

LG interacts with NCC cadets at Special National Integration Camp

Youth increasingly mindful of their responsibilities towards nation: Sinha



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and others witnessing cultural programme at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday interacted with National Cadet Corps Cadets at the Special National Integration Camp, at JAK LI Regimental Centre, Rangreth.

As part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' Programme, 200 cadets from all over India are participating in the camp organised by NCC Directorate, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

Addressing the cadets, the

Lt Governor congratulated the National Cadet Corps on its long and glorious journey of nation building and developing leadership quality, character and instilling values in youth for selfless service.

"75 years is an incredible legacy of achievement for National Cadet Corps. The dream of a strong youth organization, which the country had seen during the foundation of this organization in 1948, continues to inspire generations and it is a source

of strength for the entire society," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called upon the participating cadets to become the ambassadors of the new and aspirational Jammu Kashmir.

In the last 75 years, through camps and selfless service in different parts of the country, the NCC has shown to the world that diversity is the source of strength of the society, the Lt Governor said.

"Today our youth are play-

ing the key role in the transformation of India that is emerging as a global economic power. Our youth are increasingly mindful of their responsibilities towards the nation and strengthening social equity with exemplary courage and commitment, he observed.

NCC is scripting the bright future of the society and I strongly believe with the limitless potential of cadets, their dynamism, energy and values, we can overcome formidable chal-

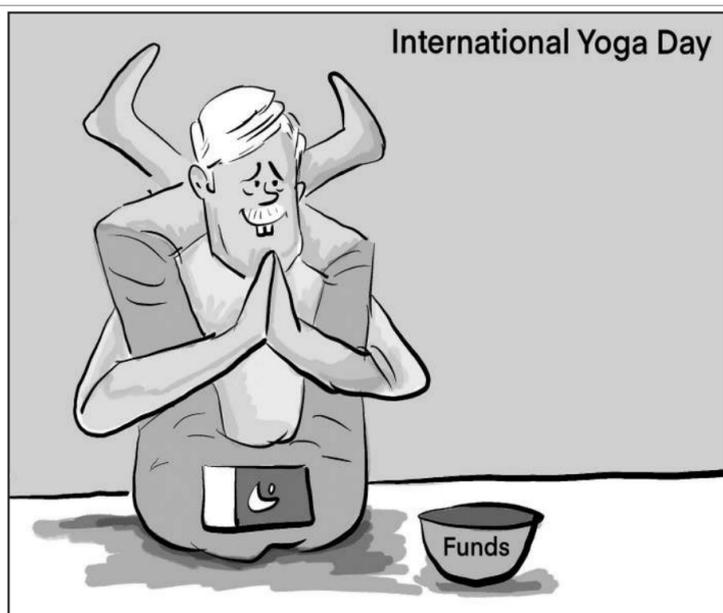
lenges to create a new history, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the NCC Directorate, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh for organizing the Special National Integration Camp to promote the spirit of unity in diversity, camaraderie and brotherhood.

He also commended the efforts of NCC Directorate in increasing the strength of NCC cadets in J&K.

The captivating performances by the cadets celebrating the spirit of Unity in Diversity received special appreciation from the Lt Governor.

Lt General Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Major General RK Sachdeva, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, Brig. KS Kalsi, Group Commander NCC Group Srinagar and other senior officers were present.



International Yoga Day

Public should to come forward, pledge for organ donation: GMC Principal



Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma talking to reporters on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu is in process to start deceased donation for kidney and also has been working to upgrade the facilities like heart, liver, pancreas etc for donation.

"We have expert Medical Professionals, but we are only lagging in donors," Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, Principal, GMC Jammu said and requested public of J&K to come forward and pledge for organ donation.

addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Principal GMC elaborated the importance of human organ/tissue transplantation and said that there has been a large deficit between demand and availability of organs and tissues in India including Jammu and Kashmir.

"The organ donation rate from deceased donors in our country is estimated to be 0.52 per million population.

In comparison, the organ donation rate in Spain, the highest in the world, is 49.6 per million population," she said.

She further told media that in India the deceased organ donation rate in South is comparatively higher than North.

She apprised media fraternity that for deceased donations, a team of doctors from the recipient hospital will come in this institution and retrieve the organs from the brain dead donor and will carry the organs to their hospital through a green corridor for hassle free transport of human organs from this hospital in the shortest minimum time because each organ has a specific timeframe in which it must be transplanted after it has been retrieved from the brain dead donors like Kidneys: 24 - 36 hours, Heart: 4 - 6 hours, Lungs: 4 - 8 hours, Liver: 8 - 12 hours, Pancreas: 12 - 18 hours and Intestine: 8 - 16 hours.

"It is the need of the hour as many people are struggling with end stage diseases and they need organs like kidney, liver, heart, lungs etc. to survive," she said adding that not everyone can get a living donor and they also have to get on the waiting list for transplantation and to reduce this demand and supply gap of human organs, it is very important to have deceased donors in our country and this can be possible only when a person can get organs from deceased donors.

Dr. Elias Sharma, HoD Urology & Renal Transplant and Nodal Officer SOTTO J&K, Ashwini Khajuria, Administrator Dr. Manoj Chalotra, Medical Superintendent, Superspeciality Hospital, Dr. Kailash Thakur, Assistant Professor Surgery and Dr. Raju Bhandari, Consultant Nephrologist, GMC Jammu were also present in the press conference.

Kashmir records season's hottest day Srinagar recorded 34.0°C and it was 4.8°C above normal

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Sweltering weather conditions continued unabated as Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir Valley recorded the season's hottest day so far on Wednesday, officials said.

A meteorological department official said the maximum temperature in Srinagar soared to 34.0°C and it was 4.8°C above normal for the season. Today's temperature surpassed the previous highest of 33.3°C recorded only yesterday, the official said. Other places including Pahalgam (28.4°C), Qazigund (33.0°C), Kokernag (31.5°C), Kupwara (33.1°C) and Gulmarg (24.6°C) also recorded the hottest day of the season so far; he said. Regarding the forecast, he said, mainly dry weather was expected "but a brief spell of shower and thunderstorm at one or two places towards late afternoon or evening can't be ruled out". From June 24-28, he said, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate thundershower at fairly widespread places has been forecast. "Few places over Jammu Division may receive intense showers for a short period," he said. Also, minimum (night) temperature recorded an increase at most places and settled above normal across J&K. He said Srinagar recorded a low of 19.7°C against 18.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.9°C for the summer capital. Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 17.4°C against 16.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 3.1°C for the gateway town of Kashmir. Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 10.6°C against 9.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.5°C above normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 16.5°C against 14.1°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 2.4°C for the north Kashmir area. Kokernag recorded a low of 18.0°C against 15.4°C on the previous night and it was 3.9°C above normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a low of 13.6°C against 10.2°C on previous night and it was above normal by 3.9°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 30.5°C against 26.1°C on the previous night and it was 4.4°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 19.0°C (3.9°C above normal), Batote 21.2°C (4.0°C above normal), Katra 25.2°C (3.2°C below normal) and Bhandarwah 19.2°C (above normal by 4.3°C).

Chief Justice emphasizes stronger bonding among judiciary, legal professionals to ensure fair justice delivery

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice N. Koteswara Singh, on Wednesday visited the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

He was accompanied by Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Atul Sreedharan.

Chief Justice and other judges were warmly received by the Principal District Judge (PDJ) Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad and other judicial officers. Chief Justice was accorded ceremonial guard of honour from the contingent of J & K Police.

Chief Justice, while addressing on the occasion, emphasized the importance of the visit, stating that, "Our aim is to strengthen the bond between the judiciary and legal professionals to ensure a fair and efficient justice delivery system. This interaction is an opportunity for us to understand the challenges faced by our officers and prosecutors, and together find effective solutions to enhance the administration of justice."

Chief Justice emphasized the need to make efforts to reduce the pendency of cases, saying that, "The diligent work of our judicial officers, public prosecutors,



Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N. Koteswara Singh being welcomed at District Court Complex, Srinagar.

and court staff has resulted in timely justice for many litigants. However, we recognize that challenges still persist, and we must work collectively to address them effectively."

During the insightful interaction, Justice Tashi Rabstan, administrative Judge of District Srinagar, provided guidance on effective case management. He stated that, "Efficiency is vital in expediting justice. As judicial officers and public prosecutors, we must strive for excellence in our responsibilities, while maintaining the highest standards of integrity and impartiality."

Justice Atul Sreedharan emphasized the importance

of continuous learning and computerization of trial court records especially the statement of witnesses.

The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the remarkable progress achieved in the District Court Complex's developmental projects. It was observed that through infrastructure advancements and adoption of technology driven solutions, such as e-filing systems and virtual court hearings, the efficiency and accessibility of the court proceedings have been significantly enhanced.

The visit concluded with planting of pine saplings by the Chief Justice and Justice Tashi Rabstan.

Politicians are sensing a very 'Vote catching Bait' in Old Pension Scheme for govt employees

Person managing 'public resources' is not allowed to 'trade'-Assured Economic Security on retirement makes it still work

Why should not the PSEs employee (who work under similar conduct rules) be also given Pension like OPS?

Why not GOI reverts to OPS for all instead of allowing politicians to use 'OPS' as election bait

DAYA SAGAR

It was reported on 16-01-2023 that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in one of its reports had made very critical remarks on (Opposition-ruled) states in India adopting the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) saying "A major risk looming large on the subnational fiscal horizon is the likely reversion to the old pension scheme by some states" and observing that annual saving in fiscal resources that the move may entail is short-lived since by postponing the current expenses to the future, states risk the accumulation of unfunded pension liabilities in the coming years.

Not only that RBI is said to have also cautioned states against reverting to Old Pension Scheme which was in place for Central government Employees till beginning of 2004 since it was also Dearness Allowance-linked adding further to the fiscal burden. Question here is why did not RBI ask government in 2003 to stop pension for all retiring after 01-01-2004 instead of those employed or after 01-01-2004?

Similarly it has been on 6th February 2023 that in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha Minister of State for

Finance Bhagwat Karad informed that "The state governments of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh have informed the Central Government/Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFDA) about their decision to restart Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for their state government employees," and the same time minister observed that that there is no provision under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act vide which the accumulated corpus of the subscribers, viz governments' and employees' contribution towards New Pension Scheme (NPS) along with accruals, can be refunded and deposited back to the state government.

Another question here is that in case there is no provision under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act vide which the accumulated corpus of the subscribers, viz governments' and employees' contribution towards New Pension Scheme (NPS) along with accruals, can be refunded and deposited back to the state government then why has the government of India given option to some working

since 01-01-2004 or after to opt for OPS in 2023?

Government of India had discontinued the scheme for retirement pension to central government employees except defence forces appointed after 31-12-2003 and States had done that on different dates after 2004 like J&K State Government discontinued pension for those appointed after 31-12-2009 i.e. appointed on 01-01-2010 and thereafter.

For those appointed after 2003 in GOI a new pension scheme was proposed to be introduced which was something like the employees contributory provident fund scheme which was there for the employees in the organized private sector and the Public Sector Enterprises too but was to also have some added element of 'retirement' pension to employees which was to be totally related to the premium earned by the funds invested in "trade" out of accumulated funds with contributions made by the government and employee to the "employees fund".

Before the discussions are taken further it needs to be noted here that the old pension scheme was to continue for already employed and was for only new employees. It was claimed that the New

Pension

Scheme had more fanatical support for the retiring employee than the then operating pension scheme had.

Question here was that if new scheme had more benefits why that was not adopted for those employed earlier to 01-01-2004? It was claimed that the New Pension Scheme had more for the retiring employee than the then operating pension scheme. Why did the unions of government personnel not agitate for new pension scheme in case the new pension scheme was more secure/beneficial?

It will not be out of place to also mention here that earlier the employees of government companies (Public Sector Enterprises) have been demanding retirement pension like government employees instead of the Employees Contributory Provident Fund scheme pleading that the employer contribution to the fund does not match the social security that the retirement pension scheme offers to the employees where the returns are too meagre as compare to the government employee pension scheme which is presently linked to dearness allowance also along with last drawn salary



A Look through the Mist

as well as carries the indirect advantage due to grade revisions with every pay commission.

Imagine cases could be quoted where the government employee retired fifteen to 20 year back may be getting total pension emoluments even more than the wages one drew at the time of retirement.

The PSU/PSE employees of union/ states too pleaded that when the BOD of the companies are appointed by government, the Chairman is mostly from Government, the appointment of Managing Director by deputation from outside or even by promotion (rarely) from PSE cadres by the Government itself and the policies/plans there are also on the directions of Government why should not the lower cadres working in PSUs/PSE's be treated like government employees and given wages/ social security like government employees (where the performance of departments is not materially kept in view while deciding pay scales while in PSEs that is kept). But the bureaucracy in Government did not support the PSU demands but now after the Pension Scheme was stopped wef 01-

01-2004 for Central government employees/01-01-2010 for J&K Govt Employees the Bureaucracy too has felt the pinch and hence directly/indirectly demands are being made for old pension scheme for government employees by employee unions/ associations who by this time have employees of about 22 year service and some are nearing retirement. The political parties too are finding a very effective vote catching 'bait' in the OLD pension scheme and one after another state/ political party is announcing reversion to OPS. So why should not the PSEs employee (who too have to work under similar conduct rules) be also taken along by govt. employees?

PTI reported on 3rd March 2023 that in a major move according to a Personnel Ministry order of 03-03-2023 (office memorandum No 57/05/2021-P&PW(B) dated 03-03-2023 Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions GOI Department of Pensions and Pensioner's welfare) the employees who joined the central government services against posts advertised or notified before December 22, 2003, the day National Pension System (NPS) was notified, are eligible to join the old pension scheme under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021)". References to representations and court cases have

also been made in the order. The very clear projections that come out of the said communication depict that the government employees have been put to disadvantage with discontinuation of old pension scheme in 2004 by GOI for some classes of government employees and hence also endorses the genuineness of demands of 'all new recruits for old pension scheme since the National Pension System (NPS) has put the new recruits to a great disadvantage as regards the social security after retirements.

To be Continued (The author is a senior journalist and analyst of J&K Affairs, dayasagr45@yahoo.com).

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