



Apni Party president, Altaf Bukhari addressing party workers during foundation day junction at Srinagar.

# Apni Party celebrates foundation day We don't believe in politics of confrontation: Altaf Bukhari

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 8: Apni Party today celebrated its 3rd foundation day anniversary in all the assembly constituencies across the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir. The party marked the occasion with a pledge that it will fulfill its commitments, which it made to the masses on the day of its inception - on March 8, 2020.

These commitments include that the party will strive for the restoration of statehood to J&K.

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

holding of immediate assembly elections and women empowerment.

While addressing a rally at Sanat Nagar in Srinagar today, Bukhari said that after the foundation of Apni Party, the first challenge before it was to bring a ray of hope in the gloom because the hopelessness in any place always consumes its people with depression. Since the situation at that time was too critical to be ignored, we decided to stand with the people and devised our own strategy to ensure people could feel that someone is there to stand by them. It was a time when people

were in ever-darkening gloom because the abrogation of Article 370 had inflicted helplessness and a state of despair on them.

"We shared the pain of the people, but a way had to be found to address their issues as well. Therefore, we decided not to choose confrontational politics. We knew confrontational politics would have not helped the people and also it would have deepened the political vacuum in J&K," he added.

Bukhari reiterated Apni Party's demand for holding assembly elections immediately in J&K. "Holding of assembly elections with any further delay, is also important for protecting the democratic credentials of our country. It is a constitutional obligation for the Centre Govt and Election Commission of India (ECI), thus, doing so will not be a risk but a reward for the Govt and ECI," Bukhari said.

"The people of J&K lost their elected Govt on June 19, 2018. How can it be justified that elections are held in other states and UTs every five years and J&K is nearing five years without having an elected government?"

Senior vice president



Patwaris staging sit-in protest in DC office complex, Jammu on Wednesday.

# Patwar Association continues strike, protest on 8th day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 8: All J&K Patwar Association continued its strike and protest on 8th consecutive day, today.

A large number of patwaris drawn from various parts of Jammu today assembled at DC office complex and staged dharna while raising slogans in support of their demands which include increase in the grade pay of graduate patwaris and timely departmental promotion.

They also demanded Government accommodation for the Patwar Khanas and basic facilities for running the Patwar offices. The agitating patwaris also sought ban on direct recruitment of Naib-Tehsildars and demanded creation of GQ circles and transfers of GQs out of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the protesting patwaris said they were forced to resort to the path of agitation time and again by the authorities as despite assurance given by the Revenue Secretary in March 2022 that all their demands will be fulfilled within a month, nothing was done after a lapse of about one year.

Similar protests of patwaris were also held in other districts of Jammu province. They said that Government had promised to fulfill their demands last year in March but nothing has been done yet in that regard.

They demanded the Government to hike Grade pay of patwaris from Rs 2400 to 2800, bifurcate patwar halqas and grant 75 percent Naib Tehsildar quota to patwaris through promotion.

In Doda district, a large number of patwaris drawn from various parts of Doda City assembled at Tehsil office complex and staged dharna from morning to evening while raising slogans in support of their demands which include increase in the grade pay of graduate patwaris and timely departmental promotion.

Meanwhile, CPI (M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami, while stating that the strike of patwaris has paralyzed working in Revenue Department, urged the Government to redress genuine demands of patwaris. He said the Government must talk to the representatives of the Association and take effective steps to settle their genuine demands.

# Lawyers submit memorandum of demands to MP Khatana

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 8: A delegation of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu headed by its President



Lawyers during meeting with MP GA Khatana.

Vikram Sharma called on Member of Parliament Ghulam Ali Khatana and apprised him of the burning demands of legal fraternity.

On the request of the Bar, the Member Parliament also visited the Court Complex at Janipur and interacted with advocates. A memorandum of demands was submitted by the President of the Bar highlighting the broader grievances/demands of the Association.

The demands projected before the Member Parliament included construction of 1st & 2nd floor of Lawyer's Canteen at High Court complex, multi storey parking in the

District Court Complex, repair of roof of Atrium in District Courts and installation of ACs in the dome area after covering the open space, construction of additional lawyers chambers to accommodate members of the Bar, installation of water plant in the court complex and digital library both for High Court as well as Subordinate Court.

The MP travelled through the court complex along with the group of lawyers for spot inspection of the sites. He assured the President of the Bar for early redressal of the demands.

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

The office bearers of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu Amit Gupta (Vice President), Parvesh Singh Salaria (General Secretary), Chetan Misri (Joint Secretary) and Utarkash Pathania (Treasurer) were among those who accompanied the Member Parliament.

# Several detained for violating prohibitory orders JKSSB aspirants protest against hiring of 'blacklisted' company

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 8: As a large number of job aspirants today held strong demonstrations at both the capital cities to protest against hiring of a previously black-listed company by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for conducting written examinations, Police used force and detained several protesters at Jammu.

Police swung into action and detained several protesters when a large number of agitating JKSSB aspirants assembled at Dogra Chowk and tried to take out a march in violation of prohibitory orders.

For dispersing the protesters, Police also used mild lathicharge though there were no reports of injury to anyone. The detained protesters were also released later on.

Carrying placards and tricolor flags, the protesters were raising slogans against the JKSSB for hiring APTECH Limited, the company which had been blacklisted in 2019, for conduct of computer-based tests.

"They are conducting an examination and then cancelling it... how many times we have to appear for the same exam time and again," said Vinkal Sharma and added that hiring a blacklisted company for conducting the test was guarantee of some fraud again.

Pertinent to mention in last year, Government had cancelled the selected list of 1,200 Police Sub-Inspectors, 1300 Junior Engineers and 1,000 Finance Account Assistants (FAA) following allegations of paper leak and malpractices. "APTECH was blacklisted in the past and there is no guarantee it will not do any wrongdoing in future. What forced the LG administration to engage such a black-listed company?" asked Atul Sudan and Kartik Bhagat. They alleged that the government has failed to ensure fair recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah, Ghulam Nabi Azad along with leaders of other political parties have condemned the use of force

# Payment for non-existing work in JU Court directs ACB to further investigate case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 8: Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Jammu OP Bhagat has directed SSP Anti-Corruption Bureau to conduct further investigation into the FIR relating to payment made against non-existing work within a period of three months.

According to the Anti-Corruption Bureau case, University of Jammu lodged a written complaint alleging that Suresh Kumar Sharma, Incharge Executive Engineer, Akash Bhola, Assistant Engineer, Virender Singh Wazir, JE of PWD and Karam Chand, contractor conspired among themselves and drew an amount against the work of fixing of tiles on the first floor of the building of The Business School at New University Campus whereas no such work was done on spot.

A verification conducted into the allegations revealed that Virender Singh Wazir, JE had prepared a fake measurement book showing laying of tiles on the floor of the building knowing well that the tiles had not been laid and the work had not been executed. Akash Bhola, AE attested the bill and Suresh Kumar Sharma recommended the bill to the account branch for payment knowing well that work had not been executed.

Karam Chand, contractor who was entrusted the construction work actually had not executed the work relating to fixing of tiles but he wrongfully claimed the amount against non-executed works. On the basis of fake and wrongfully claim of Karam Chand and fake and wrong report of Suresh Kumar Sharma, Akash Bhola and Virender



JKSSB aspirants on run as police comes into action during protest at Jammu on Wednesday.

against the job aspirants. "These youngsters were exercising their democratic right to protest against the recent decision to engage a blacklisted firm," said Omar Abdullah. Ghulam Nabi Azad tweeted: "It is disheartening to hear about the use of violence against #JKSSB aspirants in J and K who were peacefully protesting for their future. I strongly condemn such actions and urge the Government to

intervene to protect the rights of students without fear of harm!" Congress spokesperson Jahanzaib Sirwal, DAP chief spokesperson Salman Nizami and Apni Party Youth Wing state vice president Raqeem Ahmed Khan also condemned the use of "brute force" against the peaceful protesters.

Condemning the police action, ABVP State secretary, Akshi Billowria alleged that LG administration and JKSSB were not serious about the future of the youth. When the applicant sought help from the High Court, which ordered a judicial inquiry into the selection process of a blacklisted company, the very next day JKSSB challenged that ruling and allowed a blacklisted company to conduct the exam," she said and demanded a magisterial inquiry against the cops involved in lathicharge.

However, a spokesperson of JKSSB claimed that the company (APTECH Ltd) was hired as per

the Government guidelines and it had already completed the blacklisting period of three years in May last year.

Reports from Kashmir said that a similar protest was held at Srinagar by the JKSSB aspirants, who urged the LG-led Administration to ensure that the private players are thrown out of the recruitment process.

Scores of aspirants, who have already appeared in several JKSSB examinations, or are set to appear in new exams, assembled in the press enclave and were seen holding placards and raising slogans in favour of their demand, seeking the immediate termination of the contract given to private company 'APTECH'.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, each of

# Industry to be equal stakeholder in StartUps: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Mar 8: 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 said here today that the Industry should be ready to take up the responsibility of being equal stakeholder in StartUps, right from the moment the project is conceived.

This, he said, is essential not only for sustaining the StartUps in the long run by linking them with livelihood, but also for bringing about value addition to the Indian Industry as per the contemporary global benchmarks.

Addressing a special session of Industrialists, StartUps and Innovators at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) here and earlier during over one hour one-to-one interaction with representatives of some of the leading Industrialist Houses, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Hyderabad is known to be a destination of Health and Wealth as well as the pharma capital of the region. Therefore, the specialised and skilled manpower developed by the IICT should find a naturally integral place in the pharma and biotech industry of Hyderabad in particular and India in general, he added.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the first time after several decades, we have a political leadership and a ruling dispensation which are amenable to abandon the obsolete regulations of the past and to bring in enabling reforms for ease of StartUps as well as ease of business. He advised the Industry leaders to set up an institutionalised mechanism and come forth with precise and concrete proposals for doing away with unwarranted regulations and options to avoid procedural delays.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Hyderabad Pharma City (HPC) under making is the world's largest integrated cluster in Hyderabad for pharmaceutical industries with thrust on R&D and manufacturing. He said, the cluster has been recognized as National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) by Government of India, given its national and international importance. Developed at international standards, Hyderabad Pharma City will harness the true value of symbiotic co-existence across pharmaceutical value chain, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, each of



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a special session of Industrialists, StartUps and Innovators at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.

the 37 CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) Labs spread across the country is dedicated to a different exclusive area of work and the ongoing "One Week, One Lab" campaign is offering an opportunity to each one of them to showcase the work being done by it so that others can avail of it and stakeholders learn about it. He said, keeping in tune with the transformations, the new tagline for CSIR is - "CSIR-The Innovation Engine of India". With a pool of over 4,500 scientists, CSIR can reorient and revitalize to emerge as Global Centres of Innovations in the Amrit Kaal, the Minister emphasised.

Talking about CSIR-IICT, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the institute is almost 80 years of its formation, vigorously pursued basic as well as translational research, and is working towards sustainable development goals. He added that CSIR-IICT excelled in both basic and applied research areas of chemistry & chemical technologies. He also informed that the institute houses state-of-art pilot plant facilities to undertake industrial projects in a

mode. Anti-viral drugs and vaccine adjuvant for Caixin developed by the institute played a pivotal role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 virus. CSIR-IICT partnered with the industry during the pandemic to deliver solutions to common people at the shortest time, the Minister informed.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the institute's Flouro & Agro Chemicals Department is the first of its kind in a national laboratory that was set up to address the Montreal Protocol resolutions in 1990, when CSIR-IICT was assigned the responsibility to develop indigenous and internationally competent technologies for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are considered as well recommended substitutes for ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

# 2 AEEs shifted in Jal Shakti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 8: Principal Secretary to Government, Jal Shakti Department today issued order of transfer and posting of two In-charge Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs).

I/C AEE, Nasir Hussain Para, presently posted in PHE Chemical Division, Srinagar, of Water Supply Master Plan Division, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted in PHE Sub Division, Charar-e-Sharief, of PHE Division Chadoora vice Jan Masood.

I/C AEE, Jan Masood, presently posted in PHE Charar-e-Shrief Sub Division of Chadoora Division, has been shifted and posted in PHE Chemical Sub Division, Srinagar, of Water Supply Master Plan Division, Srinagar.

"concept to commercialization" mode.

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# Dir Information Akshay Labroo bereaved

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 8: The officers and officials of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) have condoled the sad demise of maternal grandmother of Director Information, Akshay Labroo.

A condolence meeting in this regard was chaired by Joint Director Information, Headquarter, Naresh Kumar in which all the officers and employees of department participated. The officers and officials during the meeting extended their deepest condolences with the Director Information and also prayed for eternal peace to departed soul.

Joint Director Information, Kashmir Division, Mohammad Aslam also condoled the demise of maternal grandmother of Director Information.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held in the office chamber of Joint Director Information Kashmir at Drabu House, Rambagh.

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