

Ensure swift passage of Amarnathji pilgrims at each checkpoint: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday held a high level meeting of civil and police administration to take stock of arrangements made for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, 2022.

Dr Mehta stressed on the officers to ensure that all pilgrims have a swift passage at the checkpoints and no yatri should have to wait for more than 30 minutes while going into the base camps.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretaries of Home, Finance, PWD, RDD, Health, Forest, Culture, Tourism, Divisional



Commissioners, ADGPs, Municipal Commissioners, CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board besides the concerned Deputy Commissioners from both the divisions. Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video con-

ferencing. Dr Mehta stressed on the officers to speed up the process of starting online registration for helicopter services.

He directed the Shrine Board to work for offering this facility to prospective yatris from 1st of June itself. He also asked them to notify the rates of this service provided to yatris soon.

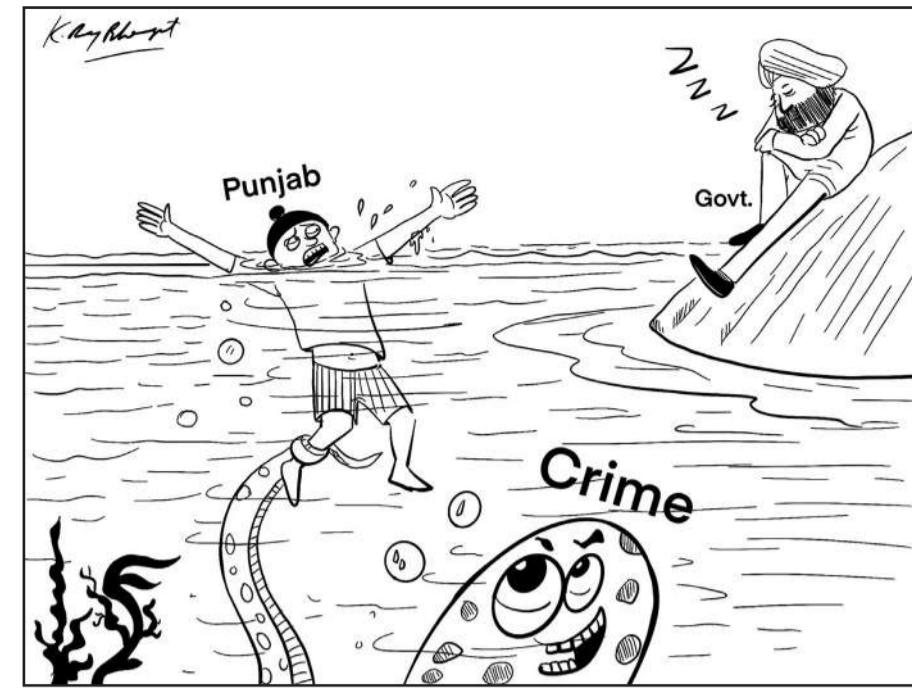
The Chief Secretary took first hand appraisal from all the Deputy Commissioners of the civil works related to the smooth conduct of the yatra.

He directed them to ensure that appropriate number of washrooms, dustbins, sanitation workers are in place at each designated location. He

also advised them to look into the provision for availability of a mobile STP to be used for better upkeep of the yatra holding areas. Dr Mehta asked the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal to examine both the routes up to holy cave themselves. He said that in coming days he would himself travel on Jammu-Srinagar highway to take stock of arrangements himself.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Culture Department, Deputy Commissioners and Municipal Commissioners to brace up their areas for the delightful welcome of the pilgrims.

He asked them to rope in SHGs for this purpose so that they also had an opportunity to showcase their products. He took note of all the preparations made till date by departments like Health, Jal Shakti, PDD, PWD, RDD, H&UDD, BRO, Shrine Board, and the divisional and district administration. He directed them that there should be high end arrangements from each quarter without any scope of lacuna or laxity. The Chief Secretary asked them to have close liaison with each other so that the yatra is conducted in an amicable atmosphere.



Congress blames Punjab Govt for killing of Sidhu Moosewala, seeks resignation of CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress on Monday sought the registration of FIR against the Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Singh Maan for the deliberate withdrawal of security cover to the famous singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala leading to his assassination by the gunmen, the very next day of the withdrawal of security.

Addressing a press conference at party headquarters here today, JKPCC Chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir along with Senior Congress leaders including Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, General Secretaries Yogesh Sawhney and Manmohan Singh, Treasurer Rajnesh Sharma, OBC Chairman Suresh Dogra, PCC Spokesperson Sahil Sharma and incharge ST Department Hussain Ali Wafa came down heavily on the AAP Government in Punjab for the



JKPCC Chief G.A Mir talking to reporters at Jammu.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Budgam Smart Class School building, meets COVID affected children



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacting with children during a visit to Budgam on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated recently completed upgraded Smart Class Boys High School building having smart class facility with digitized system at Ompora Badgam.

The 10- room double story school building for smart class rooms also comprises of facilities including library and common hall.

During interaction with staff and students, the Minister assured that the school building shall be highly equipped with latest facilities including smart classrooms and solar facility on priority.

During his visit to Budgam district the Minister also interacted with covid affected children at Conference Hall Budgam. Commemorating 8 years of the Modi Govt, he distributed cheques of Rs. 10 k, school bags, Ayushman Bharat (Golden cards), scholarships under Saksham scheme among the beneficiaries who have been adversely hit during the pandemic.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that on the completion of 8 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government, the Centre has launched PM Care for children, an initiative to reach out to children. He said that the aim of the initiative is to send a message across the country that the affected children who have lost their parents should not feel orphans. "They are our own children, and we as a society have collective responsibility to take care of them," Minister said. He further said that the Union government is committed to good governance, and assured all possible support to these children and all other destitute through various schemes and initiatives launched by the central government.

The Minister also witnessed under-19 inter-Zonal district level finals of different sports events at Sports Stadium Budgam, where he also distributed sports kits and trophies among the participants.

After declaring the games open, the Minister called for proper identification of talent of sports loving youth and their proper training for their better performance in the field.

He urged youth to take part in sports which is now recognized as one of the career options as well. Later, the Minister inspected various stalls set up by different departments and distributed skill upliftment certificates among deserving beneficiaries. He distributed authority letters and farming equipments among various farmers on the occasion. During his tour, the Minister also distributed scooters, prosthetic aid to the needy and marriage assistance certificates with Rs 50,000 cheque each to daughters living Below Poverty Line. He said that the Modi government, on completion of eight years of its service to the nation, is reaching out to the people with the spirit of "Seva" that has been the hallmark of PM Modi's regime. Later, various delegations including DDC and BDC members, Councillors, PRIs, civil society members, traders, youth delegations, political workers and others different delegations called upon the minister at Conference Hall Budgam.

They raised their issues and demands with the minister for prompt redressal. The minister gave patient hearing to the delegations and assured that all their genuine demands shall be looked into on priority. Among others, Chairman DDC Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, DC Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, SSP Budgam, Tahir Saleem, DDC and BDC Members, President Municipal Corporation Budgam and district officers were present.

Shri Mir said that there should be no compromise in the matter of security to all prominent leaders and other vulnerable persons in the sensitive states like Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir where they are targets of anti-national and anti-social elements, but the respective governments are not sensitive in the matter of security of

opposition leaders, despite targeted attacks.

Hitting out at the Modi Government for its failure on various fronts during the last eight years of rule at the centre, JKPCC Chief referred to the various failures of the Modi Government, especially in the matter of large scale unemployment, unprecedented price

hike, tax terrorism, distress among farmers, besides overall law and order situation in the country. He said that there is growing atmosphere of conflict and division in the country between communities which is creating disharmony in weakening the principle of Unity in Diversity. He said that there were 3400 incidents of communal clash in the country from 2016 to 2020 which is a worrisome situation. JKPCC Chief said that a 'Nav Sankalp Shivar' is being held at Patnitop starting from tomorrow on 31st May, 2022 till 2nd June, 2022 to discuss the issues of the people faced by them in Jammu and Kashmir.

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