

RPHQ Rajouri bids farewell to DIG Dr. Haseeb Mughal

Officials underline his exemplified commitment to uphold L&O, role in CT front

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Range Police Headquarters (RPHQ) of Jammu and Kashmir police bid a farewell to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Rajouri Poonch range, Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal IPS as he takes on new responsibilities as DIG Traffic Jammu.

During his tenure as DIG RP range, Dr. Mughal has exemplified unwavering commitment to upholding law and order in the region and played a pivotal role in anti-terror achievements and initiatives, contributing significantly to the safety and security of the range.

Known for his astute leadership, he has been a source of inspiration to his officers and colleagues, fostering a spirit of teamwork and dedication.

Dr. Mughal's dynamic approach to policing has left an indelible mark on the range police as he embarks on this new chapter with the Traffic Wing.

RPHQ Rajouri extended deepest gratitude for his exemplary services and dedication to duties as he leaves behind a legacy that reflects the highest



RPHQ Rajouri according farewell to DIG R-P range, Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal.

standards of professionalism.

During the farewell event, the officers and officials of the range police headquarters Rajouri expressed wishes to the DIG as he transitions to the Traffic Wing.

Officers and officials of RPHQ Rajouri and District Police Rajouri attended the function which included SSP Rajouri Amritpal Singh, CO IRP 2nd Bn Randeep Kumar, AdSP Rajouri Mussadiq Basu, Probational SP Anurag Daru, DySP HQrs Mudassar Hussain, DySP Traffic Nawaz Ahmed, DySP OPs Shammi Kumar, SO RPHQ Parvez Alam, DySP DAR Rajouri

Shokit Ali, Personal Officer DySP Sunil K Dhar, Inspector Kirtan Bhushan, Inspector Ashfaq Mughal, Inspector Naseer Ahmed.

Besides prominent personalities of Rajouri including DDC Chairman Naseem Liaquat, DDC member Rajouri Abdul Rashid and noted religious preacher Moulana Mohammad Farooq Niami also attended the function.

During the farewell ceremony, Parvaiz Alam Staff Officer to DIG RP range highlighted the exemplary role of the DIG Dr. Haseeb Mughal IPS, applauding the officer for his outstanding contributions dur-

ing the tenure.

The officer's dedication and leadership have been instrumental in setting a high standard for law enforcement in the range, he said.

The Staff Officer emphasized unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of professionalism, teamwork and a dynamic approach to policing, which has strengthened the Range Police.

Quoting specific instances or achievements, the Staff Officer highlighted a vivid picture of the DIG for his tireless efforts that has earned respect and admiration of Officers and Jawans.

As the DIG takes on new assignments, Staff Officer expressed gratitude for his service and wished him continued success in future endeavours. The legacy left behind by the DIG will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration for current and future members of the Jammu & Kashmir Police.

In a fascinating address, Dr. Mughal delivered an insightful speech to all officers and Jawans, emphasizing the critical importance of teamwork

within the ranks.

During this motivational session, DIG underscored the significance of collaborative efforts in achieving collective goals and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. He shared valuable insights drawn from his own experiences, illustrating how effective teamwork has played a pivotal role in successful operations within the organization.

Highlighted the key pillars of successful teamwork, focusing on communication, mutual trust, and a shared commitment, encouraged all Officers and Jawans to foster an environment that nurtures collaboration, where each member's strengths contribute to the overall success of the team. Quoting examples from real-life situations, he conveyed the idea that a cohesive team is not just a collection of individuals but a force that is greater than the sum of its parts. He emphasized that the synergy created through teamwork enhances the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts and strengthens the bonds within the Police Department.

First snowfall in Bhaderwah town bring cheers to locals, tourists

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BHADERWAH: First Snowfall of the season in Bhaderwah town has brought cheers to the tourism sector, sparking joy among tourists and the local people as finally prolonged dry spell ended with a good omen.

However, the snowfall after the end of Chilla-i-Kalan- a 40-day harsh winter period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent-has brought cheers to both the tourists as well as the tourism players.

After two days rains, finally heavy snowfall also started in Bhaderwah Town and other adjoining areas. Bhaderwah town is experiencing first snowfall of the season since early morning.

Meanwhile higher reaches experiencing heavy snowfall. Tourists are very happy to see the live snowfall just outside their Hotels in the Bhaderwah town. "We arrived on



January 31 and were lucky to see the Live snowfall just now. We experienced snowfall first in Bhaderwah, which is an amazing experience. We are so thrilled to be here," a Tourist from Dehli.

They said Bhaderwah is really unexplored heaven on earth after snowfall.

Another Tourist said it was a great feeling. "It feels so good. It looks like heaven," he said while enjoying the snowfall.

"It feels truly and literally like heaven. Bhaderwah is so beautiful and the peo-

ple here are really amazing. We enjoyed a lot," he added. It is not only the tourists who are cheered up, the snowfall has sparked joy among the local tourism players as well.

"We thank God for the snow. We feel very happy because it will not only increase tourism, but it is vital for the sustenance," Shahdaab Ahmad, a local of Bhaderwah

It is notable that other areas of Chenab Valley is also experiencing first Snowfall of the season.

HC set-aside of Director SKIMS after 30 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: After 30 years of litigation, Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court set-aside the order of the Director, Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar [SKIMS], whereby the petitioner has been removed as Professor Department of Cardiology from the services of the SKIMS for unauthorised willful absence from duty with effect from May 19, 1992.

This significant order has been passed in a petition filed by Dr. B.A.Wani aggrieved of and has called in question an order dated December 8, 1993 passed by the Director, SKIMS, whereby the petitioner has been removed as Professor Department of Cardiology from the services of the SKIMS for unauthorized willful absence from duty w.e.f. May 19, 1992.

The petitioner also prays for a direction to the SKIMS to accept his request for voluntary retirement in terms of Article 230 of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Service Regulations ("CSR" for short) and treat him as having voluntarily retired from service with all consequential post-retirement benefits.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing both the sides, observed that in the reply affidavit filed by the Director of the Institute, there is no attempt made to explain the competence of the Director to impose penalty of removal from service of a gazetted officer. It is also not demonstrated by the respondents whether the status of the Professor and other faculty positions of SKIMS is that of a gazetted officer or not. The

petitioner, too, has not placed on record any material to show that the petitioner at the time of his removal from service, in terms of the impugned order, was a gazetted officer.

He, too, has failed to place on record any gazette/notification to show that the post of Professor in SKIMS is a gazetted post. In the absence of such material, it is not possible for this Court to come to any definite conclusion as to whether petitioner was a gazetted officer and could be removed from service only by the Government. However, if this Court holds that the impugned order is traceable to Article 128 of the CSR, yet in the absence of specific delegation made by the Government to the Director, SKIMS, the impugned order would be without jurisdiction and competence of the Director.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar found sufficient substance in the submission of Jan that the Director, SKIMS was not a competent authority to remove the petitioner from service, who at the relevant time was Professor and head of the department of Cardiology in SKIMS and more inclined to accept this plea for the simple reason that to the specific averments made by the petitioner in paragraph No.14 & 15 of the writ petition in respect of incompetence of the Director, SKIMS to issue the impugned order; there is no specific reply or rebuttal by the respondents.

On this ground alone, I find the impugned order vitiated in law having been issued by an authority not competent to do so. In view of the above, the determination of plea of

proportionality of penalty is held unnecessary.

With these observations, High Court allowed the petition with the observations that impugned order dated December 8, 1993 issued by the Director, SKIMS is set aside.

Court further directed that the competent authority i.e. Government is left free to initiate fresh disciplinary action against the petitioner in accordance with law within a period of four weeks from today. That in the disciplinary action that may be initiated by the respondents/competent authority, the petitioner shall be given adequate opportunity to defend himself.

The procedure laid down in Rule 33 of the CCA Rules shall be strictly adhered to in such disciplinary proceedings, which shall be concluded within a period of two months from the date charges are served upon the petitioner.

Court further said that in case no such proceedings are envisaged or initiated against the petitioner; his application for voluntary retirement under Article 230 of the CSR shall be considered and appropriate orders passed within one month from the date of expiry of time stipulated herein above for conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings.

Court further said that needless to say that in case respondents decide not to initiate any disciplinary proceedings and accept the request of the petitioner for voluntary retirement, post retiral benefits, as may be available to the petitioner under law shall be released without any further delay.

1500 Gujjar-Bakarwal Out of School students enrolled in Govt schools in Kishtwar under ‘Back 2 School’ initiative

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Once grappling with a significant number of Out-of-School Children (OoSC), the success of the first phase of the Back to School initiative has played a pivotal role in elevating the literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribe community in the district Kishtwar. In 2021, a survey conducted by SAMAGRA Shiksha Jammu and Kashmir identified thousands of OoSC across J&K UT, including 2,469 in district Kishtwar; marking the highest number in the Jammu Division. As the problem demanded urgent attention, the district administration Kishtwar took proactive steps to bring back all the OoSC to school. It is pertinent to mention that the term "Out of School Children" is a collective term encompassing dropouts, students who have left their education midway, and those who have never been enrolled and not at all experienced formal education.

In December 2022, verification of 2469 Out-of-School Children (OoSC) revealed that approximately 1600 students in the age group of 6-14 years were not attending school. The



Gujjar and Bakarwal population were more susceptible to low enrollment due to relatively poor socio-economic conditions, migratory nature, dependence on livestock, and less emphasis on higher education because of early marriage etc.

To enroll these students, the Back to School initiative was launched. The first step involved convincing parents and galvanizing public opinion through Gram Sabhas presided over by senior officers, including the Deputy Commissioner, ADDC, ADC, SDMs, and Tehsildars. A 3-month Bridge Course, initiated with the help of DIET Kishtwar in January 2023, prepared these students to join schools. Following the completion of the Bridge

Course, admissions for 1376 Out-of-School Students were done in various Government Schools, with 95 percent belonging to the ST Gujjar and Bakarwal population.

Sustainability is crucial in such initiatives, and for this, community support was mobilized. A Tribal Samaj Sudhar Committee, comprising Gujjar and Bakarwal volunteers, encouraged parents to re-enroll their kids in schools and monitored already enrolled students.

Additionally, School Management Committees were restructured in collaboration with the India Education Collective NGO. For the restructured committees, parents took on the role of Chairmen and became active

HC quashes PSA of Detenu

Mandi Soura, Srinagar has been placed under preventive detention with a view to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of security of the state.

While quashing the detention order, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul observed that it is clear that the order of detention was passed as the detaining

authority was apprehensive that in case the detenu was released on bail he would again carry on his criminal activities in the area. If the apprehension of the detaining authority was true, the bail application had to be opposed and in case bail was granted, challenge against that order in the higher forum had to be raised. Merely on the ground that an accused in detention as an undertrial prisoner was likely to get bail an order of detention

under the Nation Security Act should not ordinarily be passed." There is force in the submission of counsel for petitioner that there is no live link between the last activity and impugned detention order because FIR no. 48/2020 has been taken into account by detaining authority while passing order impugned, unmindful of the fact that detenu has been admittedly bailed out in the said FIR and there have been no further activities alleged

against detenu. Resultantly, impugned order of detention is liable to be quashed.

The High Court disposed of the petition and Detention Order No. DMS/PSA/09/2022 dated April 7, 2022, issued by the District Magistrate, Srinagar against the detenu is quashed. As a corollary, respondents are directed to set the detenu at liberty forthwith provided he is not required in any other case, Court ordered.

Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra calls on Tourism Secretary

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra, a leading advocate for the tourism industry, presents key tourism issues to Yasha Mudgal, urging immediate attention and collaborative action to address challenges and foster sustainable growth in the sector.

In a meeting held in her office chamber, a delegation from Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra met with Yasha Mudgal to discuss pressing matters affecting the tourism industry.

The purpose of the meeting was to share insights, propose solutions, and seek



Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra members calling on Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal.

the secretary's support in implementing measures to enhance the overall tourism experience and stimulate economic development.

President Raj Kumar Padha along with Atul Sharma Secretary CTTIK congratulated Yasha Mudgal on assuming the charge as secretary tourism J&K UT and honoured her by presenting Mata Ki Chunari and Mata Ki Photo. During the interaction president Raj Kumar Padha presented several suggestions, recommendations and issues.

Among them include rolling out of new guidelines for registration and renewal of tourism licenses of hotels, guest houses,

restaurants and travel offices with minimum NOCs at the earliest.

He impressed upon to devise a policy to carry on pilgrimage promotional activities so that the visiting number of pilgrims should be kept intact and can be directed to nearby tourist destinations of Jammu division.

He emphasized that efforts should be made to get the Prashad scheme sanctioned again for holy Katra town and the projects like redevelopment of Katra town on modern lines by keeping the utilities like electric ,wifi and telephone wires underground; beautifying Ban Ganga road, Panthal road, Jammu

road and railway road; redevelopment and beautification of Shree Dhar Chowk at Bus Stand Katra; general STP for Katra town as per on the lines of Jammu and Srinagar cities; development of a residential colony for Katra town should be included by revisiting the DPR of Prashad Scheme.

He apprised the Secretary that Navratra festival meeting takes place under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner usually around 25 days before the festival.

He requested to hold the said meeting three months before the festival so that Navratra festival can be organized in a big and better way.

He requested to clear the pending payments of all the stakeholders of Navratra Festival at her earliest convenience.

Atul Sharma suggested Establishment of TRC Katra and an officer of the rank of deputy director should be deputed to take care of all the tourism related issues of Katra as well as Reasi district.

He also suggested to set

up a museum at a suitable location where Mata Ki Kahani should be showcased through models or virtual tours so that the visiting pilgrims especially the younger generation should know the importance of other temples situated on the base camp Katra and on the track of Maa Vaishnodevi Yatra.

Use of technology for interactive exhibits, virtual tours, and multimedia presentations showcasing all Jammu's destinations to the visiting religious tourists can be done and they could be motivated to visit other tourist destinations of Jammu Division.

Yasha Mudgal gave a patient hearing to all the points and ensured her full cooperation and support.

Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra expressed gratitude to the tourism secretary for the opportunity to engage in this constructive dialogue.

The organization remains committed to working closely with the government to address these issues and contribute to the sustainable development of the tourism sector.

Citizens bid adieu to DIG M. Suleman

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDAHMPUR: In a touching gesture of gratitude and appreciation, Citizens Forum Udhampur organised a farewell function to honour the exemplary service of M. Suleman Choudhary, IPS, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, who got transferred and is now posted as DIG (Pers) PHQ.

The event, held at Udhampur was attended by Saloni Rai, DC Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia, ADC Udhampur, Ghan Shyam Singh, ADDC Udhampur, Shaikh Nahiem Ahmed DySP DAR, Raghubir Singh, SHO and also brought together Beopar Mandal, Associated Chamber of Commerce & Industries, prominent citizens and sports personalities to celebrate the remarkable contributions of the officer.

Speakers recounted memorable instances highlighting M. Suleman Choudhary's unwavering commitment to maintain-



Citizens Forum Udhampur according farewell to M. Suleman Choudhary, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range.

ing law and order.

Residents shared anecdotes showcasing the official's compassion and tireless efforts in fostering a safer community.

The event featured speeches from Pawan Gupta, Ex-MLA Udhampur, Pawan Khajuria, Sham Saroop Kalsotia, Vikram Singh Slathia, Brij Mohan Sharma and others, presenting the officer with tokens of appreciation for his invaluable service. The official expressed gratitude for the camaraderie and support received over the

years, emphasising the collaborative efforts that strengthened the bond between law enforcement and the community.

As citizens bid farewell, there was a sense of pride and respect for M. Suleman Choudhary's legacy, with hopes that his dedication to public service will inspire others.

The farewell function served as a poignant reminder of the profound impact an individual can have on a community, transcending the professional realm into the hearts of those they served.

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