ANTI-DEMOLITION PROTEST TURNS VIOLENT IN BELI CHARANA

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JDA-VC, SHO among over 12 hurt

JAMMU, Dec 22: Jammu Development Authority (JDA) vice chairman and SHO Bakshi Nagar were among over a dozen injured as protest against JDA's demolition drive in Beli Charana along Niki Tawi area in the winter capital turned violent this morning.

Following violent protests by the Gujjar community joined by other locals, JDA called off its drive to remove encroachment on the state land.

Majority of the injured included police personnel who sustained injuries in stone pelting by the protesters after a joint team of the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) and police tried to remove, "illegal concrete structures" on the state land in Beli Chararana along Niki Tawi area near fourth bridge in Bhagwati Nagar early this morning. The crackdown was being carried out in compliance to Jammu and Kashmir High Court directions, which is monitoring the case of massive encroachments of state, forest and JDA lands in Jammu city. The court had pulled up the Jammu Development Authority and the revenue department for repeated massive encroachment of state land.

Officials said, around 6.30 AM this morning, the JDA team along with heavy contingent of police and CRPF personnel reached the area with JCB machines to demolish the illegal concrete structures existing there for last many years. "As the team initiated the action, the protesters, mostly comprising Gujjars and Kashmiris who had built their houses on the encroached lands, assembled in the area and

clashed with JDA officials and police. JDA team came under heavy stone-pelting from the Gujjar youth joined by other locals," they said.

They said, "The protesters pelted stones and hurled bricks on the team and their vehicles resulting in injuries to over 12 persons and damage to four vehicles. Among the injured included Station House Officer (SHO) Bakshi Nagar Naresh Sharma and top officials of JDA including Vice Chairman, Director Land Management D S Katoch and photo journalist besides police personnel. They all were rushed to the hospital."

After the violence, the JDA called off the drive to retrieve the state government land.

Those protesting the anti-encroachment drive questioned the authorities as to how they allowed construction of colonies in the area during NC, PDP and Congress rules in Jammu and Kashmir but suddenly woke up.

They alleged that power connections, water connections and other facilities were provided by successive governments so why they were being termed as illegal after years. Accusing the JDA of being selective, the protesting locals said they should have been intimated before the demolition drive. "Where were the JDA officials when we're raising the structures? Today, when we have spent lakhs on our buildings, they are out to bulldoze them. Before razing our structures, they have to demolish illegal structures raised by former ministers and MLAs. Why are these drives selective?," they questioned.

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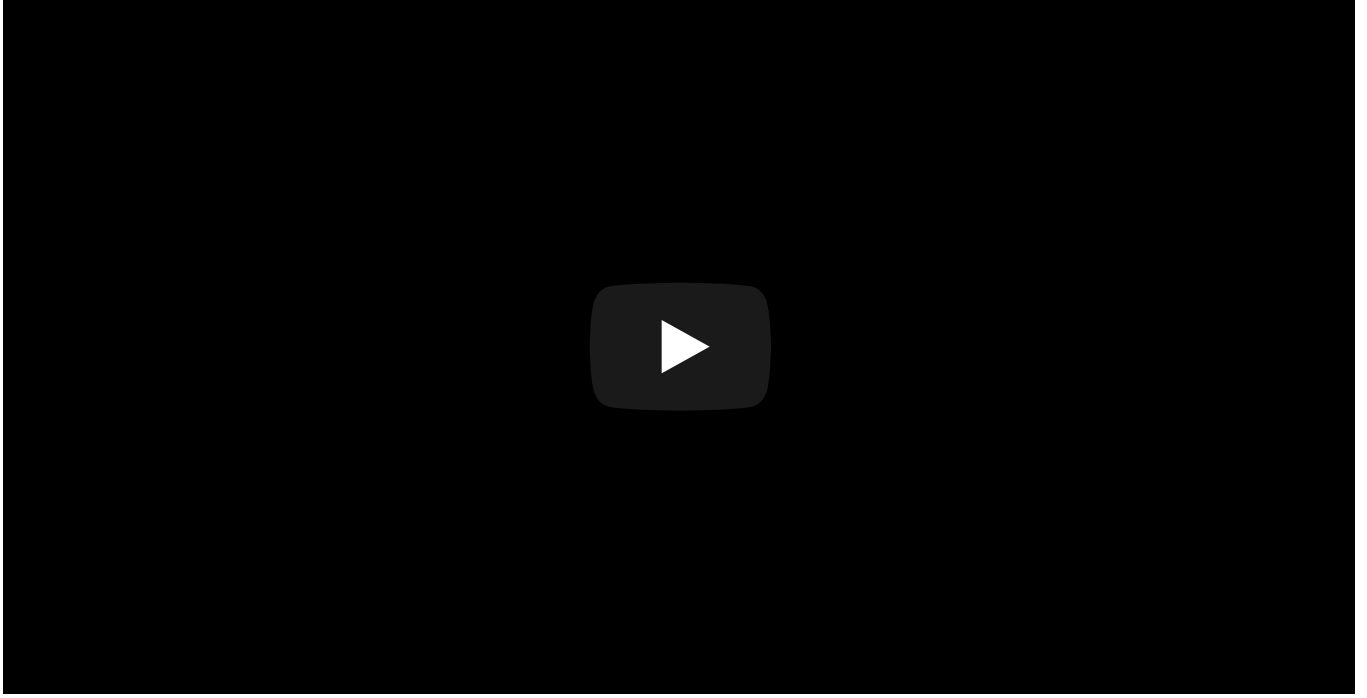
VIDEO



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J&K RELATED WEBSITES

- J&K Govt. Official website (http://jkgad.nic.in/)
- Jammu Kashmir Tourism (http://www.jktourism.org/)
- JKTDC (http://www.jktdc.co.in/)
- Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board (http://www.maavaishnodevi.org/)
- Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (http://www.shriamarnathjishrine.com/)
- Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (http://www.shivkhori.org/)

UTILITY

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

- Matavaishnodevi (http://www.matavaishnodevi.com/)
- BSNL (http://www.bsnl.in/)
- Jammu Kashmir Bank (http://www.jkbank.net/)
- State Bank of India (http://www.statebankofindia.com/)

PUBLIC INTEREST

- Passport Department (http://www.passport.gov.in/)
- Income Tax Department (http://www.incometaxindia.gov.in/Pages/default.aspx)
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EDUCATION

- Jammu University (http://www.jammuuniversity.in/)
- Jammu University Results (http://www.coeju.com/)
- JKBOSE (http://www.jkbose.co.in/)
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