

Secy Civil Aviation reviews works on Jammu Airport expansion

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Civil Aviation Department (CAD), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review progress of works being executed under Jammu Airport expansion project.

The meeting had detailed discussion on various issues pertaining to expansion of Jammu Airport including shifting of cattle sheds and hatcheries, shifting of Animal Husbandry Office, demolition of private structures, disbursement of structural compensation, physical progress/infrastructural development of Jammu Airport terminal and land acquisition for the Apron.



Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, Mohd Aijaz Asad chairing a meeting.

The Secretary was informed about the work done, so far, besides apprising of the issues related to removal of structures, handing over possession of the land and other miscellaneous project related matters.

To ensure seamless execution of the prestigious project, the Secretary asked the concerned officers to work in a coordinated manner and expedite the pace of progress on the project for timely completion.

He asked Director Animal Husbandry Department to start shifting cattle from Belicharana to the new farm at Chattha as soon as it is made functional by PWD in the first week of May, 2024.

He also said that an alternate mechanism has to be evolved to shift the poultry within a fixed period of time to prevent undue delays. He further directed the concerned authorities to remove all illegal structures within 100 meters of the Airport boundary as requested by the Airport Authority(AAI).

It was informed in the meeting that the new farm at Chattha has been completed in all respects and the project is being executed in two separate segments, in parallel, to ensure that it is completed before deadlines. It was also revealed that the majority of the required land had already been provided to the Airport Authority while a few left issues will be sorted out shortly.

The meeting was attended by officers from District Administration Jammu, Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu, AAI, Jammu Airport, Public Works Department, Jammu and Civil Aviation Department.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Upper Barnai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, J K Colony, Chander Vihar, PHE Roop Mahar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF Paloura, Bani, Duggan, Chalag, Dhaggar and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 02 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to App Shambu, Muthi, Nida Builder, MP Chowk, Migrant Quarters, Bread Factory, Shant Nagar, Vinayak Vihar, Amba Theater, Pando Colony, Paloura, Shastrri School, Pamposh Colony, Patoli, Mast Baba Ashram and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 02 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Raghunath Bazar, Residency Road, Wazarat Road, Kanak Mandi, Rajinder Bazar and adjoining areas will remain affected from May 02 from 7 am to 9 am.



Yudhvir, Priya pay obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Temple

Pray for peace, prosperity of J&K UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Priya Sethi, National Executive Member BJP and former minister on Monday paid obeisance at the revered Kheer Bhawani Temple in Ganderbal and prayed for the peace and prosperity of the Union Territory.

Yudhvir Sethi and Priya Sethi expressed their admiration for the historical significance and cultural heritage of the temple while reaffirming their commitment towards fostering a harmonious society.

During their visit, the senior BJP leaders extended their heartfelt prayers for the ongoing Lok Sabha Polls, expressing their wishes for a landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

They fervently prayed for the re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hoping that he continues to guide and serve the nation for a consecutive third term.



Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President and Priya Sethi, NEM BJP paying obeisance at Kheer Bhawani Temple.

Yudhvir Sethi said, "Our visit to the Kheer Bhawani Temple is a testament to our commitment to the peace and progress of the Jammu and Kashmir region. We believe in the power of prayer, and we are confident that our collective prayers will bring positive changes to the lives of the people."

Priya Sethi said, "As representatives of the BJP, we carry the aspirations of the people in our hearts. We pray for a resounding victory in the Lok Sabha Polls, as we believe that only through a strong and stable government can we bring about transformative development and secure the future of our beloved country."

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Div Com, ADGP discuss arrangements for Amarnathji Yatra



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and ADGP Jammu, Anand Jain, on Monday discussed the arrangements in connection with Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2024 at a high level meeting here today.

The meeting, attended by IGP Traffic, DIG CRPF, Director Tourism, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Ramban, HoDs and representatives from line departments, discussed in detail different components for smooth conduct of the annual holy Yatra.

Threadbare discussions were held on installing registration and RFID counters; facilities at lodgment centres for yatriss; sanitation, provision of temporary bathrooms; identification of sites for langars and process for seeking permission with mandatory provision of CCTV and fire

extinguishers, uninterrupted traffic movement, functioning of public utilities, appointing Nodal officers, establishment of Control Rooms, availability of men and machinery, security, signage installation and other important arrangements.

The Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioners for installing registration and RFID counters at Bhagvati Nagar, Chichi Mata Temple, Railways Stations Jammu, Udhampur and Jammu Airport and other key spots.

Discussion was held on comprehensive arrangements at Yatri Niwas Bhagvati Nagar and directions were issued to the concerned to ensure lodging boarding for yatriss, proper lighting, water supply, health care facilities, PAS, assistance booth, desilting of drainage and other related arrangements.

Jammu Municipal Corporation was

directed to ensure strict adherence to vending zones and scientific waste management. Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to deploy fire tenders at identified locations. Besides, the Health Department was tasked to deploy doctors, para medicines and ambulances to meet any emergency.

The Div Com further directed for installing signages, display boards for facilitating the yatriss for sightseeing and visiting Jammu city. He asked the concerned authorities to keep a check on the rates to prevent overcharging from yatriss. Directions were issued for making proper arrangements for seers and Sadhus who would arrive for the holy Yatra.

Directions were also issued for deployment of Magistrates and representatives from line departments in control rooms, provision of water tankers, shopping counter of Super Bazaar, telecom service providers' counter and advance arrangements for emergent situations.

For ensuring hassle free movement of vehicles on the National Highway, the Div Com directed RO NHAI to keep available sufficient men and machinery on vulnerable points along the National Highway.

SSP Jammu, SSP Security, SSP Traffic NHW, SSP Traffic Jammu City, Additional CEO Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, RO NHAI, Joint Director Information and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

BJP deputed senior leaders Dr Jitendra, Meghwal, Mandaviya for West Bengal election

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Central leadership has deputed senior leaders and Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh, Arjun Meghwal and Mansukh Mandaviya for the crucial Lok Sabha election in West Bengal.

At a decision taken at a meeting of the top BJP leadership, the view was that considering the high stake and aggressive approach of the Mamata Banerjee led TMC, the conduct of the various phases of Lok Sabha election in West Bengal will be carried out in a strategic and focussed manner.

Different senior leaders have been assigned different segments and phases of the Lok Sabha election in the State.

As per the roster prepared, Dr Jitendra Singh has been assigned



constituencies, which will go to poll in the fifth phase on 20th May. These include the Lok Sabha constituencies of Howrah, Barrackpore, Hooghly, Bangaon, Serampore, Uluberia and Arambagh, which are also known to constitute the industrial belt of Bengal.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Arjun Meghwal will be based at Durgapur from where he would work on the election strategy of

surrounding Lok Sabha constituencies of the State.

Pertinent to mention that West Bengal is receiving special attention during the BJP campaign for the ongoing Lok Sabha election. Several mammoth public rallies are being addressed one after the other by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In addition, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President J P Nadda have also addressed public

rallies and will be campaigning in the coming days as well.

Mamata Banerjee led government in the State is known to be quite defiant against Centre's welfare schemes and the BJP leaders have accused her of not only holding back the benefits of several people-centric programmes rolled out by the Modi government but have also accused her of trying to appease a certain section of society for vote bank consideration through her divisive politics.

The last Assembly Poll held in West Bengal had also witnessed a highly charged election campaign during which the TMC workers were accused of indulging in violence and leading attacks on BJP leaders and workers.

West Bengal, along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, is the only State where the 2024 Indian general elec-

tion is being held in all 7 phases.

The 2024 Indian general election in West Bengal is being held in all 7 phases from 19 April to 1 June to elect 42 members of the 18th Lok Sabha, with the results declared on 4 June. The by-elections for Bhagabangola and Baranagar in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly are also scheduled with the general election and will take place on 7 May and 1 June respectively.

In 2019, West Bengal had witnessed a two-way fight with the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress winning 22 of the 42 seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bagged 18. The other two seats were won by the Congress.

Why can not practice of promotion from one Incharge Status to Another I/C be stopped in Gazetted Cadres

State Engineering Gazetted Cadres are under multi pronged administrative, professional, and financial stresses

Due to poor HR Management some retired I/C CE's got pension even in AEE grade for Ten Years

Why even "Top Grade" Engineers from IITs rush for IAS stream & not even IES as first preference ?

J&K Gazetted Engineering Services not provided even Non-Functional (M) Grade Promotions

■ DAYA SAGAR

The state of human resource management (HR) affairs related to the J&K Engineering (Gazetted) Services as handled by the 'concerned' Administrative Department /DPC/PSC has been really disappointing well reflects from G.O 118 PWD(R&B) of 2021 of Date 25-03-2021 promoting Sh. R.K. Puri I/C SE as regular Superintending Engineer (Mechanical) w.e.f 01-09-2001 (15600-39100 GP7600 (pre revised) read with SRO 403 of 2018 dated 14-09-2018 and like G.O 266-PWD(R&B) of 2022 of 06-08-2022 regularising 384 I/C Assistant Engineers as Assistant Engineer (8000-275-12950 pre revised) w.e.f dates as back as 28-12-2001 to 23-07-2014 issued in 2022 and that too subject to any writ petition pending in a court and mentioning the pay scales of sixth & fifth pay commissions when order is over 8 years after application of VII pay commission grades. Not only that the order is issued in 2022 promoting some AE as AEE with effect from a 20 to 21 year old date and that with some condition laid there in when AE as per normal service rules is entitled for consideration for promotion as AEE after two year service and even eligible for promotion as Executive Engineer with min 8 yr service as AE and 4 year

service as AEE. Imagine discouragement, if not financial loss, one may suffer when denied a promotion due after two yrs for 20 yrs ? One would hardly find such like case of IAS officer's promotion which well speaks of efficiency & seriousness of HR handling in respect of IAS cadre which surely could be one of the prime reasons for the overall commitment, job performance and the level of initiative that is displayed by the IAS officers.

Promoting the Gazetted service cadres in incharge capacity and then again promoting from incharge capacity to another higher post in I/C capacity and even retiring some engineers as I/C Chief Engineers' worth getting pension only in the grade of Assistant Executive Engineer with even the Pension Pay Order mentioning the retired officer as I/C Chief Engineer (not Asstt Executive Engineer) was not happening in isolated cases but had/ has almost become a routine practice in J&K.

The J&K PDD, PWD and the like cadres had in 2018 many retired Officers getting pensions in grade of AEE or EE where some had retired as back as 2008 or so while working as I/C Chief Engineer , when J&K State Administrative Council (SAC) had on 22-10-2019 , inter, alia, directed that the proposal for regular



A Look through the Mist

Part-IV

promotions in the Engineering cadre of the Power PDD be processed for consideration of the competent authority in government through the Establishment cum Selection Committee , even without reference to the J&K PSC as one time exception for completion by 30.11.2019. So painfully by then even a few UN-REGULARISED JKPDD RETIRED Engineers had expired without seeing 'orders' of their regularisation and some who had retired even 7-10 years as I/ C Chief Engineer but still getting pension only in the grade of AEE (Asstt. Executive Engineer) for no fault of their's. The Governor / SAC had surely been considerate enough at least on 22-10-2019 to fix a little over one month for disposals of pending files and it was hoped that atleast the cases of retired engineers would be decided by 30-11-2019. But here also , as said earlier, it was only after about 30 months in 2022 with Sh. Nitishwar Kumar, IAS Principal Secretary taking over PDD and Sh. A.K. Mehta IAS as Chief Secretary the process of deciding case files of

retired incharge promotees of PDD appeared to have been given due priority when orders like Government Order No. 49 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d : 22-04-2022 promoting Er. Vinod Khajuria (who had retired in 2012 after working as I/C Chief Engineer but was getting pension in the grade of AEE only) as Ex. Engr w.e.f 15-09-2006,, G.O. Order No. 50 -JK (PDD) of 2022 Dated: 22-04-2022 (same day) promoting Er. Vinod Khajuria as SE w.e.f 15-09-2010 and G. Order No. 51 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d : 22-04-2022 (same day) were issued promoting Er. Vinod Khajuria as Chief engineer w.e.f 12-09-2012 .Similarly Er. S.K Raina who had retired in 2008 had been promoted as SE vide G.O. No. 50 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d : 22-04-2022 w.e.f 14-09-2006 and Vide G.O 51 -JK (POD) of 2022 D a t e d : 22-04-2022 as Chief Engineer w.e.f 14-09-2007. Similarly orders were also issued in favour of other retired engineers (not all) . But some engineers who had retired as I/C SE or and I/C CE were not regularized as I/c SE or I/C CE since before retirement as I/C SE or I/C CE they may not have worked as regular EE for 3 yrs or regular SE for one year (interms of service rules for PWD (R&B) Gazetted service regulations which are taken as applicable to PDD department / Mechanical Engg Department also).

Position is not much different in other Engineering Departments like PWD--R&B (Mechanical / Civil). One Mr GML had entered gazetted engineering service in 1973 as Asstt Engineer through PSC and had retired in 2005 after 32 years of unblemished service in Gazetted Engg Cadre. Er. GML had been promoted as AEE only in 1987 after working for 14 yrs as AE (as against requirement of not more than 2 yrs) , he was promoted as Incharge Executive engineer after working as Asstt Engineer for 14 years & AEE for 10 years as against requirement of 4 yrs as AEE vide - PWD of 1997 dated 01-05-1997 . Er. GML was further promoted as incharge SE from position of I/C EE vide order No 27- R&B of 2003 dated 12 -05-2003 with the condition of approval by PSC/DPC (surely he fulfilled the eligibility condition) and was further posted SE (M) Irrigation Flood Control Circle Jammu from where he was again transferred and posted as incharge SE vide GO 434/PW/R&B of 2004 of 10 -11-2004 as SE(M) in Thein Dam Project against a post (vacated by M S Sethi) and then again posted as I/C SE vide order number 451-PWD (R&B) OF 2004 DATED 29-11-2004 in the office CE PHE Jammu. It was again on 27-12-2004 that vide GO No 480-PWD(R&B) that GML was transferred and posted as I/C SE

(M) PHE RURAL Circle Jammu..GML To be brief Er GML had been posted / transferred as I/C SE 3 times before communication was issued stating that the said officer was retiring on 30-04-2005 and he should hand over the Charge of SE to Mr. so and so officer. But so strangely orders for his regular promotion were issued after his retirement only as Executive Engineer vide GO No468-PW/R&B OF 200 DATED 01-12-2005 w.e.f 01-06-2000 & not w.e.f 1997 (when he was promoted as I/C EE after having worked as AEE for 10 yrs) whereas since the case file was being processed after his retirement he should have been regularized as SE as well because he had worked for more than 3 years as EE even after 01-06-2000 what to talk of 1997. Mr GML after 18 year retirement is still getting pension in the Grade of EE (Level 11) and not in the Grade of SE (Level 13) in 2024.

Reasons for such type of handling of affairs can not be easily conceived , may be the staff handling HR affairs in the Administrative Departments are over loaded and the Administrative Secretaries are not well supported at the ministerial levels too; if so is the case it should not be allowed to stay for long.

(Daya Sagar is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist)