



Revival of Jammu & Kashmir's Darbar Move Practice

Why in News?

Recently, discussions have emerged regarding the potential reintroduction of Jammu & Kashmir's historic "[Darbar Move](#)," a biannual tradition involving the relocation of government offices between **Jammu and Srinagar**.

Key Points

- **Historical Background:**
 - The Darbar Move, a **149-year-old** practice introduced by [Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1872](#), aimed to balance the needs of **Jammu (winter capital)** and **Srinagar (summer capital)** by rotating the administrative seat every six months.
 - This rotation fostered economic and social integration between the two cities.
- **Abolition of the Practice:**
 - In 2021, **Jammu & Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor** halted the Darbar Move, citing cost-cutting and the transition to digital governance.
 - The government estimated annual savings of **approximately Rs. 200 crore**, which would be reallocated to welfare projects.
 - Additionally, ending the practice facilitated a year-round digital operation of offices in both cities, leading to the **cancellation of government housing** for officials in the non-operational city.
- **Economic and Cultural Impact:**
 - The abolition of the [Darbar Move](#) has reportedly impacted Jammu's economy, with the local business community experiencing reduced seasonal trade.
 - This issue has resurfaced in local elections, as stakeholders call for its revival to boost economic activity in both cities.
- **Current Developments:**
 - Political parties, particularly those aiming to strengthen local economies, have voiced their support for reinstating the Darbar Move.
 - They argue that its absence has led to uneven economic opportunities across regions. The upcoming elections might shape the decision on whether the tradition is restored, influenced by public sentiment and business needs.

Maharaja Ranbir Singh

- Ranbir Singh was Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir from **1856 to 1885**.
- He was the third son of **Gulab Singh**, the founder of the Jammu & Kashmir state.
- **During his reign, Ranbir Singh:**
 - **Annexed Gilgit:** Ranbir Singh annexed Gilgit after a rebellion against the state.
 - **Established a judicial system:** He established a modern judicial system and compiled civil and criminal laws into the Ranbir Penal Code.
 - **Developed the silk industry:** He made the silk industry a state monopoly by setting aside 30,000 pounds sterling for its development. He also built 127 rearing houses to raise silkworms.
 - **Translated books:** He was a scholar of Sanskrit and Persian and translated many books.
 - **Helped the British:** He sent his troops to help the British besiege Delhi during the mutiny.

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