Many panic-stricken tourists were seen leaving houseboats and hotels in Dalgate area amid chaos and uncertainty caused by a slew of controversial orders and advisories issued by the administration over the past week _ PIc Abid Bhat

GB Pant: Attendant files complaint against staff 'misbehaviour'

Deputy Medical Superintendent assures action

Observer News Service

Srinagar : Even as the authorities claim to provide better medical care to the patients at valley hospitals, the alleged misbehavior of officials at GB Pant hospital here with the attendants has put a question mark over the claims. Shah Jehangir, an attendant whose baby is admitted at the hospital had been asked to conduct ultrasonography of the minor patient by the doctors.

However, Jehangir said that soon after he reached the ultrasonography section at the hospital, he asked the officials to conduct the test as advised by the doctor. However, he alleged that the officials misbehaved with him as they were getting ready to leave the hospital at 3:00 pm.

"I urged them to conduct the ultrasonography of my child but they refused and misbehaved with me," he said, adding that he approached the Deputy Medical Superintendent.

"The Deputy Medical Superintendent accompanied me to the ultrasonography room but they misbehaved with him, too. He asked me to file a written complaint against the officials so that action will be taken against them," Shah said. He added that he later filed a written complaint at the office of Medical Superintendent, Dy MS and RMO of the hospital for action against the officials.

The Deputy Medical Superintendent said that they have already received complaints against the officials of the section. "It is not for the first time that a complaint has been received against the officials. A stern action will be taken against the officials," he added.

Justice Magrey stresses fair, speedy disposal of pending cases

Inspects District Court Complex Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar today inspected the District Court Complex. During his interaction with Judicial officers he laid emphasis on speedy disposal of pending cases, besides exhorting them to create and ensure that litigants, bar and general public are given due respect in the larger interests of justice delivery system. On the occasion, Justice Magrey called upon the judicial officers to strictly follow ethical conduct while delivering justice and strengthening of process serving agency.

During the course of inspection Justice Magrey inspected the courts of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, 2nd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, besides the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar was also inspected. The court files, disposal statements were also inspected.

Later Justice Magrey visited the entire court complex accompanied by Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineer of PWD and R&B. He also interacted with the Executive Members of the bar and listened to their grievances. He assured the members of the Bar that their genuine grievances will be redressed.

DC Srinagar reviews Eid arrangements

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary Saturday visited various old city areas to take stock of facilities being set up there with regard to the upcoming Eid al-adha celebrations in the district. The DC visited Karan Nagar, Kaksarai, Safakadal, Eidgah, Zadibal, Alamgari Bazar, Hawal among other areas and inspected different kinds of special markets like those dealing with the livestock set up in these areas. He directed for intense market-checking for strict implementation of approved market rates in all these areas and instructed the concerned officers to take strict action under the law against those indulging in profiteering and black marketing.

Dr Shahid also visited the Eidgah ground and sought details of arrangements concerned departments have planned for Eid congregational prayers there. He directed the concerned departments to make all street lights in the area functional and ensure thorough maintenance of cleanliness in and around the Eidgah on the auspicious occasion of Eid. The DC also interacted with the locals of these areas on the occasion. The interactions included discussions on different issues the locals raised with him who noted them and assured of working towards their redressal at the earliest possible.

It is notable that the Srinagar administration has planned necessary arrangements for smooth celebration of the Eid festival across the district. It is also establishing a helpline at the DC office for the convenience of the general people requiring relevant information or assistance. Later on the DC visited the Islamia College Ground at Hawal and inaugurated the Shehr-e-Khas T20 League tournament which will see 20 cricketing teams from across Srinagar participating in it over a duration of one month. ADCs Kuldeep Krishan Sidha and M Hanief Balkhi and senior officers from concerned departments accompanied the DC on the occasion.

Cops asked tourists to leave Kashmir, say houseboat owners and hoteliers

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Amid an unprecedented government advisory dealing a blow to the already fledgling tourism industry, cops on Saturday morning rushed to houseboats and hotels in the Dalgate area here to ask tourists to leave Kashmir as soon as possible.

Many panic-stricken tourists were seen leaving their accommodations as Kashmir grappled with yet another day of uncertainty and speculations amid a slew of controversial advisories and orders by the administration.

"I had a group of tourists from Kerala staying in the houseboat, cops from tourism police came early in the morning and told them to leave Kashmir as something is going to happen," Mohammad Subhan, a houseboat owner told Kashmir Observer.

"I literally begged them not to leave and assured them that they will be protected but they were so scared and began to pack up their bags," said Subhan. Shikara walas were seen sitting idle in their boats while as most houseboats and hotels wore a deserted look . Mushtaq Ahmad said his houseboat was booked for six days by Japanese tourists but they all left this morning following the advisory.

"My houseboat was booked till the month of September, but now all the bookings have been canceled," Mushtaq said.

EVEN DURING THE KARGIL WAR, tourists would come to Kashmir. I don't know what is going on " --Chairman Kashmir Houseboats Owners Association (KHBOA), Abdul Hamid Wangnoo

Farooq Ahmad Kathoo, General Secretary, Travel Agents and Tour operators of Kashmir (TAAK) said, there was 100 percent cancellation of tourist bookings since last night.

"We have suffered huge losses but the government seems to be least bothered," he said.

Who is going to take care of the "26 lakh people directly associated with the tourism industry?" he asked.

Chairman of the Kashmir Houseboats Owners Association (KHBOA) Abdul Hamid Wangnoo said this was the first time that tourists had been asked to leave Kashmir. "Even during the Kargil war, tourists would come to Kashmir. I don't know what is going on," Wangnoo said.

Wangnoo said it's unfortunate that tourist police "forced the tourists to vacate houseboats and hotels." "This is the season when tourism is at its peak," he said. Speaking to Kashmir Observer, SP Tourism, Tajinder Singh, said the cops were only doing their duty.

"We didn't force anyone. It was our duty to inform them that they have to follow government advisory and vacate the Valley," he said.

Tajinder further said that "if anybody wants to stay in Kashmir, they can stay on their own."

Earlier, tourists were evacuated from Gulmarg, Pahalgam and other tourists' destinations following the government advisory. On Friday, an order issued by Principal Secretary Home, Shaleen Kabra advised the tourists and Amarnath yatris in the state to "curtail their stay in the valley immediately and take necessary measures to return as soon as possible".

SRTC buses were put in service and aviation regulator DGCA directed airlines to remain ready to operate additional flights from the Srinagar airport to evacuate the tourists if need be.

The order and subsequent measures led to unprecedented panic in Kashmir which has remained tense for the past more than a week after New Delhi rushed additional troops to the valley.

WE DIDN'T FORCE ANYONE. IT WAS OUR duty to inform tourists about the government advisory"-- SP Tourism Tajinder Singh

State Judicial Academy holds training programme on Cyber Law

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to create awareness and to give insight into techno-legal aspects of cyber regime,a two-day training programme on Cyber Law including Cyber crimes, Cyber Forensics and Cyber Security is being organised by Jammu and Kashmir State Judicial Academy today at District Court Complex Srinagar, Mominabad.

The training programme was inaugurated by Justice Ali Mohammed Magrey.

In his inaugural address Justice Magrey said that we are entering into entirely a different world in near future which shall be driven by cyber technology. It is the virtual world that shall take over, pushing the real world in the background. People have started living their virtual life. This brings into picture the role of cyber security. It has two aspects; preventive and investigative. Cybercrime is difficult to detect and training of stakeholders in justice dispensation is important to address those issues. He also said that in last two decades, "We had smart phones and computer with internet and every detail from personal to professional remains in these gadgets. Bad people with criminal mindset are also misusing these devices, so we need to take necessary security and protective measures to prevent its misuse, monitor it operations and provide proper deterrence to prevent recurrence of such offences.

The training Programme was attended by District Judges, Sub Judges, Munsifs, Investigating officers, officers from Anti-Corruption Bureau, Officers from Law dept., Public Prosecutors.

Satyajit Vagala from National Institute of Smart Governance and Sandeep Mudulkar and Yogesh Pandit renowned experts on Cyber Law and Security conducted the Training Programme.

In various technical sessions, the resource persons discussed various aspects of cyber law, cyber technology and cyber crimes. They also discussed open source resources available and being utilized by cyber security experts to detect cyber crimes. They also gave practical demonstration of investigative inputs and the resultant outputs in unraveling truth in cyber and non-cyber crimes.

Technical sessions shall continue on second day as well.

Director, J&K, State Judicial Academy, Rajeev Gupta said that the aim of the training programme was to train Judicial Officers, Public Prosecutors, Investigating Officers and Law officers who are crucial stakeholders in justice delivery system.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR

02 ZIL-HAJ 1440

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 04
ZUHR 12: 37
ASR 5:31
MAGRIB 7:33
ISHA 9:05

This Day in History

- 1791 - The Treaty of Sistova is signed, ending the Ottoman-Habsburg wars.
- 1821 - Fabian Gottlieb von Bellinghausen and Russian polar expedition returns to Kronshtadt after becoming 1st to circumnavigate Antarctica
- 1824 - Battle of Kos is fought between Turks and Greeks.
- 1900 - An allied expeditionary force, made up of Japanese, Russian, British, French and American troops, sets off from Tientsin for Peking, China, to put down Boxer rebellion.
- 1914 - WWI: Germany declares war on Belgium; Britain declares war on Germany
- 1914 - WWI: King Albert I becomes Supreme Commander of Belgian army after German declaration of war
- 1914 - WWI: Field Marshal Lord Kitchener becomes British Minister of War after British declaration of war on Germany
- 1914 - US declares neutrality on the outbreak of WWI
- 1916 - Denmark cedes Danish West Indies, including the Virgin Islands, to the US for $25 million
- 1918 - Adolf Hitler receives the Iron Cross first class for bravery on the recommendation of his Jewish superior, Lieutenant Hugo Gutmann
- 1919 - The Communist Bela Kun comes to power in Hungary
- 1943 - Soviet units reach suburbs of Orel
- 1943 - USAAF bombs Germans in Troina
- 1946 - An earthquake of magnitude 8.0 hits northern Dominican Republic. 100 are killed and 20,000 are left homeless.
- 1956 - Indonesia says it will not pay debts to the Netherlands
- 1960 - Rocket propelled USAF research aircraft sets record at 2,150 MPH
- 1962 - Nelson Mandela captured by South African police
- 1964 - Civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman & James E Chaney, bodies discovered in an earthen Mississippi dam
- 1964 - North Vietnam torpedos US ships Gulf of Tonkin
- 1971 - US launches 1st satellite into lunar orbit from manned
- 1979 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1983 - France performs nuclear test
- 1983 - Revolution in Burkina Faso
- 1990 - European community proposes a boycott of Iraq
- 2012 - 45 people are killed by a suicide bombing in Abyan, Yemen
- 2013 - Hassan Rouhani is inaugurated as the President of Iran
- 2014 - Hamas and Israel agree to another 72 hour ceasefire
- 2015 - Robert Downey Jr. named the world's highest paid actor by Forbes Magazine (earning $80 mil). 4 non-Hollywood actors make the top 10.
- 2015 - 31 people are killed & 100 are injured after floods partially sweep two passenger trains off a bridge in Madhya Pradesh, India

From KO Archives

Vaishno Devi board snaps ties with J&K Bank

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU - The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has snapped its 20-year-old ties with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank in what appears to be a fallout of the bickering between Governor S.K. Sinha and the state government. The board - which controls the popular Hindu shrine of Vaishno Devi in Jammu and of which Sinha is the chairman -has withdrawn all its money from the bank and transferred it to the ICICI Bank, sources said.

Sinha, whose bickering with Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed over a host of issues is only too well known, directed the board to withdraw all accounts from the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, the sources said. The state government is a major shareholder in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.

The shrine board had a Rs.1 billion deposit with the bank, the source said. It had been rendering several services to the shrine board free of cost, The shrine board had had its deposits with the bank since 1986, when the former was set up. The Vaishno Devi shrine attracts more than 5.5 million pilgrims.

The governor and chief minister have earlier sparred over the duration of the pilgrimage to the Hindu cave shrine of Amarnath in Kashmir. While the governor wanted it to last for two months, the chief minister insisted on one month.

Sinha, who also heads the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, finally had his way. The chief minister was worried over the impact of a longer pilgrimage on the security of the state, as a large number of troops and police forces are committed to guard the pilgrimage route. He had also pleaded that the fragile ecology of the routes to the Himalayan shrine, located at a height of 13,500 feet, could not withstand the rush of pilgrims. More than 200,000 pilgrims have visited the shrine so far this year, (IANS)

(Kashmir Observer, 04 August, 2005)