

Navreh Milan held at Jagti Migrant Township

BJP exudes confidence about return of Kashmiri Pandits to Valley soon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday exuded confidence that displaced Kashmiri Pandits would soon return with dignity and honour to the Valley, stating that the situation is taking a big turnaround due to relentless efforts of the government and pro-active support of the people.

BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina, while speaking at a Navreh Milan function, held at the migrant township of Jagti, in the Jammu peripheries this evening, organized by BJP leader Anil Dhar, said that the visionary government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has taking several path breaking initiatives to restore peace and normalcy, prerequisite for mutual co-existence and faster development of Jammu and Kashmir. Referring to the safeguard of shrines and temples across the Valley, Raina vehemently supported the Kashmiri Hindu Shrines and Temples Bill, saying this will assuage the aspirations of the Pandit community.

Army saves life of two-year-old girl in Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army's prompt action saved the life of a two-year-old girl who accidentally consumed an anti-parasitic drug in a remote village in Kishtwar district, a defence spokesman said on Tuesday.

Arshi Thakur, a resident of Hanthal village of Navapachhi, was playing at her home when she accidentally consumed seabex lotion, the spokesman said.

Immediately after that she started feeling dizzy and the same was noticed by her parents. They rushed her to Navapachhi for immediate medical attention, the spokesman said.

On receipt of information from locals, he said, a medical team of the Army acted promptly and the girl was immediately attended and provided treatment that saved her precious life.

The locals of the village lauded the Army for its prompt action and for providing lifesaving medical care to the child, the spokesman said.

Body of teenager fished out from river in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The body of a 16-year-old boy was fished out from the Ujh river in Kathua district on Tuesday, nearly a week after he drowned while taking a bath, officials said.

Abhi Kumar Bhagat, a resident of Phinter village, drowned in Ujh river near Panjirithi on March 31, they said. A joint rescue operation to trace the boy was launched by the police, army and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), officials said.

After hectic efforts, search parties finally recovered the body of the deceased which was later handed over for last rites to his family after completion of legal formalities, they added.

Exercise for Delimitation of Assembly of UT of J&K is still live and so are the hopes of common man

PM Modi has done his job in 2019 & now it's for DC and its Associates to deliver as per Section-60 of Act 34

■ DAYA SAGAR

As per Constitution of India in a State / UT Governor/ LG is a nominal head and has to go with advice of council of Ministers headed by Chief Minister who is 'practically' the power head and who has to be member of Legislature of a state from the political party/group that has majority (through direct election) in the Legislative Assembly.

Since under such order plans / decisions regarding administrative/economic/ developmental and like needs/ preferences/ of people of a region/ area do depend on the level of representation in Legislative Assembly hence marking of the Constituencies of a Legislative Assembly for election becomes of meaningful importance. So had been the spirit underlying Section-4 of J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 which also very well now reflects from the guiding parameters as laid down in Sub Section(2) of Section-60 of J&K

Reorganisation Act of 2019, Act no 34 intending to provide a representative of comparable nearness in distance through time in legislative assembly (MLA) to the common man through delimitation of MLA segments where under the distant/backward and remotely placed areas/people are given 'fairly' working representation/ voice in government/Legislature (as far as possible) irrespective of one's area of residence. And most of the areas of class as are supposed to be taken care in terms of the guiding parameters that were mentioned in J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 and that now mentioned in Section-60 (2) of J&K Reorg. Act of 2019, Act no 34 are outside Kashmir Valley.

After India became an independent democratic republic in 1947 there has been only one order by a regular J&K Delimitation Commission (which started work in 1981) passed in April 1995 after nearly 57 years of independence

and even that too did not draw the boundaries for MLA segments of the legislative Assembly of J&K State



A Look through the Mist

worth standing a truthful test of parameters laid down in law which very well reflects from the fact that Delimitation Commission order of 1995 distributed 46 elected MLAs over Kashmir Valley that had under Section-50 of J&K Constitution just 12 elected members in legislative Council (MLCs) as against only 37 MLAs over areas outside Kashmir valley that had 14 elected MLCs (areas of Jammu region now included in UT of J&K). Not only that the said Delimitation Commission that started work in 1981 and finished the job in 1995 had even totally ignored the ground realities like the unfair action of J&K Government for arbitrarily increasing in 1979 districts from 3 to 6 in Kashmir Valley without proportionately increasing further the then exist-

ing 6 districts in Jammu region, which had been resented by the people of Jammu Region (Rajouri/ Poonch/ Doda/ Udhampur/

Kathua/ Jammu) and the recommendations of 1981- Wazir Commission made in 1984 to increase districts in Jammu Region from 6 to 9 & in Kashmir region from 6 to 7 were yet to be implemented. The 1995 order of D. Commission could not be challenged in court having been provided immunity in law.

Since there had been no due representation in numbers in J&K State Legislative Assembly given to areas falling mostly in Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Udhampur, Samba, etc so had also been the status in Government & government services (superior levels) for the people inadequately represented areas which had resulted in continued lacking good

road connectivity, nearly nil meaningful inputs for commercial exploitation of existing high tourism potential outside Kashmir valley, no noticeable promotion of Agriculture/ Horticulture/ even pulses like Bhaderwah / Marwa/ Poonch Rajma in such areas. Unfair representation in legislature had been more due to regional considerations since most of the backward areas of J&K lie outside Kashmir valley and have large Muslim population in these demanding areas.

Almost all the 1947 times -displaced families from POJK had arrived / settled outside Kashmir valley and they are found still struggling for adequate socio- economic support since very less concern had been expressed for them in the Legislature/Parliament. They have not been given claims for the properties left behind in 1947 Pakistan occupied areas for which government of India has been expressing helplessness quoting technical rea-

sons. But it is already 7 decades since the left behind wealth has not been restored to POJK DPs (most of the families had not been able carrying even minimum needed utilities with them and a very large number of families had lost atleast one of their relatives to the Pakistani invaders. No doubt some occasional assistances have been extended at uniform rates to some families but no regular and meaningful support has been extended to them proportionate to the losses suffered by them in 1947 and some people reason that for their having temporarily settled outside Kashmir valley and the governments too having remained dominated with legislators/ministers/ superior bureaucrats from areas other than Jammu region.

To be continued
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Led by Dr Darakhshan, J&K Business leaders meet PM

Local businessmen have to play pivotal role in building new prosperous J&K: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with delegation of Kashmiri Business Leaders led by Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & BJP National Executive Member Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Tuesday led a delegation of Kashmiri Business Leaders during a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at New Delhi.

The delegation consisted of President of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sheikh Aashiq, Convenor of PHD Chamber of Commerce Mushtaq Chaya, President of PHD Chamber of Commerce Kashmir Baldev Singh Rana, business tycoons of Kashmir Showkat Chowdhary, Bilal Ahmad & Sameer Ahmad Wani. Dr Darakhshan Andrabi thanked the Prime Minister for his initiatives for the development of Jammu & Kashmir and praised the prospective Industrial Development involving local business houses & experts, Baldev Singh Rana sketched a roadmap of futuristic auto-industry in J&K while as Bilal Ahmad gave a presentation on the innovative steps to be taken to boost

the new assignment. The Prime Minister lauded her public service efforts.

The delegation presented a Memorandum to the Prime Minister highlighting the issues of the Business fraternity of J&K in the current changing circumstances.

Sheikh Aashiq presented a detailed report of the business houses have to play a pivotal role in the futuristic development in J&K and the central government & the UT administration will be addressing all the problems of the local businessmen and boost their capacities and their role in the prosperity & economic revolution of J&K.

Narendra Modi also appreciated the proposals of the GI tagging for Kashmir Carpets and also thanked the delegation for very innovative & practically viable projections.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi briefed the Prime Minister about the developmental scenario of J&K and praised the working of the J&K Government in uplifting the UT out of all uncertainties and ushering in a new era of peace, prosperity & development in all the regions of J&K.

HC issues notices in PIL regarding filing of matters before DRT Chandigarh Bench

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Jaswinder Singh challenging the notification dated 10.09.2021 by which the matters related to Debit Recovery Tribunal (DRT) of Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been directed to be filed before Debit Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Chandigarh Bench, the Division Bench of J&K High Court has issued notice to the Union of

India and Union Territory.

During the course of hearing, Adv Parveen Kapahi submitted that the directive denies public access to justice inasmuch as it is not possible to approach DRT Chandigarh Bench for people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Thus, vesting the jurisdiction of DRT matters of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the Chandigarh Bench clearly deprives public of Jammu

and Kashmir and Ladakh to have access to justice, which is their fundamental right.

DB, after hearing Adv Parveen Kapahi, issued notice to Union of India and UT. ASGI Vishal Sharma accepted notice on behalf of respondent nos. 1 and 3 whereas Deputy AG KDS Kotwal accepted notices on behalf of UT. DB further directed both to seek instructions and file counter affidavit will before the next date.