

Rana calls on LG; raises issues of public importance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLA and senior BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana on Monday called on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and raised various issues of public importance.

Rana had a detailed interaction with the Lt Governor, according to an official handout, wherein he projected several demands and issues pertaining to regularization of Daily-wagers, ITI trained, casual labourers, Land donors and CP workers; Release of pending payment under MGNREGA; Age Relaxation for aspirants of Sub-Inspectors in J&K Police; Removal of anomalies of non-gazetted police personnel; regularization of services of paramedical staff working in GMCs and Hospitals in Jammu/ Srinagar; mining mineral rates to consumers; implementation of Forest Rights Act in toto and for individuals; development of Patnitop, Sanasar, Surinsar, Mansar, Purnand and other such tourism potential areas.



Former MLA and senior BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The BJP leader also raised various employment and youth oriented issues including preference to Paramedic Staff engaged under Emergency COVID Response Package while filling vacant posts of paramedics; considering candidature

of aspirants who have higher qualification and have qualified Class IV examination conducted by JKSSB; creation of vacancies for homeopathic graduates on the analogy of Unani and Ayurvedic disciplines; besides Special recruitment drives of Police/

Paramilitary/Army in border areas and Special Cadre for Engineering, Medical, Education and allied services.

He also drew Lt Governor's attention towards several issues of Chamber of Commerce & Industries and Transporters, besides the issues of residents of Gandhi Nagar Housing Colony regarding vacation of area in front of their houses.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the former MLA, observed that the Government is formulating development plans and policies reflective of needs and aspirations of the people of J&K.

"We are determined for ensuring equitable and fast-paced development of the UT and growth & prosperity of its people", he added.

The Lt Governor assured Rana that the genuine issues put forth by him will be given due consideration and urged him to continue his sustained efforts for promoting welfare of the people.



Sky rocketing prices of essential commodities hit common man: Tara Chand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress on Monday organised workers convention at Kharah Balli in Chaamb Constituency which was presided over by Senior Congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand and was attended by hundreds of people and workers from the area.

Tara Chand said, rise in the prices of almost all the things, including essential commodities has become a common feature these days and asked the government to do something in this direction.

"The increasing prices of daily commodities have become a headache for the citizens of the nation. Now people purchase things in grams instead of kilograms. Sudden and massive rise in prices cause an all-round spiral effect on prices of commodities that makes life of common man miserable," he said

He said that the NDA regime has been a period of broken promises, as the election promises made in 2014 by a Prime ministerial aspirant have turned out to be false.

"The Union Government is yet to take steps to check price hike of essential com-



Senior Congress leader and former Dy CM, Tara Chand addressing a gathering.

modities," he said.

Tara Chand said that thousands hectares cropped area has been affected with the hailstorm in Jammu region due to massive rains and hailstorm and demanded that relief and compensation should be provided to all by the government at the earliest.

He questioned the BJP for its utter failure to ensure the safety of innocent people in Kashmir when the law and order are directly under Home Ministry in UT.

He said that the government should ensure safety and security of minorities in Kashmir and elsewhere because the lawlessness has taken its toll of many due to absence of adequate safety measures.

He added that BJP's promise of providing employ-

ment to the youth of J&K also turned out to be hollow. He said that BJP has been indulging in lowest level of politics by raking up groundless and concocted issues to deflect people attention from the disastrous performance of its leadership which is steering the nation.

He said that there is a dire need to counter the hollow policies of the BJP by exposing them at the grass root level.

Prominent persons present on the occasion include Dwarka Nath Sharma BDC Chairman, Jagattar Singh, Madan Lal Sharma, Jagdish Raj Sharma Block President, Bodh Raj, Devinder Singh, Gautam Sharma, office bearers of BCC, DCC, Congress delegates, Sarpanchs and Panchs.

LG hands-over appointment letter to wife of teacher killed in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday handed over the appointment letter for the government job to Aradhna Mehra, wife of Kashmiri Hindu teacher Deepak Chand who was killed by terrorists in Srinagar on October 8, officials said.

Mehra received the appointment letter at the Raj Bhavan here.

"Today, handed over appointment letter to Smt Aradhna Mehra, wife of martyr Sh Deepak Chand, who was killed by terrorists in Srinagar," the office of the Lieutenant Governor said in a tweet.

Sinha assured all help and assistance to Chand's family.

The Resistance Front (TRF) terrorists on October 8 had shot dead principal Supinder Kaur and Chand of the Government Boys' Higher Secondary School Sangam in Srinagar's Eidgah area in a series of targeted killings of civilians in Kashmir.

Ventilators supplied to SMHS Srinagar under 'PM CARES' defective: Balvinder

Seeks cognizance of Chief Justice J&K High Court

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shocking revelations regarding functioning of ventilators of different Make/Brand supplied to J&K UT under 'PM CARES' have been made by the Health & Medical Education Department in reply to a RTI. Though officials of Health & Medical Education Department from Jammu division admitted that ventilators supplied to them are not of good quality and are not functioning properly yet they didn't give exact details in response to the RTI query, for the reasons best known to them. GMC Jammu has told that only 13 ventilators out of total 179 are defective and not working properly. It was stated by RTI activist, Balvinder Singh while addressing a press conference in Jammu on Monday.

Giving further details, Balvinder said he had all praise for GMC Srinagar and especially HoD Anesthesiology & Critical care Medicines, GMC Srinagar who didn't care for any pressure or his/her compulsions and gave clear



RTI activist, Balvinder Singh addressing a press conference.

information regarding defective ventilators of three different Make/Brand, supplied to them under 'PM CARE' for the better patient care. "HoD Department of Anesthesiology stated in the reply that departments received Bharat Ventilators from Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital and were put in trial run. However, all these ventilators were returned to Medical Sup SMHS Hospital due to compressor/heat-up problems, resulting in sudden shutdown of ventilators. The HoD further stated that 3 Agva Ventilators installed in SMHS Hospital are non-functional due to certain problems like

display not working properly, problem in generating tidal volume etc. As far as ventilators of DHAMAN-III are concerned, it was informed that 125 ventilators were stationed at DRDO Hospital, Khonmoh, Srinagar but out of them, 2 are in SMHS Hospital for trial run in order to ascertain whether these ventilators generate required tidal volume. After a trial run, it was observed that (i) Tidal Volume had not generated. (ii) Required FIO2 could not be delivered to patients, thus is not feasible to put them in use. (iii) Ventilators stop automatically, hence, putting patients at risk," said Balvinder, adding

JKPCC celebrates 50th anniversary of Bangladesh victory, pays tributes to war-heroes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) in collaboration with Bangladesh Liberation War Commemoration Committee celebrated 50th anniversary of Bangladesh victory, during a function organized by DCC Jammu (Rural) at Paloura on Monday, held to pay homage to war-heroes besides remembering strong leadership of Iron Lady Indira Gandhi.

AICC Convener Bangladesh Liberation War Commemoration Committee Capt Praveen Dava was the Chief Guest on the occasion while JKPCC Chief G A Mir



Congress leaders during a programme at Jammu.

presided over the function, which was attended by a number of senior leaders including Mula Ram, Raman Bhalla, Ashok Sharma, Ved Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma and Indu Pawar. JK unit Convener and Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma along with DCC Jammu Rural President, Th Hari Singh Chib besides a number of other leaders including Chaman Jain, Dwarka Chaudhary, Pawan Raina, Rajni Bala, Shashi

Sharma, Satish Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Sahil Sharma, Rajveer Singh, Vandana Sharma, Sajjad Tariq, Dr R K Khajuria, Ricky Dalotra, Ravinder Singh, Som Nath Sharma, Javed Lone, Suman Chaudhary, Rajinder Kumar Happy, Rampaul, Capt Rashpal Singh Charak, Gazan Singh, Jaswant Singh, Om parkash, Dr Rajpal Hans, Dev Raj, Shabaz Ahmed, Kuldeep Sharma, Tarun Vaid, Virunder Mehta, Parshotam

Kumar, Balkar Singh, Kuldeep Kumar, Sham Mehra, Vijay Tagotra and Sunil Dutt. A number of war veterans of 1971 war were also invited as distinguished guests and honoured on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Capt Dava recalled sequence of events of 1971 war and remembered strong leadership of the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whose leadership was unmatched in the world.

He paid homage to over 4,000 Jawans who were martyred and over 10,000 Jawans, who got injured in the war especially Param Veer Chakra, Mahaveer Chakra and Veer Chakra awardees.

JKPCC President, G A Mir, while paying homage to war-heroes, lauded the efforts of Indian forces and leadership of Indira Gandhi, who rebuffed the pressures of super-powers US and China and led the country to victory.

Mula Ram also recalled contributions of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who took the country to great heights in all spheres. Former Minister and Vice President JKPCC, Raman Bhalla said that it was only the strong leadership of Indira Gandhi which led the nation to great victory and made the country strong.

Channi, Sidhu infighting has made mockery of Punjab

Congress should focus on manifesto not BSF: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said that infighting between Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and PCC president Navjot Sidhu has made a mockery of democracy in the state.

In a statement, Chugh said the entire governance in Punjab stood paralysed due to the instability in the chief minister's office which has been under attack from the PCC president for the last more than six months.

"The Congress high command has been amusingly watching the cat fight in Punjab without doing anything even as the working of



the constitutional offices has been paralysed", he said.

Chugh said Congress had failed on all fronts in the state under the raj of various mafias. He demanded that during the current Assembly session the Congress government should fulfil its promises made in the election man-

ifesto including that of waiving of Rs 90,000 crore farmers' loan, providing jobs to 60 lakh people and providing mobile phones to students.

Chugh said it was unfortunate that instead of passing resolutions for fulfilling promises made in the election manifesto the Channi government was contemplating passing a resolution against the BSF.

He said instead of expressing gratitude to the valiant force for guarding the borders of the nation under the challenging circumstances, the Congress government was targeting the elite security agency and was trying to hit the morale of the force.

PM Modi celebrated Diwali on LOC in Nowshera Sector where Taingdhar bears PVC Yadunath Memorial Stone

► 'Our soldiers are the 'Suraksha Kawach' of 'Maa Bharti': Narendra Modi'

► Taking leads from Modi Ji's gestures Manoj Sinha must initiate naming Jammu Airport after PVC NK Yadunath

The Yadunath Memorial Stone at Taindhar Top near Naushera reads "No. 27373 NK Yadunath Singh PVC (Posthumous) 1 Rajput (4 Guards) Born 21 November 1916 Died in Action 6 February 1948 " Your God is both your Cause, Your Battle and Your Captain, Come Life or Death, Your God will Bear Your Company, And Ever Keep This Field, This Place and This Days Service In His Grateful Remembrance" This Memorial is Erected in Solemn Tribute to A Warrior Legend Who Sacrificed His Mortal Being to A Greater Glory of Indian Nation on This Very Spot . NK Yadunath Singh Single Handedly Killed 230 Men of the Enemy And sacrificed His Yesterday so That Citizens of Naushera may live Their Tomorrow. Inaugurated on 6 Feb 1996".

Naik Yadunath Singh, a non 'State Subject' who belonged to UP

(Khajuri village of Shahjahanpur) of J&K 'was 2nd to be Decorated with Param Vir Chakra in Independent India.

Indian Independence Act 1947 which propounded the principles of Partition of India in its text in a way conceded an Independent status to the Princely States of British Indian Empire. No doubt the then Vice Roy / Governor did counsel the Princes to go with either of the Dominions (India or Pakistan) preferably before 15th August 1947. since most of the princely state had practically nil own defending armies and were so far dependent on the British. The accession of erstwhile Princely state of J&K with either dominion was delayed and 'Pakistan' had on 22nd Oct. 1947 'openly; attacked J&K from Kashmir Valley side. Maharaja Hari Singh in his letter of 26th Oct 1947 addressed to Governor General of India had pinned the reasons for

delay by saying like <"As your Excellency is aware the State of Jammu and

Kashmir has not acceded to the Dominion of India or to Pakistan. Geographically my State is contiguous to both the Dominions. It has vital economical and cultural links with both of them. Besides my State has a common boundary with the Soviet Republic and China. In their external relations the Dominions of India and Pakistan cannot ignore this fact. I wanted to take time to decide to which Dominion I should accede, or whether it is not in the best interests of both the Dominions and my State to stand independent, of course with friendly and cordial relations with both.The people of my State both the Muslims and non-Muslims generally have taken no part at all. With the conditions obtaining at pres-



A Look through the Mist

ent in my State and the great emergency of the situation as it exists, I have no option but to ask for help from the Indian Dominion. Naturally they cannot send the help asked for by me without my State acceding to the Dominion of India. I have accordingly decided to do so and I attach the Instrument of Accession for acceptance by your Government. "

> So the, option of remaining independent was also in the wisdom to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. Pakistani raiders had already entered the then princely state of J&K before the state acceded to India. On the directions of the Defence Committee the Army Headquarters rushed the troops on 27th October by air to Srinagar whereas per reports there were hardly 100 troops in & around city after Maharaja had left for Jammu on 25th October 1947 itself and the

then "Srinagar/Badgam Airport" was under extreme chances of falling to the raiders / their supporters and hence could extremely reduce reducing the possibilities of saving a large part of Kashmir province of those days, so the priorities were set on there in the pious wisdom of the commanders. Maj Som Nath Sharma had become the 1st PVC decorated Indian soldier who had demonstrated extra ordinary valour and desire for sacrificing self for country by not only saving Badgam Airport on 3rd November 1947 but in a way saving whole of Kashmir Valley and even large part of Ladakh region.....

Similarly the battle of Naushera (J&K) , a long drawn battle extending from late 1947 to 1948, needs to be remembered more for saving through unprecedented valour and sacrifices of Indian soldiers a very large part of even the Jammu

Province of the then just acceded Indian princely state of J&K through to Rajouri to Poonch. How hard have been times for the Indian forces for pushing out the enemy during the times of Battle of Nowshera and how important was the win for saving a very large part of Jammu Province in 1948 could be well imagined from the facts like that 1/7 Rajput Regiment was awarded in Independent India one Param Vir Chakra, two Maha Vir Chakras, nine Vir Chakras and eleven Mention in Dispatches for actions in battle of Nowshera.

There can be no better start for naming Public Structures after Martyrs than starting with PVC Major Som Nath Srinagar Airport & PVC NK Yadunath Jammu airport. To be continued

(Daya Sagar, is a senior journalist and analyst of J&K Affairs, can be reached at dayasagr45@yahoo.com).