

# Modi redeemed historic injustice done to Maharaja Hari Singh: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct 7 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has redeemed the historic injustice done to Maharaja Hari Singh, the last princely ruler of Jammu & Kashmir.

the esteem and self-respect of Jammu & Kashmir and was held in high reverence by people across all the regions of J&K. This is evident from the fact that the announcement of Gazetted Holiday was welcomed across the Union Territory and while there were



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a programme organised by Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Forum & Mirpur Balidan Bhawan Samiti to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, at New Delhi on Friday.

This was stated here today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing a programme organised by Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Forum & Mirpur Balidan Bhawan Samiti to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh and the Government's declaration of a Gazetted Holiday on the occasion.

Accusing the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of having failed both Jammu & Kashmir as well as Maharaja Hari Singh, he said, the history of Jammu & Kashmir would have been different and Pak occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) would have been a part of India, if only Nehru had allowed his Home Minister Sardar Patel to deal with J&K with a free hand.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Maharaja Hari Singh personified

overwhelming celebrations in the Jammu region, people across the sections in Kashmir valley also welcomed the move.

Referring to the recently concluded 3-day visit of Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the overwhelming response including the massive public rallies addressed by Amit Shah both at Rajouri as well as at Baramulla indicate the changing face in Jammu & Kashmir. He said, this is in complete contrast to the erstwhile UPA regime when such high profile visits by Union Home Minister or others were invariably accompanied by massive protests, hartals, shutdowns and stone pelting.

The real tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh, said Dr Jitendra Singh, is to carry forward his futuristic

vision and the Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi alone has the capacity and courage to do so. He said, very few people realise that within just five years of his ascending to the throne in 1925, Maharaja Hari Singh not only brought in new agriculture reforms and an exclusive constitution for J&K but also established a High Court and made primary education compulsory.

Maharaja's nationalist and secular credentials, said Dr Jitendra Singh, are borne out by the fact that soon after being sworn in as the Head of the State, his first statement was "Justice is my religion". Soon thereafter, he opened the doors of temples and places of worship for Dalits and the Scheduled Castes, the Minister said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, now that India is going through the Amrut Kal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid down the roadmap for next 25 years, this is also the most opportune time to carry forward the roadmap which Maharaja Hari Singh had envisaged for J&K, since he was always one step ahead of his other princely counterparts across India. Citing instance, he said, the biggest example is the setting of the Drug Research Laboratory (DRL) by him at Canal Road, Jammu way back in 1942, which today enjoys the coveted distinction of being the oldest laboratory institute among all the 37 such laboratories set up by CSIR (Council Of Scientific and Industrial Research ) across India since then.

Dr Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that Jammu & Kashmir will lead India's journey to world pedestal by 2047 and will thus live up to the pledge made to Maharaja Hari Singh.



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina and other leaders addressing a press conference at Jammu on Friday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

## Amit Shah's rallies will change political discourse of J&K: Raina

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 7: J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina has claimed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's rallies in the Union Territory will change the political discourse of Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing a press conference along with former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, General Secretary Sunil Sharma, former MLC Charanjit Singh Khalsa and BJP Secretary Arvind Gupta at the party headquarter, here today, Raina spoke on the success of massively attended rallies of Amit Shah in Rajouri and Baramulla.

"These mega rallies will prove to be a turning point in the political scenario of Jammu & Kashmir. The enthusiasm of people in both the rallies was unmatched and had a mega change. These rallies have verified the acceptance, faith and love of common people on the development policies of the Modi Government," he said.

Claiming that the Modi Government has devoted itself to the welfare of every community of J&K beyond their region and religion, Raina said that PM Modi has ensured development and encouragement of policies for every individual from every section establishing its acceptability at ground level.

Raina expressed gratitude towards every single individual of Rajouri and the people from Districts Baramulla, Kupwara and

**\* Watch video on [www.excelsiornews.com](http://www.excelsiornews.com)**

Bandipora for making the rally successful. He said that the people have shown matchless response to both the rallies.

"Amit Shah has reiterated that the Modi Government is working on the policy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. The Modi Government has worked for everybody. First time in history, every community in J&K is feeling empowered as a result of strong welfare policies and development vision of the Modi Government," he said.

In response to the white paper issued by former CM Farooq Abdullah, Raina said that he (Farooq) must answer for the atrocities conducted on major communities of J&K like PoJK refugees, Gorkhas, Dalits, Gaddis, Sippi, Valmiki, women, Gujar-Bakarwals, Dogras, Kashmiris by their ruling parties. He alleged that these parties conducted gross human right violations on these

# CS takes first hand appraisal of progress on Jammu-Srinagar NH

\*Directs to develop truck holding areas

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Oct 7: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta along with Additional Chief Secretary Home and Director General of Police (DGP), Dilbag Singh today took first hand appraisal of the progress of four lanning of Banihal-Nashri stretch in district Ramban besides reviewing status of traffic movement on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.



Chief Secretary during visit to Ramban.

The Chief Secretary was also accompanied by the Principal Secretary, PW (R&B) Department, Shailendra Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Inspector General of Police, Traffic, Vikramjit Singh; Secretary Transport, G Prasanna Ramaswamy; Deputy Inspector General of Police, DKR, Sunil Gupta; Regional Officer (RO), National Highway Authority of

India, Rohin Gupta; SSP, Ramban, Mohita Sharma; ADDC, Rajinder Sharma; Collector Land Acquisition, NHAI (ADC), Harbans Lal Sharma and other concerned officers of line departments.

The Chief Secretary visited vulnerable spots, and proposed truck holding areas at Rampadi in Chambalwas area and directed the RO, NHAI to immediately clear the debris lying at various locations alongside National Highway on Banihal Nashri stretch to facilitate smooth double lane vehicular traffic movement, besides developing truck holding areas.

The Chief Secretary issued directions for constituting a committee to be headed by Principal Secretary, PW (R&B) Department and comprising of Administrative Secretary, Transport Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; IG Traffic; Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ramban to submit a plan to regulate the traffic movement smoothly on NH-44 between Banihal- Nashri stretch.

During a high level meeting at Chanderkote, the Chief Secretary directed the IGP Traffic to implement all the directions issued regarding the holding area management at all 4 proposed locations between Banihal- Ramban stretch to accommodate stranded vehicles in the event of closure of National Highway due to bad weather.

Directing the Regional Officer, NHAI to expedite the pace of the widening work, the Chief Secretary asked him to ensure macadamization of existing highway for smooth movement of traffic on the National Highway. He directed the SSP Ramban and RO NHAI to fix the timing for macadamization work to avoid inconvenience to commuters and fruit carrying trucks on the said stretch.

He directed the RO, NHAI to enhance manpower and machinery at all the vulnerable slide-prone areas for immediate clearance of landslides and debris from road, besides filling of potholes and metalling of damaged road to maintain hassle free traffic movement.

He enjoined upon them to install CCTV on these stretches for round the clock monitoring besides fair assessment of the time for which vehicles remain stranded. He asked them to declare these stretches no stopping zones and ensure that no road side parking is resorted to. He

impressed upon them to keep cranes ready on the road for facilitating Towing away of trucks which breakdown on the road. Dr Mehta directed the concerned to provide a 24 hour helpline number to all the commuters for the instant help. He asked them to explore the possibility of following the 12 hour cycle for the trucks to move from opposite directions instead of alternate days currently adhered to.

## FFRC accords 14% hike in transport charges in winter, summer zones

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 7: The Committee for Fixation & Regulation of Fee of Private Schools, J&K (FFRC) has ordered a 14% hike in the transport in the winter as well as summer zone.

The hike has been directed at the amount which the schools were charging in October 2019, and February 2020 respectively. In an order issued here, the FFRC said: "The schools in the winter zone shall be entitled to a hike of 14% in the transport / bus fee, which the schools in the winter zone were charging and collecting in October 2019."

Similarly, schools in the summer zone have been entitled to a hike of 14% in the transport / bus fee, which the schools in the summer zone were charging and collecting in February 2020. The FFRC said that the Transport Fee hike shall be applicable from March 2022 in both the zones viz; Winter Zone and Summer Zone, when the schools resumed physical class-work after the lockdown.

"The schools whose Transport / Bus Fee by the aforementioned hike crosses Rs.2,000/- shall be entitled to charge and collect only Rs.2,000/- and the aforementioned hike shall restrict the upper limit of

Transport / Bus Fee hike to Rs.2,000/-."

All the schools shall faithfully and honestly follow the decision and implement the same in letter and spirit, FFRC said.

"Any school management who in the peculiar circumstances of the school needs Transport / Bus Fee beyond Rs.2,000/-, shall have to submit its proposal to FFRC along with relevant documents with proper justification, to enable it to take a decision thereon per law."

In case of a complaint against any school in observing the FFRC order in breach, it said, immediate action under the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act 2002 and Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools (Fixation, Determination, and Regulation of Fee) Rules 2022 notified vide S.O. 233 dated 10.05.2022, will be initiated which will include taking penal action against such schools.

The FFRC said that the decisions have been taken after considering all the relevant aspects and after giving thoughtful consideration to the representations made and material provided by the stakeholders.

"In line with statutory prescriptions, it has been resolved that it would be appropriate to allow a hike in Transport / Bus Fee in all the schools."

## Addl charge given to Principal GMC-J/Sgr

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 7: Government today assigned additional charge of the post of Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara/Udhampur to Principal GMC Srinagar/Jammu, respectively.

"Principal GMC Srinagar/Jammu shall temporary hold the charge of the post of Principal GMC Handwara/Udhampur, respectively, in addition to their own duties, with immediate effect," said an order issued today by Health & Medical Education Department J&K.

## Div Com visits Sonamarg, reviews winter preparedness

\* Traffic to be allowed through Z-morh tunnel by Nov 15

Excelsior Correspondent

GANDERBAL, Oct 7: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today visited Sonamarg where he chaired a high level meeting of officers to review winter preparedness for keeping Sonamarg open during the winters.

At the outset, threadbare discussion was held regarding the necessary preparations and arrangements including water, electricity, health, road, fire service, snow clearing operation, mobile communication, traffic management, firewood and other related facilities to be put in place for keeping Sonamarg open during the winters.

To promote Sonamarg as winter tourist destination, the Div Com said that it is imperative to have all facilities available to the tourists especially heating arrangements in hotels, water and electricity besides proper plan for its promotion at all levels as a winter destination so that tourists can have the best experience here.

He directed the Director Tourism Kashmir and CEO, SDA to devise a proper mechanism for its wide publicity as a winter tourist destination.

The CEO, SDA was also direct-

ed to finalize the rates of hotels taking hoteliers on board which shall be distinct as compared to other winter destinations and notify the same by 15th November.

While reviewing the arrangements, the Div Com directed all the officers to ensure all arrangements pertaining to their departments shall be put in place in the first week of November besides manpower must be deputed on rotational basis by all departments who shall be stationed at Sonamarg during winter.

Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Department Kashmir was directed to complete the work on water supply scheme in Thajiwas area besides any issues hampering the progress shall be taken up with the concerned department so that laying of underground pipes is completed in first week of November and all establishments are provided water supply during winter.

Regarding mobile connectivity, the officials of Jio, Airtel and BSNL service providers were directed to prepare an action plan to ensure all mobile towers in the area remain functional during winters.

Earlier, the Div Com also inspected the work progress on the

Z-morh tunnel and was briefed about the preparations for allowing traffic through the escape tunnel during winter.

On the occasion, the Div. Com directed the Executive Director, NHIDCL (projects) to ensure all necessary works including drainage and lighting inside the tunnel are completed in the second week of November so that traffic is allowed through the tunnel by 15th November.

Meanwhile, Hotelier Association Sonamarg and other stakeholders also raised several issues for which the Div Com said that purpose of holding meeting was to redress the issues faced during winter in Sonamarg and in this regard all facilities and arrangements would be put in place and all the departments are given necessary instructions in this regard.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; Director, Tourism Kashmir; Managing Director, JKTCDC; Chief Engineer, KPDCI; Chief Engineer, Mechanical; Chief Engineer, R&B; CEO SDA; President Hotelier Association Sonamarg, President Beopar Mandal Sonamarg, various Officers/Officials of District Administration and other stakeholders.

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