

‘Yatra Mitra’, ‘Kooda Do’ River cleaning campaigns launched at Panchtarni

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: To ensure Swachh & Sugam Amarnath Yatra, several initiatives, namely Yatra Mitra, Kooda Do, River Cleaning, and Free Sanitary Pads Distribution, were launched on Thursday at Panchtarni.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs and Yatra Incharge Pahalgam Axis and Dr Piyush Singla IAS, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag launched the initiatives.

At the outset, Thakur Sher Singh, Camp Director Panchtarni, apprised the Visiting Officers about the various initiatives taken by the Team - Panchtarni for cleanliness and sanitation of the campus, safe disposal of solid waste, protection of Environment and effective management of the Yatra.

The programme was started with the participants taking the Panchtarni Pledge on the banks of Panchtarni River. "We hereby take the



Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs; Dr Piyush Singla DC Anantnag and others during launch of campaign.

Panchtarni Pledge to make the Panch Tattva - Air, Water, Earth, Fire & Space at Panchtarni pollution free."

"Panchtarni, an eponymous meadow and valley, lies on the banks of Panchtarni River, and is surrounded by magnificent mountains. It derives its name from the confluence of five glacial tributaries believed to have originated from the matted hair of Bhagwan Shiv. The participants pledged to make the five elements of this picturesque place

Langar tents, Shops, etc.

The third initiative of the day was free distribution of sanitary napkins among the female yatrins and workers. The noble initiative, being first of its kind in the Amarnath Yatra, aimed to create sensitisation about periods, and menstrual health and hygiene.

Towards the end of the day, the officials held Bada Khana with sanitary workers alongwith an interaction with Yatra Mitras, the young local volunteers.

Yatra Mitras, and Sanitation Workers felt elevated, motivated and enthusiastic with the presence of visiting officers.

Both, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary and Dr. Piyush Singla appreciated the

efforts, dedication and motivation of Team-Panchtarni for setting new benchmark in cleanliness and sanitation, management of yatra, handling disaster and taking new initiatives which has made Yatra more Saral and Sugam.

Others present on the occasion were Jatinder Gupta CO 49BN, Yatra Officer SP Surinder Choudhary, Addl. Camp Directors Sanjay Gupta, Deepak Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, Nodal Officer Sanitation Jahid Azad, Magistrate Manzoor Wani, Maj Vipin COY, 21C ITBP Rana, Commander 2/11 GR, Cap Khurana CRPF, SHO Panjtarni Nazir Ahmed, officers from NDRF, SDRF and other civil departments.

Justice Mir (Retd) takes over as Chairperson Selection Committee under Juvenile Justice

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, Justice (Retd) Mohammad Yaqoob Mir, on Thursday assumed the charge of the Chairperson Selection Committee under Juvenile Justice Rules J&K here.

Harvinder Kour, Mission Director Vatsalaya; Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, renowned child protection expert and president National Development Foundation J&K Jammu; Dr Sindhu Kapoor, Dean School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu and Dr Nancy Mengi, Head Social Work department, Central University of Jammu also assumed office as member secretary and members of the



Former Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court, Justice (Retd) Mohd Yaqoob Mir, assuming charge of Chairperson Selection Committee under JJR J&K.

committee respectively. Selection Committee is an apex committee under Juvenile Justice system to recruit the Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards which have replaced the courts with regard to the cases pertaining to children in need of care and

17 senior IIS Group A officers promoted; Ghulam Abbas New JD Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has promoted 17 senior IIS Group A officers from Senior Time Scale to Junior Administrative Grade including Ghulam Abbas HoO PIB J&K, Ladakh, and sixteen others posted in different media units of the ministry.

According to the ministry's order, the officers have been promoted in the Pay level 12 of the Pay Matrix of the 7th CPC on regular basis for the panel year 2022 with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the new post.

They will be designated as Joint Directors in their respective media units.

Earlier through another Order No. A-22013/1/2020-IIS/501

dated July 7, 2022, the ministry had transferred 50 IIS officers throughout the country including Neha Jalali JD CBC (Central Bureau of Communication) Jammu, Ghulam Abbas, and Tariq Ahmad Rather Deputy Director (M&C) PIB Shimla from J&K.

Consequent upon the promotion of Ghulam Abbas as Joint Director and his posting as Head of Regional Office, J&K, and Ladakh, Central Bureau of Communication Jammu, he has been relieved from Srinagar to join the new place of posting while Tariq Ahmad Rather has taken over as HoO PIB J&K and Ladakh.

It is worth mentioning that Ghulam Abbas has served in PIB Srinagar and Delhi for 14 long years.

FAA aspirants continue protest in Jammu against scrapping of selection list



FAA aspirants raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dozens of candidates, who have qualified for examination for the post of Finance Account Assistant (FAA), continued their protest in Jammu after reports of scrapping of the selection list by

the authorities surfaced.

The protesters gathered at the Press Club Jammu and held a sit-in carrying placards that read Release our Selection List, Stop playing with youth and Don't snatch our livelihood, amongst others. The candi-

dates said they had been preparing for more than two years before appearing for the test held by the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

They said it is impossible to appear for the same examination again. "We had qualified for the FAA exam and were waiting for the final selection list after the merit list came. We just want that the selection should come out. It is our fifth day of hunger strike, and they are not allowing us even to protest. We have tried many times to reach out to the administration, but there has been no response. We want the selection list to be safe and secure," a female FAA candidate said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The students of LLB Private and Under Graduate of Distance Education Department of Jammu University created a huge uproar over the demand to conduct the online examination. The students blocked the University road, after which the police evicted them. Meanwhile, there was a scuffle between the students and the police.

The protesting students have alleged that the Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu played with the career of law students particularly those whose backlog exams of Semester 2 and 4 were not conducted by the department, spoiling their one year.

JU students-police clash over demand of open choice in exams



JU students scuffling with police during a protest.

As the protesting students tried to block university road, Police swung into action and in the minor scuffle, some protesters sustained minor injuries.

Even as the protesting students dispersed after all the Police action, they alleged that the university

administration was not listening to their grievances. They announced to intensify their protest.

The students are adamant on the demand to conduct the online examination while the university has issued an order that all the examinations will be held offline only.

National herald case



Tehsildar Jammu South visits market, urges traders to follow CAB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tehsildar Jammu South, Harjeet Singh on Thursday visited Nai Basti Market and adjoining areas to take stock of implementation of various COVID-19 related advisories and guidelines which also includes use of face masks, social distancing, etc.

Tehsildar Jammu South, Harjeet Singh, while interacting with the shopkeepers and customers during the visit, urged them to cooperate with the administration in the fight against COVID-19 by following COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB).

Harjeet was accompanied by President Nai Basti Market Association Naveen Gupta and Naib Tehsildar Satwari.

Speaking to the customers and shopkeepers, the Tehsildar urged them to strictly follow COVID guidelines like wearing of face masks, maintaining social distance during their business activities.

He urged them to extend their full cooperation in view of a surge in positive cases.

Harjeet said adherence to Covid SOPs/Protocol is paramount for sustainable livelihood.



Tehsildar Jammu South, Harjeet Singh visiting Nai Basti Market to take stock of implementation of CAB.

The Tehsildar said the traders act as a face of any market and have a pivotal role in containment of COVID-19 by motivating and sensitising their staff and customers regarding CAB so that they themselves, their family and other fellow citizens are protected from infection of COVID-19. He emphasized to them that it is the social obligation of one and all to educate people and help in the implementation of CAB as per the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.

The Tehsildar South underscored that it is highly imperative that CAB is implemented in letter and spirit in all business establishments and other places where people assemble for different purposes.

He also asked businessmen to ensure that the customers enter their shops with face masks and follow CAB.

The Market Associations members assured to extend their full cooperation to the administration in implementing COVID guidelines for containment of COVID-19.

J&K People's Forum to felicitate families of martyrs on July 24

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To celebrate 75 years of independence of India and its glorious history, culture and achievements under Azadi Ka



JKPF members talking to reporters.

Anurit Mahotsav besides commemorating Kargil Victory Day, falling on July 26, Jammu & Kashmir People's Forum is going to honour about 1,500-2,000 families of martyrs belonging to J&K and who made supreme sacrifices while serving in belt forces including Army, Paramilitary Forces and J&K Police. It was informed by Ramesh C Sabharwal, President Jammu & Kashmir People's Forum, while addressing a press conference in Jammu on Thursday. Giving further details, Sabharwal said that the function (Samman Samaroh) will be being presided by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while Dattatreya Hosabale, Sarkaryavah (General Secretary), Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, will be main speaker during the function, which will be held at Gulshan Ground, Jammu on Sunday, July 24, 2022. "The function will start at 10:30 AM and conclude at 1.00 PM. On the occasion, families of martyrs will be presented shawls and mementoes by Defence Minister and other senior officers of belt forces. Prominent personalities of Jammu province and Ex-servicemen belonging to belt forces will also attend the programme," he added. Others present during the press conference included Adv Raghu Mehta, Prof Rajiv Rattan, Ashok Gupta, Adv Vikas Sharma and Maj Gen S K Sharma (Retired).

Question is not of banning private practice by Govt doctors but is of withdrawing relaxation

► Revise Pay of Government doctors if needed, but provision for private practice or NPA is not fair

■ DAYA SAGAR

Many in 'private' conversations could be seen suggesting that over drugging, undue clinical investigations, failure of programmes like Jan Aushadi Store (PMBJAP) due to even government doctors not writing prescription by chemical name / generic name, poor functioning of diagnostic apparatus in government hospitals, protests by attendants of patients/junior doctors in government hospitals and like anti public issues could be checked to a great extent in case orders allowing private practice to government doctors in relaxation of conduct rules for government employees are withdrawn. In spite of government spending crores of rupees on the wages and health infrastructure, what to talk of the common man, even superior bureaucrats and the political masters appear having lost faith in the dependability of government health services, why?

Whenever some proposals for exercising reforms for improving the services from government health institutions like that of "withdrawing the relaxations" given in conduct rules allowing private

practice to government doctors appear to be under consideration rumors about doctors thinking of taking retirement start surfacing. Private practice by government doctors has been banned twice in J&K during Governor rule but no doctor had resigned.

No doubt relaxation in conduct rules allowing private practice to some government doctors was made by governments at times in past for greater public interest to meet odd location/hour emergencies / needs but surely it was not for increasing the income of doctors in government service as some people appear suggesting when ever governments have expressed desires (in view of falling stands of delivery of services from government hospitals) for withdrawing the relaxation given to some government doctors in conduct rules.

No, doubt government has authority to make/modify service rules but no government in a democratic country is expected to ignore the basic principles and codes that are must for one who has to handle the common resources / provisions of the State financed out of state funds..

So, the question that needs be addressed to is ---<-Is private practice, as is/ was allowed to doctors of government

hospitals and government medical colleges in J&K and some other Indian States only in the interest social cause or it is simply for allowing doctors to increase their income? If it is not for increasing income then there is no justification also for giving non practicing allowance(NPA) to government doctors who are not allowed private practice. But in actual practice mere relaxation for private practice in and around the place of residence has been converted by some doctors in a way to a full fledged business enterprise, many of the private clinics/ hospitals are functional only with the support of government doctors and that is not fair>.

And if the relaxation given for private practice is to increase income, then the private work/enterprise if also allowed (before and after office hours) to atleast low paid government employees (peons and clerks) will surely help them to meet the needs of education and health of



A Look through the Mist

their children in a better way.

No doubt if it is assessed that pay scales /wages of government doctors are less

and the public exchequer can afford more, let higher salary be paid to government doctors, but allowing private practice private enterprise for increasing income or Non Practicing Allowance (NPA) where private practice is not allowed do not sound logical under present circumstances. The post graduate doctors and those in the medical colleges, if justified, could be given special grades even no way less (even more) than superior bureaucrats in case they comparatively deserve and state can afford so. The government jobs are not part time and so why Non Practicing Allowance (NPA) ? So, strangely even Doctors in Defence forces are paid NPA (non practicing allowance), why ?

Otherwise any government servant one who has need and desires can work after office hours to increase his/ her income, one could be a Medical Assistant / Nurse, an Engineer, an Accountant Officer, an officer with degree of law, an

officer with M Com / B Com, and like but as per standard conduct rules / norms no government employee is supposed to work outside or do some business> So in case Non Practicing Allowance is to be given to a government Doctor, why not give NPA to all government employees? There may be many with professional qualifications working in government and have capacity to do private practice / enterprise during off hours worth increasing their income.

Is it not often observed that some private clinics/Practicing government doctors ask serious patients to go to government hospital/medical college hospital? Such like questions could be put to those who are today pleading the cause of common man's care in the name of private practice by government doctors whereas instead one is forced by the prevailing environment in the government hospitals for visiting private clinics even for minor ailments.

More so, these days, in cities / towns there are many private hospitals, retired doctors and un employed doctors / qualified Vaidraj are available. The government hospitals in case are made to deliv-

er on ground to their " installed capacity" then the load on private hospitals as regards general ailments will be reduced by more than even half.

By and large the provision of private practice has not been that judiciously used these days. No doubt, in case still it is felt that in remote / distant / rural areas still there is a need to allow government doctors to see patients against monetary considerations before / after office hours then there, on case to case basis, government doctors could be permitted to do private practice and the payment received be named as honourarium and not fee. But even then no allowance like NPA in any case only to government doctors, if it has to be there it has to be for all government employees who are debarred from private enterprise.

Government must contest actively any petitions made in courts on the issue of allowing private practice to government doctors and get the same legally disposed without losing any time.

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