

# Anshul Garg takes over as CEO SMVDSB; bids farewell to Ramesh Kumar

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Anshul Garg, here on Saturday took over the charge of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) from Ramesh Kumar, the outgoing CEO, who has been posted as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. Later, the officers and staff of the Shrine Board organised an impressive function to bid farewell to Ramesh Kumar, the outgoing CEO, and to welcome Anshul Garg, the new CEO of the Shrine Board.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Kumar spoke about achievements despite the hardships of Pandemic during his tenure. He recalled many works completed, ongoing and in pipeline and a number of ini-

**SMC fails to curb stray dog menace, 4,264 dog bite cases registered in 2021-22**

## ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: In absence of a major dog sterilization programme, stray dog menace has gripped almost every locality of Srinagar. The gravity of stray dog menace can be assumed from fact that dogs attacked 39 persons including 17 tourists at the most busiest place and tourist hub Buchwara near Boulevard road, Srinagar in just a day.

A whopping 5,629 bite victims, mostly of dog bites, were reported at Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital during last year. 259 cases were reported in April 2021, 360 in May, 489 in June, 652 in July, 450 in August, 576 in September, 520 in October, 470 in November, 408 in December, 454 in January 2022, 394 in February and 597 in March. Among 5,629 cases, 4,264 victims were from Srinagar, 230 from Budgam, 143 from Baramulla, 58 from Kupwara, 184 from Bandipora, 299 from Ganderbal, 186 from Pulwama, 58 from Shopian, 101 from Kulgam, 30 from Anantnag and 76 from outside. In last one decade, a total of 59,282 cases of dog bite have been reported with 3,711 cases in 2009-10, followed by 4,515 in 2010-11; 4,154 in 2011-12; 4,489 in 2012-13; 6,041 in 2013-14; 4,917 in 2014-15; 7,324 in 2015-16; 6,548 in 2016-17; 6,802 in 2017-18; 6,399 in 2018-19; 6,984 in 2019-20 and 4,149 in 2020-21.

Despite massive increase in dog bite cases, authorities have failed to take any



Anshul Garg after taking over as Chief Executive Officer of SMVDSB bidding farewell to Ramesh Kumar.

measures for facilitation of the pilgrims.

He thanked all the officers and staff of the Shrine Board for their support and cooperation and hoped that their efforts to bring about continuing improvements in the facilities for the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi Ji will surely succeed. He said that the 'job' in the Board should be seen as a 'sewa' - it is the way forward.

He said that Anshul Garg is a dedicated and dynamic officer who would surely focus on core areas and ensure that the visiting pilgrims are provided the best possible facilities.

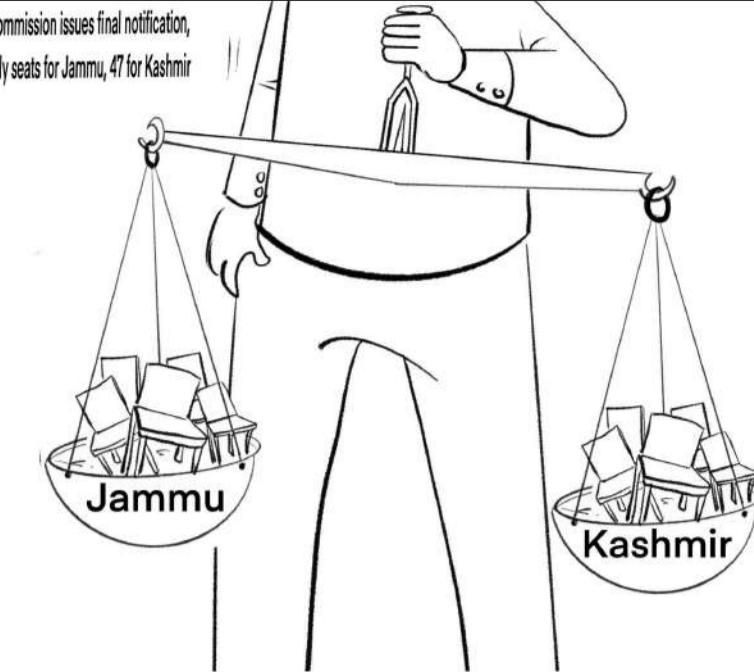
Anshul Garg in his address said that serving again in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is a lifetime opportunity and a blessing indeed. He assured that he will carry forward the exemplary work done by the earlier CEOs with support and cooperation of one and all to ensure that the pilgrims are largely facilitated.

Noteworthy, that Anshul Garg also served the Board as Addl. CEO, SMVDSB during the year 2017-18. Anshul Garg on this occasion also presented a customary memento to Ramesh Kumar and extended best wishes to him. Earlier, Naveen Singh, Additional CEO of the Board, welcomed the new CEO and extended his best wishes to the outgoing CEO. He assured all support

and cooperation to the new CEO on behalf of the officers and staff of the Board in his endeavour to provide best possible facilities to the pilgrims.

Among those who also spoke on the occasion include Dr. Sunil Sharma, Dr. J.C. Mehra, Joint CEOs, and Sudhir Bali, SDM Bhawan. Vishwajeet Singh and Chander Parkash, Dy. CEOs, Mahesh Sharma, Chief Accounts Officer of the Shrine Board, Dr. Gopal K. Sharma, Incharge Chief Administrative Officer, SMVDSB, Dr. Shailla Camie, Principal of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, and other officers, engineers and employees of the Shrine Board were among those present on the occasion.

J&K Delimitation Commission issues final notification, reserves 43 Assembly seats for Jammu, 47 for Kashmir



# Harsh Dev joins Aam Admi Party

'AAP committed to provide free power, water, education in J&K if voted to power'

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Three times MLA and former Education Minister of J&K, Harsh Dev Singh on Saturday joined Aam Admi Party (AAP) after a meeting with the National convenor and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at New Delhi.

Harsh Dev Singh, who remained the Chairman of JKNPP for 9 years, announced his decision at New Delhi after meeting several other senior leaders including Manish Sisodia, Dy. Chief Minister, Sanjay Singh MP, Imran Hussain Minister Food & Civil Supplies, Satish Gupta MP, Durgesh Pathak J&K Incharge and member PAC, Salahuddin Prabhari Kashmir besides others.

He was inducted into the party fold by Arvind Kejriwal CM Delhi and Sanjay Singh.

The announcement was made in this regard by Sanjay Singh while addressing a press conference in the national capital today.

Those who joined with Singh included Rajesh Padgotra Provincial President JKNPP, Gagan Pratap Singh State Secretary JKNPP, Parshotam Singh Parihar State Secretary JKNPP and Sudeesh Dogra President Mahila Panthers.

Speaking to the media persons, Sanjay Singh said that the party had received a shot in the arm on the joining of Harsh Dev Singh who was the most



Ex-JKNPP leaders led by Harsh Dev Singh posing with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal after joining AAP in New Delhi.

literature and one of the tallest leaders of J&K.

He said that there were very few leaders who could match the political acumen, sagacity and leadership skills of Harsh Dev Singh who had been declared as Best legislator and even best minister in J&K.

He remained Education Minister for three years from 2002 to 2005 and made significant reforms in the education sector which were acknowledged all over the State and the country as well.

One of the highly qualified politicians, Harsh Dev Singh is LLB (professional), MA in English literature and has done Advanced course in International Humanitarian law from Harvard University. He was invited and honoured by the Harvard University USA in 2004 during his tenure as Education Minister. He has received several awards at National and International level.

He expressed his gratitude to the top leadership of AAP for reposing their faith in him. He expressed his resolve to dedicate himself for the cause of poor and downtrodden and to work for overall development, peace and prosperity of J&K.

Earlier, during the meeting with the CM Delhi Arvind Kejriwal agreed to visit Jammu & Kashmir and hold two rallies in both the regions of J&K.

He said that AAP stood com-

# WHO report brings out truth about 47 lakh deaths in India, serious issue: Ravinder

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The report of World Health Organization (WHO) revealing 47 lakh deaths due to Covid in India, has exposed the lies and suppression of facts by the Modi Govt, about the actual number of Covid deaths, which needs to be probed. Reacting to the report of the World body, JKPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma has said that this has exposed the Modi Govt and vindicated the stand of opposition and

others who were critical over handling of the Covid situation by the Centre Govt. and had raised doubts over the actual figures of casualties. The report by World body has caused ripples and serious matter, which can't be simply brushed aside.

The Govt. is also duty bound to identify all such casualties and pay the compensation of Rs.4 Lacs per deceased's family as per directions of Supreme Court.

# Paying tributes to 1st PVC Maj S N Sharma & 2nd PVC Naik J N Singh by dedicating Srinagar & Jammu Airports to them

## ■ DAYA SAGR

**B**ut for the valour and exemplary sacrifices of PVC Maj Som Nath Sharma and PVC Naik Yadu Nath Singh may be it would not have been possible in 1947-48 to save some more large parts of Jammu Region, Kashmir Region and Ladakh region from illegal occupation of Pakistan through the attack that Pakistan openly made on the then Princely state of J&K and on 22nd Oct 1947. Battle of Badgam was 'in a way' was won by Maj Som Nath for whom Lt. Col. M. N. Khanna Commd 4 Kumaon Regt while recommending martyr Maj Som Nath Sharma O.C. 'D' Coy . Unit-4 Kumaon for Honours and Awards had written " < But for this offr's bravery and sacrifice of his own life it is most probable that the SRINAGAR airfield would have been overrun by the enemy and jeopardised this whole Kashmir operations" >. Major Som Nath Sharma {S/O Major General Amar Nath Sharma; B/O Lt General Surindar Nath Sharma; B/O General Vishwa Nath Sharma - Chief of Indian Army, 1988-1990; B/O Major Kamla Tewari } whose left hand was already under plaster when he had landed at 'Srinagar' airport on 31st, had held back over 500-1000 Pakistani raiders just "yards" away from Badgam Airport with his "last drop of blood" enabling more troops to land in for securing the airport safe with distant connectivity & less than 100 troops in his command defended Srinagar (Badgam) Airport on 3rd November 1947 making extreme sacrifice to last drop of his blood. He became the 1st PVC decorated soldier of Indian Army.

Similarly The Y(J)adunath\_Memorial\_Stone Taindharp\_op\_near\_Naushehra too 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 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 Naushehra may live Their Tomorrow. Inaugurated on 6 Feb 1996>. Battle of Naushehra was too was in a way 'won' by Naik Yadunath Singh and hence was possible to save large areas Naushehra through to Pooneh.Naik Yadunath Singh was 2nd to be Decorated with Param Vir Chakra in Independent India. First being Maj Som Nath Sharma who demonstrated extra ordinary desire for sacrificing self by not only saving Badgam Airport on 3rd November 1947 but in a way saved whole of Kashmir Valley and even large part of Ladakh region from falling.

In 1947 the process of deployment of Indian troops could be initiated by GOI only on 27th October 1947 under very odd operating conditions, rough & primitive surface road transport facilities for moving troops / tanks from Jammu to Srinagar to Leh / other areas and with very less aircrafts available for carrying

troops / materials still a reasonably large area had been retrieved from occupation of Pakistani raiders in Jammu region and Ladakh Region even in late 1948 by the India forces making exemplary sacrifices in case I am not wrong the first 5 PVC decorated soldiers had fought against Pakistani intrusions and all the 'greats' were non J&K subjects I.e. Maj Som Nath Sharma from HP posthumously, Naik Jadi Nath Singh UP posthumously, 2nd Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane Karnataka , Com. Hawaldar Peru Singh Jhunjhunwala Rajasthan Tithwal - Kupwara posthumously, L.Nk Karam Singh Barnala Punjab.

A large population had been displaced from the some areas of the then princely Indian State of J&K had already been taken in near control by Pakistan before the Maharaja of J&K State offered to accede to India dominion on 26th Oct 1947 and by then the state forces were nearly totally eliminated/ in a way deactivated. Subjects of J&K did resist the occupation forces / raiders/intruders, many subjects of J&K were mercilessly killed by invaders and many were martyred even while resisting the invaders at individual levels before deserting their hearths like even a large number of families had finally left Mirpur only even after more than a month of Pakistani invasion on 25th November 1947. Many families from Pakistan occupied areas had left their hearths even without any 'change over' clothing, many could not carry even the property documents, some

## A Look through the Mist

members of many families could join other members after months of reaching to safer areas , many displaced

persons /families had seen their near ones killed /tortured/ raped before their eyes, many young girls/ women were even killed by their own men folk to save their honour; many woman committed 'suicide' by jumping into rivers / open wells to save their honour. Those who could manage to save their life moved to safer areas of J&K or managed to reach other Indian states.

Sheikh Mohd Abdullah J&K PM in a way 'honoured' the courage of 'his people who had finally come out of occupied areas and named them as Displaced Persons (POJK DPs) & not refugees vide order No. 1476-C of 1950 dated 16.12.1950.since they had moved from one part to another part in their own country. Whereas those who had left J&K and had gone to new born Dominion of Pakistan (West Punjab) were termed as migrants since they left their hearths in view of their having anticipated some temporary adverse social conditions. Even in 2022 GOI is all set for getting vacated the areas occupied by Pak in 1947 and the POJK DPs 1947 too are hopefully waiting for their return..

All those local civilian subject of J&K and those from Indian Defence forces who had resisted the Pakistani invaders and even some having made extreme sacrifices even with "bare hands" to protect their honour/ their relations / their neighbors/ honor of 'mothers/sisters' cannot be paid back

materially. But surely we can remember the 'lost' souls & those who died saving others and pay homage to 'them' by expressing gratitude as well as by looking after socio-economically in an adequate manner the POJK DPs families who are staying in the unoccupied areas of J&K/ in other Indian states till their hearth are got vacated.

But in case someone from new generation asks where does any of PVC Som Nath Sharma ji's family live in J&K, the so painful answer would be that his people do not live in J&K as he belonged to HP (a Dogra Brahmin of Dadh, Kangra, then Punjab) and was not awarded rights of Permanent Resident of J&K even after getting decorated with 1st Param Vir Chakra when the J&K State could very well do that making use of Section-8 and 9 of Constitution.

So would ask someone about Naik J(Y)adunath Singh (r/o Khajuri village of Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh) who is remembered for The long drawn battle of Nowshera (late 1947 to 1948) more for saving particularly through his valour and sacrifice a very large part of Jammu Province atleast from Naushera through Rajouri to Pooneh. It was on 24 December 1947 that even Jhangar was captured by the Pakistanis and Nowshera too was very much under the possible grip of intruders with some civilians and state troops also deserting to the enemy camp around Rajouri. In end of Jan.1947 a post was particularly established at Taindharp by 1/7 Rajput which defence of Naushera was must for defence of Naushera. The troops were

small , did not have adequate supplies of fresh food and as per some were even without a machine gun. On the foggy morning of 6 February 1948 Naik Yadunath Singh was in command of the nine personnel at 2nd picket at Taindharp. Col Kishan Singh Rathore MVC then 2nd Lieutenant was a Co, Commander has been quoted as having said < " I could see Yadunath Singh shouting expletives at the enemy and hurling grenades at them.... our own casualties were mounting. Amongst the wounded was Naik Yadunath Singh who, in spite of his wounds, was rallying his men and firing a Bren gun. It was then that Naik Yadunath Singh, along with his men came out of their bunkers with bayonets fixed and charged the enemy, engaging him in hand to hand combat >. Naik's action had proved very effective for the battle of Naushera and Jhangar was later recaptured on 17 Mar 1948 with a 2 Brigade attack. Of course saving Naushera was cleared way for advance of forces to Rajouri.

As regards the soldiers who saved some areas of J&K and for retrieved some areas gratitude could be paid by granting residency rights in J&K & Ladakh to all those who sacrificed their self / put self in danger for people / lands of J&K as well as , though belated , atleast naming Srinagar International Airport after PVC Major Som Nath Sharma & Jammu airport after PVC Nk.Jadu Nath Singh.

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