

'Hath Se Hath Jodo' Yatra taken out Cong seeks early polls, statehood

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Mar 6: Congress activists today took out "Hath Se Hath Jodo" Yatra from Ram Leela Ground Kathua to Nagri Adda, to highlight the burning issues, especially to oppose property tax, bulldozer drive, price rise, unemployment, innocent killings and other problems faced by people, besides restoration of statehood and early assembly elections in J&K.

Led by former Union Minister



Cong leaders and activists taking out 'Hath Se Hath Jodo' Yatra at Kathua on Monday. —Excelsior/Pardeep

and AICC Incharge, 'Hath Se Hath Jodo' Yatra campaign in J&K'. Bharat Singh Solanki, JKPC president Vikar Rasool Wani, working president Raman Bhalla, Pankaj Dogra (Distt president Kathua), Narinder Gupta, Nirdosh Sharma and others, amidst raising slogans... 'Property tax vapis Lo'...

'Bulldozer drive band karo', 'Mehngai ko kabu karo kabu karo, Berozgar door karo, Masoom ki Hatya band karo besides Nafrat Chhodo-Bharat Jodo', the protestors carried placards, nation flags and party flags. They marched from Ram Leela Ground Kathua to Nagri Adda, along with hundreds of workers.

Addressing the gathering at Nagri Adda, Solanki said that the 'Hath Se Hath Jodo Yatra' - cum-agitation programme is the second phase of Bharat Jodo Yatra,

are worried about losing their jobs, their incomes are falling further, and their dreams of a better future are shattering and there is a deep sense of hopelessness amongst the people and through this programme, Congress party is duty bound to highlight the various issues of people like imposition of property tax, snatching lands from poor through bulldozer, unprecedented price hike, record unemployment and other arbitrary orders of government," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikar Rasool Wani said through Hath Se Hath Jodo campaign / protests, Congress party will take its fight forward with a series of protests against the price rise and unemployment in the coming weeks. He said the people are suffering because BJP and the Congress will expose this before the people of the State. He lashed out at the Government for the unprecedented price rise of all commodities especially LP gas, petrol, diesel, eatables making difficult for the poor to survive. He demanded restoration of statehood and early assembly elections to restore democracy to solve people problems.

Working president Raman Bhalla launched a scathing attack on the Government, saying India was no longer a democracy, but a dictatorship. "India is witnessing the death of democracy. What India has built brick by brick, starting almost a century ago, is being destroyed in front of your eyes. Anybody who stands against this idea of onset of dictatorship is viciously attacked, jailed, arrested and beaten up," Bhalla regretted.

Prominent among those who participated included- Naresh Sharma, Subash Chander, Sahil Punia, Rajnish, Ajeet Basotra, Vikas, Narinder Khajuria, Paramjeet Singh, Arun Mehta, Vishal Andotra, Yog Raj, Jatin, Vinay Kumar, Tarsem Pal Saini, Mohinder Pal, Nek Mohd, Pawan Sharma and others.

which shall culminate at the end of this month, covering various districts and constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that there is a palpable economic crisis brewing - joblessness among the youth, unbearable price rise, severe farm distress, and a complete corporate capture of the country's wealth. "People

person he stated that despite assurance from Lt Governor that the Panchayat would be allowed to use the funds under 14th FC till 31st March, the RDD has again issued an order on March 1st, 2023 and has issued instructions to the J&K Bank not to allow Panchayats to use these funds and instead transfer the money in the 14th FC award account maintained by J&K RDD.

AJKPC termed this order of RDD as direct assault on the autonomy of the Panchayats and warned

the officers there to respect the grassroots level democratic institutions that are elected by the people through a legal and democratic mean. Explaining supremacy of PRI, AJKPC president further

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

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Agitating PRI members



PRI members staging protest in Jammu on Monday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

informing that earlier also around 2 months ago a similar order to rescind funds under 14th FC was issued but later the RDD after severe criticism from the elected Panchayat members had assured that it would not fiddle with the available funds and the Panchayats would be allowed to use these funds till 31st March and they shall be allowed to make payments against the completed and started developmental works in the Panchayats that have the approval of the Gram Sabhas.

While addressing the media

DB directs Forest Deptt to observe law while evicting encroachers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: In three miscellaneous applications moved on behalf of forest dwellers seeking clarification of the observations made by the Division Bench vide its order dated July 3, 2019, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice Sanjeev Kumar has directed the Forest Department, DB observed, "we do not see anything which is objectionable in the order passed by this court earlier. However, we make it clear that if the State authorities seek to evict any encroacher within the forest land.

After hearing Advocates KM Bhatti and SM Choudhary for the applicants whereas Advocate General DC Raina with Deputy AG Deewakar Sharma appearing for the Forest Department, DB observed, "we do not see anything which is objectionable in the order passed by this court earlier. However, we make it clear that if the State authorities seek to evict any encroacher within the forest land, they may do so by strictly adhering to the relevant law governing the field".

"If the applicants have specific individual grievances, and, if

stated that after 73rd amendment of Constitution of India, the elected Panchayats draw their power directly from the Constitution of India and statutes of the respective states and Union Territories therefore the bureaucrats must not undermine these basic institutions of self governance rather contribute in strengthening them.

All the protesting PRI members urged the Government of India and Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to caution the Babus to stop infringement and contravention of the Panchayati Raj Act.

they feel that they have been sought to be evicted without following due process of law, as they claim to be the forest dwellers, they may approach the competent forum for redressal of their grievances", the DB said.

In yet another application, Division Bench, after hearing Advocate HA Siddiqui for the applicant and Advocate General DC Raina with Deputy AG Deewakar Sharma, observed, "the applicant is seeking direction for eviction of respondents from the land covered under Village No. 509, 510 & 511 of survey Pathanater Tehsil Mendhar".

"It is for the concerned authorities to do the needful for evicting the respondents from the land if the same has been encroached upon by these respondents or any other person(s) in the area", the DB said. With this observation, the present application stands closed.

In the main PIL filed by SAVE an NGO working for animals, Division Bench granted time to Advocate SS Ahmed for filing views on the status report filed by Forest Department and JMC.

LG extends Holi greetings

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Holi.

In a message, the Lt Governor said that the festival of colours symbolises the spirit of togetherness and harmony.

"Holi inspires us to rejoice in the grandeur of existence and in all its varied colours. May the joy and colour touch the lives of all, strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all," the Lt Governor said.

LG Mishra reviews implementation of pollution control laws in Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Mar 6: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Retd) BD Mishra, held a meeting with Regional Director, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC), Aditya Madanpotra, at Raj Niwas to review the implementation of pollution control laws in Ladakh.

The LG inquired about the issue raised by the representatives of the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House norms issued under the directions of this Court by the Pollution Control Committee.

Meanwhile, LG Mishra met President of International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS), Dr Sonam Wangchuk and members of Christian Association Ladakh, here at Raj Niwas.

Dr Wangchuk informed the LG that 20th edition of the IALS Conference would be held this year from June 8 to 11 at Heidelberg University in Germany. He requested for financial assistance for students and research scholars from Ladakh for their lodging and boarding so that they can take part in the conference at Germany. He also highlighted the need for framing heritage regulations and guidelines in Ladakh.

A delegation from Christian Association Ladakh led by its President, Dechen Changa, also called on LG and informed that there are 167 Christians in Ladakh, with churches at Leh, Shey and Khaltse. He informed about the branches of Moravian Mission School, including the School at Leh where around 900 students are studying. He also informed about various other initiatives taken by them for the overall development of the Ladakhi society.

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All Pension portals to be integrated into Single Portal: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

BHOPAL (MP), Mar 6: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced that the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has decided that all the Pension portals like Pension Disbursing Bank portals, ANUBHAV, CPENGRAMS, CGHS etc. will be integrated into a Single portal in the form of the newly created "Integrated Pensioners' Portal" (<https://ipension.nic.in>) to ensure "Ease of Living for elder citizens".

Addressing the Bankers Awareness Workshop in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in tune with Vision of Prime Minister for an "Integrated Approach to bring Ease of Living", the move will mitigate the problems faced by the pensioners with the banks like Change of bank, Submission of life certificate, Submission of death certificate of pensioners, Pension slip and retrieval of pension slip, Income tax deduction data/form 16, Pension receipt information, the websites of Pension Disbursing Banks will also be integrated with the Integrated Pensioners Portal.

The Minister also pointed out that the task of Integration of Pension Seva Portal of SBI and Canara Bank with Bhavishya Portal have been completed. With this integration, the pensioners can now get their pension slip, status of submission of Life Certificate and Form-16 through the Integrated Pensioners' Portal. He also informed that all 18 Pension disbursing banks will be integrated in Integrated Pensioners' Portal.

Dr Jitendra Singh said,



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking after inaugurating Bankers Workshop for Pensioners conducted by Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare, at Bhopal on Monday.

DoPPW will take care of not only serving/receiving employees but also work for the Ease of Living of our pensioners and Digital Life Certificate is another step towards this direction. He pointed out that in November 2014, an Aadhar based scheme for online submission of digital life certificate, "Jeevan Pramaan" was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure transparency and "Ease of Living" for pensioners while submitting their life certificate.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, initially submission of DLCs using biometric devices was commenced and later, the Department engaged with MeitY to develop the milestone Face-Authentication Technology-based system based on UIDAI Aadhaar software through which it became possible to give DLC from any Android based smart phone. This breakthrough technology has reduced the dependence of pensioners on external biometric devices and has made the process more accessible and affordable to masses by leveraging biometric systems available on smartphones, he added.

The Minister informed that the Pension Department has undertaken a Nation-wide Digital Life Certificate through Face Authentication campaign in the November, 22 which has

resulted into 30 lakhs pensioners submitting their life certificate digitally.

Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, V.Srinivas said in his address that DoPPW has commenced a series of awareness programs for Bankers with a view to provide information about the latest pension rules/procedures reforms and welfare initiatives to Bank's field functionaries, handling pensions.

This Awareness programs also provide a platform for strategizing and conceiving new initiatives for the benefit of Pensioners. This facilitated introduction of the path for integration of Bhavishya Portal with the pension paying portals of the Banks. So far State Bank of India and Canara Bank has integrated their portals with Bhavishya - IPP and process is on with Punjab National Bank.

The workshops held were an excellent two-way learning process and will go very far in reducing Pensioners' Bank related grievances since the Pension dealing Bank officials were made aware of all the measures/OMS taken/issued by DoPPW for Ease of Living of Pensioners. Such Awareness Programs also convey a strong message of the seriousness of this Department to focus on hitherto neglected expectations of the Pensioners from Banks.

Mayor for transparency, Gujarat type development in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: Stressing on ensuring transparency and accountability to usher the era of Gujarat type developments in Jammu, the Mayor, Jammu, Rajinder Sharma today asked officers to go for out of box solutions for the issues and problems so that people may avail all types of facilities they are entitled for in a Union Territory.

Chairing a meeting to review the ongoing works at Bahu Fort and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 10 am to 1 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Billwar, Tandri, Baggan, Machddi and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 2 pm to 4.30 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Mahanpur, Raipur and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 10 am to 4 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Mohinder Nagar, Bhagwati Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Canal Road, Krishna Nagar, Jain Colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Bomal, Devipur, Palwan, Jad, Jourian, Bakore, Rakh, Muthi, Sohal Bhalwal, Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 9 am to 3 pm.

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Yadav in which he explained the ongoing developmental and beautification projects at Bahu Fort and Bawe Wali Mata pilgrimage place.

Mayor said that day after tomorrow he will inspect the ground work of the Project executed so far and timeline for it.

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Incumbent, outgoing IGP CRPF call on DGP Dilbag Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: The incumbent IGP of CRPF Jammu Sector, Mukesh Chander Laddha, accompanied by the outgoing IGP, PS Ranpise, called on the Director General of Police (DGP) of J&K, Dilbag Singh, here at his office chamber in Jammu.

A press statement said that during the meeting, the DGP discussed various issues and praised the collaboration between J&K Police and CRPF, which helped to establish a peaceful atmosphere in the region.

It said that he appreciated the outgoing IGP, PS Ranpise, for his

SKIMS gets trial access to DELNET till Mar 16

Irfan Tramboo

SRINAGAR, Mar 6: Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura has gained trial access to the DELNET-Developing Library Network, New Delhi and has asked all its doctors and scholars to avail the facility by accessing the available resources and other facilities under the library network.

DELNET is a significant resource-sharing library network in the country that links more than 7700 institutions, including universities, colleges, R&D organisations, and hospitals, across India and a few other countries.

The main objectives of the network, SKIMS said, is to promote resource sharing among the Member-Libraries, by collecting, storing and disseminating information and by offering networked library services to users.

"Its objectives include carrying out research in the field of information science and technology, providing technical assistance to Member-Libraries, coordinating efforts for the establishment of a suitable collection, facilitating and promoting inter-library loans and document delivery, etc. The Discovery Portal, Knowledge Gainer Portal, and Vision Portal were also created by DELNET (Video Lectures)," officials said.

The library network's goal is to create a specialised bibliographic database of books, serials, and non-

leadership and services, and wished him good luck for his future assignments.

"The DGP also welcomed the new IGP, Mukesh Chander Laddha, and expressed hope that the understanding between the two forces would grow further under his command," read the statement.

It said that Dilbag Singh, the top cop, reiterated that J&K Police and CRPF have been working as one force and will continue to do so.

As a token of appreciation, the DGP also presented a memento to the outgoing IGP.

Power shut down

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Basohli, Bani, Bhoon, Marth-Nargota, Duggan and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 10 am to 1 pm.

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Job aspirants of F&ES Deptt stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 6: Job aspirants, who had applied for various posts in the Fire and Emergency Services, today held a protest demonstration here demanding the Jammu and Kashmir administration to make public the report of the inquiry committee formed to

found that there was a 'scam'. Then we applied again in 2018 and again a 'scam' was found. Last year again another 'scam' was found," one of the protesters said.

He said the administration had formed a three-member panel headed by Additional Chief Secretary Home R K Goyal to probe the alleged irregularities in

December last year. "The committee was given one month to submit the report and now three months have passed but the report has not come," he added and appealed the administration to make the report public.

Other protesters also expressed similar concern and urged upon the concerned authorities to come out with the report and a final decision on the issue so that their wait may come to an end.

Yadav in which he explained the ongoing developmental and beautification projects at Bahu Fort and Bawe Wali Mata pilgrimage place.

Mayor said that day after tomorrow he will inspect the ground work of the Project executed so far and timeline for it.

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