



Former JKPC president Ghulam Ahmad Mir addressing a public meeting at Mati-Gawaran in Anantnag district. —Excelsior/Sajad Dar

Bharat Jodo Yatra bound to create atmosphere of positivity, security in country: Mir

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Jan 8: Terming Bharat Jodo Yatra a people's movement, former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Ghulam Ahmad Mir today said that the Yatra is bound to create an atmosphere of positivity and security in the country.

The former JKPC president was addressing a largely attended public gathering at Mati-Gawaran "a far-flung area" of Anantnag district. The public meeting was part of Bharat Jodo Yatra awareness programme.

Addressing the gathering, Mir said policies of BJP are based on lies and deceit detrimental to the idea of India and the democratic institutions in the country, which are under attack since the BJP Government assumed power at the Centre. He said every right-thinking citizen feels suffocated under the BJP rule, as that, there was no sector left which has not been damaged due to the highhandedness and misrule on the part of BJP.

"The ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi will bring the derailed democratic setup back on track, besides ensuring stability, freedom of speech, expres-

sion and protection of institutions empowering and benefiting people directly since the nation achieved freedom from the British colonial rule after sacrificing thousands of precious lives," he asserted.

Mir referred to the current security scenario and derailed political process in J&K and emphasized the people to join and support Congress party in the fight against BJP's highhandedness and endeavors to abandon J&K of democratic rights aiming to fulfill its political agenda. He said Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi has infused confidence amongst the people and it will bring the Nation out of morass and confusion created due to hate and religious politics by the BJP and RSS.

On the occasion, prominent NC leader and Sarpanch Gawran Bashir Ahmad Khari and PDP leader and Deputy Sarpanch Lamoo Raqeeb Ahmad Khatana joined Congress Party and expressed full confidence under the pro people programme and policies of the Party.

Former JKPC president and other Party leaders welcomed former NC and PDP leaders into Congress Party.

Enhance OSC reservation from 4 to 10%: OBC Manch

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Founder of All J&K OBC Manch Sub Major (Retd) Madan Lal Dubgotra has urged upon the LG and the Union Government that Reservation quota under existing OSC category be enhanced to 10% i.e. equivalent to the population ratio of 27 OBC castes, till Reservation under OBC category is implemented in J&K.

Dubgotra said OBCs in J&K have been denied reservation under OBC category since its implementation during 1993 but were being provided mere 2% reservation to 27 castes under OSC category, whose population as per J&K Census 1931 is more than 10%. He said though the population of OBCs after including newly added castes, may be more than 27% but the population of all OBC castes is not available as per the Census 1931.

"However only 4% reservation is being provided to OBCs under OSC category even after abrogation of Article 370 when all Central laws have been implemented in J&K, but reservation to OBC category as per Mandal Commission

Recommendation is still being denied to OBCs in J&K. Even OSC reservation is being provided at 4% against above 10% population of existing 27 OSC castes, which is great injustice and violation of Constitutional provisions," he added.

Dubgotra said though J&K Government had vacated 10% reservation from RBA during 2020, yet same was not restored to OSC category. Therefore, it is urged upon the LG and the Union Government that Reservation quota under OSC category may be enhanced from 4% to 10% equivalent to population of OBCs for the 27 castes listed under OSC category.

"All J&K OBC Manch has lodged the grievances with Union as well J&K Government to review the recommendations of Justice GD Sharma Commission and consider the population of newly added castes, which may take considerable time," he said, adding, till such time, reservation quota under OSC should be enhanced to appropriate percentage as per population of existing 27 OSC castes.

Police arrests Mahamandaleshwar, stops him from going to Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Mahamandaleshwar Yati Narasimhanand Ji Maharaj, along with all his saints and seers was arrested and stopped from going to Jammu Raj Bhavan as soon as he left for Jammu from Ghaziabad.

Making a serious allegation

is being opposed by saints and seers of the whole country. As soon as he left for Jammu Raj Bhavan, he was immediately arrested and stopped from leaving by the Ghaziabad Police.

Mahamandaleshwar Yati Narasimhanand Ji made a serious allegation on the administration that "We will not tolerate the murder of Hindu Sanatan Dharma at



Mahamandaleshwar Yati Narasimhanand Ji Maharaj being stopped by police at Ghaziabad on Sunday.

on Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, Mahamandaleshwar said that he does not see Islamic terrorism at all. Innocent Kashmiri Hindu (Pandits) are continuously falling victim to Islamic terrorism, which

all and will raise this matter loudly in the Hindu Parliament and all saints and seers with Trishul spears and terrorism to protect Kashmiri Pandits will leave for Jammu soon".

MVD organizes free medical camp at Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Jan 8: Motor Vehicle Department, Reasi in collaboration with Narayana Hospital Katra today organized a free medical camp for the drivers and commuters at Bus Stand Reasi.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Rajesh Gupta stated that it is very important for the drivers and commuters of all age groups to obey the traffic rules and regulations in order to reduce the number of road accidents. He urged all the drivers, especially the young drivers to take the safety measures while

driving on roads. He said that such awareness programmes would definitely bring about a change in the attitude of the drivers and commuters besides ensuring that the children become responsible drivers.

A large number of drivers and commuters participated in the camp and availed free medical check up.

During the camp, Dr Pallavi screened participants for general health parameters such as blood glucose and blood pressure levels, besides eyesight issues etc in which a total of 96 drivers and commuters were screened.

UT level training program on holistic agriculture development concludes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: The three day UT level training on holistic agriculture development concluded at Convention Centre here.

During the event, presentations were given by the chairman, members of technical working group from agriculture and allied sectors. The training was imparted to the scientists of SKUAST-K and SKUAST-J besides officers of agriculture and allied sectors including Horticulture, Sericulture, Apiculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Poultry, Fisheries etcetera.

While addressing the concluding session of the three day event, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, said that the main purpose of the programme is to prepare for successful implementation of these 29 projects under holistic development of Agriculture sector.

ACS highlighted the importance of capacity building of officers for effective implementation of development programmes. He asked the officers of allied departments to work in coordination so that the desired results under different projects could be achieved.

Atal Dulloo said the crux of different projects was presented before the stakeholders during

this three day event so that they could understand the interventions being taken up under these 29 approved projects for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

ACS asked the participants to go through the details of all these 29 approved projects and contribute towards their successful implementation.

Atal Dulloo said that similar orientation programs will be held at divisional level in Jammu and Srinagar. Besides, the training on each of these 29 approved projects will be given to the concerned resource persons at district level in first phase while as in the next phase awareness will be given to the farmers regarding the benefits under these 29 projects at block, district levels.

The event was attended by Vice Chancellor SKUAST-J, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Secretary in Agriculture, Production Department, Special Secretary Horticulture, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry, Director Horticulture, Director Fisheries, MD JKAGROS, MD JKHPMC and HoDs, scientists of SKUAST-K and SKUAST-J and senior officers of agriculture and allied department.

Sat Sharma inaugurates Dosa Planet near Kamla Palace

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Praising the Jammu youth for their commitment to entrepreneurship and becoming self-reliant, Sat Sharma said that the day is not far away when Jammu will be a top tourist destination.

Former president J&K BJP, Sat Sharma (CA) accompanied by J&K BJP media secretary, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, district president, BJP Parmod Kapahi, JMC councillor, Neelam Nargotra, Karan Sharma, Abhishek Sharma, Lovely Singh, Karan Banotra and others inaugurated a restaurant "Dosa Planet" near Kamla Palace, Talab Tillo.

Restaurant owner Kunal Wadera along with family members were present on the occasion.

Praising the Jammu youth for their commitment towards entrepreneurship and becoming self-reliant, Sat Sharma said that the day is not far away when Jammu will be an entrepreneurs' capital.

Sat Sharma appreciated the efforts of the owner for taking such an initiative and further providing employment to many people in his second such restaurant, first was on Katra Jammu road at Jagti. He said that this will benefit and provide livelihood to the same

number of families.

Sharma said that PM Narendra Modi has focused on the Aatm Nirbhar Bharat to make the nation stronger and the youth of Jammu and Kashmir is showing its potential. He said that more of the youth must come forward to set up their ventures and wished all good luck to the owners.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra congratulated the owners for taking up the initiative. He said that there are plenty of opportunities in entrepreneurship for the youth especially in still unexplored areas of Jammu & Kashmir and the youth must come forward to grab the opportunity. He also praised the chefs for the excellent quality and taste of their servings.

Parmod Kapahi congratulated the owner and said that the decision of opening a South Indian restaurant will cater to the needs of locals and commuters as there was dearth of such a restaurant in the area.

Restaurant owners complimented the former BJP president for inaugurating the restaurant and stated that specialized chefs are working to provide the best and most hygienic South Indian food to people. They also stated that all varieties of Dosa and South Indian food are available at the restaurant.

SR College conducts test series, mock interviews for IAS & JKAS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: SR College of Competitions, a premier academy for Civil Services coaching, has started a test series for the students preparing for the 2022 JKAS Mains Examination to be conducted by the JKPCS scheduled from 20th February, in the college premises.

SR College of Competitions has been providing coaching to the civil services aspirants since the year 2000 and a number of students coached by the College have made their entry into various prestigious and coveted All India and other services like IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, IFOs, JKAS, JKPS, KCS and many other national and state level services.

The Test Series for Mains 2022 consists of 10 sectional and 4 full mock tests of General Studies and 4 sectional and 2 full length tests for each Optional.

Army helps in dousing fire

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Jan 8: Fire broke out today in village Lai, Padder here in which one house was gutted.

A team of 17 Rashtriya Rifles (Maratha Light Infantry) from Kijai COB received information about the fire and pressed its men and



Army personnel dousing fire at a village in Kishtwar on Sunday. —Excelsior/Tilak Raj

machinery to douse it and minimise loss to life and property to the residents of the remote village Lai, Padder otherwise fire would have engulfed entire of the village.

During relief and rescue operation first aid to injured people was given.

The quick action of dousing the fire was done with assistance of villagers and J&K Police.

This action of Indian Army was lauded by one and all.

DDC Doda reviews performance of RDD

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Jan 8: District Development Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan today chaired a meeting to review the performance of the Rural Development Department, especially under Summary Revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll, MGNREGA and ADP.

While reviewing the progress of summary revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll, the DDC (In capacity of DPEO) directed the department to accelerate the pace of addition, deletion, correction and transposition of eligible electors by organizing special camps throughout the district with wide publicity in already designated locations.

The DC reviewed the progress under all schemes implemented by RDD like MGNREGA, PMAY, AWAS plus, IHHL, etc. in the district. The DC reviewed block wise performance under MGNREGA in respect of percentage of Bill generation, completion status of works, percentage of PDs generated, status of timely payment, geo tagging of pending works, social audit, etc. DC instructed the BDOs to take road construction works only when the land under alignment is available free of cost.

The DC directed the concerned to enhance the percentage of bill generation under MGNREGA and speed up the uploading of PDs generation on the designated

portal. He emphasized sticking to the timeline envisaged in the Act.

He directed the BDOs to work towards carbon, Nasha Mukta and Garbage/ Plastic free panchayats in the district.

While reviewing Amrit Sarovars, DC has directed the progress and expenditure under the Capex component. BDOs, Engineers were directed not to leave their respective jurisdictions without prior permission of the competent authority (DDC Doda).

He has asked for recovery from those beneficiaries under PMAY-G, who have got 1st installment but have failed to start their work of the construction of their houses in given time. Progress of works approved under MPLAD was also reviewed in the meeting. Regarding Adhaar seeding, 15th January was set as the deadline for 100% seeding of Adhaar number with their Account number of the beneficiaries.

The DDC further directed the RDD officials to accelerate the pace of work in their respective areas, adopt innovative methods for effective implementation of schemes, and involve people in the developmental process.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Doda Pran Singh, CPO Doda Suresh Kumar, ACD Doda Philail Singh, ACP Doda Ashfaq Khanji, XEN REW Doda, all BDOs and other concerned staff.

Bali slams Mehbooba for accusing BJP of destroying Constitution

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: Bali Bhagat, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Minister has lambasted the former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief, Mehbooba Mufti for accusing his Party of destroying the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir besides alleging that in the coming time the Saffron Party will do the same thing with the Constitution of India.

In a statement issued here, today, the senior BJP leader termed Mehbooba Mufti as part and parcel of 'Tukre Tukre Gang', 'Award Wapsi Gang', and spokesperson of terrorists, separatists and the rogue neighbour Pakistan. He said that such so called leaders in Kashmir polity have lost their relevance among the voters who can't be fooled any more by her.

Bali said that so far as Article 370 is concerned, it was a temporary provision in the Constitution of India which is evident from the words in the Constitution itself. He asserted that it had already diluted rather faded with the passage of time and the BJP Government deleted this Article from the statute book strictly in consonance with the provisions of Indian Constitution.

Coming down heavily on the PDP chief for referring to

Bangladesh and Vietnam to demean the Indian Government, he said that the real problem for Mehbooba is the tightening of grip over the anti-national elements including terrorists, pro-Pakistan lobbies, drugs mafia, Hawala traders and others of the ilk by the BJP regime at the Centre in close coordination with the UT administration.

He said that Mehbooba Mufti is making such frivolous statements in utter frustration now to provoke the Kashmiris especially the youth against the Centre. He said that it is an irony that the ex-CM is claiming in a high pitch that it was she along with her father who brought the Government to the doorsteps of the separatists. This assertion in itself proves her support for the anti-nationals he said adding that now with the unabated killing of the terrorists she feels beleaguered. "In fact Mehbooba is worried that if all terrorists will be eliminated then on whose strength will she do politics. Bhagat said that even the other former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad keeps on trying to provoke the youth in line with the statements of other Kashmir centric politicians which is quite unfortunate. Bali Bhagat stated that people of the UT are wise enough to read between the lines and understand the real motive of such leaders.



People whose land falls under Srinagar Airport staging protest on Sunday. —Excelsior/Shakeel

Land-owners seek land against land in use with IAF since 1947

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 8: People from various adjoining areas of the Srinagar Airport today staged a protest, seeking land against their land which is in use of the airport and the Indian Air Force, and not compensation.

Scores of people from these areas which include Naaru, Ichgam and Gudsuth appeared in Pratap Park, Press Enclave and raised slogans in favour of their demands.

"The land falls at what is known as Karewa Damdor; this is a total of 168 kanals of land which is under the Indian Air Force and the Srinagar Airport since 1947 and what was being provided to the elders was peanuts and even today, we are getting Rs 155/- per Kanal from them," said Ghulam Nabi Bhat one of the protesters.

The residents said that some of the Government lands, which were under the lease, have been directed to be returned, however, they said, their land which is under the use of the Indian Air Force and the Airport is not being even accounted for.

"We have been writing to the concerned authorities in this regard, but we have not received any response from them; it is a joke that we are given a meagre Rs 155 per month and that too we get after a delay of several months," they said.

The protesters said that the meagre Rs 155/- which they get is also released after 6-7 months and in getting the amount released, they have to spend money out of their pocket.

"The land is now under use and it is for sure that we will not get it back, neither are we happy with what we are being given

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

per month; we demand that we should be given land against the land; we do not want any compensation at all," the land owners said.

The residents urged the Government of India as well as the LG Manoj Sinha to look into the matter and sort it out once and for all. "If they can cancel land leases, and ask the people to vacate, why can't we get land against our land which is lying with the Indian Air Force," the residents asked.

Kishtwar Admn, KDA discuss tourism trade scenario

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Jan 8: District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with Kishtwar Development Authority (KDA), today held an interactive meeting with different stakeholders including media persons, tourism entrepreneurs, mountaineers, vloggers, hoteliers, traders, transporters and concerned departments to discuss roadmap for promotion of Tourism sector in the district.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Dr Devansh Yadav.

At the outset, the participants were apprised that District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with KDA, is going to introduce varied adventure activities in coming months to attract tourist footfall to different destinations of the district and in this regard adventure sports operators from Rishikesh and other players from tourist industry have been invited for exploring the adventure sports potential in district.

On the occasion, the different stakeholders including private players gave an insight on the various potential tourist spots and tourism avenues of the district which can be exploited to boost the tourism scenario in the district and generate income and employment for youth.



NC provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta and others at a meeting in Udhampur on Sunday.

Situation on ground contrary to BJP's claims: Rattan Lal

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Jan 8: Provincial president of J&K National Conference for Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta today asserted that the present dispensation has ignored district Udhampur on development front as the situation on ground zero is contrary to the claims of BJP leadership over colossal development and lasting peace.

The senior NC leader was addressing a working committee meeting of District Udhampur today.

The Provincial president castigated the Government for remaining busy in rhetoric rather than doing work on ground. He asserted that the areas like Dudu, Basantgarh, Pancheri, Latti and many other far flung areas are deprived of basic amenities. The people residing in aforesaid areas are decrying for regular power and water supply, road, health infra, etc. He stated that the present Government is indifferent towards the plights of the people as there is no mechanism established through which the people can tell their sordid tales to the administration.

The senior NC leader asserted the people are feeling unsafe under the present regime and are being targeted on regular basis but the government is unmoved. He said that the situation is exact-

ly opposite to what is being projected by the central dispensation as security scenario has been devastated with terrorists attacking people at their free will and those sitting at helm of affairs giving assurances that such things will not be repeated in future.

The Provincial president asserted that during NC's regime the doors of the entire leadership of the party used to remain open for the people as listening to people grievances was considered as top priority and resolving the issues was always on top of the agenda of NC Governments in the past.

Rattan Lal exhorted upon party cadre to remain in people and make all possible efforts to address the aspirations of general public with regard to basic amenities.

Abdul Ghani Malik, Zonal president Reasi District NC and former minister, raised serious concern over the hardships being face by the labour class in the state. He asked the government to stop exploitation of poor people and implement minimum wages act in the state, which is the need of the hour.

Sunil Verma, District president NC, Udhampur also spoke on the occasion. Abdul Ghani Teli, Pardeep Bali, KD Sharma, Pavittar Singh and others were also present in the meeting.

Forest Rights Act will safeguard culture of Gujjars: Javid Rahi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 8: "The Forest Rights Act 2006 which was extended to J&K in 2019 will not only safeguard the age old pastoral culture of Gujjars, Bakerwals, Gaddis and Sippis but also undo the historical injustice and marginalization of tribes which they were facing since centuries".

This was stated by noted tribal Researcher Dr Javid Rahi dur-

ing a daylong workshop held to aware STs about new tribal rights. The event was organized by the Gram Sabha/Forest Rights Committee at Panchayat Ghar Jagti, Nagrota, Jammu and was presided over by Chowdhary Javid Mohammad FRC Chairman.

He said prior to 2019, the J&K Tribes were vulnerable to forced eviction at any point, but after the implementation of Forest Rights Act of 2006, they are now feeling safe. The J&K Government is keen to recognize both individual and community land claims and has now mandated a uniform process for granting legal title.

During the programme, a demonstration was given to tribal communities about different tribal rights. Other who spoke on the occasion, included Panchayat Raj Institution representatives, Zeenat Bibi, Parvez Khan, Farooq Bokda, Abdul Rouf Bokda, Qasam Bokda, Bashir Ahmed Tass Jagti.



Javid Rahi with tribals during a workshop on Forest Rights Act on Sunday.

and they shall hold their heads high." Javid Rahi said and added that the new laws including FRA -2006, SC/ST Atrocities Act 1989, Political Reservation to STs, Conservation Act 1980, Amendments in Panchayati Raj Act will pull out the Tribes from marginalization and social exclusions.