

PM inaugurates K-migrant township at Jagti

Omar hopes return of Pandits in peaceful Valley

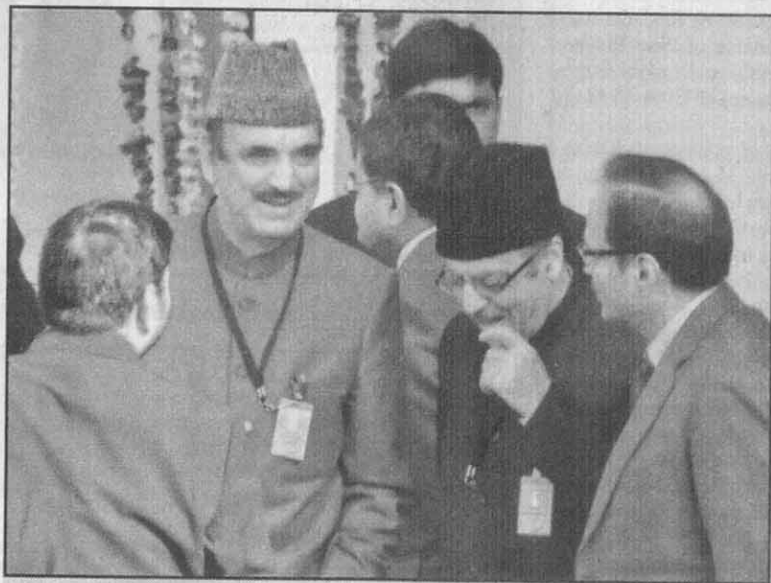
■ STAFF REPORTER

JAMMU: Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh on Friday inaugurated the Satellite Township at Jagti near Nagrota for Kashmiri Migrants.

The inauguration of the housing complex was marked by the handing over of allotment orders by the Prime Minister to 12 beneficiaries selected three each from Kashmiri Pandit Migrant camps at Muthi, Purkhoo, Nagrota and Mishriwala.

The Satellite Township envisages construction of 4,218 two room flats under the Prime Minister Reconstruction Plan (PMRP). Of these 2,112 flats have been completed in full and rest are expected by the end of March this year. The allotment of the flats will start soon and the shifting of migrant families from the camps is likely to begin in the month of April.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that he had envisioned this project after visiting Jammu in 2004 and taking stock of the difficult living conditions of Kashmiri migrants in the camps. "It was thought that each Kashmiri migrant family should at least be provided two-room tenement to live in comfortable conditions", he said adding that the project was planned accordingly.



FRIENDS OR FOES:

Are we befooling each other or befooling public jointly?

Dr. Singh expressed the hope that the situation in Valley would become normal and Kashmiri Pandits who had to live as refugees in their own country would return back in peaceful atmos-

phere and live in tranquility and peace.

In his opening remarks, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah said that the lack of sense of security compelled Kashmiri Pandits to leave the Valley.

"When we are able to create peaceful and conducive conditions in the Valley and restore the sense of security in them, they will love to return even if they might be living in palatial houses," he said.

"Till that time government wants them to live comfortably in the Satellite Township at Jagti", he added and thanked the Prime Minister for handing over the allotment orders to some of the beneficiaries symbolically at today's function.

Governor, N.N Vohra, Union Minister for Health Ghulam Nabi Azad, Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, Minister for Revenue, Raman Bhalla, Members of the State Council of Ministers, JKPC Chief, Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz, Parliament Member, Madan Lal, former Minister Lal Singh, Education Minister, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed, Minister of State for Revenue, Nasir Aslam Wani, Legislators, Director General of Police Kuldeep Khoda, senior police and civil officers and members of the migrant families were present on the occasion.

Minister for Revenue and Relief, Raman Bhalla and Minister of State for Revenue and Housing, Nasir Aslam Wani presented a shawl and a memento to the Prime Minister on the occasion.