

Amit Shah hits out at Cong-Ajmal alliance, calls Rahul a tourist

Excelsior Correspondent

DISPUR/GUWAHATI, Mar 31: Hitting out at the Congress-Badruddin Ajmal led AIUDF alliance, Union Home Minister Amit Shah today accused Rahul Gandhi of projecting Ajmal as

Gandhi, who is also currently touring Assam, and described him as a tourist on a pleasure trip. He said, the people of Assam can no longer be taken for granted.

Amit Shah asked the audience whether they approved of

The Bodoland accord has put an end to years of violence and killings.

Amit Shah categorically reiterated the BJP resolve to stop illegal infiltration into the region. He said, the BJP government at the Centre, in coordination with the State government, is already working on these lines and we need another five years in the State to complete this process.

Invoking response from the audience, he asked, how can people of Assam tolerate illegal infiltration by outsiders, who are not only a threat to civilization and entity of the region but also a liability on the resources. He said, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government is determined to lift the North Eastern region and the State of Assam at par with most developed regions of the country.

Amit Shah exuded confidence that BJP will come back to power in the State with an absolute majority and the development works undertaken by the Modi government will continue. He said, several projects related to protection from floods, increasing livelihood etc have already been initiated.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a public rally at Dispur, Guwahati on Wednesday. Also seen is Union DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

the identity of Assam. Do you agree with Rahul baba that Ajmal is your identity, he asked the cheering crowds. Do you want Modi's Atma Nirbhar Assam or you want Ajmal Nirbhar Assam, he asked.

Addressing a massive public rally at Dispur, attended among others by Union DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, and earlier two more rallies at Bijni and Hajo respectively, Amit Shah took a dig at Rahul

Congress entering into an alliance with Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF. He mocked Rahul Gandhi for describing Ajmal as the identity of Assam and asked the audience whether they subscribed to this view. He said, describing Ajmal as the identity of Assam is itself an affront to Assam.

The Home Minister said that the Modi Govt had promised to restore peace in Assam and we have successfully done that.



DGP Prisons J&K VK Singh during visit to Central Jail Srinagar.

DGP Prisons visits Central Jail

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: Director General of Police (DGP) Prisons J&K VK Singh today visited Central Jail here to take stock of security arrangements and to evaluate the facilities available in the jail.

IG, CRPF Charu Sinha, Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar Daljit Singh, CO 82 Battalion CRPF R Bala Krishnan and other officers were present during the visit.

The DGP inspected all barracks, hospital, interview block, welfare block, quarantine, CCTV control room, video-conferencing facility, kitchen & other sections of the jail.

He interacted with the inmates regarding parole and medical facilities available in the jail. Case of one prisoner with multiple disorders was discussed with the DGP Prisons who gave on-spot directions to the

Superintendent and medical staff for providing specialized treatment through Police Hospital, Srinagar.

DGP Prisons was informed by the Medical Officer regarding precautionary measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the jail. The DG directed the staff for strict adherence to SOP issued in this regard.

In view of rampant increase in cases of drug abuse, the DGP granted approval for establishment of a drug treatment centre inside Central Jail Srinagar in collaboration with SKIMS, Srinagar.

During the visit some officials also appeared before the DGP Prisons and they were assured that their genuine concerns will be attended to by the Headquarters. He instructed the Jail Superintendent to exercise vigil and take necessary measures for welfare of staff & inmates.



Kashmir Trade Alliance & Kashmir Car Dealers Association protesting in Srinagar

Car dealers ask RTO Kashmir to clear confusion on re-registration

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: Car dealers of Srinagar as well as the Kashmir Trade Alliance today staged a protest against the orders of the authorities which directed for the re-registration of the vehicles that have been bought from outside J&K while urging them to

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clear confusion in this regard.

Several car dealers along with other members of the Alliance appeared in the Press Enclave and raised slogans demanding justice. They said that the move will affect their business badly.

Showkat Khan, owner of the Auto Hub and who was leading the protest said that RTO should make it clear as to which vehicles have to get the NOC and which vehicles will be allowed to play on roads.

The protestors also rue what they called "double tax" and said that they will not be paying the token tax twice under any circumstances.

"The second thing is of the tax, with J&K being a UT we fall

The protestors said that neither the RTO is clear about it, nor are police. "They do not know which car to seize and which not to, and in the middle of it, the customers who have taken cars from us with valid documents and NOCs are suffering," they said.

The dealers said that they don't have any issue with the process of re-registration, but the authorities must give them some time.

"We demand breathing time, we are not against it. We are not ready to pay the double tax. Several youths have taken loans and have started their business, at this time, they are facing issues; something needs to be done," they said.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha meeting ex-servicemen, Brig (Retd) Anil Gupta and Brig (Retd) Harcharan Singh.

Ex-servicemen call on Lt Governor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: Ex-Servicemen, Brig. (Retd.) Anil Gupta and former Director Rajya Sainik Board, Brig. (Retd.) Harcharan Singh today called on the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan.

They apprised the Lt Governor about various welfare issues of Ex-Servicemen pertaining to formation of Ministry of Sainik Welfare Department, Jobs to families of Martyrs, ex-Gratia grant to family of Battle casualty, reservation for ESM in Government jobs, reservation in Belt forces and special recruitment drive for wards of ex-Servicemen in Army and CAPF.

The Lt Governor, while interacting with the Ex-Servicemen lauded the Army

personnel for their dedicated services to providing a safe and secure environment for the people.

He observed that the J&K Government is committed towards the welfare of the Ex-Servicemen and their family members. Every effort will be made to safeguard their interests and for the redressal of their genuine grievances, added the Lt Governor.



Teachers protesting in Srinagar. — Excelsior/Shakeel

Teachers protest against DSEK, project issues

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: The teachers of the School Education Department today staged a protest here demanding that their pending salaries must be released while their regularization orders must also be released without any delay.

Several such teachers from different parts of the Valley—who are working in the department for last more than 15 years—appeared in the Press Enclave and said that they are facing many hardships due to the non-payment of their salaries for the last two years while they also raised slogans in favour of their demands.

"We are working in the department for the last 15 years. Our files under the Grade 2, 3 are lying pending for a long now; we are being told that the issue will

Renowned film-maker Subhash Kapoor meets Principal Secretary to LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: Renowned Film-maker, Subhash Kapoor today met the Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar at Raj Bhavan.

The film-maker, accompanied by actor Vineet Kumar discussed with the Principal Secretary about his upcoming web-series "Maharani" to be shot at different locations of Jammu for 5 days. He informed that around 100 local artists from the Theater and Cultural Department are being roped in for the web-series.

Assuring full support of the Administration to the film-maker, the Principal Secretary to LG, Nitishwar Kumar observed that the Government is making best possible efforts towards

achieving the creation of a vibrant film ecosystem in the UT, besides developing suitable environment to make J&K a favourite destination for film-shooting.

local artists to showcase their talent and capabilities on such a big platform", said the Principal Secretary, Nitishwar Kumar.

Jolly LLB fame Director, Subhash Kapoor is in Jammu for



Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Nitishwar Kumar meeting film-maker Subhash Kapoor and actor Vineet Kumar.

"J&K has a vast pool of artistic talent. The shooting of the new web-series in Jammu will provide opportunities to the

the shooting of his upcoming web-series starring Huma Qureshi, Sohumi Shah, Amit Sial and Vineet Kumar.

DC reviews arrangements for District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee elections

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: Deputy Commissioner, Anshul Garg today convened a meeting to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee elections 2021.

Threadbare discussions were held on various arrangements, including holding of special camps for disposal of claims and objections, ramps, changing location of polling stations etc.

While reviewing the arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure basic minimum facilities at the polling stations and change the location of those polling stations where deficiencies of basic minimum facilities have been noticed during physical verification. He asked for identification of feasible buildings for the smooth conduct of elections.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to identify sensi-

tive/hypersensitive polling stations so that additional security forces can be deployed there to avoid any unwanted incident. He also asked them to ensure that guidelines and SoPs regarding COVID-19 like maintaining social distancing and face mask are strictly adhered to.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked the concerned officers to organize special camps on 2nd and 4th of April 2021 for disposal of claims and objections. He said that all Sikh voters who have attained the age of 18 as of 01.01.2021 but don't exist in the draft electoral roll or not correctly registered or there is any objection with regard to the registration of any voter in the electoral roll can file their claim and objections for inclusion, deletion, transposition, correction of names in the DGPC electoral roll. He urged all concerned, especially Sikh community of Jammu district, to visit these special camps so that error free electoral rolls can be prepared.

17 suspended in various health institutions, salary withheld

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Mar 31: Seventeen staff members of various health institutions across district Poonch was suspended and their salaries withheld following surprise inspections carried out by Magistrates during which they were found absent from their duties illegally.

During the intervening night of March 29 and 30, several Magistrates including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars/Naib Tehsildars conducted surprise inspections of various health institutions of the district within their respective jurisdictions.

During inspections, some of the health institutions were found locked by the inspecting Magistrates and in some institutions gross absenteeism was found while as in some institutions, no proper duty roster was maintained.

Accordingly, Deputy Commissioner Poonch has placed the absentees under suspension with immediate effect and also withheld their salaries till further orders, pending enquiry into their conduct.

The absentees are Sanjeet Sharma (Lab Technician), Gulnaz (FMPH SNCU), Mast Ram

(Dental Assistant), Ruksana (NHM Staff Nurse, Labour Room) and Satinder Pal (Driver) posted at SDH Mendhar, Harpreet Singh (Junior Pharmacist) and Waqar Ahmed (Driver) of PHC Mankote, Mohd Maroof (Nursing Orderly) and Sakinder Hayat (SW) of PHC Bhatadurian, Zubair Ahmed of PHC Chandak, Aftab Qureshi (Junior Pharmacist) and Mohd Latief (Safaiwala) of PHC Buzlaiz (Junior Pharmacist) and Mohd Shabir (Dental Assistant), Mohd Hafiz (Driver) and Pharmacists-Ahmad Din, Mohd Sadiq and NP Singh of SDH Mandi.

AS per the order, SDM Surankote/Mendhar have been appointed as enquiry officers in their respective jurisdictions as ACR Poonch for Mandi, Sawjan, Loran and Chandak to conduct thorough enquiry under rules and they shall submit their reports within two weeks for further necessary action.

In its order, the DC has also sought explanations from CMO Poonch and BMOs Mandi/Surankote/Mendhar as to why the action as warranted under relevant service rules should not be taken against them for lacking the supervisory role and ensuring the smooth functioning of the health institutions inspected by the Magistrates.



Casual workers of Estates Department sitting on hunger strike at the office of Deputy Director, Jammu. — Excelsior/Rakesh

Hunger strike of Estate Deptt casual workers enters 10th day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: The hunger strike of casual labour of Estates Department entered 10th day today.

The casual labourers of Estates Department have been on hunger strike for the last nine days i.e. since March 22 in support of their demands including regularization of their services at the office of Deputy Director, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Mukhtyar Ahmad Wani, chairman of casual labour union said the casual labourers of the Department have been living a miserable life and are unable to meet the day-to-day expenses of their families as they are getting a meager salary of Rs 6700 per month.

"In the hope that the higher authorities of the Department will wake up from slumber and regularize their services, casual labourers of the Department have been sitting on day and night hunger strike since March 22 but the no positive response has come till date from the authorities," Wani added.

Further stating that the posts which are still lying vacant in the Deputy Director Office Jammu, Estate Division Jammu, Centre Furniture Store Civil Secretariat Jammu, should be filled by appointing the casual workers, Wani hoped that the hunger strike of the casual labourers would not go futile.

He said though the charge of Estates Department is lying with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha yet the casual workers of the Department are struggling for justice and no body is paying heed to their genuine demand of regularization of their services.

President of the Union Purshotam Lal, vice president

Lone asks GoI to redeem all solemn pledges made to people of J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 31: The National Conference Member of Parliament, Akbar Lone today said that in order to foster long lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir, it is inevitable for New Delhi to redeem all solemn pledges made to its people from time to time.

While addressing a gathering of party functionaries from three constituencies of District Bandipura, Akbar Lone said that the dream of putting the region back on the track of peace and development is unattainable unless New Delhi redeems all its promises which it had made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947.

The NC MP said that the measures undertaken by New Delhi on August 5 were in contravention to the successive agreements between the Union of India and the State. "All the solemn pledges right from the Delhi agreement of 1952, and successive Beg-Parthasarthy accord were also thrown to winds while taking the drastic steps of August 5. Far from delivering on its promises and pledges, the ruling dispensation chose to back-peddle on them in a manner not so characteristic of the country's democratic values

and supremacy of Constitution and due procedures established by it," he said.

Welcoming the renewed Indo-Pak diplomatic outreach, Akbar Lone said the olive branches shown by the Indian and Pakistani PMs calling for cordial relations between the two neighbouring countries has invigorated a new hope in people about furtherance of long lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir and the entire sub-continent as well. He said the renewed engagement vindicates the long-standing stand of the National Conference party on the inevitability of dialogue between India and Pakistan.

He said the GoI has understood the situation and started taking corrective measures saying the need of the hour also calls for taking such initiatives vis-à-vis Jammu and Kashmir by restoring all the abridged constitutional, and democratic rights to the people of Jammu and Kashmir fore with.

On the occasion, party leaders including Nazir Ahmed Khan Gurezi, Mir Ghulam Rasool Naz, Adv Nazir Ahmed Malik, local DDC members, Women Wing, and YNC functionaries were also present. The meet also saw participation of party's block and Halqa level functionaries.

ACB produces charge-sheet against X-En, six others

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: Anti Corruption Bureau produced chargesheet against then Executive Engineer (X-En) PWD (R&B) and six others for executing non tendered work and causing undue benefit to contractors.

As per official spokesman, ACB produced chargesheet against Sunil Kumar Gupta, then Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Spl Sub. Division Mahore, Reasi (now retired as SE), Lakhdheep Singh Jamwal, son of Mohan Singh of Mishriwala Jammu, the then Assistant Accounts Officer in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Spl Sub Division Mahore, Reasi and private beneficiaries (all contractors) namely Chatter Singh, son of Mani Ram of Kanthi Reasi, Abdul Hamid, son of Mohammadoo of Bagha Reasi, Mohammad Haif, son of Abdul Rashid of Dharmari Reasi, Farman Ali, son of Juma of Dharmari Reasi and Mohammad Afzal, son of Jamal Din of Bagha Reasi in a case registered under FIR Number 17/2013 under Sections 5(1) (d) r/w 5(2) J&K PC Act Svt. 2006 and Section 120-B, 201 RPC registered in Police Station VOJ (now ACBJ) before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Udhampur.

The instant case was regis-

tered on the basis of outcome of verification conducted by VOJ (now ACB) into the allegations that X-En (R&B) Special Division Mahore has shown executed 162 works departmentally during financial year 2010-11 involving total amount of Rs 2,53,87,520 without inviting any tenders, thereby defeating the purpose of rationality of rates and got works executed through professional contractors and made payment without deducting service tax.

Verification further revealed that Ex-En R&B Special Sub Division Mahore Reasi namely Sunil Gupta had abused his official position and allotted the works amounting to Rs.2.53 crores approximately to contractors under the garb of departmental execution and further benefited them by not deducting service tax while releasing payments in their favour.

After completing the investigation of case, sanction for launching of prosecution of the accused in-service public servant was also obtained from the competent authority and accordingly Anti-Corruption Bureau produced charge sheet before Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Udhampur.

The next date of hearing in the case has been fixed for May 1, 2021.

DGP sanctions retirement gift of over Rs 1.60 crore

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 31: As a token of appreciation for their services, the Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh has sanctioned retirement gift of over Rs 1.60 crore in favour of two hundred and nineteen personnel of J&K Police who are attaining superannuation or voluntarily retiring today.

Rs 75000 each has been sanctioned in favour of nine gazetted officers, one hundred and sixty eight non-gazetted officers, thirty six lower subordinates and six followers. The personnel belong to different units and wings of the department.

Retirement gift of Rs 75,000 each is sanctioned to police personnel from the Contributory Police Welfare fund at the time of his/her retirement. The gift serves as a token of appreciation for his/her services rendered to the department.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Government of India

In accordance with Govt. of India Gazette Notification no. 2854 dated 04.03.2014, the Central Government has levied fee for use of completed four lane section from Km. 16.350 to Km. 65.00 of NH-44 in the UT of J&K. Accordingly, Revised User Fee rates to be applicable from 01-04-2021 (0800 hours) at Toll Plaza at km 16.400 near village Lakanpur in Kathua district for the year 2021-22 are as under:

| Type of Vehicle | Single Journey (in Rs.) (Through Fastag only) | Return Journey within 24 hrs (Through Fastag only) | Monthly pass (50 Journey) (Through Fastag only) | Commercial vehicles registered within the District (excluding vehicle plying under National permit) (in Rupees) (Through Fastag only) |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Car, Jeep, Van or LMV | 90 | 130 | 2945 | 45 |
| LCV, LGV or Mini bus | 145 | 215 | 4755 | 70 |
| Bus or Truck (2 axle) | 300 | 450 | 9960 | 150 |
| Three Axle Commercial Vehicle | 325 | 490 | 10865 | 165 |
| HCM or EME or MAV (Four to six axle) | 470 | 705 | 15620 | 235 |
| Oversized vehicles (Seven or more axles) | 570 | 855 | 19015 | 285 |

2. The rates for monthly pass applicable for local Persons owning non-commercial vehicles, residing within the distance of 20 Km from above toll plaza for the year 2021-22 shall be Rs. 285/- subject to revision every year as per the provisions of the NH Fee Rules 2008 (as Amended).

3. Mechanical vehicles loaded in excess of permissible limit shall be charged as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (Govt. of India)

4. Other details may be obtained from the office of the toll plaza.

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YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD IS HIGHLY SOLICITED.