr 2nd Lt Arun Khetrapal PVC.

Framers of COI were very particular for protecting-preserving-defending soul spirits of Constitution

Should not those who call for protection of COI unitedly work for undoing amendments made in 1976 & 1978 to Art-74?

Congress Government in 1976 & Morarji lead Janta Govt in 1978 constitutionally weakened Institution of President of India

Will Block NDA and Block INDIA unitedly work to bring Art-74 back to its original form?

■ DAYA SAGAR  
Constitution of India (COI) is a very unique document prepared after very intimate study by the Constituent Assembly of India. In India President is head of State where as Prime Minister is head of Executive/ Government where as in USA President is head of State as well as head of government. The process of Impeachment of President of India is tougher than impeachment of President of USA. In India Prime Minister & other ministers have to be members of Parliament and are appointed by President where as in USA no members of Senate & House of representatives is part of the Government as Secretary of State and President can appoint anybody as secretary of State, in US the Vice President becomes the President in case the President quits the office / the president becomes invalid/ President leaves for heavenly abode but in India Vice President cannot become President in case president quits office and in that case there have to be fresh elections for the office of President.

A very salient feature of the Constitution of India with Art-74 in its first form { original Art-74 < 74. (1) There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his

functions ..... } was that although there was a provision of a council of ministers to aid and advise the President but the President was not bound with the advice of the council of ministers which well spoke of the status /position that framers of constitution had accorded to the President of India as preserver protector and defender of constitution where as what has become the position after Article 74 was amended during the Congress Government in 1976 and during the times of Janata Party Government in 1978 could be well sensed { After amendments Art 74 reads < There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice: [Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.....> } . Constituent Assembly with Dr. Rajendra Prasad ji ( President of Constituent Assembly ) and Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar ji ( Chairman drafting Committee) had incorporated in the Constitution a Protector, preserver & defender in the in the institution of President ( Art-60 <"I, A, B., do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the

office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India."> ) surely to safe guard against even any political leadership voted with numbers to power any time going over "ambitious". But through the amendments made under 42nd& 44th Constitution amendment Acts in 1976 & 1978 in a way President has been in a way has been made e ultimately dependent on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Basic spirits lying under the incorporation of the Institution of President of India could also be well sensed from some Arts of COI like Art-53(1) The executive power of the Union shall be vested in the President and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him....), Art- 54 (The President shall be elected by the members, of an electoral college consisting of members of Lok Sabha, members of Rajya Sabha and the members of Legislative Assemblies of States/ UTs), Art-60 (oath as protector, preserver and defender of constitution), Art-61 ( impeachment of President ), Art-



A Look through the Mist

Part-III

India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President), Art-79 ( Part V Union Chapter II.-Parliament Art -79. Constitution of Parliament.-There shall be a Parliament t for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People.). Similarly very meaningful indicators radiate from constitutional features like (i) there is a specific Article of Oath of office for the President only ( Art-60) which reads very differently than the oath taken by Prime Minister , Chief Justice / Judges , Chief Ministers etc (j) The President pledges ( Art 60 <"I, A, B., do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India"> , The Prime Minister pledges ( Art-75 Schedule-III <" , that I will bear true faith solemnly affirm and allegiance to the Constitution

77 ( Conduct of Business of Government : of India 77-1 All executive action of the Government of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,] that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge my duties as a Minister for the Union and that I will do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will." > , where as the Chief Justice of SC ( Art- 124) pledges in terms of Schedule III <"I, A.B., having been appointed Chief Justice (or a Judge) of the High Court at (or of)..... that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, 2[that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,] that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws.").

So it could be easily inferred that the framers of COI were very particular about (i) protecting-preserving-defending the soul spirits of constitution for which President has been specifically delegated & assigned (ii) the Prime Minister is delegated to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India & I faithfully and conscientiously discharge duties as a Minister for the Union and to do right to all people in accordance with the

Constitution and the law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will (iii) and the institution of Chief Justice / Judges to uphold the constitution & law. It has been after 24 yrs of 1949 that a thirteen judge constitution bench of supreme court of India had identified the spirit soul of COI as the ' Basic Structure of Constitution' and opined that Parliament cannot use the constituent power enshrined in Art-368 for altering the Basic Structure of COI. And the Art-60 too forms part of basic structure and cannot be altered directly or indirectly in the spirits underlying that has been surely done by amendments to Art -74 by the 42nd& 44th Constitution Amendment Acts of 1976 and 1978 during the Congress Govt and Janta Party governments respectively. {The Kesavananda Bharati judgment, delivered on 24 April 1973, is a landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India that laid down Doctrine of Basic Structure of COI} .

Should not those who are giving call s from different political platforms for protection of Constitution of India should prove there truthfulness by unitedly working for undoing the amendments made to Art -74 of Constitution of India?

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

Development of Jakh (Vijaypur)-Kunjwani Section of NH-44: Blessing or a Curse?

The ambitious project to develop the Jakh (Vijaypur) to Kunjwani section of NH-44 to six-lane expressway standards, under the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, has generated significant debate among local residents and stakeholders. While the project promises enhanced connectivity and economic growth for the region, it has also led to several challenges for the people living in the area. The project, spanning from Design Chainage 503.200 to 515.000 on NH-44, and the Kunjwani to 4th Tawi Bridge section of NH-144A, aims to boost infrastructure under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. However, the construction work has resulted in mixed reactions, highlighting both the positive aspects and serious concerns from local communities.



**Rajnish Kapoor**, a local resident, expressed his concern regarding the inefficiency of the diversion boards placed along the construction sites. "The diversion boards are unclear, making it difficult for drivers to navigate safely. This can lead to accidents and further congestion, especially in this busy area," he said.

Kapoor's concerns are echoed by many, who feel that the diversion setup is poorly managed, adding stress to already congested roads.



**Dhanwant Singh**, another local, shared his frustrations about the deteriorating road conditions due to the construction work. "The road is in a terrible state right now," he said, adding "It's not only causing inconvenience but is also a serious safety hazard. The work has been dragging on for too long, and there seems to be no proper maintenance of the temporary roads."

Singh's statement points to the lack of proper upkeep of the alternate routes, which many commuters use.



**Ridham Singh Chib**, a local shopkeeper highlighted the severe impact of dust and construction debris on small businesses. "The dust is everywhere, and it's hurting our business," Chib lamented. "Customers are avoiding the area, and we are struggling to keep our shops clean. The government should find a way to mitigate the dust and keep our businesses running", he added.

Small businesses, like Chib's, are suffering as the construction work disrupts daily life and trade in the vicinity.



**Tarsem Lal**, a resident of the area, spoke about the health issues caused by the dust generated from the ongoing construction. "I've developed a persistent cold and cough, which is directly related to the dust in the air," Lal said, adding, "It's difficult to breathe, and there is no relief in sight. The construction work is important, but it should not come at the cost of our health."

Several others share Lal's concerns, with many suffering from respiratory issues and other health complications due to the dust.



**Harbans Kumar**, another local resident, believes that there is a lack of attention to the real problems faced by the community. "No one is talking about the difficulties that we, the residents, are facing due to this project," he said.

"We understand that the road will be better in the future, but in the meantime, our daily lives are being disrupted. The authorities need to pay more attention to these issues and ensure that we are not neglected during the construction process", he observed.



**Vijay Kumar**, another local resident, sees the larger picture and is optimistic about the project. "While we are facing some challenges now, I believe this development is crucial for the future of our region," Kumar said, adding: "Once the work is completed, the expressway will improve travel time, reduce congestion, and bring economic growth to Jammu and Kashmir."

Kumar's view reflects the long-term benefits that many see in the project, despite the current inconveniences.



**Former Corporator Pritam Singh**, who represented Ward No. 55, raised concerns about the discipline of the workers involved in the project.

"While the development is undoubtedly good for the area, the workers are not following proper rules and guidelines," Singh stated.

"The roads are not being maintained as they should be, and there is a general lack of adherence to safety standards. This is causing additional problems for the public", he added.