

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.

Raina said that the Valley is traversing to an era of peace for the last two years in particular with stone pelting and hartals becoming the malady of the past. This appears to be uncomfortable for peace inimical elements unleashed by the neighbouring country, who, in a fit of frustration, have now resorted to selective attacks on the soft targets, which is an affront and challenge to peace loving majority in Kashmir, he said, adding, "I join them in condemning the inhuman and barbaric attacks on innocent civilians, including non-locals and a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper". Speaking on the occasion, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana expressed anguish and grave concern over the targeted and selective terror attacks in the Valley in the past two days, saying that time has come when the people of Kashmir should rise against the alien gun culture, thrust by elements inimical to peace and sustained by vested interests in the political establishment and the separatist camp, to reinvigorate the spirit of the bruised Kashmiriyat.

Rana exhorted the silent majority of Kashmiris to reassert and isolate those inflicting scars on their glorious ethos of inclusiveness and take lead in retrieving the glory of the land of sufis and saints.

He referred to an anecdote shared by a Kashmiri Pandit while arriving to participate in the Navreh Milan that during the golden era of peace in the Valley, the Kashmiris--Hindus, Muslim and Sikhs--used to be alarmed on watching red skies, believing it to be a bad omen of some innocents' blood having been spilled somewhere. With such a sentimental attachment with the concept of non-violence, how long Kashmiris can witness a helplessly unabated trail of bloodshed in their backyards by the enemies of their culture and ethos, he asked.

Rana lauded the resilience and fortitude of the Kashmiri Pandits in braving the vicissitudes of wilderness during the long spell of their displacement and said that despite ignominy they held pens rather than guns to overcome the obstacles created in their

lives. Same is true about the vast mass of the majority community in the Valley who never let go of their unflinching faith in Kashmiriyat as the genes of both the communities carry instincts of peace, compassion and tranquility. However, he added that muteness over wrongs happening in surroundings is taken as licence by the perpetrators of violence to carry on their misadventures. So, the time has come to rise against the violence brokers and preachers to restore the idea of Kashmir, which is akin to the idea of India, he said.

Greeting the people on Navreh celebrations, Rana prayed for the time to come when the displaced people will celebrate their festivals like Navreh in the scenic gardens and valleys of Kashmir along with their Muslim brethren. He said both the communities are feeling nostalgic about the yesteryears and craving for Kashmir to get back its glorious golden era. Speaking on the occasion, BJP leader Anil Dhar greeted the people and exuded confidence that the day is not far

when they will rehabilitate their homes and hearths again.

"This is not the occasion to narrate our woes and sorrows; it is time to take a pledge to return back to our homes with glory and pride", Dhar added.

The Navreh Milan was marked by a cultural programme depicting the diverse culture of the Valley and singing folklores highlighting the scenic splendor and cultural treasure of Kashmir. Prominent among those present in the Navreh Milan included Pradesh Vice President Shakti Raj Parihar, Daleep Singh Parihar Ex MLA Bhaderwah, Rajeev Sharma Ex MLA Akhmoor, Rohit Dubey Seh Prabhari Reasi, Chand Ji Bhat, Prof. BL Zutshi, Prof. A K Munshi, S.K Gadoo, R K Bakaya, M K Koul, M K Bangroo, T K Dhar, Roop Krishan, Pintu Ji, Pt. Rameshwar Dutt, Mohd Iqbal, Zorawar Singh, Kulbushan Singh, Joginder Lal, Mahinder Singh, Ashok Singh Manhas and Such Singh.



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.

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.

Arohi Thakur, a resident of Hanzal village of Navapachchi, 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 Navapachchi 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 Panjirthi 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.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The displaced Kashmiri Pandits of the Muthi migrant camp here on Tuesday held protests against the selective targeting of their community members and non-locals by terrorists in Kashmir.

Terrorists fired at a Kashmiri Pandit and two labourers from Bihar in South Kashmir on Monday, leaving them injured.

Led by the Muthi Migrant camp president Anil Bhan, over 300 Kashmiri pandits took out a rally to protest against the selective attacks on the Hindus in the Valley.

Raising anti-Pakistan and anti-terrorist slogans, they demanded justice for the community member.

"We want justice. Terrorists in Kashmir responsible for the selective attacks on Hindus particu-



Kashmiri Pandits raising slogans during a protest.

larly a Kashmiri pandit, who was living in the valley for the past 32 years, must be eliminated", Bhan told reporters here.

He said such incidents are aimed to trigger panic and fear among those KPs living in the valley to force their exodus.

"Terrorists are creating fear to force the rest of non-migrant Kashmiri pandit families numbering over 800 to leave their homes as

was done in 1990. We want a full-fledged security set up around them," Bhan added.

He said the aim of these selective attacks is to prevent Kashmiri pandits to return back to their homes and hearths.

He demanded a probe by a commission into the killings and the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from the valley.

Protests were also held in

the Jagti camp on the outskirts of Jammu city against the selective attacks by terrorists to instill fear among the minority Hindus in the valley. They also burnt an effigy of Pakistan.

On Monday evening, Terrorists fired at a Kashmiri pandit, Bal Krishan, in Chotigam village of Shopian district, leaving him injured. It was followed by another attack on two labourers from Bihar, Patlashwar Kumar and Jakku Choudhary, in Lajora village of Pulwama district, leaving them injured.

Monday's attack was the first on Kashmiri pandits since October last year when militants had shot dead a prominent businessman, M L Bindroo, at Srinagar. After the attack, the government had enhanced the security of pandits living in the Valley.

Return of KPs not just a slogan but mission to accomplish: Sadhotra to Bhagwat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reacting to the observations of the RSS Chief Mr Mohan Bhagwat during his address to the displaced people during the auspicious celebrations of Navreh, senior National Conference leader and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Tuesday asked the BJP to walk the talk on this important issue, saying there is no space for indulging in rhetoric or playing to the galleries, as 32 long years have already passed without any concrete steps taken for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homes and hearths.

In a statement, Sadhotra said, "The return of KPs should not be just a political slogan but a mission to restore the pride of the Valley as a beautiful vase of different flowers".

Sadhotra said that the painful and unfortunate exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits should not be allowed to become just the subject matter of politics and called for united efforts to secure their safe and dignified return to the Valley in a time bound manner:

He said the Centre should come up with a policy on return of the Kashmiri Pandits by taking all the stakeholders into confidence. A conducive and secured atmosphere is needed to be created to achieve the objective. The Valley might have undergone turbulent times during the past over three decades but the ethos of harmony and inclusiveness remains intact, which is evident from the fact that the majority community is craving for the good old times to return back again. He hoped the people will rise above everything else and work towards reviving and revitalizing the spirit of Kashmiriyat.

Ajay Sadhotra said the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits is a humanitarian issue, which has always remained a matter of concern for all those believing in the concept of Kashmiriyat.

In this context, he referred to the resolution moved by the former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the Legislative Assembly on January 19, 2017 for creating an atmosphere so that the migrant Kashmiri Pandits could be brought back to

their homes in the Valley. That the resolution of Omar Abdullah was adopted unanimously by the assembly speaks of the will and determination of the people through their representatives to address this pivotal issue. He also recalled the oft repeated assertions of the National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah that Kashmir without Kashmiri Pandits was incomplete as they were integral to its glorious ethos. The former minister made a passionate and fervent appeal to the people, as also to the political establishment, to rise above party politics and work towards restoring pristine glory of Kashmir, the land of Sufis and saints, and abode of various faiths, by facilitating the return of Kashmiri Pandits, who form an inalienable part of the Kashmiri society.

The bondage between different sections in the Valley have withstood the test of times, even after the unfortunate exodus of a community. He said the National Conference will continue to play its designated role in ensuring the return of the displaced people to their homes.

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.

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 a 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 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 (DC) 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-



A Look through the Mist

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 Rajmas 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 74 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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