

# Anti-encroachment drive sparks protests; people burn tyres, block highway

**\*Open FIR registered against protesting mob**

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 27: A large number of structures including Former Minister's guest house and dairy processing unit were demolished during anti-encroachment drives here today, triggering protests by people who blocked the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Bhatindi crossing for several hours.

Several protesters also claimed to have legal documents for the land in question.

However, an open FIR has been registered against the protesting mob at Police Station Bahu Fort for blocking the vehicular movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and investigation has been initiated.

Meanwhile, the guest house and a dairy processing unit of

on the social media, Taj Mohi-ud-Din refuted the allegations that the demolished property belonged to him and said, "this is not true. The matter is disputed and is in the court of law".

"The property and structures are in the name of some of my relatives and they have legally purchased the land and I have no connection with the property", he said adding that an attempt has been made to malign his image by some vested interests.

In one more anti-encroachment drive, 12 kanals of prime forest land was retrieved on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Mohmaya Temple. 17 concrete structures were also dismantled during the drive.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference condemned the razing of dozens of structures, including buildings near Bhatindi crossing on the Narwal Bypass, terming the action part of the larger plan of ruling BJP to disenfranchise every segment of

# Altaf Bukhari for end to political alienation among youth of J&K

**Excelsior Correspondent**

SRINAGAR, Mar 27: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari addressed a workers convention at Shopian and discussed about the various linchpins that need to be held firmly towards forming a strong leadership all across the region.

During the event, Bukhari stressed on the end of political exploitation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who has been used as vote bank till date by various traditional political parties.

"To proceed with the aim of development in the region, we need to treat the people of Kashmir as equal stakeholders and not merely for the purpose of gaining votes. We need to make sure that their demands and rights

**\* Watch video on [www.excelnews.com](http://www.excelnews.com)**

are fulfilled with dignity and honesty all across the region," he said.

Stressing on safeguarding the interests of the people, he called for pronto measures for seeking equitable development and empowerment measures to boost the dignity and empowerment of the general masses especially the youth.

Expressing resentment over the lack of development in the field of education, health and other sectors, Bukhari said that Apni Party would strive its best to provide all the basic facilities to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have been used as a scapegoat till date.

Taking into consideration the employment avenues, he also sought measures for putting an end to the corruption in the entire region and ensuring transparency.

The one day workers convention was attended by various leaders of Apni Party, including Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, Vice President Zafar Hassan Manhas, Vice chairman DDC and General Secretary Youth Wing Irfan Manhas and

others. Speaking on the occasion, Ghulam Hassan Mir stressed on the importance of strengthening the party at grassroot level. He said the members must advocate a single policy alternative if the party has to succeed. The need for direction and an individual's



Altaf Bukhari, Ghulam Hassan Mir and others at Apni Party workers convention at Shopian on Sunday.

sense of direction is equally important to pave the way towards attaining collective success.

Zafar Hassan Manhas said that the LG administration needs to provide the proper democratic values in the valley to ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir don't feel alienated from the system.

Abdul Majeed Padder said the Apni Party was committed to secure the rights of J&K people.

Besides, Ghulam Hassan Khan, Qayoom Shah, Gowhar, Athar Reshi, Bilgees Jan, Irfan Manhas, Ch Fazal Deen, Ab Rashid Lone, Nigeena Akhter, Yasmeen Jan, Tahir Mir and many other leaders addressed the day-long convention.

# J&K transporters to go on 'Chakka Jam' strike on Mar 30

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 27: All the private transporters and transport operators in Jammu and Kashmir have decided to observe complete strike on March 30 to lodge their protest against the attitude of neglect on the part of LG's Administration.

Addressing a press conference here today, president of All J&K Transport Welfare Association,

**\* Watch video on [www.excelnews.com](http://www.excelnews.com)**

Vijay Singh Chib said that despite several representations to the J&K Administration and even to the LG and Chief Secretary, the officers at the helm of affairs have remained unmoved and unconcerned over the issues of the transporters who faced worst situation during Covid lock down and also during bandhs after abrogation of Article 370 and division of J&K into two UTs.

He said while several Governments in other states gave concessions to the transporters whose vehicles remained non-operational for months together but J&K Administration provided no relief to the transporters. The recent orders of the Transport Department to force transporters to deposit passenger tax and other pending taxes has shocked the transporters. Despite assurances by the officers at the helm of affairs nothing has been done for them.

Majority of the transporters are not in position to pay their bank instalments and pending dues to make their vehicles operational.

The goods carrier operators and bus operators despite adverse situation during COVID lock down, fully cooperated with the Government in ensuring supplies to the various areas and carried stranded people. They worked hard at the cost of their health but these poor people were never compensated for the job. Many public

tax. The transporters are not in position to pay all the pending taxes. Some relief may be provided to them and time period of lock down be exempted.

Chib said due to harsh stance of the Government the transporters in the entire J&K from Lakhanpur to Uri in Kashmir have decided to observe complete 'Chakka Jam'



All J&K Transport Welfare Association president, Vijay Singh Chib addressing press conference in Jammu on Sunday.

—Excelsior/Rakesh

transport vehicles remained non-operational for about two years, but the Department is demanding tax of that period also which is very unfair and unjustified.

Now, as per new order all the commercial vehicles are being phased out after 20 years in Jammu and Srinagar. The Transport Department has also issued order for installing vehicle tracking devices in all commercial vehicles, which is against the Circular instructions issued by the MORTH. Yet another order has been issued by the department to launch intensive drive to collect Passenger tax and mentioning that route permit of vehicles will not be renewed until they pay passenger

strike on March 30. He sought intervention of LG into the matter. Prominent members of the All J&K Transport Welfare Association who attended the conference included- Bashir Ahmed Bhat (Chairman-Kashmir Union), Mohd Yousuf, Mohd Shafi-both from Kashmir, Bharat Bhushan-president Chhamb Route Bus Union, Sher Singh-Poonch Route Union, Gurdeep Singh- Banihal Route Bus Union, Kuldip Singh-Kathua Bus Union, Lov Singh Chib-RS Pura Route Bus Union, Niranjan Singh-president Minibus Union, Devinder Choudhary president Taxi Union, Shanti Saroop-president Autorikshaw Union and



Guest house of former minister and others being demolished during anti encroachment drive in Jammu outskirts on Sunday. (UNI)

As per official sources, dozens of structures, including buildings and shops, were demolished partially or completely near Bhatindi crossing on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the early morning drive by the Revenue Department amid heavy deployment of police and paramilitary forces.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people took to streets and blocked the highway by burning tyres and staging a sit-in against the 'selective drive'.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Shyambir had a tough time in maintaining law and order and was seen persuading the protesters to lift the blockade with an assurance that the administration will look into their grievances sympathetically.

"We suspended the drive on the public demand and asked them to form a committee to raise their issues at the right forum. We are here to address their genuine issues," he told reporters at the scene of the protest.

Asked about the demand for compensation for the damage, he said the issue of compensation will be decided during deliberations with the committee.

Sources said that the drive was carried out in accordance with the laid down rules to reclaim the state land illegally occupied by the people and there was no violation on part of the administration.

However, the protesters accused the district administration for "selective drives" to dislodge a particular community.

"They came around 5 am and started the demolition drive without any prior notice. The law is equal for everyone, but why this selective drive in our areas? Was the Government sleeping when the buildings were raised?", one of the protesters said. He said properties worth crores were damaged.

"We have electricity connections and ration cards. There is no justification for the drive. It is nothing but hooliganism", he

# 6 COVID cases in J&K, none in Ladakh

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Mar 27: Jammu and Kashmir today reported six COVID positive cases while after a long time the UT of Ladakh didn't report any fresh positives.

Kashmir reported four new cases and Jammu division recorded two.

Both cases in Jammu division were logged in Jammu district while rest nine districts didn't report any cases.

With six recoveries, number of active positive cases in the region has come down to 24.

Ladakh UT didn't report any COVID positive cases today. The UT now has 18 active positive cases, all in Leh district.

mer Minister were among many illegal structures demolished.

Police sources said that the officials from Revenue Department launched anti-encroachment drive at Kamaila Chak area of Satwari and demolished 'illegally' constructed guest

**\* Watch video on [www.excelnews.com](http://www.excelnews.com)**

house and dairy processing unit of former Congress Minister Taj Mohi-ud-Din, a shop and other structures.

"The law and order situation was normal during the drive", the sources said.

Hours after anti encroachment drive carried out in Kamaila Chak area of Satwari in Kashmir here, former Jammu and Kashmir Minister, Taj Mohi-ud-Din has said that the structures demolished was not owned by him.

In a video message circulated

the society in J&K.

In a joint statement Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta, Deputy Chief Spokesperson Dr Gagan Bhagat, Javed Rana, Ajay Sadhotra, Sajad Kitchloo, Ajaz Jan, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, Abdul Gani Malik, Babu Ram Paul, Jagjeevan Lal, Mohammad Hussain, Qazi Jalal-Ud-Din and many others said the authoritarian attitude of the authorities on subjecting the aged, old, sick, women and children to the worst type of miseries is a human rights violation, which cannot be condoned at any level.

Amrit Wattal, Aam Admi Party (AAP) Youth President Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha constituency condemned the anti-encroachment drive in different areas of Jammu. Amrit Wattal criticized the authorities for conducting anti-encroachment drives without serving any prior notices to the people.

al liabilities under MGNREGA within the current financial year. The Div Com exhorted the officers to work in a missionary mode so that benefits of the department schemes aimed at upliftment of weaker sections, old and infirm, differently abled persons and students percolate

# Div Com reviews annual achievements of beneficiary oriented schemes

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Mar 27: Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raghav Langer today reviewed the implementation and annual achievements of flagship beneficiary oriented schemes, at a meeting with the Heads of



Divisional Commissioner Dr Raghav Langer chairing a meeting on Sunday.

Departments and Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division districts.

The Div Com reviewed in detail the achievements made in the districts under each scheme being implemented by the Rural Development Department, Panchayati Raj, Urban Local Bodies, FCS&CA, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Sericulture, Health & Family Welfare, School Education, KVIB, Industries and Commerce, EDI, ICDS, Handloom & Handicrafts, NRLM, Fisheries, Animal Husbandary, Sheep Husbandary etc.

The Heads of Departments gave a detailed presentation on the respective schemes and apprised the Div Com about the latest status.

The Div Com asked the Rural Development Department to ensure clearance of the materi-

envisage providing employment and living shelters to the poorest of poor, therefore, the implementing agencies must focus on their implementation in the right spirit of these programmes," he added.

He called upon the concerned officials to put in dedicated efforts to ensure 100 percent saturation of the Beneficiary-Oriented schemes in the districts with special focus on achieving cent percent coverage.

He stressed on the officers to take comprehensive measures to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries, besides making the Welfare schemes easily accessible to the people so that maximum eligible beneficiaries can reap the benefits.

The Div Com also instructed the DCs to closely monitor the implementation by holding regular review meetings. He also instructed them to resolve the issues, if any, to realize optimal results.

The meeting was attended in person by the Directors of FCS&CA, Industries, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandary, Social Welfare, Rural Development Department, Urban Local Bodies, School Education Department besides senior functionaries of Health, Sericulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandary, NRLM, KVIB, Fisheries and other concerned departments while all the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

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"The schemes specifically

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**10:00 AM to 02:00 PM**  
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