

LG greets people on Baisakhi, Ambedkar Jayanti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Baisakhi.

In a message, the Lt Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Baisakhi, I convey my warmest felicitations and good wishes to all."

"Baisakhi marks the beginning of the harvest season heralding happiness and prosperity. It is also an occasion to remember with gratitude about the contribution of our farmers to the progress of the nation," the Lt Governor observed.

May this festival strengthen our resolve to contribute to the nation's progress and usher prosperity and happiness for all in the year ahead, added the Lt Governor.

Meanwhile, LG greeted the people on the eve of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar. In a message, the Lt Governor has said: "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all". "As a scholar, journalist, educationist, legal luminary and social reformer, Babasaheb has left a lasting impression on the edifice of our democracy. His noble ideals are a beacon of hope, a source of inspiration for all to strive for a united, equal, just and humane society based on mutual trust, tolerance and cooperation," the Lt Governor observed.

On this most revered day, let us rededicate ourselves to preserve and strengthen our unity and build an egalitarian society, said the Lt Governor.

LG takes meeting with Secretaries to review progress of Deptts

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Apr 13: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Retd) B D Mishra held a meeting with Departmental Secretaries at Raj Niwas to review the progress of their respective departments along with pending projects.

The LG instructed the Department of Social Welfare and Ladakh Police to make the Rehabilitation Centre and the De-addiction Centre functional at the earliest along with necessary security arrangements. He inquired about the issue faced by local contractors in getting big project works. He also inquired about the feasibility of micro tenders so that even local contractors can avail their benefits if they are able to deliver quality work in a time-bound manner.

The LG inquired about the one-day workshop organised by



LG Ladakh chairing a review meeting with Administrative Secretaries on Thursday.

Ladakh Pollution Control Board on compliance with the Water Act of 1974 and the Air Act of 1981 in Leh. He instructed Ladakh Pollution Control Board to take punitive action against the Hotels, Guest Houses and other commercial units if they don't expedite the necessary measures to comply with the Pollution Control Act.

LG Mishra also inquired about the progress on the rationalisation of wildlife sanctuaries and national park in Ladakh, the complaint received from residents of the Durbuk sub-division regarding the irregular attendance of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate

(SDM) and instructed to conduct an inquiry into the matter, the damage caused to livestock by the snow leopard attack in Shey, etc.

The concerned Departmental Secretaries apprised the LG of the progress of their respective departments.

Principal Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal; ADGP Ladakh Police, Satish Khandare; Commissioner Secretary, Saugat Biswas; Secretary, Ravinder Kumar; Secretary, Mehboob Ali Khan; Secretary, Yetinder Maralkar; Secretary, Fayaz Ahmed Shaikh and other concerned Secretaries were present in the meeting.

Ramadan drummers keep centuries old tradition alive

Suhail Bhat

SRINAGAR, Apr 13: Amid the ongoing holy month of Ramadan in Kashmir, Sehar Khans, or traditional Ramadan drummers, continue their age-old tradition to wake up Muslims for their pre-dawn meals.

The centuries-old Kashmiri custom of rousing Muslims up for their pre-dawn meals is known as sherkhwani during the holy month of Ramadan. Despite the fact that many people use cell phones and digital clocks to wake up on time and that announcements are broad-

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

cast over loudspeakers to rouse people up for pre-dawn meals, the drummers practice is still observed in many areas of Kashmir.

Mohammad Yousuf, a Sehar Khan from the Saidpora area of Srinagar, has been doing this job for 26 years and believes it to be a month of blessings. "As a Muslim, I feel rewarded by Allah during this month, and it fills me with joy to do this good work," he said.

For Yousuf, the job is not just

about making a living but also about preserving culture and earning blessings from Allah. He even encourages his children to follow in his footsteps and asks them to do the same thing for themselves and their families.

Another Sehar Khan, who has been waking people for the past 12 years, also finds the job rewarding. "By waking up people for prayer, I earn blessings from Allah and also make enough money to sustain myself for two-three months," he said.

The tradition of Sehar Khans beating drums to wake up Muslims for Sehri has been going on for centuries, and locals hope it will continue in the future. "They are preserving culture, which is the most important thing they can do. When we hear Sehar Khan's voice in the morning, we feel refreshed," said Nissar Ahmad, a local.

Despite the challenges posed by modern technology, the Sehar Khans of Kashmir Valley continue to keep this tradition alive, bringing a sense of joy and spirituality to the people of the valley during the holy month of Ramadan. As Yousuf put it, "It fills me with joy to do this good work."

SMVDSB files response in PIL on stampede

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: In the much-publicized Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the Government to make public the enquiry report of 3 members committee constituted to look into the unfortunate incident of stampede at Bhawan of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, which resulted into the death of 12 devotees and several injured, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board today filed its response to the Public Interest Litigation.

However, the PIL which was listed today, could not be taken up for hearing and the same has been directed to be listed on April 26.

Arguments conclude, appeal file reserved for judgment in ex-DyCM house case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 13: A Bench of J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu headed by Member (Judicial) Rajiv Gupta has reserved the file for judgment in the much publicized appeal preferred by Mamta Singh, wife of Dr Nirmal Singh, former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K against the JDA's demolition order regarding the alleged illegal construction of a palatial house at village Ban (Nagrot).

The arguments in the appeal filed by Mamta Singh were extensively heard by the J&K Special Tribunal on April 6 and the matter was deferred for April 13 for continuation of further arguments. The matter was taken up for further hearing today and both the parties concluded their arguments.

On this, Tribunal reserved the file for judgment, which may likely be pronounced next week.

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