

Advisor Farooq tours rain-hit areas of Jammu to assess crop damage

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, on Thursday conducted a day long visit of various areas of Jammu and Samba districts for on ground assessment of crop losses due to recent incessant rains and hail storm.

Advisor visited Jourian, Marh, R S Pura, Bishnah, Ramgarh and adjoining areas and evaluated the crop losses, especially Basmati rice, occurred in these areas due to recent heavy rains and hail-storm.

At Jourian, Advisor interacted with farmers who apprised him about the quantum of damages occurred to their paddy crop by incessant rains, hail storm and water stagnation. He was informed that both standing as well as harvested paddy has suffered adversely due to inclement weather.

Advisor visited various villages including Devipur, Jourian, Ghari Nanda, Tartoti, Kanachak, Galwaday



Advisor, Farooq Khan taking on ground assessment of crop losses due to recent incessant rains and hailstorm in Jammu.

Chak, Marh, Flora, Sangrampur, Dableher, Balachak, Rathana, Salehar, Pasgal, Jagtuchak, Pandorian, Gandli, Khour Salarian, Chak Shatakaa and Chak balotra of Tehsil Jourian, Akhnoor, Marh, RS Pura and Bishnah of Jammu district and Tehsil Ramgarh of Samba district respectively.

DDC Chairman and its members besides PRI representatives of concerned areas informed about the immense losses caused to their crops including paddy, maize, vegetables, pulses, potato, fodder

and oil seeds with request for timely compensation for the same. Besides, the farmers demanded seeds, fertilizers and other inputs in view of anticipated losses to Rabi crops due to excessive moisture in soil leading to delayed sowing for damaged produce.

Farooq Khan appealed the farmers to go for crop insurance in future to safe guard their crops against such natural calamities. He also instructed the concerned officials to launch awareness campaigns to sensitize the farmers regarding benefits of

PM Fasal Bima Yojana for 100% coverage under the crop insurance.

Advisor asked the officers to assess realistic impact of inclement weather conditions on agriculture sector and extend technical hand to farmers in order to tackle the situation emerged out from the prevailing scenario by devising a strategy for upcoming Rabi season to compensate crop losses to some extent.

Advisor issued directions to the field functionaries of Agriculture Department to

conduct joint survey along with revenue officials by organizing meetings with the farmers of all villages to get and prepare detailed digitalized report of crop damages at the earliest. He enjoined upon the insurance companies to immediately settle the claims of crops under PM Fasal Bima Yojna.

Regarding Paddy straw problem, Advisor recommended popularization of use of decomposer to dispose of logged paddy straw. He said that government is working on provision of subsidy on seed and fertilizers for next crop to facilitate the farmers.

Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu, K K Sharma, ADDC Jammu, Romesh Chander, ADDC Samba, TR Shastri, Joint Director Agriculture Marketing, A S Reen, CAO Jammu, Arvind Baru and other officers of Agriculture and Revenue Department accompanied the Advisor during the tour.



Darakhshan's elevation to BJP National Executive speaks of party's future in Kashmir: Koul

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party Kashmir Unit on Thursday felicitated senior Party leader & Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee of Union Ministry of Minority Affairs Dr Darakhshan Andrabi at Srinagar for her nomination as the National Executive Member of BJP. Dr Andrabi is the first Kashmiri to be part of the party's top decision making body.

Recently a new National Executive body of BJP was constituted in which Dr Darakhshan Andrabi & Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh got nominated.

BJP J&K General Secretary Organization Ashok Koul led the gathering of all district presidents and political in-charges of the party's Kashmir province.

Speaking on the occasion party General Secretary Ashok Koul said that it was the political and nationalistic struggle of Dr Darakhshan Andrabi that fetched her the honor of being nominated for the party's highest executive body.

"BJP is a reality in Kashmir and Dr Darakhshan Andrabi's nomination to National Executive of BJP is just the indicator of the existence of BJP in Kashmir," said



BJP Kashmir unit felicitating Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

Ashok Koul.

While congratulating her for her elevation within the party, Koul said that her struggle for the national interests during the past two decades and her consistent & dedicated fight for the public welfare issues with J&K and within the rest of the country have earned her many honours and awards. Koul termed her nomination as a good omen for BJP in Kashmir.

BJP J&K Vice President Sofi Yousuf also spoke on the occasion. He said that the efforts of Dr Andrabi are inspiring.

"She has due to her political acumen and vision created a space at National level for her and her elevation with the party is the elevation for all of us as a team," said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

Sofi Yousuf said that BJP

will rise in Kashmir as the new generation has understood the progressive developmental visionary plan of J&K as the leading territory of India.

Dr Darakhshan thanked Ashok Koul, Sofi Yousuf and other party heads for their love and respect.

"I feel honored and know that a heavy responsibility has been placed on my shoulders. I will have to enhance my fight for public cause and national interests within J&K in future too," said Dr Darakhshan.

BJP Spokesperson said that she has been raising her voice at National level and portraying J&K in positive colors and she will continue to do it. She said that she feels humbled by the love and affection of the party leadership and colleagues in Kashmir.

Rajni Patil discusses current situation with JKPCC leaders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: All India Congress Committee (AICC) Incharge J&K affairs Rajni Patil (MP) on Thursday discussed the current situation with senior leaders of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee at Srinagar Party Office.

Patil also held meeting with Party District Presidents of Kashmir and received feedback with regard to organizational affairs and activities in their respective districts and also stressed the need to ensure discipline in the Party ranks, which should be the paramount for all the leaders and workers, cautioning that indiscipline at any level was intolerable & unacceptable, AICC I/C told the meeting.

J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir discussed the upcoming membership drive 2021-2022 with the leaders, to be launched next month throughout the country as per the decision of the recent CWC meeting chaired by the Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

The meeting also discussed nationwide programmes scheduled by the AICC in the coming days, urging the Party leaders to follow the same with great enthusiasm, while discussing the road map for the party ahead in Jammu and Kashmir.

CWC Member Tariq Hameed Karra, JKPC Vice President Haji Abdul



Rashid Dar, Gulzar Ahmad Wani, G.N. Mir Lasjan, General Secretaries Surinder Singh Channi, Shameema Iqbal and various other Senior leaders and District Presidents included Abdul Gani Khan, Intiyaz Parry, Sahil Farooq, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday, Umer Jaan and others were present in the meeting.

Apart from other issues concerning people, the meeting also lashed out at Centre Govt over the 23% unemployment rate in J&K, which is the highest in the country, unprecedented price hike in petrol, diesel, lack of development and many other issues confronting people in Jammu and Kashmir came under discussion while lashing out at the false and tall claims made by the Centre Govt, from time to time, with regard to development in J&K, which is nowhere to be seen under the BJP rule, the meeting observed.

The flawed policies on the part of Centre based on lies and deceit have pushed J&K towards backwardness, ironically,

the Centre still claims to have worked enough on developmental front in J&K, the matter of the fact remains that since the BJP Govt assumed power, the developmental process started by UPA I & UPA II in J&K received severe setbacks, there is chaos and confusion across J&K, the meeting added.

The meeting also expressed deep shock and grief over the fatal road accident in Thatri area of Doda district in which eight persons died and several others were injured and conveyed heartfelt condolences to bereaved families.

The rank and file of JKPCC expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and prayed for their courage to bear the irreparable loss.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau nabbed four officials including a Manager of Food Corporation of India (FCI), presently posted at Shaheed Gang, Srinagar for demanding and accepting bribe for unloading trucks.

As per official spokespersons, the sleuth of the ACB received a written complaint alleging therein that employees of FCI Depot, Srinagar are unnecessarily delaying unloading of trucks and issuance of Challan thereof. "Complainant approached ACB for taking legal action against one Abdul Qayoom, present working as Manager and other employees of FCI (Food Corporation of India), posted at Shaheed Gang, Srinagar. It was further revealed that more than 200

vehicles per month are unloaded at FCI Shaheed Gang, Srinagar and Manager along with other officials use delaying tactics for unloading of vehicles besides demanding bribe for issuance of Challan," the official said. On receipt of complaint, a FIR No. 32/2021 under Section 7 of PC Act 1988 & 120 of IPC was registered and investigation started. During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a trap and successfully caught Abdul Qayoom, Manager and 3 other officials of FCI, Shaheed Gang, Srinagar, red-handed, for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 1,500 from complainant. The accused were arrested and taken into custody by ACB team. Further investigation into the case is going on, he added.

SMVDSB establishes sale outlet at JK House New Delhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra has established a sale outlet at J&K Guest House, 5-Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi for the sale of Gold Medallions of 2gm, 5gm and 10gm and Silver Coins of 5gm, 10gm and 20gm denominations. The outlet has been established for convenience of the devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi on the eve of Dhanteras and Diwali. The sale outlet shall remain functional upto 05th November, 2021.

The Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Ramesh Kumar also informed that besides



Silver Coins and Gold Medallions, Mata Ka Parasas has also been made available at the Sale Counter.

The sale outlet has been established in order to reach to

the wider spectrum of devotees settled in and around Delhi. Pertinently, the newly launched Silver coin of 20gm will also be available for sale at the sale counter.

Temples under Dharmarth Trust will get face-lift under Smart City project: Mayor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayor Jammu, Chander Mohan Gupta on Thursday asserted that all the temples under the ambit of Dharmarth Trust Jammu will be upgraded under the realms of ongoing Smart City Project.

He said this during a visit to Dharmarth Trust Central Office in Jammu. Earlier, he was welcomed by Ajay Gandotra, President J&K Dharmarth Trust and Dr Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma, Secretary of the Trust.

President of the Trust urged Mayor Jammu to issue directions for the upkeep and development of historical Shri Raghunathji temple, which is the centre of attraction for the devotees and the visitors of the 'City of Temples' besides being one of the top religious destinations in the entire province. Trust's President asked the Mayor to pro-

vide adequate support in giving face-lift to other temples and religious shrines falling under the ambit of the Trust besides sanitation of temples of daily basis.

Upon this, the Mayor assured that every possible step will be taken up to ensure that the temples and shrines under the realms of Dharmarth Trust will get the necessary upgradation so that people visiting the region get allured to visit all of these places without any exception. He categorically made a point that the BJP Government at the Centre is keen to develop the places of religious significance as these are the part of the country's rich heritage and resounding culture. He assured to work with Dharmarth Trust keeping full synergy so that Jammu could be transformed into the best city among all in the country.

J&K State Flag never had same Constitutional Position as Union Flag (Indian National Flag)

►► Process of uprooting myths about identities of erstwhile Indian state of J&K & Bharat has started ◄◄

On 25th September 2013 it was reported through an official handout that the then J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah too had opined while talking to Head of a Delegation of the European Union to India Ambassador Joao Cravinho that State had a special status, our own constitution and the 'state flag'. Although J&K State never had any special status in constitution of India (which had been even made clear by GOI in a written reply to Rajay Sabha Question* 138 in Parliament on 11-03-2015) such narrations surely have been pushing the common man of J&K into unwanted doubts / confusions.

Such style of working surely revealed that in Jammu and Kashmir some political parties hold a firm belief that their political survival rests only on controversies, and that too the controversies that could cast shadows even on the nationality and territorial identities. Since all these years such opinion makers have remained officially uncontested and dismissed by Governments in the center, therefore, leadership of the 'class' had been/ has been able to win some electoral games as well as some innocent masses surely can get carried through by such unfounded beliefs.

PDP had joined hands in 2015 March with BJP to form Government in Jammu and Kashmir. Often questions

were raised on the BJP -- PDP alliance by National Conference as well as Congress. Mufti Mohammed Sayed had on his own too said that both the allies have been ideologically poles apart. In defence the PDP 'leadership' pleaded that alliance had happened due to people having given a fractured mandate in November December 2014. J&K Assembly elections and their 'agenda for alliance' (CMP) targeted only development and peaceful coexistence of the three regions of J&K state.

The flairs of the controversy raised earlier by the Chief Minister on 'day one' itself where in a way he expressed to Pakistan and 'terrorist' groups for allowing 'unprecedented mass turnover' of voters during the concluded J&K legislature elections had not yet even settled down when just 2 weeks old PDP lead government stepped into another controversy - ' Hoisting of state flag' vs National flag. A circular was issued by J&K Government on 12 March (Hoisting of State Flag-- Circular No. 13-GAD of 2015, dated 12.03.2015) and was withdrawn immediately on 13th March (Circular No: 14 -GAD of 2015 Dated: 13-03-2015 stating that the Circular No. 13-GAD of 2015, dated 12.03.2015 is hereby withdrawn).. Why was the circular issued and why was it withdrawn was not made public by both the alliance partners.

To be brief circular dated 12 March among other things said, "As per the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and the Delhi Agreement of 1952 and keeping in view the historical background, the State Flag has the same sanctity and position as the Union Flag has under the Indian Constitution and other statutory provisions. All the Constitutional Authorities are enjoined upon to maintain the sanctity of the State Flag, at all costs, as is being done in respect of the Union Flag."

The 'position' /status of State Flag with respect to National Flag / Union Flag is neither described in the Constitution of India nor in Section-144 of the Constitution of Indian State of J&K that describes the flag of the State (The Flag of the State shall be rectangular in shape and red in colour with three equidistant white vertical strips of equal width next to the staff and a white plough in the middle with handle facing the strips).The state government circular of 12th March also made a mention of Delhi Agreement of 1952. Without going into the constitutional and statutory validities of the said Delhi Agreement of 1952, let us have a look at para / Clause -IV of the said agreement that does have some indirect reference as regards the 'position' / status of the



A Look through the Mist

State flag viz viz National / Union Flag . The Delhi agreement at para / clause -IV says, " it was agreed by the State Government that the State flag would not be a rival of the Union flag; it was also recognised that the Union flag should have the same status and position in Jammu and Kashmir as in the rest of India,.... ..".

Therefore, even as per Delhi Agreement of 1952 the said 'State Flag' did not have the same (equal to) position (constitutional status) as the Union Flag / National Flag has.

Delhi agreement said that state flag 'would not be a rival of the Union Flag' and that the Union flag should have the same status and position in Jammu and Kashmir as in the rest of India, so opining of same position in the 12th March 2015 order was surely not constitutionally valid.

Ofcourse there was nothing wrong in impressing upon all to observe the sanctity of flag of the state (J&K). But making a comparative reference to Union Flag / National flag while referring to the position (status) of the state flag stating that State Flag has the same position as the Union Flag was constitutionally questionable and even there was all reason to immediately look into the motive behind

making such like reference when there were already unwanted myths / illusion prevailing in state as regards the 'status' and accession of erstwhile princely state to Dominion of India in 1947.

When someone ventures into referring the Indian National Flag while addressing any controversy as regards State Flag the act cannot be taken casually (and should not have been taken so casually even by the 2015 GOI) since the 'separatist' elements are always waiting to use the issues other way if the wrong is not officially dismissed. It had also been alleged by some that the PDP lead government had some hidden objectives behind issuing the 12th March 2015 circular otherwise what was the hurry / need for issuing such a circular when the first and foremost need was to fight out the separatists and any otherwise opinions expressed as regards J&K not being as good an 'Indian' as Punjab. Both the alliance partners did not convincingly explain the reasons for issuing and withdrawing 12th March 2015 circular order. No doubt unofficial reports also did appear that the said circular was issued without approval of the competent authority and hence was withdrawn. Then still the question that remained unanswered was what administrative action had been taken

against the 'defaulting' officer? Will the present LG Administration do that now so that real message goes to subjects of J&K who may have the said myth still cultivated since the then Government did not regret for issuing a wrong order. The use of term like 'position' in the reference circular surely meant 'status' and that question needed to be addressed publicly by both 'partners' in 2015 which was not done and in case they are sincere to the cause even in 2021 they can explain the basis for issuing and withdrawing the 'orders' ..

So, there is need for the Government of India as well as the State Government to make statement on the controversy that had/had been shaped on the 'position' of union flag by J&K Government Circular of 12.03.2015 indirectly touching very sensitive issues related to nationalities and sovereignties. Let the process of unrooting the unwanted myths about identities of erstwhile Indian state of J&K and Bharat start with more of such like initiative to set a smooth & speedy way towards peaceful environment and cutting down any moral support (where ever there) for separatist ideologies / convictions.

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