

Congress needs those ‘who bow’, powerful leaders leaving: Tarun Chugh



Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K flanked by J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina chairing a party workers meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Congress needs those 'who bow' while all the powerful leaders are leaving the party, said Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K.

Tarun Chugh accompanied by J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, Seh-Prabhari J&K BJP Ashish Sood, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Minister Sat Sharma, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta and other senior party leaders addressed series of meetings held at party headquarter,

Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Senior party leaders from districts Nowshera, Rajouri, Poonch, Jammu and Jammu West participated in separate Core Group Meetings. Tarun Chugh while talking to media persons on the sideline of meetings, said that Congress party need those leaders who are ready to bow in front of one family, that's why all other powerful leaders leaving party one by one.

"Congress a sinking ship as all its leaders from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Guwahati are quitting it one

by one," he added. He said that Both PDP and NC have lost their political ground. He added that after abrogation of article 370, the faith of people in Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased and people want BJP to come again in power. He said that BJP would form next government in Jammu and Kashmir on its own. He said BJP is working in proactive mode and is holding regular meetings on J&K at central as well as local level to make BJP even stronger.

Tarun Chugh also focussed on the development spree going on in the region of

Jammu & Kashmir on the behest of Modi government and said that J&K is witnessing the never before development with the help of liberal economic packages from the Modi government. He talked of Rs 7,750 crore provisioned under Jal Jeevan Mission for achieving the objective of 100% piped water supply to each household; Rs 357 crore for Solid Waste Management in two Municipal Corporations and 76 ULBs and Rs 1,313 crore for PRIs/ULBs adding that these are only few to quote which are accorded to J&K.

Tarun Chugh during the

meetings held interactions with the senior party leaders from every district asking them to strengthen the party at grass root level. He asked them to increase their level of activity in their areas and increase direct communication with the masses.

Ravinder Raina while addressing in the meeting laid stress on the rigorous functioning by the party activists for the growth of the organization. He stressed that today, the party has grown its extensive reach to everyone due to the ground level functioning and now it is the right to further intensify the good work by the party activists.

Cancel registration of vehicles involved in illegal mining: DC Jammu



DC Jammu, Avny Lavasa chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa on Tuesday asked for cancellation of registration of Vehicles found involved in illegal mining of minor minerals.

She was chairing the meeting of the Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force Cell constituted to coordinate in plugging the illegal extraction and

transportation of minor minerals. The meeting was convened to review the enforcement measures to contain the illegal mining and other issues in the district.

ADC L&O Minga Sherpa; SP (Hqr) Rammish Gupta; DMO Dr. Gulshan Kumar along with senior officers from concerned departments were present in the meeting.

It was decided in the meeting that registration of the vehicles indulging in repeated violation shall be cancelled.

The meeting further recommended strict action against the vehicles involved in road side dumping of the construction material and muck. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to strengthen check nakas at the vulnerable points to tighten noose around the perpetrators of illegal mining. She further directed the concerned officers to remove the encroachments alongside Tawi River and keep close check on the extraction of minor minerals along its banks. She asked the concerned officers to take strict action against the violators and book them under the prescribed sections of the Law.

Former J&K Dy CM among 64 Cong leaders resign in support of Azad



Senior Congress leaders during a press conference at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The spate of resignations in the Jammu and Kashmir Congress continued unabated with 64 more leaders including a former deputy chief minister tendering their resignation and joining the Ghulam Nabi Azad camp on Tuesday, leaving the unit of the national party in the Union Territory in tatters. Led by former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand, the leaders in their joint resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi said "all of us had a very long association with the party spanning over decades...but unfortunately we found that the treatment meted out to us was humiliating."

Chand, along with others 64 Congress men and senior functionaries including former ministers Abdul Majid Wani, Manohar Lal Sharma, Gharu Ram and former MLA Balwan Singh, announced their resignations from the Congress at a press conference here on Tuesday.

PM KISAN beneficiaries to receive 12th installment only in Aadhar-seeded accounts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired a meeting to take stock of progress under various welfare schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Commissioner/ Secretary, Revenue Department, and Commissioner/ Secretary, Social Welfare Department, along with Divisional Commissioner Jammu, and Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated in the meeting.

Under the PM Kisan Yojana, it was informed that all beneficiaries will be verified through Aadhar seeding and revenue record authentication before the release of the 12th installment of the financial relief.

The Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners of all districts to ensure uploading of the relevant revenue record, completion of the e-KYC formalities, and Aadhar-seeding of all beneficiary accounts by 05.09.2022. They were asked to lay special focus on de-weeding of

ineligible beneficiaries and recovery of false claims.

Further, the JK Bank was asked to raise public awareness among its users through text messages, especially with respect to the 12th installment of the PM KISAN Yojana, which will be credited directly into the Aadhar-seeded bank accounts of registered farmers through direct benefit transfer. Besides, Divisional Commissioners of both divisions were asked to rope in public representatives and concerned line departments in expediting the collection of requisite scheme-related data.

For raising awareness on the mandatory Aadhar-seeding and authentication of beneficiaries under various government schemes, Dr. Mehta asked the Information Department to run dedicated advertisement campaigns in all vernacular newspapers.

It was informed that a month-long 'Nasha Mukta Abhiyan' will be organized across Jammu and Kashmir, commencing from 1st September, 2022. It is estimated that a total of 06 lakh victims are associated with activities related to drug and sub-

stance abuse in the Union territory.

Accordingly, the Social Welfare Department was asked to generate a database of all such victims through the Panchayati Raj Institutions in collaboration with the teams from Rural Development and Health & Medical Education departments along with district administrations, by 15.09.2022.

The Department was advised to extend medical care and rehabilitation to the identified victims while maintaining their anonymity and treat them as patients and not criminals.

Further, to strengthen the infrastructural support to the campaign, all district administrations were directed to establish a drug de-addiction centre at respective district hospitals with adequate arrangements for professional manpower and medical supplies. The Home Department was also asked to organize monthly meetings of District Narco Task Forces to tighten the noose against the drug peddlers and dealers.

Furthermore, the concerned departments were asked to ensure completion of Amrit Sarovar and

Swachh Gram Abhiyan within their stipulated timeframes. The district administrations were asked to submit the progress of developmental works to be completed during the current fiscal under the District CAPEX, besides giving a fillip to the self-employment schemes in their districts for greater employment generation.

The Chief Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to ensure that all places in Kashmir valley remain open and connected throughout the winter season as the region is receiving an unprecedented number of tourists. Similarly, the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu was asked to spruce up tourist destinations and promote tourism in Jammu region especially the Mansar-Surinsar circuit, Bani-Sarthal circuit, and Bhaderwah-Sinthal circuit, besides various other regional tourist attractions and destinations.

It was further informed that the 'Back-to-Village-4' will be organized shortly for which all district administrations were asked to prepare fully.

Prisoner doesn't cease to be human, entitled to all fundamental rights in jail: Justice Magrey

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey on Tuesday chaired a high level meeting to discuss ensuring that the undertrials/convicts are not denied the basic fundamental rights, while they are in custody.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Home, R. K. Goyal; DG Prisons, H. K. Lohia; Principal Secretary Estates Department, Alok Kumar, Secretary Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi and Member Secretary, J&K LSA, M. K. Sharma.

During the meeting, ACS Home apprised Justice Magrey about the existing



Executive Chairman JKLSA, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey chairing a meeting.

facilities available for the detainees in different prisons of J&K and the improvements made in the near past.

It was informed that against the sanctioned capacity of 3629 in 14 jails of the UT of J&K there are as many as 5148 inmates. Therefore, the average occupancy rate of prisons in J&K is 142%.

However, it was informed

that the government is considering the raising of infrastructure to ensure decongestion in jails. Justice Magrey was further informed that in the year 2022, a total of 425 e-mulakats were held between the inmates and their relatives.

The agenda of the meeting was Access to Justice for persons in custody/detention,

review of prison population and overcrowding thereof, Counselling & Rehabilitation of prisoners.

It was resolved that the Government shall make all the endeavors to provide quality food, proper medical care and appropriate space in the jails for legal aid clinics so that the detainees are not deprived of the legal assistance.

Justice Magrey was informed that 05 IGNOU study centres are functional in 05 jails while it was also resolved that IGNOU study centres shall be established in the remaining jails also.

Regarding the shifting of the office of J&K LSA to some appropriate place, it was resolved that as and

when the office of the Transport Commissioner is vacated after shifting to the new building, the Estates Department shall initiate the process of allotment of the said office space for the office of J&K LSA.

Justice Magrey while directing the officers to provide all the basic facilities to jail inmates emphasized that the prisoner does not cease to be a human being, while in jail and he is entitled to all the fundamental rights.

Justice Magrey also impressed upon the participating members to increase the frequency of counselling of the prisoners and ensure their proper rehabilitation after they are released from the prisons.

Farooq Abdullah runs away from Times Now interview when asked about genocide of Kashmiri Hindus



CJ lays foundation of new Court Complex at Akhnoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to augment the infrastructural facilities in the court complex, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, Justice Pankaj Mithal on Tuesday laid foundation stone of new Court Complex building and residential quarters at Akhnoor here.

Justice Tashi Rabstan Administrative Judge of Jammu District, Justice Sindhua Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice M.L Manhas, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Sanjeev Gupta Registrar General of High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Rajeev Gupta Pr. Secretary of Chief Justice; Dinesh Gupta, Joint Registrar of High Court Wing Jammu; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu;



Chief Justice, HC of J&K & Ladakh, Justice Pankaj Mithal reviewing layout plan of new Court complex at Akhnoor.

Chandan Kohli Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu; Bar President and all Bar Members and officers of district administration were also present on the occasion.

Chief Justice after laying of foundation stone, suggested that certain futuristic needs and other requirements should be looked into while

executing the work of the Court complex.

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Sanjay Parihar welcomed the Chief Justice on the occasion.

The Chief Justice after foundation stone was briefed about the plan layout of new Court complex by Superintending Engineer.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board celebrates Foundation Day



SMVDSB members performing Hawan at Katra on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Performing of Pooja, Hawan and Yagya marked the celebration of Foundation Day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on Tuesday.

These religious ceremonies were organised at Bhawan, Adhkuwari, Katra, Jammu and other locations in which the staff of the Shrine Board and the pilgrims participated. Employees of the Shrine Board took pledge on this occasion to perform their duties with sincerity and devotion.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where

special Pooja and Hawan was performed. Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Member, SMVDSB; Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer; Navneet Singh, Addl. Chief Executive Officer; Vishavjeet Singh, Dy. Chief Executive Officer; Ajay Salaan, Asstt. Chief Executive Officer, besides officers and staff of the Shrine Board, was present on the occasion.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, on the auspicious occasion of the Foundation Day, congratulated the staff of the

Shrine Board and impressed upon them to work with utmost zeal and dedication for providing continuously improving facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

He also extended his gratitude on the occasion to the Hon'ble Lt Governor who is also the Chairman of Shrine Board for his continuous support and guidance under which various initiatives for facilitation of pilgrims initiated in a very short period in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board like Mobile App, Home Delivery of Pooja Prasad / Panch Mewa Prasad, round the clock Call Centre for facilitation of yatris, installation of Hi-tech Video Walls, construction of Durga Bhawan, e-library, Yatri Queue Management (Sky walk), Underground Cabling Project, Spiritual Theme Park and RFID Project.

Illegal mining causing serious impact on natural resources, tourism

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Illegal mining is not causing a threat to natural resources but it can also affect tourism industry in Kashmir, as at many places it has been observed that mining is not emerging a major challenge for natural resources but also causing grave threat to several historic places of Valley. Illegal mining, which is going on unabated in North to South Kashmir, has endangered heritage and ancient monuments, besides posing threat to highway bridges and other adjacent areas. It is also making it hard to retain natural beauty of upper reaches of Kulgam, Shopian, Budgam and Ganderbal districts where hundreds of tippers are busy in daylight loot of natural resources, despite Government instructions. According to residents of

Ganderbal, "Mining activities are threatening nearby tourist places and other tracks which have been particularly reserved for adventure tourism. Despite tall claims by local administration and Mining Department, a large number of mules can be seen carrying extracted sand and gravel from river banks. Several sand and gravel dumps could be seen on Srinagar-Baramulla highway, Srinagar-Ganderbal road and Srinagar-Budgam road. Deep trenches dug by mining mafia in riverbed had weakened ancient monuments as well as pillars of bridges."

They further said that in view of emerging scenario, a complete ban should be imposed on mining in Kashmir valley. As per Government's instructions, mining cannot be carried out within

100 mts of a bridge but mining mafia is engaged in illegal activity right next to foundation of several bridges and other natural resources. A few residents also claimed that despite highlighting the issue several times, mining authorities and local administration has done nothing in this regard. Government must come up with a proper policy on extraction of minerals like sand in UT and ensure that licenses are granted on the basis of merit. All vehicles ferrying mineral illegally extracted or obtained must be seized. Moreover, all loopholes in system, of which the mining mafia take advantage, need to be plugged. Govt and other concerned authorities need to expedite efforts to curb illegal mining activities in UT, in the larger interest of people.