

## ACS Home inspects facilities for Amarnath Yatris at Lakhapur, Samba

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Additional Chief Secretary Home, R K Goyal, on Monday chaired an officers meeting to review arrangements being put in place for forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2022 here at Lakhapur.

The meeting was attended by Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Mukesh Singh, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, DIG Vivek Gupta, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey, SSP, Kathua, R C Kotwal, SSP Traffic Rural, Mohan Lal Kainth and other officers from district administration.



ACS Home, R K Goyal interacting with a police officer.

Additional Chief Secretary enquired about the status of amenities being put in place for the yatris at Lakhapur, lodgement centres and other identified locations along the national highway across the yatra route.

Goyal also took detailed review of measures being taken up by the concerned officers with regard to drinking water facility, electricity supply, status of toilets and other related utilities.

While reviewing facilities at lodgement centres, Additional Chief Secretary

was apprised that 31 lodgement centres have been made operation ready across the district to accommodate the yatris.

Goyal called upon the officers to adopt yatri friendly mechanism for smooth and hassle free conduct of yatra with emphasis on ensuring swift flow of traffic across the route.

He also reviewed medical, security and fire safety arrangements wherein he was apprised that adequate manpower has been deployed at all critical points to facilitate the pilgrims.

R K Goyal directed Deputy Commissioner, Kathua to ensure installa-

tion of CGTV for surveillance at parking spaces.

Regarding track of langar vehicles, Additional Chief Secretary called for devising out a mechanism to ensure their smooth passage.

Later, Additional Chief Secretary inspected facilities being raised at Lakhapur and directed the concerned officers to ensure completion of works well before commencement of yatra.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary conducted a whirlwind tour of Samba and assessed the facilities being put in place in the lodgement centres for Shri Amarnathji pilgrims.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Anuradha Gupta, Director, Urban Local Bodies Jammu, Senior Superintendent of Police,

besides other district officers were also present.

ACS visited Nonath Ashram, Ghagwal, Taurist Transit Centre Diani and Chichi Mata Temple Samba and reviewed the status of utilities being established for the Amarnath Yatra.

He enquired about the facilities including toilet complexes, sanitation, traffic arrangements, parking area, availability of power and drinking water besides other requisite services like security.

He asked officers to keep provision of accommodation for the pilgrims in the district in case of heavy rush or stoppage of Yatra due to any reason.

Deputy Commissioner informed that 22 lodgement centres with 8000 person capacity have been identified in the district with 100 per cent facilities including langar services.

and other party leadership addressing a press conference here on Monday.

"Only Modi has truly empowered the minorities by ensuring their education and amenities and deliberately keeping them underprivileged for their own petty political gains," BJP Minority Morcha National General Secretary, Sufi M.K. Chisty said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government has benefited every needy person with plethora of the public welfare schemes. He told that this entire exercise is a part of programme namely "Seva Sushasan Garib Kalyaan" on the completion of eight years of successful, developmental, progressive of Government. Later, Chisty also asked the Morcha leaders to remain active in their respective districts, constituencies, booths level, and do work from grass root level for welfare and benefits of people.

## Nitishwar inspects Shri Amarnathji yatra preparations via Baltal axis

Takes aerial survey of Yatra track



Principal Secretary to LG Nitishwar Kumar carrying out tour of Baltal to review Amarnath Yatra arrangements.

being put in place, the Principal Secretary directed the concerned officers to ensure that appropriate number of washrooms, dustbins, public utilities are put in place at each designated location to ensure the base camp and other sites are made comfortable, clean and hygienic for the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, the Principal Secretary inspected the facilities at Base Camp Hospital Baltal and inspected various units like X-RAY and USG unit, dispensary, laboratory, emergency and OPD ward and directed the CMO to ensure sufficient essential medicines, oxygen cylinders

and other emergency equipments are made available in the hospital. He also took stock of 70 bedded DRDO hospital coming up at Baltal.

The Principal Secretary also visited the site of Tent City which is being established at Baltal with 800 tent capacity, and was informed that tents will be outsourced to the locals who shall make bedding arrangements themselves.

The Principal Secretary reiterated that the LG led administration is committed to ensure the yatra on pilgrimage to the holy cave experience a comfortable and pleasant environment, and

said that the locals who provide various services during Yatra like ponies, logistics and other services are also fully prepared to provide all support for the successful conduct of the yatra.

Earlier, the Principal Secretary along with the Deputy Commissioner took an aerial survey of Yatra Track to inspect the progress of development works carried by various departments, including development and illumination of the track, establishment of shelter sheds, health facilities, mobile connectivity and overall condition of the track, and was satisfied with the pace of progress and complimented the district administration for its efforts in completing most of the works on time.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir, besides SSP Ganderbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner, SDM Kangan, CMO, executive Engineers of various wings, besides other district officers and officials of the Shrine Board were present on the occasion.

The developing situation in the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir, in the wake of recent widespread protests is a cause for serious concern. Some forces with vested

## KP employees reiterate demand for relocation outside Valley



Valley-based KPs employees raising slogans during a protest.

the Prime Minister's employment package announced in 2008.

The package has two major components - one pertains to the provision of 6,000 jobs for youth and another to 6,000 accommodation units for the employees.

"Our protest is part of the ongoing agitation for our relocation from the Valley as we are

not feeling safe there. We have reached Jammu while our colleagues are still on protest in the Valley for the last 31 days," one of the protesters Shweta Bhat said.

"We are working on the field, feeling depressed and unable to concentrate on our work with a fear in mind," Bhat said, rejecting the government assurance that Kashmir has become terrorism-free."

within the Valley. She said the protesting employees will not buy the "government lipos" as "our lives are at stake". "Let the government relocate us anywhere outside the Valley till the situation becomes normal," she added.

Bhat said while all those living in rented accommodations have reached Jammu, those staying living in government accommodations are locked in transit camps where they are continuing their protest.

Another protester Ajay Kumar said, "We are employees and are ready to serve, but the situation is not conducive for us. We will return when the government announces that Kashmir has become terrorism-free."

Concerned over communal tension "gripping" different parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, several opposition parties and social organisations on Monday took out a peace march here and appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

The march was organised by Jammu-based All Parties United Morcha (APUM), a conglomerate of various socio-political organisations, including the Congress, National Conference, PDP and CPI(M), from Parade ground to Raghunath temple chowk in the old city. Raising slogans of religious harmony, the participants denounced the attempts by "mischievous elements" and "divisive forces" to incite communal tension in the country.

The public as well as the religious leaders are requested to remain cautious and not allow the vested interests to disturb peace, brotherhood and communal harmony, he said.

Senior Congress leader and former legislator Ravinder Sharma demanded stern action according to law against all those trying to spread hatred in the country.

The participants also appealed to the Supreme Court to take suo moto cognizance of the prevailing situation in the country and put a moratorium on mandir-masjid conflicts and communal politics.

## Communal tension: Opposition leaders take out joint peace march in Jammu

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JAMMU: Concerned over communal tension "gripping" different parts of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, several opposition parties and social organisations on Monday took out a peace march here and appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony. The march was organised by Jammu-based All Parties United Morcha (APUM), a conglomerate of various socio-political organisations, including the Congress, National Conference, PDP and CPI(M), from Parade ground to Raghunath temple chowk in the old city. Raising slogans of religious harmony, the participants denounced the attempts by "mischievous elements" and "divisive forces" to incite communal tension in the country.

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All BP, HP pumps beyond Domana running dry, farmers suffering

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JAMMU: All Bharat Petroleum (BP) and Hindustan Petroleum (HP) pumps in rural areas beyond Domana to Khour and to Nowshera have gone dry and are not operational. The non-availability of fuel, particularly diesel which has become most essential commodity for cultivation because of present sowing season, is causing several hardships for people.

The farming community of the area has appealed to the Lt Governor to intervene into the matter besides directing the concerned to resolve the issue for safeguarding farmers from the heavy loss of their crop.

Tarkhan pays surprise visits to JSD stations; found employees absent

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JAMMU: Raj Kumar Tarkhan, Chairman Health and Sanitation JMC and Jal Shakti (PHE) on Monday conducted surprise raids in different stations of Jal Shakti Department (JSD) in Jammu and found most of the employees absent. He also found unlimited stock of water supply pipes dumped at Gandhi Nagar Sub-Division Jammu. Chairman Raj Kumar Tarkhan said employees are risking the machinery worth crores of rupees and warned them to be punctual on duty.

Other present in the meeting include Manjot Singh Vice President, S S Surinder Singh Wazir Secretary SPF, Janak Singh, Rajinder Singh, Sharjeet Singh, Iqbal Singh, Vanninder Pal Singh, Jasvinder Singh, Mannohar Singh, Arunpal Singh and Dilbag Singh.

## SPF demands induction of member from Sikh Community in J&K PSC



President SPF Balwinder Singh talking to reporters.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: President, Sikh Progressive Front (SPF), Balwinder Singh on Monday convened a meeting to discuss the important issue of the Sikh Community especially demand for induction of Member from Sikh Community in the J&K PSC which is likely to be constituted soon.

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Public Service Commission of JKUT. Now members of SPF are confident and hope that the assurances given to SPF by the LG will be fulfilled and a suitable Sikh Candidate shall be inducted as member in the JKPS which is likely to be constituted soon.

Besides this important issue other various issues taken up during the meeting including amendment of SRO-425 and make provision for inclusion of Non migrant Sikh youths of valley in the special Employment Package which is presently limited to non migrant Kashmiri Pandits only.

Other present in the meeting

include Manjot Singh Vice President, S S Surinder Singh Wazir Secretary SPF, Janak Singh, Rajinder Singh, Sharjeet Singh, Iqbal Singh, Vanninder Pal Singh, Jasvinder Singh, Mannohar Singh, Arunpal Singh and Dilbag Singh.

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