

'Under PM Modi; Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Dogra's dream fulfilled'

Total peace will be restored in J&K in coming years, major credit will go to CRPF: Shah

Calls for proactive operations against militants in Kashmir

Stresses on choking logistical, financial support system of ultras

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, Mar 19: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today declared that complete peace will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir within

Dogra, a tall leader of Jammu and Kashmir, has been fulfilled with abrogation of special status of J&K as both led agitations for that purpose. "Whether it's the menace of Naxalism, Pakistan-sponsored

Prime Minister, the CRPF has forcefully worked in all three areas. "Within the next few years, I'm confident that permanent peace will be restored at all these places and perhaps there will be no need to deploy CRPF there. And, if this happens, major credit will go to the CRPF," Shah said while addressing 83rd Raising Day Parade of the CRPF at MA Stadium here.

Shah said the CRPF has played an appreciable role across the country and asserted that there will be no terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and anti-peace elements in the North East, the CRPF has been playing very crucial role at all these three places in tackling the problems and maintaining peace. After Narendra Modi took over as the



Union Home Minister Amit Shah takes salute at CRPF Raising Day at MA Stadium, Jammu on Saturday. Another pic on page 6. — Excelsior/Rakesh

few years and major credit for this will go to the para-military Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He said that the dream of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who sacrificed his life here, and Pt Prem Nath

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Hails LG, Admn for crusade against corruption

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today lauded Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration in their crusade against corruption and taking developmental activities to new heights (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

"As Home Minister, I congratulate the bravery shown by you in the violence-hit areas

CRPF parade held first time outside Delhi Hqrs

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) conducted its Raising Day parade outside its Delhi headquarters for the first time today with Union Home Minister Amit Shah taking salute at the march past in Jammu.

Flanked by CRPF Director General Kuldip Singh, the Home Minister handed over Gallantry Medals to the force personnel

of the three regions. It is because of your professional handling of the situation that the (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Charges framed against Saeed, Salahuddin etc

Shah, Malik, Rashid, Masrat, others received terror funds: NIA

NEW DELHI, Mar 19:

In the Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Court after discussion of evidence said that it prima facie establishes that accused Shabir Shah, Yasin Malik, Er. Rashid, Altaf Fantoosh, Masrat and Hurriyat were the direct recipients of terror funds.

The court also noted that prima facie there existed a criminal conspiracy pursuant to which large-scale protests, resulting in violence and arson at a massive scale, were orchestrated. The court noted that prima facie they were not following the Gandhian path but their plan was straight from the playbook of likes of Hitler and the march of the brown shirts.

secessionist activities that disturbed the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Court also ordered framing of charges against Kashmiri politician and former MLA Rashid Engineer, Businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Bitta Karate, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Avatar Ahmad Shah, Naem Khan, Bashir Ahmed Bhat alias Peer Saifullah and several others under various sections of Indian Penal Code and UAPA including criminal conspiracy, waging war against the country, unlawful activities, etc.

However, the court also clarified that whatever has been expressed in the order is a prima facie opinion although, a detailed discussion of the evidence had to be done because the arguments were advanced by both sides in much detail.

According to the NIA various terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Jaish-e-Mohd. (JeM) etc., with the support of ISI of Pakistan, perpetrated violence in the Valley by attacking civilians and (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

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According to the NIA charge sheet, JKLF chief Yasin Malik had set up an elaborate structure and mechanism across the world to raise funds for carrying out terrorist and other unlawful activities in Jammu and Kashmir in the name of "freedom struggle".

The NIA court has ordered framing of charges against Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, Kashmiri separatist leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah, Masrat Alam and others under various sections of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in a case pertaining to terrorist and

the NIA court further said that accused Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali was one of the main conductors for the flow of this terror funding and accused Naval Kishore Kapoor had played an active part in facilitating it.

Imran's party issues show cause notice to 14 lawmakers

ISLAMABAD, Mar 19:

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) today has issued show-cause notices to 14 of its lawmakers on grounds of alleged defection and asked to submit an unconditional apology and rejoin the party ranks within 7 days, local media reported.

The Members of National Assembly (MNA) who have been served the notices include (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

ACB charge sheets 19 officials, 8 beneficiaries

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today produced a charge sheet against 19 public servants and 8 beneficiaries in illegal and fraudulent appointments and regularization in PHE in North Kashmir district of Baramulla.

The ACB said that a charge sheet was filed in case FIR No. 12/2010 PS VOK (Now ACB) against 27 accused persons (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

Only 3 COVID cases in J&K, 5 in Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Mar 19: In a major decline in COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir, only three persons tested positive in the UT today while 15 cases were registered yesterday.

Ladakh recorded eight cases during past two days. Of three cases, two were reported from Kashmir and one in Jammu while among yesterday (Contd on page 6 Col 6)

Former J&K Bank chairman, 18 others booked in Rs 800 cr scam

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) has booked former chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Mushtaq Ahmad Shaikh and 18 others for a Rs 800 crore loss to the bank caused due to loans to REI Agro, which were issued in violation of guidelines, without tangible security and on fake documents.

In addition to officials of the bank, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also booked REI Agro chairman Sanjay Jhunjhunwala, and Vice President and Managing Director Sandeep Jhunjhunwala.

The case was earlier probed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Jammu and Kashmir and it

had found during its preliminary inquiry that loans worth Rs 800 crore were sanctioned to the group on the basis of fake documents between 2011 and 2013 and in violation of guidelines.

The Mumbai-based Mahim branch of the bank had sanctioned Rs 550 crore of loans while the Vasant Vihar branch in Delhi had sanctioned Rs 139 crore in their favour against the supplier bill discounting facility and takeovers.

The company had approached the bank's Mahim and Vasant Vihar branches for sanctioning of advances for making payment to farmers as per terms and conditions laid down in the loan sanction order of the bank.

The farmers were supposed to provide paddy to the compa-

ny, in turn the company had to sell the produce (paddy) and the remittance thereof had to be deposited in the bank as instalments against advances received by the company.

The bank authorities and the company knew that the loan amount had to be disbursed among farmers for production of paddy.

But this was brazenly violated by the company in connivance by the bank authorities who allowed disbursement of loan through Joint Liabilities Groups (JLGs), though the company had already received paddy and was not entitled to disburse the loan under such circumstances.

As per probe conducted during PE, the JLGs were in fact (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

take on rival parties. Playing down the meeting, he told reporters that it "may be news for you but we keep meeting in the Congress president at various intervals".

"Mrs Gandhi keeps having discussions with leaders to strengthen the organisation... A few days ago the working committee had met and suggestions were asked as to how to strengthen the Congress party and what were the reasons for the defeat (in five Assembly polls). I had also given my suggestions," he said.

However, it is not possible to record and remember all suggestions, he added.

Azad said he reiterated suggestions to strengthen the Congress organisation. (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Martyrs' kin given appointment orders PM committed to welfare of securitymen in J&K: HM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: The Government of India led by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is committed to the welfare of security personnel of Jammu & Kashmir.

Displaying this commitment, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah handed over appointment orders on compassionate grounds in Jammu last night to the next of kin of four security personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police who were martyred in terrorist incidents in the Union Territory.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha; Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh and DGP of Jammu & Kashmir



Union Home Minister Amit Shah handing over appointment letter to a kin of JKP martyr.

Police Dilbag Singh were present on the occasion. Shah later interacted with the next of kin of the martyred security personnel. He said the entire nation is proud of the courage and commitment shown by these brave security personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Shah handed over appointment orders on compassionate grounds to Pooja Devi as Panchayat Secretary in Jammu district. She is wife of late Sgt Rohit Kumar, who was appointed as constable in the Jammu & Kashmir Executive Police in June 2011. He remained associated with counter insurgency operations from the beginning of his

Azad reaches Jammu on 2-day visit, meets delegations

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: Former Union Minister and senior All India Congress Committee leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad arrived here this afternoon.

Party sources said that Azad, who reached here this afternoon from the Union capital, straightaway moved to his residence in Gandhi Nagar area. He met several party delegations and groups of social/ trade organizations at his residence till late this evening and discussed various issues related to the party and current scenario in the Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad will attend a social function being held at Garden Estate, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu tomorrow at 11.30 am and then will move to New Delhi in an

afternoon flight, the sources added. Meanwhile, Azad met Congress president Sonia Gandhi yesterday and said he conveyed suggestions to

Calls on Sonia, gives suggestions

strengthen the party, a day after members of the dissenting group held a flurry of meetings over measures to revamp the organisation.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Sonia Gandhi, Azad said it was a good meeting with the Congress president with the discussion centred on how to prepare and fight unitedly the forthcoming Assembly polls to

HC directs DC for demarcation of migrant land

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The High Court has directed the District Magistrate Anantnag for demarcation of migrant land and other parties and hand over the same to the rightful owners as per their entitlement and observed that it will ensure protection and preservation of the migrant property.

The Division Bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Mohan Lal while passing the direction to District Magistrate Anantnag for demarcation of land said the act of the court should prejudice none.

Court said that in order to ensure justice, Revenue authorities are asked to demarcate the land of the appellants and that of the migrants with reference (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Alive to threat of drones from across border: DG BSF

Excelsior Correspondent

Both sides abiding by ceasefire agreement

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 19: BSF is alive to the use of drones from across the border for smuggling of weapons and narcotics and is fully prepared to thwart any such attempt.

"We are completely mindful of whatever is required to maintain the complete sanctity and integrity of our borders and thwart nefarious designs of the anti-national elements," BSF

Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

Singh, along with BSF Jammu Inspector General D K Boora, was visiting Suchetgarh sector along the International Border here for the retreat ceremony at Border Outpost Octroi, which was introduced last year to boost border tourism.

Singh had reached here on Friday for a three-day visit to review security along the IB and the Line of Control.

"We are placing (anti-drone) systems and in the coming times we will be able to neutralize any

threat," Singh said on the sidelines of the event.

"We are fully prepared and I am here to review the preparation (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

BSF DG Pankaj Kumar Singh during his visit to a forward area in Jammu on Saturday.

'Muslims, Sikhs too targeted by same gun'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: The National Conference has broken its silence on 'The Kashmir Files' saying while the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits was a "stain on Kashmiriyat", the movie was far from the truth as the film makers have ignored the sacrifices of the Muslims and Sikhs who had also suffered from militancy.

Vice president of the party and former Chief Minister of

Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah said that if 'The Kashmir Files' was a commercial movie, no one has an issue, but if the film makers claim that it is based on reality, then the facts

are the other way round. "When the unfortunate incident of Kashmiri Pandit migration took place, Farooq Abdullah was not the Chief Minister. Jagmohan was the Governor. It was V P Singh's Government at the Centre which was supported by the BJP from outside," Abdullah told reporters in Damal Hanji Pora of Kulgam district of South Kashmir.

Abdullah wondered why this fact was kept away from the movie. "Don't manipulate the truth. It's not the right thing. "If Kashmiri Pandits have fallen victims to terrorism, we

have utmost regret about that, but let us not forget the sacrifices of Muslims and Sikhs who were also targeted by the same gun," he said.

Abdullah said that some of those from the majority community were yet to return.

"Today, there is a need to create an atmosphere where we could bring back all those who had left their homes and not create a communal divide," he said.

The former Chief Minister said an atmosphere would be created for the return of Kashmiri Pandits. "But I do not think that those people who have made this movie, want them (Kashmiri Pandits) to return. Through this picture, they want Pandits to remain outside always," he said.

Abdullah later took to (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

2 LeT militant associates arrested in Shopian Non-local labourer shot at, 2 CRPF men injured in grenade attack

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 19: Militants this evening shot at and injured a non-local labourer in Arihal area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district while two security men were injured in twin grenade attacks and two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba were arrested.

An official said that the militants fired upon a non-local labourer identified as Mohammad Akram son of Abdul Salam, resident of Binjor UP at Arihal area of southern Pulwama. He was injured in the attack and was immediately rushed to hospital for treatment.

A case has been registered and investigations are being conducted. Security forces have cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

In the meantime, a CRPF trooper was injured as militants hurled two grenades at paramilitary forces at Shopian and Tral areas of South Kashmir this evening.

An official said that militants hurled grenade on a CRPF camp at Zainapora Shopian and in the blast at least one CRPF trooper, dog handler Amit Kumar of 178 Bn, was injured.

Also, a grenade was tossed at CRPF Camp at Nowdal Tral area of southern Pulwama district this evening. The official said that two CRPF men were injured in the

twin grenade blast. He said that cases have been registered and further investigations are underway.

A police spokesman said that two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were arrested in Shopian yesterday.

He said that on a specific information, a joint naka was placed at village Aloora by Police Shopian, 34 RR and 178 Bn CRPF.

"During naka, movement of two suspects was noticed, who were asked to stop, but they started fleeing away from the spot. The alert troops chased them and arrested both the suspects," he said.

During questioning, they dis- (Contd on page 6 Col 7)