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'3 families had created 14 'island seats' in Kashmir, Comm strikes balance'

Free, fair & transparent elections will be held in J&K, no more Khaliq model: Amit Shah

After 370 abrogation: No hartals, schools working, militancy down, separatists in jails

Modi has zero tolerance towards terror, BJP to contest polls with full force

JAMMU, Oct 6:

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that during last three years since abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented development in all sectors because of personal interest being taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it will be made an unending process.

Asserting that free, fair and transparent elections isn't a mere talk as the Centre and UT Governments have shown this during Panchayat, BDC and DDC polls whose fairness was not even questioned by Abdullahs, Shah said the three families had created 14 "island seats" in the Valley for them and this monopoly has now been done away with by the Delimitation Commission. He said there were no reasons for the Government to delay the elections as they will be conducted by the Election Commission in consultations with security forces.

On BJP's 'Mission 50 Plus in J&K' to form first ever Government on its own, Shah said the people will decide how many seats our party gets but we will fight the elections whenever they are held with full force. Referring to formation of new party by former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad after parting way with the Congress, Shah said that he has come out of the tag of "three families' rule".

Shah's free and frank 40 minutes interview with Daily Excelsior's Editor-in-Chief Kamal Rohmetra and Jammu Bureau Chief Sanjeev Pargal on several issues including PM's vision about J&K, Assembly elections in the UT, BJP's prospects, administration & governance, Roshni, investments, militancy, use of narcotics for terror funding, drone activities, radicalization, party's 2024 mission, chances in Gujarat and HP polls, plans for youth etc came during the Home Minister's visit to Jammu.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in an exclusive interview with Daily Excelsior Editor-in-Chief Kamal Rohmetra and Jammu Bureau Chief Sanjeev Pargal, in Jammu.

Excerpts from the interview:
Q: More than three years have passed since withdrawal of special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Do you think the Centre's plans behind abrogation of Article 370 have been fulfilled? What more is required to be done?

A: What couldn't be done for Jammu and Kashmir during last 70 years, has been done

in last three years. AIIMS, GMCs, IITs, IIMs and many other educational institutions have been opened. As against Rs 15,000 crore investments in 70 years, Rs 56,000 crore worth investments have come after that. Investments were possible only because of peace restored during last three years. Fifty five lakh tourists visited Jammu and

22 lakh in Kashmir this year. Jammu and Kashmir is the only State/UT where all people have been given benefits of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha mooted the proposal for free Ayushman Bharat benefits to all people of Jammu and Kashmir and Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved it.

(Contd on page 2 Col 1)

Peace, development of J&K top priority of PM: Athawale

*It is in Pak interest to improve relations with India

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Ramdas Athawale today said that it is in the interest of Pakistan to improve relations with India.

While addressing a press conference here in Srinagar Athawale said that Jammu and Kashmir is and was the integral part of India. "It is in the interest of Pakistan to improve relations with India for peace to prevail and for its own development," he added.

He said that development and peace in Jammu and Kashmir is the top priority of the Modi Government. "It is evident now with the visit of lakhs of tourists this year and the beginning of investment processes in thousands of crores in different sectors in Jammu and Kashmir for the welfare of the people," he added.

The Minister said that the peaceful atmosphere, which is now prevalent in J&K under the present Government, has been able to attract lakhs of tourists which is a positive sign and will create job opportunities for the youth of J&K besides infrastructure development in the tourism sector.

He said that the

Government wants to create more employment opportunities for the youth of J&K by attracting private sector investment. "Many private sector investors have come to Jammu and Kashmir and will



invest thousands of crores of rupees for the welfare of the Union Territory," the Minister added.

Athawale said that from last many years, the gates of development have opened for J&K which is evident from the fact that all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, MUDRA, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Scholarship Schemes for Students, Welfare Schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are now implemented in J&K.

He further said that hundred percent implementation of many central schemes in J&K is witness to the fact that Govt. of

India is steadfast to provide social stability at all fronts be that housing, livelihood etc. to the people of J&K.

The Minister informed that under PM Narendra Modi implementation of the Social Welfare Schemes has picked up pace in Jammu and Kashmir which is evident from the fact that under PM Jan Dhan Yojana, between 2014-2022 (September), 26 lakh accounts have been opened in J&K, under PM Ujjwala Yojana between 2016-22 (September), 12 lakh 43 thousand gas connections have been allotted to the beneficiaries, under PM Awas Yojana (Urban) between 2015-22 (September), 15 thousand houses have been constructed in J&K, under PM Awas Yojana (Rural), ninety thousand houses have been constructed, under PM Jan Arogya Yojana, 5 lakh 9 thousand have been benefited in J&K and under Ujala Yojana, 85 lakh LED bulbs have been issued in J&K.

Athawale informed that between 2019-22 (September), 1720 De-addiction centers have been either funded or established under Financial Assistance for the establishment of De-addiction centers out of which 12 have been either funded or established in Jammu and Kashmir.

CRPF jawan laid to rest in Ramban

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN/JAMMU, Oct 6: A CRPF jawan, who was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Punjab, was laid to rest with full honours at his home town in Ramban district today, officials said.

The 34-year-old jawan Waseem Afzal, a resident of Kharwan village of Ramsu, was reported missing from Pathankot in Punjab on September 27 while he was returning home from his place of posting in Jharkhand, the officials said.

They said his body was recovered from an open field in Mirthal village of Punjab on Wednesday and police have started inquest proceedings to ascertain the cause of his death.

completion of legal and medical formalities, the mortal remains of the jawan reached his home town in the early hours

(Contd on page 13 Col 3)

Hizb militant arrested with arms

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Security forces today arrested a militant of Hizbul-Mujahideen in South Kashmir's Awantipora area.

A police spokesman said that based on specific input Awantipora Police along with Army's 42 RR and CRPF laid a special naka at Chandrigam and during checking one person who was moving in suspicious circumstances was apprehended. "During search, one pistol along with a pistol magazine was recovered from the person," he said.

The spokesman said that during questioning, the person has been identified as Danish Mohidin Ganieson of Ghulam Mohidin Ganieson of Dadsara Awantipora.

"On preliminary questioning the apprehended militant deposed and admitted that he is militant of proscribed militant outfit HM active since 29-09-2022," he said.

A case (FIR Number 221/2022) has been registered at Police Station Awantipora.

CS directs DDOs for uploading service books expeditiously Govt to shortly launch e-Human Resource Management System

Mohinder Verma

*Every detail of employees to be available in electronic format

JAMMU, Oct 6: In yet another technological intervention, the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is shortly going to roll out e-Human Resource Management (e-HRM) System for its employees with Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta directing all the Administrative Secretaries to ensure that all the Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) under their administrative control upload their service books in a time bound manner.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that launch of e-Human Resource Management System on the pattern of All India Services officers was discussed in numerous meetings held between the officers of the J&K Government and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) of the Government of India.

Early this year, a project report of Rs 53 crore was submitted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for funding under e-HRM System for data entry of approximately 4.5 lakh employees of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

However, keeping in view huge financial implications the J&K

Government roped in University of Kashmir which after hectic efforts has developed the portal for e-HRM on a reasonable cost, sources said, adding recently a detailed discussion was held on the subject in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta and attended by all the Administrative Secretaries.

Accordingly the Chief Secretary has directed the University of Kashmir to take all necessary steps for launch of the portal by October 16, 2022. Moreover, he has asked all the Administrative Secretaries to issue direction to all the Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to upload service books which will be required in the e-HRM.

"The e-HRM System portal will help the Government in keeping all employees data like Annual Performance Reports (APRs), leave, promotion, increment and salary records in e-form", sources informed, adding "e-HRM System will help the Government in prompt verification of service record of the employees as and when required and this will ultimately go a long way in checking the fudging in any manner".

Further, the e-HRM System

will help the Government in coming to know about the due date for conduct of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meeting and after retirement the employees will not face any sort of difficulty in getting the pension released as every detail will be just a click away for the Accountant General's office, sources further informed.

It is pertinent to mention here that various technological interventions have been made by the Government in Human Resource Management field including Vigilance Portal, EMP Portal, APRs Portal, Biometric etc, which are aimed at making working transparent. The next in this series is launch of e-HRM System.

"The University of Kashmir has successfully launched Vigilance Portal, APR Portal and J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme Portal and cost for development of these portals is significantly lower than the one quoted by other agencies", sources said.

They informed that the Chief Secretary has also issued directions to the General Administration Department and University of Kashmir to suitable incorporate

the suggestions with regard to portal of J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme suggested by the Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department so that portal functions in a hassle-free manner.

"Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department has also suggested that an exception report of absentees should be generated from Biometric Attendance and in this regard it has been decided that monthly exception report will be provided to the Administrative Secretaries. Similar report would also be provided to the Heads of the Departments and Deputy Commissioners in respect of the staff under their jurisdiction", sources said.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary, while appreciating the performance of the departments on the deliverables, has mentioned that there are deliverables which are to be implemented by multiple departments for which circles of excellences should be constituted. He has further asked for mid-term review of the deliverables so that modifications, if any required, are proposed to the Administrative Council headed by the Lieutenant Governor.

Mostly preschoolers among 37 dead in Thailand shooting

BANGKOK, Oct 6:

A former policeman burst into a day care centre in north-eastern Thailand today, killing dozens of children and teachers and then firing on more people as he fled in the deadliest rampage in the nation's history.

The assailant, who authorities said was fired from the force earlier this year because of a drug offense, took his own life after killing his own wife and child at home.

A witness said staff at the day care locked the door when they saw the assailant approaching with a gun, but he shot his way in.

In footage posted online after the attack, frantic family members could be heard weeping outside the day care, and one image showed the floor of one room smeared with blood and sleeping mats scattered about.

(Contd on page 13 Col 1)

Farooq issues white paper on development in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah today rejected Union Home Minister Amit Shah's charge on regional parties' links with separatism in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the NC made sacrifices and many of its leaders and workers were killed by terrorists during the past 35 years.

"I do not want to be side-tracked by some of the other things that Shah said about guns and stones. The sacrifices of my colleagues over the last 35 years where scores of NC leaders and workers have been killed or injured by these very guns Amit Shah ji accused us of distributing is the only answer this accusation needs," Abdullah said in a five-page statement.

Abdullah issued a white paper on development undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir during the rule of "Abdullah and Sons" - as Shah referred the family in his speech at a rally in Baramulla district - to counter the allegations of corruption.

"Yesterday, Home Minister Amit Shah Ji asked me to account for the development that took place during the years the National Conference has been in power. He was trying to suggest that nothing had been achieved

(and) that the NC had wasted its time in office with nothing to show," the NC president, who has been Chief Minister of the erstwhile State four times, said in the "dossier" on development under his party's rule.

Enumerating major steps taken by National Conference founder and his father Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah as the head of the state, Farooq Abdullah said this list is by no means complete but just a snapshot of some of the works done.

Among other things, he listed the institution of Single-Line Administration, abolition of landed estates and giving land to landless peasants, free education up to university level, establishment of the University of Jammu and Kashmir, adult education centers, Jabri schools for children and constitution of district development boards constituted in 1970s.

The other steps taken by the NC Government included setting up the Gujarat and Bakerwal Advisory Board, tertiary care hospital SKIMS, Agricultural Universities in Jammu and Srinagar, Government colleges for women and 50 per cent reservation for women in medical and dental colleges, he said.

Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies were established and their elections held during the NC regimes,

which also made Jammu and Kashmir the first State in the sub-continent to have universal adult franchise set at the age of 18, he said.

Allocation of the first Pay Commission at par with Central Government employees, mobile schools for the Gujjar community, setting up arts emporia to support local artisans and portray the rich art of J&K, support for small scale and medium size industries through SICOP and SIDCO were other steps taken between 1947 and 1989, he said.

During Farooq Abdullah's last tenure as Chief Minister, he claimed that nearly 6,000 industrial units were established while power projects like Baglihar, Uri and Dul Hasti projects were set up to generate 1770 MW electricity.

The "dossier" listed the steps taken during the tenure of Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister including the "strengthening" of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Public Services Guarantee Act, Right to Information Act, reconstitution of Accountability Commission, and constitution of Vigilance Commission, 3rd Party Monitoring of development works, e-Tendering and e-Purchasing.

"Nearly 1.75 lakh jobs were provided to youth which included teachers, police personnel,

(Contd on page 13 Col 4)

No hartal anywhere, entire Valley remains open during visit HM's historic rally at Baramulla signals beginning of new dawn in Kashmir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah's historic rally in North Kashmir's Baramulla district yesterday has signaled beginning of a new dawn... a dawn of peace, development and prosperity and the people feel that shortly the Valley would have complete normalcy and will witness tourist boom.

Politically also, the people feel that rally signifies change in mood of the people as more than 40,000 strong crowd attended the rally in which Shah declared that there will be no talks with Pakistan and instead the talks will be held with people of Jammu and Kashmir especially youth.

"October 5 symbolized the dawn of new hope and was not just a regular day in the Kashmir Valley as the people were standing along roads singing national

anthem together and the whole atmosphere was filled with slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai. This is something new in the Valley and can be indicative of changing mood of the people who have been fed up with over three decades long Pakistan sponsored militancy.

Asserting that Baramulla rally was clear indicative of changing situation in the Valley, the observers are of the view that New India envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking shape to unite everyone and pledging together in this Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to make "Swarnim Bharat".

New energy was felt among the youth when the Home Minister gave a clarion call to them to come and make India and Kashmir great, the observers said. Removal of bulletproof shield by Shah during the rally sent out a clear message that things are normal in the Valley on terror

front. The Home Minister was also seen mingling with the crowd for some time at the rally venue.

Before abrogation of Article 370, there used to be strike call by the separatists and other bodies whenever a Central Minister visited Kashmir but yesterday even Lal Chowk and other areas of Srinagar were open and it was business as usual.

In fact, entire Kashmir valley was open during Shah's visit. "The people of Kashmir feel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's has special concerns for them in the matter of development, free LPG cylinders to poor and other welfare measures," the observers said.

Even BJP leaders and organizers of the rally admitted that though they were expecting good gathering, they were not anticipating that more than 40,000 people will turn out to listen to Shah with enthusiasm.

WEATHER

JAMMU:	
Mainly dry	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	32.6 Degree C
Min:	21.1 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	64.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	64.0 per cent
Sunset on Friday:	06.09 p.m.
Sunrise on Saturday:	06.31 a.m.
SRINAGAR:	
Mainly clear	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	27.0 Degree C
Min:	9.6 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-I (Morning):	74.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening):	40.0 per cent
LEH:	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	20.4 Degree C
Min:	3.7 Degree C