

Cong protests against fuel price hike in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress continued its protest in the city for the sixth consecutive day on Saturday against the hike in fuel prices.

The party said its week-long nationwide protests were an attempt to "awaken the government to the hardships of the people".

Pradesh Congress Committee president G A Mir led the protest at Guru Nanak Nagar locality in the city.

Holding placards, the Congress activists raised slogans against the government. The protesters dispersed peacefully afterward.

"The continuously rising



Congress leaders raising slogans during a protest.

price of diesel and petrol over the past 22 consecutive days has increased the burden on the local people," Mir said and demanded immediate rollback of taxes on petrol and diesel.

He said it is important that prices are reduced because economic activity is at its lowest and people are sitting at home without any work due

to the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic.

"In such a scenario, the government should not aim to earn profit from people who are already facing the brunt of the economic downturn," he said.

Hitting out at the BJP-led central government, the Congress leader said the whole country is passing

through a difficult period and people are facing hardships due to "wrong policies" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"By imposing tax on petrol and diesel, it has caused lots of hardship to the common people who have lost their jobs and livelihood. Hardship of the common man has only worsened," Mir said.

Distt President Urban Yogesh Sawhney,

Former Minister Raman Bhalla said that "unprecedented" hike in petrol and diesel prices has hammered the people at the time of economic hardship imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite having a full stock of fuel, the government has

burdened the common people by increasing fuel prices. Such a steep hike has not been effected in 70 years," he said.

Congress Jammu District President Yogesh Sawhney said that common masses are reeling due to COVID-19 outbreak; the BJP government was turning disaster into opportunity to make quick bucks.

He said the Modi-Shah government must pass on the relief of record low crude oil price to the people of India against rising inflation & slowdown in the economy and rising unemployment by lowering the rates of petrol, diesel and LPG in consonance with the huge fall in international crude oil prices.



JKNPP protests steep rise of fuel prices

BJP looting common masses amid Corona pandemic: Harsh

STATE TIMES NEWS

MAJALTA: Peeved over the sharp rise in prices of petrol, diesel besides other essential commodities during the last six years of the BJP regime, scores of Panther activists spearheaded by Harsh Dev Singh, Chairman JKNPP staged a vociferous protest at Thalora in Tehsil Majalta of Ramnagar constituency today.

While raising anti-BJP slogans, the agitated protesters expressed their resentment over the current inflation trends of fuel and gas in the country which had severely broken the back of the common masses.

Describing India's Petrol and Diesel prices costliest in Southeast Asia, Harsh divulged that while the prices of crude oil had fallen sharply all across the world, the BJP led Central government continued to levy heavy excise duty on petrol and diesel in the country.

He further said that at the time when GST had been introduced to rationalise indirect taxes in the country, it was indeed hypocritical to keep petro-products outside the GST ambit in order to raise additional central revenues.

"The retail prices of petrol



Protesters led by Chairman JKNPP Harsh Dev Singh raising slogans.

and diesel still continue to inflate on frequent basis amid Corona pandemic when the crude oil only costs Rs. 23 per litre to the oil companies. If the processed and refined petrol sold on retail at Rs. 81 per litre on an average is brought under the new tax regime, it will cost as little as Rs. 46 per litre at 12% GST rate and diesel at Rs. 73 per litre on an average will cost Rs. 40 per litre. The hike in fuel prices has subsequently led to a steep rise in transportation fares which has made other essential commodities dearer and unaffordable for the common man", Harsh rued.

Regretting that inflation had become a hallmark of BJP's governance, Harsh rued that Saffron government while levy-

ing exorbitant excise duty and other hefty taxes from the people was deplorably asking them to contribute towards the PM Cares Fund in view of Corona pandemic which only tantamount to loot and plunder of public's hard earned money. He said that the Govt was burning holes in the pockets of the poor and the middle class to allow the oil companies to make surplus profits.

"What happened to the whopping excise duty worth Rs. 18 lakh crores collected from fuel in the past six years? How could you extort unjustified money from the people in the difficult times when they are facing the wrath of COVID-19 pandemic? When will you stop robbing the limited budget of a common man? When will you

expiate for your sins?", anguished Harsh asked BJP.

DM orders 10 PM to 5 AM restrictions on non-essential activities in Jammu district

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate, Jammu, Sushma Chauhan, vide powers conferred upon her under section 144 of CrPC read with relevant provisions under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005, on Saturday ordered imposition of restrictions on the movement of Individuals for all Non-Essential Activities between 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM in the territorial limits of the District.

As per the order, the restrictions have been imposed in accordance to the guidelines and instructions issued by the State Executive

Committee of Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction vide Government Order No 66-JK(DMRRR) of 2020 dated 03/07/2020, for regulating activities within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for effective containment of COVID-19 w.e.f, July 4, 2020 and till further orders.

Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 188 of Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the order stated further.

Advisor Baseer finalises Amarnath yatra arrangements

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a high level meeting of civil and security administration, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Baseer Ahmad Khan on Saturday took detailed feedback from all the executing agencies about the finalized arrangements made for the conduct of Shri Amarnath Yatra, 2020.

ADGP, CRPF, Zulfikar Hassan; IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar; Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, AK Singh; Director Tourism Kashmir;

Nisar Ahmad Wani; Chief Engineer, R&B Kashmir; Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti department, Chief Engineer Distribution, KPDCL, Chief Engineer BRO, Director Meteorology Kashmir; Deputy CEO, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and representatives of Fire & Emergency Services, Animal Husbandry, NDRF, SDRF and telecommunication (BSNL) departments were

present in the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sushma Chauhan; Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, KK Sidha; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shafkat Iqbal; Director Health Services Kashmir; Samir Mattoo; Director FCS&CA Kashmir; Bashir Ahmad Khan joined the meeting through video conferencing.

The Advisor asked the civil administration about the arrangements made by them at each of the camp location and enroute upto the holy cave. He enquired from them about the track condition, relaying of bridges wherever required, installation of mesh wire and railings at the identified spots.

The Advisor further asked them to see the installation of lights, water tanks, toilets, generators, PSPs, Public

Address System, communication towers are fully functional at each camp location before the commencement of yatra. He stressed on creating separate 200 bedded facility for quarantine purpose of suspected individuals and strict observation of social distancing protocols and sanitization measures at all camp and langar sites. Baseer Khan also enjoined upon the officers that medical teams, fire tenders, ration and service providers like tents, bedding, ponies, pithu and palkhivalas are stationed at their designated locations before the initiation of the yatra. He stressed that ration, electricity, water supply, firewood and other provisions should be made available without any shortage.

He emphasized that enough backup should also be created regarding each of the provisions required so that no dearth of supplies is felt in case of adverse weather or emergency. He also asked about the trial running of all the helpads including the new ones created this year.

The Advisor asked the civil administration and security agencies to work in synergy so that their plans and efforts collaborate each other and produce maximum benefit for

the pilgrims.

The Divisional administrations ensured the Advisor that full proof arrangements have been created everywhere. They informed the Advisor that power supply, water, health facilities, installation of toilets/baths, telephone, rations, firefighting equipment, firewood, shelter sheds, helipads, mobile connectivity, langar and tents have been made available at each spot identified for the purpose. They informed the meeting that every facility required for the event has been created as per the standard practice.

The Advisor asked the security agencies to inculcate themselves about the security related arrangements to be made at their end. He asked them to extend helping hand to the yatrasis especially in higher reaches as the forces are well trained for doing the same. The security officers informed the meeting that they are abreast with the requirements and have already formulated plans to make requisite arrangements as per ground situation. They further assured the Advisor that the personnel would deliver successfully wherever the situation calls them to play their role.

CJ visits district court complex Kishtwar, reviews working

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal on Saturday visited District Court Complex Kishtwar and inspected the courts of Principal District and Sessions Judge Kishtwar; Chief Judicial Magistrate (Sub-Judge) Kishtwar and Munsiff (JM) Kishtwar.

Chief Justice was accompanied by Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice and Officiating Registrar General, High Court of J&K Jawad Ahmad and other officials.

She inspected various sections of the court complex and reviewed working and the infrastructure availability in the District court complex.

Judges of the subordinate courts, advocates and other members of Bar Association



Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal during visit to District Court Complex Kishtwar.

apprised her of the various demands and issues like establishment of Anti-corruption Court,

Consumer Forum/Court, Ladies Bar and Ladies Toilets, Camp Courts at Paddar, non availability of complex hall for the new practitioners, no accommodation facility for writers and stamp paper

While interacting with Judges of the subordinate courts, advocates and other members of legal fraternity, she assured them that their genuine demands will be redressed in a time bound manner and asked them for submitting the charter of demands in her office so that the impediments in the dispensation of the justice could be mitigated at the earliest.

She hoped that Judicial Officers will continue to discharge their professional duties with the same zeal, enthusiasm and commitment.

Role of Legal Services Authorities in dispensation of justice in this far flung mountainous area was highly appreciated by the Chief Justice.

dealers, absence of toilet facilities for women litigants in the court complex among others.

They demanded that the powers of the Anti-corruption Court be vested in the Principle District and Session Judge, Kishtwar as the same will not involve any expenditure or creation of infrastructure.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle, Kathua on Saturday informed that to execute work for erection of Bus Gantry structure for augmentation of 5 MVA, 66/11 KV power transformer to 10 MVA at Receiving Station Nanam Kathua under Centrally Sponsored Schemes by M/S Capital Electech Pvt. Ltd., the power supply to Budhi, Ghatti, Nanan, Sounthal, Palad, Forelain, Jakhole, Bakhta, Torsi and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 06, 7 and 8 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Similarly, for erection of poles in existing 33 KV line for thickening of conductor by M/S Capital Electech Pvt. Ltd., the power supply to Bhaddu, Billawar, Mandli, Lahri-Bathri, Dewal, Chanera, Dhar-Dugnoo, Macheedi, Malhar, Marhoun, Upper Baggan and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 6, 8 and 9 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Rana expresses concern over LoC shelling, seeks expeditious completion of community bunkers

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing anguish and concern over intermittent and unprovoked shelling from across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir; Provincial President National Conference Devender Singh Rana on Saturday called for speedy completion of community bunkers and shelter sheds to ensure safety of life and property of the civilians in the forward areas.

"During these grim times of COVID-19, the people along LoC are braving the brunt of Pakistan shelling that has not only created fear psychosis but also caused enormous sufferings to them", Rana said in an interaction with party functionaries of the Poonch district via video conferencing, organised and hosted by Provincial Youth National Conference Ajaz Jan this morning.

Rana expressed solidarity with the border residents, saying their welfare and wellbeing is responsibility of the entire nation for being frontline defence of the country. He stressed the immediate need

of completing bunkers and shelter sheds for their lodging in times of exigencies.

The element of security could have been infused among them had the promised shelter sheds and community bunkers been completed timely, he said and lamented over non-fulfillment of commitments made in this regard in recent years.

Rana lauded the valour and fortitude with which the border dwellers were facing the situation, saying they deserved attention and compassion to meet the challenges, which are enormous, keeping in view the damages caused by shelling and loss of life in recent years.

He also called for drawing exigency plans in terms of mobile healthcare and evacuation facilities to ensure their transportation to safe areas whenever needed. He also sought a course correction in the strategy for border residents, hoping the administration will realise the gravity of the situation and come forward with a pragmatic roadmap for their safety.

Tara Chand lambasts Centre for rise in fuel prices

STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: Congress workers on Saturday staged a massive protest at Khour Block in Chaamb Constituency under the leadership of former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand against the unprecedented price hike of petrol diesel and other essential commodities across the country.

Tara Chand accompanied by other senior leaders and workers held strong protest amidst raising slogans and carrying placards against price hike of petrol and diesel.

They raised slogans against Modi Govt for heavily burdening the poor and common man when the prices of crude oil are at lowest sides as compared to UPA government and should be rolled back.

However they submitted a memorandum to SDM Khour demanding roll back of hiked prices of fuels.

speaking on the occasion, Tara Chand lambasted BJP government at Centre for rise in fuel prices and termed it as economically anti people.

"The hike in fuel prices came at a time, when the



Former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand and others during a protest.

country is facing unprecedented public health, economic and social challenges due to the COVID 19 pandemic," he said adding that when the entire country is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India was fleecing 130 crore Indians by insurmountable raising prices of petrol and diesel.

"International crude oil prices are now the lowest in the last 10 years, down to 35-38 USD per barrel yet petrol and diesel prices are sky rocketing," he said adding that the common people, the middle class, farmers, transporters and small and medium businesses are bearing the pain of high petrol rates..

The ill directed, anti-people policies of the BJP government are responsible for the high prices of petrol, diesel and LPG despite crude oil consistently remaining down, he asserted.

Former Dy CM blamed BJP for organised loot and termed continuously rising fuel prices a new method of extortion from the public.

He said government has raised excise duty on petrol and diesel several times. He demanded Modi govt to bring down the prices of petrol and diesel and LPG to the pre 2004 levels as global crude oil prices have fallen drastically.

He said the government must pass on the relief of record low crude oil price to

the people of India.

He said that the BJP leaders used to protest against rises in fuel prices under the previous UPA Government at the Centre but were now justifying frequent increases in petrol, diesel rates.

Tara Chand also said that the condition of the road from Khour to Jourian, Pallanwala is in very bad condition and demanded repairment and blacktopping of main road from Jourian to Pallanwala.

He also demanded Upgradation of Grid Station Kaleth which was built by Congress Government and was meant for Chaamb Constituency only.

Others present during protest were PCC Secretary Narinder Sharma, Varun Magotra, District Jammu Rural Vice President Suram Singh, Chairman BDC, Khour Balbir Singh, Chairman Khara Balli Dwarika Nath, Block President Samwan Jagdish Raj, District Jammu Rural Vice President Prem Singh, Gautam Sharma, Madan Lal, Romesh Verma, Gopal Sharma, Sham Singh and Deepak Singh.