

**Commissioner convenes meeting with Union leaders today**

# Municipal workers go on strike, leave Jammu stinking

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, July 18: Entire Jammu city turned into a garbage dump today as Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) workers including Safai Karamcharis went on strike in

Promotion Committees (DPC) for all cadres" he added. "Temporary daily labourers at present are being paid Rs 2,100 per month, while monthly wages set by the Government is Rs 4,500," he said. Rohit George president

areas of the city with accumulated drainage water running on roadside adding to the insanitation.

A dead dog has been thrown on road at B C Road Ambphalla while some dead animals are lying on Akhnoor road near Muthi. People apprehend that if this situation will persist for another one or two days the epidemic can grip the entire Jammu city.

The Municipal workers are demanding reorganization of JMC, DPC for all cadres, regularization of contractual employees, enhancement of wages of NGO based Safai Karamcharis and casual Safai Karamcharis and regularization of TDL employees.

They have warned to continue the strike till demand is settled.

When contacted the JMC Commissioner, Kuldeep Khajuria said that out of nine demands five are genuine and they have been accepted in principle. He said the DPC will be convened on July 24 and re-organization issue is lying with Finance Department in Civil Secretariat. The Union leaders should pursue it there. He said already the workers were given two and half days extra pay and appointments of 35 workers were made under SRO 43.

Expressing hope that the issue will be settled amicably with the workers, Mr Khajuria said that he held a meeting with them this afternoon soon after his return from Srinagar and tomorrow morning he is again meeting the representatives of workers to find an amicable solution to the issue.

On the regularization issue, he said that there is a Government circular that after the completion of seven years service an employee will be automatically regularized.



Garbage lying scattered at Dogra Chowk Jammu, as Safai Karamcharis went on indefinite strike on Thursday.

support of their demands. Municipal workers under the banner of Civic Safai Karamchari Union (CSKU), Jammu Municipal Clerks Union and Jammu Municipal Drivers' Union (JMDU) went on indefinite strike this morning after the 72 hour deadline given to authorities by the workers ended.

However, the JMC administration has made an appeal to the workers to resume the work as all their genuine demands have already been settled while some are lying in Finance Department at Civil Secretariat.

The workers forced all Corporation offices in the city to shut down and warned of further protests if their demands were not addressed. "This protest will go on till our demands are met," said CSKU president Rinku Gill.

"Earlier there were 23 wards in Jammu with 1,056 workers, but today the number of wards has increased to 71. We have been demanding increase in staff strength and Departmental Chairman National Security Advisory Board calls on Vohra

**Excelsior Correspondent** SRINAGAR, July 18: Shyam Saran, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board, formerly Foreign Secretary of India, met N. N. Vohra, Governor at the Raj Bhavan here today.

During their extended discussions, the Governor and Mr. Saran discussed several important issues relating to the geo-political and the overall security environment in the region and beyond. Pertinent to recall that Shyam Saran had, as the Prime Minister's envoy, undertaken an appraisal of the border management infrastructure in 2007-08 and rendered a valuable report. The recommendations in this report have been under implementation in the past 5 years. Mr. Saran's current visit to the State is largely related to a review of the progress so far achieved.

Mr. Saran is likely to have a further meeting with the Governor before his departure on July 20, 2013. Raj Begum, a noted Kashmiri singer also called on Mr Vohra.

Raj Begum informed the Governor about her views regarding the preservation and showcasing of the State's rich cultural heritage, particularly the folk traditions and the traditional performing art forms and the steps required to be taken to secure the desired goals.

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## Farooq, Sagar visit Dastgeer Shrine; take stock of restoration work

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, July 18: Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah along with Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Ali Mohammad Sagar today visited the Shrine of Dastgeer Sahib at Khanyar in Shahr-e-Khas and took stock of on-going reconstruction and restoration work of the shrine.

They enjoined upon the engineers to expedite the restoration work keeping in view the older existing architectural patterns, which are inconsonance with the local architecture and taste. They also directed the executing officers to work in close coordination with each other to remove the lacuna if any for the speedy work on this prestigious project. "The shrine is held in great reverence by every section of the society and it is the endeavor of the Government to ensure that this revered shrine is completed within the shortest possible time and in consonance with the older architectural patterns", the Ministers maintained.

The Ministers also directed the officers to speed up the expansion project of the revered shrine so that the proper landscaping and other related things can be carried out. They also asked the concern departments to carry out the necessary acquisition which may be needed and adequately compensate the persons whose properties are

acquired. On the occasion, the Ministers were informed that out of estimated cost of Rs 5.50 crore an amount of Rs 3.50 crore have been incurred so far and the work is being carried out on the roofs and the rest of the same would be completed very soon.

The Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj accompanied by MLA, Amira Kadal also visited Sogam area of the Kupwara district where some structures were gutted in a devastating fire. Mr. Sagar assured the victims that the necessary steps would be taken for the early rehabilitation of the victims and directed the district administration to prepare the comprehensive report so that adequate compensation can be provided to the persons whose properties have got damaged.

The Minister also directed the officers to prepare a detailed report so that the existing fire service station can be upgraded and provided with the latest fire-fighting equipment so that the incidents of fire can be controlled in future.

While responding to the demands of the locals, the Minister directed the officers to prepare a comprehensive report for the augmentation of the water supply schemes so that the people of the area do not face any inconvenience viz a viz potable water.

## CM condemns attack on Dr Jalal, killing of police personnel

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, July 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has condemned the attack on the life of noted Cardiologist Dr. Jalal and on the killing of two police personnel in the incident.

Terming it an act of cowardice, the Chief Minister said that such attempts by terror mongers on the respectable persons who are the asset to the

society is unfortunate and depicts the mind set of these elements having no concern for precious human lives.

The Chief Minister conveyed his solidarity with the bereaved families and to the Police Department and said that the police personnel martyred in the incident have upheld the traditional bravery and commitment towards safeguarding the people and the State.

## DB issues notice to Union Secys, CS, Air Companies

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, July 18: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Y V Sharma, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Advocate Baldev Singh against exorbitant air fares being charged by the different airlines without any capping by the authorities at the helm of affairs and without any accountability for delay, Division Bench of High Court today issued notice to the Chief Secretary, Air Companies and others.

In the PIL, it has been submitted that airlines have been charging exorbitant fares and putting the passengers to inconvenience by delaying the flights without any justification or transparency.

Seeking directions to respondents to submit the details regarding the rationale behind minimum and maximum air-tariff from a passenger traveling by air through different airlines, the petitioners prayed before the DB that airlines

were required to be made accountable and transparent.

After hearing Senior Advocate BS Sathia with Advocate Meenakshi Salathia appearing for the PIL, DB comprising Justice Mansoor Ahmed Mir and Justice Tashi Rabstan issued notice to Union of India through Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Director General Civil Aviation and Chief Secretary J&K.

Advocate Inderjeet Gupta accepted notice on behalf of Airport Authority of India, Senior AAG Gagan Basotra on behalf of Chief Secretary J&K and ASGI K K Pangotra on behalf of other respondents. The Division Bench also issued notices to Air India, Jet Airways, Indigo Airlines, GoAir Lines and Spice Jet Airlines and directed them to file reply as also status report within a period of four weeks.

## Over 9,000 perform darshan

**Excelsior Correspondent**

Nunwan.

morning under tight security

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, July 18: A total number of 9,170 pilgrims performed darshan at holy cave of Swami Amarnath on 21st day of pilgrimage today.

With this, the total pilgrims performing darshan in cave shrine has reached to 2,76,788. Till yesterday evening 2,67, 618 pilgrims had performed darshan in cave shrine.

According to an official spokesman, the yatries is going on smoothly. The spokesman said that 4,139 pilgrims left from Baltal base camp to holy cave. Out of them 2,792 left by track while 1,347 left by chopper. All these yatries had performed darshan at cave shrine by the evening and were on their way to Baltal base camp when last reports came in.

The spokesman said a fresh batch of 2,909 pilgrims left from Nunwan-Pahalgam base camp to holy cave early this morning under tight security arrangements via traditional Chandanwari track. Besides, 163 pilgrims left by air. He said weather enroute to holy cave was cloudy while it was pleasant at Pahalgam and



Yatries on their way to Amarnath holy cave at Baltal on Thursday.

The spokesman said 5,482 pilgrims left for Srinagar from Baltal today while 4,537 left from holy cave to Baltal.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 1,061 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Jammu base camp for holy cave early this

arrangements in a cavalcade of 33 vehicles.

They included 742 male, 233 female, 15 children and 71 Sadhus. This was the lowest batch of pilgrims which left from Jammu base camp to holy cave since the first batch was flagged on June 27, 2013.

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