CURFEW CONTINUES IN TENSE VIJAYPUR

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JAMMU, Aug 21: Administration continued to impose curfew restrictions in parts of Vijaypur tehsil of Samba district, today and also along the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway as precautionary measures till evening but people in some areas defied the restrictions and held demonstrations against the government over the incident and in support of the demand for arrest of the culprits involved in alleged sacrilegious act. However, curfew was relaxed in Samba late evening and administration was keeping vigil on the developments till tomorrow afternoon. As a precautionary measure all the schools and educational institutions will remain closed tomorrow for the second day. Earlier, defying curfew restrictions, people today staged protest in Bari Brahmana, SIDCO Chowk, Vijaypur, Samba, Sarore, Raya Morh and Swankha Morh in Samba district and Purmandal Morh in Jammu district disrupting the vehicular traffic on the ever busy Jammu-Pathankot National Highway.

District Magistrate Samba Sheetal Nanda said that to maintain peace curfew has been imposed in the district last evening but the focus is being laid in the areas where disturbance occurred. She said that everything is normal in the town barring few stray incidents of violence and protest today. “We have constituted an inquiry team to probe the matter. It may be the handiwork and some miscreants who want to disturb the peace in the district. Investigation is going on and guilty will not be spared,” she claimed, adding that the traffic on national highway remain through throughout the day today.

The Deputy Commissioner further claimed that four persons sustained injuries out of which one was in severe condition and operated upon by the doctors at Government

Medical College (GMC) hospital Jammu.

However, reports said that a bandh was observed in Samba town and hundreds of protestors defying the curfew restrictions blocked the highway from 2 PM to 4 PM. The shopkeepers downed their shutters while the local commercial traffic remain off the roads. The protestors demanded arrest of the culprits. In order to defuse the situation, the Deputy Commissioner held a meeting of prominent in which they demanded arrest of culprits and release of the protestors detained by the police. They also demanded withdrawal of cases registered against the protestors.

DC Samba assured them to take up the matter with senior police officers and with the higher authorities. The administration reportedly produced a postmortem report of the animal torso which led to violent protest claiming it to be a calf (a young one of buffalo) which died at-least four days (96 hours) ago. The torso was decomposed and flown down the nallah due to rains. The reason of it be headless might be due to decay or eating by some animals, the autopsy report claimed.

A bandh was also observed in Bari Brahmana area where also hundreds of people including the shopkeepers staged protest. All business establishments remain closed while a holiday was already declared in the schools. The commercial vehicles remain off the road in Bari Brahmana. Raising slogans “Bham Bham Bhole”, the protestors blocked one of the tubes of highway and marched in the shape of rally in the whole town demanding arrest of culprits. Some miscreants also damaged wind screens of couple of industries in Bari Brahmana.

In Sarore area, the protestors staged protest outside the house of Minister for Industry & Commerce Chander Parkash Ganga and also tried to pelt stones but the cops managed to move them out of the area using mild force.

In Purmandal Morh area near Kaluchak of Jammu districts, hundreds of protestors including women and children blocked the highway by staging dharna in the middle of the highway thus disrupting the vehicular traffic since morning. The protestors also torched the used tyres in the middle of road and completely choked the traffic for couple of hours. The cops used mild cane charge and resorted to tear smoke shells in order to disperse the protestors while the mob pelted stones on the cops in the afternoon at 1.30PM.

Huge contingents of police and para military forces were rushed to the spot from Jammu.

DC Jammu Simrandeep Singh also rushed to the protest site and sought one week time to work out the whole case and arrest the accused. He suspected some foul play by some persons, including vested interest political groups to create communal tension in the district and take advantage of the situation.

Army jawans were, however, seen deployed at all the link roads connecting the highway and they laid nakas by spreading barbed wires in the middle of these roads. Army presence was also seen on the highway for smooth flow of vehicular traffic. Huge traffic jam was witnessed on both sides of the highway today due to protests and the traffic was restored on the highway in presence of police and army.

As reported, curfew was imposed and army staged flag march in Raya Morh, Jakh and Swankha Morh areas and along Jammu-Pathankot National Highway in Vijaypur tehsil of Samba district after the mob went on rampage over the issue of alleged sacrilegious act, last evening.

At-least two dozen persons including nine cops were injured while half-a-dozen vehicles including official vehicle of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba Sheetal Nanda were burnt after the mob went berserk over the issue of alleged sacrilegious act in Raya Morh area of Vijaypur. They stoned the vehicles plying on the highway and torched the vehicle parked along the road side at highway and link roads connecting the highway.

The Deputy Commissioner have to take refuge in a house to save her life with her PSO was injured while saving her. Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Vijaypur DySP Shamsher Singh Sambyal suffered fracture in his left hand, left leg of SHO Police Station Ramgarh Inspector Shiv Dev Singh was also fractured due to stone pelting by the irate mob while SHO Police Station Vijaypur Rajeshwar Singh besides six other cops sustained injuries in the clashes. Over a dozen protestors including Sarpanch of Jakh Bholla suffered wounds.

Inspector Shiv Dev Singh was today referred to Amandeep Hospital Amritsar for advanced treatment.

It is notable to mention here that some villagers recovered headless torso of an

animal from a nallah in Maroodi nallah near Jakh yesterday. They assembled along the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway at Jakh and started protest demanding arrest of the culprit involved in the alleged sacrilegious act. The protestors then blocked Jammu-Pathankot National Highway at around 6.30 PM at Raya Morh. Some of the protestors started targeting the Kashmir bound vehicles of particular community. The cops prevented them from targeting the valley based vehicles after which they started pelting stones upon the cops. The cops resorted to cane charge and tear smoke shells to disperse the mob but the situation turned more violent as they stoned several vehicles on the highway. The violent mob torched a truck bearing registration number JK02AL-3185 and several motorcycles on the highway and two cars on Raya Morh road.

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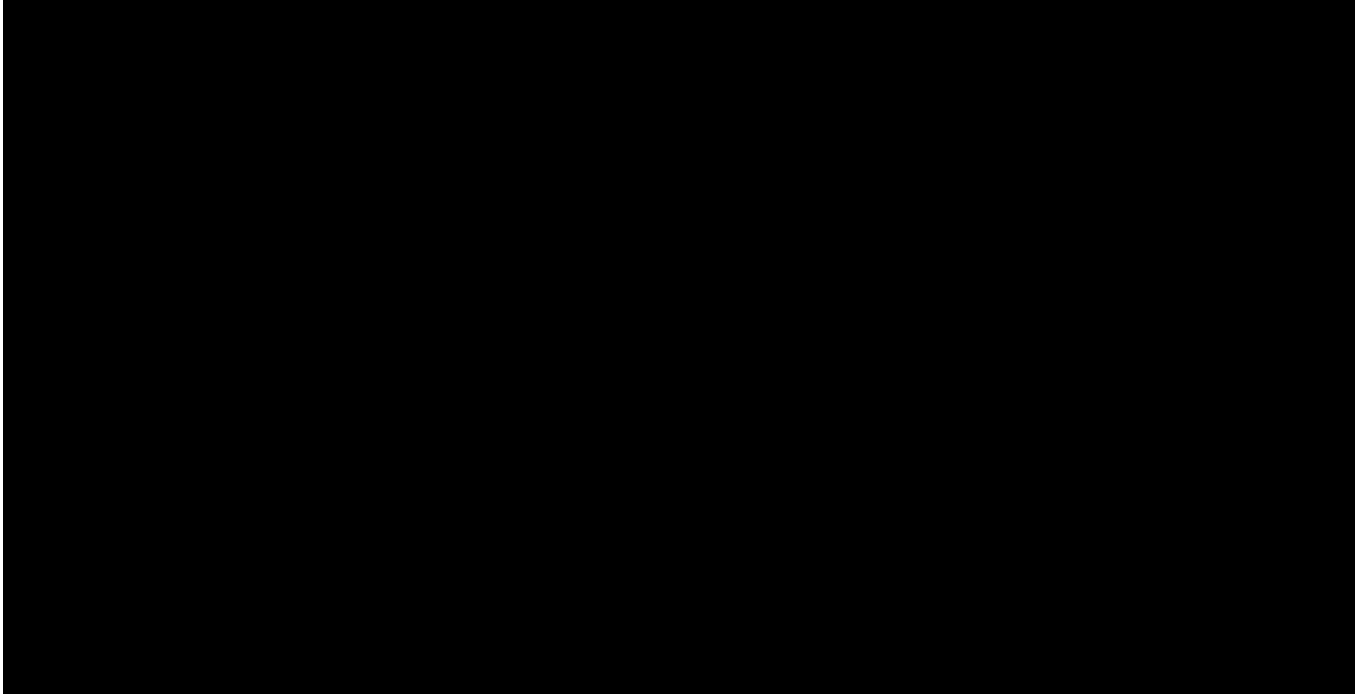

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- J&K Govt. Official website (http://jkgad.nic.in/)
- Jammu Kashmir Tourism (http://www.jktourism.org/)
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- Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board (http://www.maavaishnodevi.org/)
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UTILITY

- Train Enquiry (http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in/ntes/)
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