

ADGP Jammu Zone visits Reasi, holds security review meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Jammu Mukesh Singh along with DIG U-R Range Suleman Choudhary conducted a security review meeting of arrangements for Shri Buddha Amarnath ji Yatra, Kounsar Nag Yatra and Independence Day at district Police office Reasi.

Mukesh Singh laid stress upon joint operations and a coordinated plan to ensure smooth conduct of Yatras and the coming Independence Day function.



ADGP Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh chairing a meeting at Reasi on Friday.

During the meeting, progress of investigation of UAP Act cases of Reasi was also discussed. Investigation into cases of

drug abuse and strategies to counter the drug menace was deliberated upon. ADGP Jammu also stressed upon quality inves-

tigation in the cases and proper follow up of cases till conviction. SSP Reasi Amit Gupta briefed the ADGP about

the law and order situation of the whole District, preparation plan for upcoming Yatra and Independence Day.

SSP also briefed about the present security scenario and strategy to counter the nefarious design of ANEs.

The meeting was attended by, SP Katra Vipin Chandran, SDPO Arnas Prithpal Singh, DySP Hqrs Reasi Neeraj Padyar, SDPO Katra and DySP Bhawan Bhisham Dubey and SrPO Himanshu Gupta.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Channi Himmat, Marble Market, Chowadhi and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 30 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to 33 KV Feeders feeding Jagti, Bhalwal, Roopnagar, Purkhoo and Gharato shall remain affected on July 30 from 6 am to 11 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Smailpur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 29 and 31 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Badhori and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 30 and August 01 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Industry under feeder Kanhal, Kothi Morh, Palli Morh and Palli shall remain affected on July 30 from 5 am to 10 am. Similarly, the power supply to Industries under feeder Industry-2nd, Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 30 from 5 am to 10 am. Likewise, the power supply to Sarore and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 29 and 31 from 6 am to 10 am.



Transforming, peaceful J&K unnerves those who have thrived on politics of graveyards: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Thursday said that peacefully transforming, blooming and progressing Jammu and Kashmir has unnerved those playing politics over graves, relegating them to political wilderness they had never dreamt of.

Interacting with senior BJP functionaries, workers and the people assembled during the weekly public grievances redressal camp at the party headquarters here this afternoon along with Venu Khanna, BJP State Secretary and Danish Mishra Vice President, BJP Yuva Morcha, Rana referred to fast changing scenario across the Union Territory with tourism influx registering new marks, Shri Amarnathji Yatra surpassing records of sorts, Muharram procession taking place after 34 years and the era of stone-pelt-ing and shutdown culture evaporating like the exploitative politics of the elite class believing Jammu and Kashmir as their fiefdom.

"They are dumb struck as their fake narratives are working no more now", Devender Rana said, adding that while understanding the changing mood, they are not giving up true to the character of wolves



Senior BJP leader Devender Rana listening to public issues.

who lose teeth but not their nature. The politicians of deceit and deception have played their innings cunningly for over four decades by bullying New Delhi on the one hand and instigating people against the mainstream on the other hand to have the best of both the worlds. This has been their formula to remain leeches to the chair; no matter how much the people suffer. But, the game is over now as the people have started reading between the lines and relishing the dividends of peace and normalcy. Seen is believing, he said while referring to unprecedented enthusiasm among the people in Kashmir; who have opened up their arms for the tourists by switching over to stay-home culture due to hundred percent occupancy in hotels and lodges.

Rana said the economic emancipation of the people in

the recent years, especially after focus on investments to build world class infrastructure, holds promise for better days to come, not only in terms of growth but also job generation. The successful G-20 conclave has further bolstered the efforts of the Centre and the UT Administration to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of progress and development. This is something the frustrated politicians are not comfortable with as peoples' prosperity means their political doom. The height of their dejection and desperation is ironically so deep that those getting just two to three percent votes are now hobnobbing with their counterparts across the country in mistaken belief of changing the political structure of the country, he said.

Div Com Jammu visits Paddar, inaugurates various pilgrim facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Marking a major move to facilitate Shri Machail Mata Yatra pilgrims, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar along with Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal on Friday visited Machail and inaugurated first of its kind 30 KW hybrid solar power plant - a guest House and three Mushroom Model Tents at Gulabgarh for providing accommodation to devotees during the Yatra.

The momentous event witnessed the presence of DDC member Paddar; Hari Krishan Chauhan; ADC Kishtwar; Inderjeet Singh Parihar; SDM Paddar; Arun Kumar Badyal; CEO Kishtwar Development Authority, Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; Tehsildar Atholi, Satish Rana; SDPO Paddar; Manoj Kumar; Incharge Machail Mata Yatra Cell

Lovemeet Kotwal, PRIs, among others.

The 30KW Hybrid Solar Power Plant has been installed to cater to the electricity needs at the Machail Mata temple, Bhawan, and its peripheral area to ensure proper illumination for the safety of the Yatris during the Pilgrimage.

Divisional Commissioner also inspected the Machail Mata Bhawan at Gulabgarh and directed the concerned officers to expedite the left out work.

The Div Com Jammu also paid obeisance at the Machail Mata Bhawan and assessed the arrangements in place for the comfortable stay of the devotees visiting the revered shrine besides interacted with Pilgrims and enquired the facilities available.

On the occasion, the Div Com congratulated the people of Paddar for the inauguration of valuable assets created to attract maximum pilgrim

tourists by offering best possible facilities. He emphasized that the new assets will also boost local infrastructure and contribute to the overall developmental momentum of the area.

In addition to these inaugurations, the Div Com Jammu conducted a comprehensive review of the facilities put in place, including provision of water and electricity supply, sanitation, chopper services, accommodation, transportation, security, and other amenities for the pilgrims.

He urged the district and local administration to work collaboratively, ensuring that the pilgrims do not face any difficulty and have a seamless and comfortable Yatra experience.

During the event, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav gave a detailed resume of the arrangements made this year for the convenience of the Yatris. These

include adequate tents at the Machail Bhawan.

The DC also informed about the availability of helicopter services for Yatris, the food stalls and home stay facilities being managed by local entrepreneurs, mobile connectivity in the Bhawan and en route and Micro ATMs installed at six designated points in the Paddar area.

He further informed that the newly launched official website, <http://www.shrinachailmatayatra.com> with detailed information about different facilities and updates and a dedicated control room provides assistance to pilgrims before and during their journey.

The Div Com Jammu encouraged the Yatris to adhere to the guidelines prescribed by the authorities, cooperate with security personnel, and uphold the sanctity of the pilgrimage site.

AYUSH medical camp held in Boys Pahari Hostel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A medical camp was on Friday organized in Government Boys Pahari Hostel Bantalab by the Directorate of Ayush to provide free medical checkup and free medicines to the inmates.

The camp was organized on the directions of Commissioner/ Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda.

A team of Medical Officers, Dr. Neena Sharma and Dr. Dheeraj Raina, Pharmacist Kamal Netar and Yoga Instructor Kunal Jamwal were deployed for



Medical Officer interacting with Commissioner/ Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda at a camp.

duty in the camp.

The camp was inaugurated by Secretary, Advisory Board for Pahari Speaking People Jammu and Kashmir, Sapna Kotwal.

Speaking on the occasion, Sapna Kotwal appreciated the team of Doctors and other para medical staff of AYUSH Department. She explained the benefits of the Indian System Medicines and urged the inmates of

the Hostel to avail this opportunity and get themselves medically examined and take the medicines being provided to them free of cost.

The Secretary also appreciated Commissioner/Secretary, Social Welfare Department for organizing the medical camp and hoped that more such camps would also be organized under her guidance.

Among others present were Supervisor Rajan Khajuria; Warden, Ankush Tripathi and Assistant Warden, Farid Hussain.

Private practice by Govt Doctors has lost FEEL of "social cause" & had been banned TWICE by Governor Adms In case Doctors relatively deserve more wages & State Exchequer can afford, pay that but no NPA

So strangely even doctors in non clinical departments in medical colleges are also paid NPA Some Medical Assistants & Nursing staff have also started asking relaxations like PP & NPA

■ DAYA SAGAR

In response to a PIL filed by Vichar Kranti Manch International (a voluntary social Organisation) the J&K High Court had on 25th November 2011 had in a way quashed any relaxations in the government servant conduct rules given to the School Teachers as well as the Doctors in the Government service which were permitting them to do private tuition/ private practice before or after normal duty hours. No doubt to some doctors government had not given any relaxations and to them a non practicing allowance (20 %) was being given where as no any "allowance" was given to the School teachers who may not be allowed to take private tuition. But the those in medical profession considered the provision of private practice more for increasing their income and less for taking extra load for social requirements/ local emergencies and hence the directions were successfully contested using legal & administrative channels. Many people have been suggesting and seeing the permission for doing private practice to doctors as major contributing factor to poor delivery of services by government hospitals. Suggestions were being made more particularly after 1980s in J&K for 'banning' (with drawing permission) for private practice by Government Doctors. Similarly many

people had started seeing falling standards of education in government schools also for the reasons of some teachers taking more interest in 'attracting' students for coming to them for private tuition & the PIL of Vichar Kranti Manch International too was an action in that direction.

Before 2011 also private practice by government doctors was banned in J&K two times and at both the occasions J&K was under Governor rule but as soon as the popular government came back the affected 'community' got the bans lifted. Governor rule was imposed in J&K on March 7, 1986 and Mr. Jagmohan, the Governor, banned the private practice by government doctors on May 31, 1986. After that a writ (668/1986) was filed in J&K HC against the ban but the same was well contested by the Governor Administration and was dismissed by a Division Bench on October 17, 1986. But after the Governor's rule , the "popular" government removed the ban vide SRO No. 42 dated January 23, 1987. SRO 42 of January 23, 1987 too had been questioned through a PIL by Sukesh Chander Khajuria . It was on 14 February, 1994 that the PIL was dismissed by J&K High Court observing, "Whether private medical practice should be allowed to doctors in government service or not is a policy matter.

Policy decisions have to be taken by the Executive and not by Courts. Courts can only indicate the legal position. The legal position is that the State has power to ban private practice as well to allow it. When it will allow and when it will ban it is for the Government to decide and not for the Courts. In view of the above the writ petition lacks merit and is hereby dismissed but without any order as to costs. "

Once again J&K State came under Governor Rule/ President rule w.e.f January 19, 1990 and thereafter it was on 20th July 1995 that a powerful RDX blast rocked crowded Purani Mandi Jammu where in 21 persons killed on spot and 47 injured were reported. More disturbed with the bad state of handling the injured in the hospitals the State Administrative Council headed by the then Governor K. V. Krishna Rao decided once again on 21st July 1995 to ban private practice by government doctors in the light of allegations against some government doctors having committed dereliction of duty and SRO -196 was issued on 4th August 1995 once again banning the private practice by government doctors. During ban days it was also aired by some that governor administration was even considering undoing with the very



A Look through the Mist

illogical provision of paying of non practicing allowance to government doctors who are not allowed to do private practice since no other government servant is paid such allowance in lieu of not allowing them to take any private enterprise during off hours for income.

The popular government that returned in 1996, it was on 14 Jan 1997 that a local English daily reported quoting the then Health Minister Dr. Mustafa Kamal that there was no proposal to lift the ban on private practice by Government Doctors (" I have reports that a patient in Srinagar Medical College was given three years waiting for operation" adding " all this is being done to exert pressure on the government") but instead a Cabinet meeting on 14th April 1998 it was decided to again lift the ban on private practice and was hence lifted 2nd time by 'popular' government taking another unpopular 'welfare' action.

To be brief retaining the provision of private practice is more advocated by most of the doctors for increasing their income and less for any social cause, 'some' government doctors are in a way taking to a full-fledged commercial trade under the garb of private practice (which has otherwise to be in principle limited to local and emergency consulta-

tions only), it is also an open secret that in general doctors in the private clinic do not handle emergencies and refer them to government hospitals, some local clinics / nursing homes in Jammu / Srinagar are seen primarily run with the assistance of local government doctors only. Many nursing homes and clinics are running only with government doctors as consultants, the social logics appear having faded under the objective to simply increase the income.

J&K is once again under President Rule with Lt Governor as the Administrator. It is once again an opportunity to apply corrections and it can be hoped that Lt Governor Manoj Sinha who has already applied some corrections to the wrong acts of earlier popular governments like completely doing away with SRO-202 of June 3, 2015 and its shadows (the most irrational recruitment policy rules which were articulated to unfairly exploit the unemployed educated youth desperately looking for some job) shall take a very serious review of (i) age old convention of giving special relaxation only to some government doctors (inspite of their being government servants) to do Private Practice, for the reasons of sensing some social needs by the 'elders' but is being used by the beneficiaries to only increase their income like a a regular

business enterprise, (ii) undo the prevailing totally wrong convention of paying non practicing allowance to government doctors where private practice is disallowed since government employment is not part time employment and all other government employees are debarred under conduct rules from taking to any direct / indirect business activity during off duty hours where as many in other employments may have professional capabilities for consultations/ part time jobs as well as some may have compulsions for increasing their income .And so strangely even doctors in non clinical departments in medical colleges are also paid NPA and (iii) The rules disallowing private practice to doctors in premier institutions / hospitals like PGI Medical Sciences / AIIMS need be kept focus while taking decision for doing away with relaxations in conduct rules for government doctors with the aim of doing reforms in the delivery of services to the beneficiaries by government hospitals. To be brief payment of NPA to only doctors is totally unfair , firstly it should not paid at all but if has to be paid then it should be to all government employees and at no cost Private Practice should be allowed to government doctors.

(The author is a senior journalist & a social activist and can be mailed at dayasagr45@yahoo.com)

