

JCCI calls for Jammu bandh on March 11 Roll back on Property Tax decision or face agitation: Chamber chief

*Cong, PDAP, Shiv Sena, others support

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) today gave Jammu bandh call on March 11 (Saturday), in protest against the decision of the J&K UT Government to impose Property Tax on people from April 1st, 2023.

Addressing a press conference, represented by heads of various trade organizations and Bazaar Associations, besides Yuva Rajpur Sabha and other social organizations, at Chamber House here today, JCCI president Arun Gupta said that not only trade bodies or opposition political parties, the people of entire J&K UT are strongly opposing the decision of the LG's Administration to impose Property Tax in J&K. This is totally anti-people decision of the J&K Government and

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Jammu Chamber strongly opposes such a move of the Government, Gupta said.

Referring to the pleas of the Chamber to the Lt Governor and the Union Government against this decision, Arun Gupta said that Chamber never favoured confrontational path. The Chamber tried to convince the Government through communications but there seems to be negligible response so far over this issue. He said Chamber has been leading the cause of Jammu people and has support from various organizations and stake holders.

Gupta said that presently the government has no land policy so that the people of J&K can get the ownership rights/lease rights.



JCCI addressing a press conference on Thursday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

The people of Jammu are much disturbed due to non-cooperative attitude of the government and instead of giving any relief to the people government has imposed property tax which actually is the prerogative of the elected Government/Municipal Corporation and Local Bodies.

He pointed out that UT Administration is taking the plea that the Property Tax has been imposed all over the country and in Jammu due to the policy of Neeti Udyog the grant provided to the Municipal Corporations and Local Bodies cannot be released unless and until the Property Tax is imposed in J&K. We are of the view that this is the prerogative of the elected government and elected members of the Municipal Corporation/Local Bodies to impose such type of tax.

But this Government bypassed the MCs / Local Bodies and issued the notification SRO-87 regarding imposition of Property Tax in J&K. The comparison between Jammu and Chandigarh cannot be justified as Chandigarh is a fully developed UT whereas Jammu is under developed UT. Moreover, as per the statements and hoardings of the government that government is imposing meager tax whereas, the Property Tax structure is a big job for the business community. Even the hoardings and the statements it is said that only Rs 500, 1000 and 2000 tax will be imposed whereas actually if we calculate the tax structure imposed on commercial areas, it is too high and even the shops which are not operational and the buildings which are not under working conditions are also liable to pay tax.

"We on behalf of the business community of the Jammu province announce one day peaceful Jammu Bandh on Saturday (March 11) to press the government to rescind the order of imposing the Property Tax and if the government fails to understand the feeling of the Jammu people then we shall have no other alternative but to announce continuous shut down of business establishments," Gupta declared.

Prominent among others present in the conference included Happy Singh, president Yuva Rajput Sabha, Anil Gupta, senior vice president CCI, Rajesh Gupta junior vice president CCI, Rajesh Gupta - secretary, Sanjay Kumar - president Raghunath Bazar Businessmen Association, Ashish Gupta, general secretary Kanak Mandi Market Association, Suraj Parkash, President BC Road, Ramesh Tak, president Bus Stand Market Association, Anil Gupta - Bahu Plaza, Surinder Mahajan - Puranimandi Association, Vishal Gupta - Canal Road Market Association and others.

Meanwhile, various organizations including Congress, DPAP, Shiv Sena, Muslim Front, United Democratic Alliance, Mission Statehood J&K and many social, trade and youth organizations have supported Jammu bandh call on Saturday.



Mayor, Rajinder Sharma along with Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria and Commissioner JMC, Rahul Yadav launching Save Food and Share Food Campaign in Jammu on Thursday.

Mayor launches Save Food, Share Food campaign

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Jammu Smart City Ltd conducted a workshop cum orientation programme on "Save Food, Share Food Campaign" in alignment with one of the sustainable development goals of the nation i.e. "To End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition" under the Eat Right Initiatives, Jammu Smart City Ltd (JSCL). Under this programme JMC has targeted to collect leftover food on various occasions from food business operators, religious places and distribute it to the needy and hungry people in hygienic condition to cater to their food and nutrition requirements.

In this context, a workshop cum orientation programme was organized for the hoteliers, restaurants, caterers, dhabawallas, NGOs and reputed food business operators from various parts of Jammu city at Country Inn Suites, Bahu Plaza here, where Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma was the chief guest.

He launched and flagged off the "Save Food, Share Food and Share Joy" campaign. While addressing, he said that this is such a noble cause which also aligning with the vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to achieve "zero hunger" by minimizing food waste and curbing hunger amongst the poor and needy in the country.

Baldev Singh Billawaria, Dy. Mayor, Jammu was the guest of honour, who also appreciated the initiative and further said that JMC will provide full support in the initiative as much as possible to identify the spots where left-

I/c AEEs transferred in Jal Shakti Deptt

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 9: Jal Shakti Department has ordered transfer and posting of two in-charge (I/c) Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs).

As per an order, Nasir Hussain Para, I/c AEE, presently posted at PHE Chemical Sub-Division Srinagar, Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar, has been transferred and posted in PHE Sub-Division Charar-e-Sharif, PHE Division Chadoora vice Jan Masood who has been transferred and posted in PHE Chemical Sub-Divisional Srinagar, Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar vice Nasir Hussain Para.

The officers have been asked to join their new place of posting without availing any joining time.

'Urges Reasi admn to come up with innovative projects' Developing tourist infrastructure Modi Govt's focus: Khatana

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Mar 9: MP Rajya Sabha, Gulam Ali Khatana today visited district Reasi and addressed BJP workers meeting there. He also presided over a meeting of the district administration to review the Centrally sponsored schemes.

Addressing the party workers Khatana said that Narendra Modi led Government has laid special emphasis on developing the sustainable tourist infrastructure in the UT of J&K. He said

He assured to take up the issues raised by BJP workers with LG Manoj Sinha including Nandali Power Project, construction of Gulabgarh-Nandi Marg road, tourism spots upgradation, road work Kanda to Ransoo, Fisheries pond renovation at Thanpal.

Prominent among others present in meeting were Rohit Dubey district president BJP, Reasi, Ex-MoS & MLA Ajay Nanda, Sheel Magotra, Pradeep Singh, Kabla Singh, Romail Singh and BJP ST Morcha, pres-



MP (RS) Gulam Ali Khatana during a party programme at Reasi on Thursday.

that the world famous Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Aghar Jitto, Shiv Khori shrine, Baba Banda Bahadur are major pilgrim tourist destinations in district Reasi which attract over 1.30 crore pilgrims every year. The people not only from district Reasi but also from the other parts of UT are major beneficiaries. He stressed the need for people associated with pilgrim tourism to act as brand ambassadors of UT of J&K so that J&K emerges as major tourist attraction.

Khatana said that though major pilgrim tourist traffic has been coming to the Reasi district but the previous regimes failed to develop the required infrastructure to deal with such huge pilgrim traffic. Moreover, no attention was paid to develop the nearby areas.

He said that previous regimes discriminated against Reasi which was the oldest district because it was and is a Jan Sangh/BJP stronghold but things would not continue as they were.

'Cong leader seeing through Italian glasses' Rahul must apologize for defaming India: Chugh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: BJP national general secretary, Tarun Chugh today fired senior Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi

Hold elections, let democracy flourish in J&K: Altaf Bukhari

Excelsior Correspondent

Apni Party, Bukhari said, "It was due to the unconditional support from the masses that Apni Party has emerged as one of the most important political parties in the J&K within a short span of time."

"Apni Party was launched post-August 5, 2019, and it was the time when there was absolute chaos in the entire Jammu and Kashmir due to the abrogation of Article 370 and the snatching of J&K's statehood. At that time people were apprehensive about their future as they thought that J&K might lose its demography, and eventually, people here will lose their exclusive rights to land and employment opportunities. At that time thousands of youngsters were under detention and the whole J&K was closed. The traditional leaders were either in detention or they had chosen to keep mum in the newly emerged turbulent situation. But we choose to come forward and shouldered our responsibilities at that crucial time," Bukhari asserted.

He said Apni Party leaders went to New Delhi to meet the Prime Minister and Home Minister to ensure no demographic change occurs in J&K. "We made the Centre to announce that there will be no demographic change in J&K and only J&K people will have right on the agricultural land and jobs. We did it despite the fact that some miscreants spread misinformation and criticized us harshly for meeting leaders in New Delhi," he added.

Bukhari promised the people of Uri that when Apni Party will get a mandate to form a Govt, it will ensure that all the residents get economic dividends here. He said, "This place is full of natural resources, but I know that the local people have always been deprived of the dividends of these resources."

Bukhari also demanded the release of jailed religious scholars Moulana Abdul Rashid Dawoodi and Mushtaq Ahmad Veeri. During rally many political activists from NC joined Apni Party.

The prominent party leaders who were present on this occasion included the party's state convener Haji Parvez, Constituency Incharge Uri Ch Mushtaq, Qazi Mohd Sheikh, Ch Rafiq Balote, Ms Shamshada Ji, Manzoor Ahmad Lone, Manzoor Ahmad Wani, Sajjad Sheikh, Nazir Ahmad Chechi, Mohd Miskeen, Nawaz Malik, Raja Maqbool and others.

CJ, other Judges interact with Yuva Sangathan Contingent

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court Justice N Kotiswar Singh and other Judges of the High Court interacted with the 'Yuva Sangathan Contingent' comprising of 25 students studying in different educational institutions of far flung areas of Assam.

The contingent was led by two faculty members from IIT Gauhati and were coordinated by the students from IIT Jammu. The tour was organized in connection with the flagship programme of Government of India "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

During the interaction, the Chief Justice impressed upon the visiting students to read the preamble of Indian Constitution as it is important not only for Judges and Lawyers but also for the common man to understand the fabric of Indian society besides imbining the quality of good human being.

He further stated that the preamble is a beautiful poem. He also advised them to keep themselves abreast with the fundamental rights enshrined in the Part-III of the Constitution and become an aware citizen.



CJ J&K and Ladakh High Court Justice N Kotiswar Singh with Yuva Sangathan Contingent.

While intermingling with the students, the Chief Justice was apprised by them about their first hand experiences with the common person during their visit to Bhabherwah and border areas of J&K.

Justice Tashi Rabstan encouraged the female visitors to shun their inhibitions and step out in participating in such events.

Justice Sindhu Sharma who was also present in the meeting said that learning is a continuous experience and highlighted the importance of learning while travelling. She also advised the guests to be the ambassadors of peace and harmony prevailing in the UT of J&K.

Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice

Mohammad Akram Chowdhary and Justice Rahul Bharti also interacted with the guests and extended open invitation to them to visit again.

The visiting delegates thereafter had a round of the High Court premises and also witnessed the working of various Courts and also eCourts as well as front office of J&K Legal Services in the High Court.

Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, M.K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice besides other Registry Officers, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and other Officers/officials of the High Court were present during the interactive session.



Police detaining protesting youth in Jammu (left) and job aspirants staging a peaceful protest in Srinagar (right).

Hundreds of job aspirants detained by Police as they continue protest against JKSSB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 9: Continuing their agitation on 2nd consecutive day, thousands of aspirants of JKSSB today gathered at Ambedkar Park, Panama Chowk in Jammu and Partap Park in Kashmir to protesting against JKSSB and J&K Administration for hiring a blacklisted company for conducting crucial recruitment exams.

In Jammu, thousands of aspirants attempted to come on road to march towards Division Commissioner Office but their attempt was foiled by Jammu and Kashmir Police as they detained more than one hundred aspirants who were taken to District Police Lines and were released later in the evening.

Addressing the gathering Vinkal Sharma alleged that JKSSB and JKUT administration had hired a blacklisted company Aptech for conducting crucial exams. He said that this company is blacklisted in many states and recently in the last two months this blacklisted company has compromised/leaked many crucial national level exams including KVS, NVS and CTET etc.

Kartik Bhagat while addressing the gathering, demanded immediate roll back of the exam calendar issued by JKSSB, remove Aptech from conducting Government recruitments, technical investigation into exams conducted by Aptech and a strong law against those involved in paper leak scams. He said this mass agitation will not stop unless these four demands are addressed. He said this is a

decisive fight against corruption in recruitment.

Atul Sudan in his address said that this is now going to be the mass movement and they will not call of this agitation until their demands are addressed. He said yesterday we called on ADC (Law and Order) Jammu

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Harvinder Singh (IAS) who listened to our genuine and assured that that all four demands will be taken up with the appropriate levels to get them addressed, but shamefully JKSSB again issued another press release yesterday evening that exams scheduled will be done on time.

Meanwhile, after intervention

of J&K Police, 8-members delegation called on Divisional Commissioner Jammu. They discussed all issues with him and presented a memorandum of their demands. Divisional Commissioner Jammu assured them that their memorandum of demands will be sent to the Government. Aspirants said that nothing concrete was assured by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu due to which their agitation will continue.

In Kashmir, a peaceful protest was organized by a handful of job aspirants in Partap Park, Srinagar. With placards in their hands, they demanded the J&K Administration to remove Aptech company from conducting JKSSB recruitment exams.

Govt employee held for hateful FB post

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Mar 9: Police here today booked a Government employee for uploading hateful post/comments on Facebook.

Amrik Singh, son of Late Ranbir Singh, resident of Beoli Doda, posted as a Class-IV employee in the office of Chief Education Officer Doda, posted something objectionable on Facebook which might have led to law and order problem in the district.

Sensing the sensitivity of the matter and to prevent the situation from turning into law and order problem, Doda Police swung into action and a Police

Party of Police Station Doda led by Inspector Arun Parkash Sharma, SHO Police Station Doda arrested Amrik Singh and after preparing a detailed report produced him before the Executive Magistrate Class 1st Doda wherefrom he was sent to District Jail Bhabherwah under preventive detention.

Doda Police has maintained a close surveillance on activities of trouble shooters and bad characters on social media and has warned that if anyone is found indulged in spreading hatred to hurt the sentiments of any individual or community, stringent action shall be taken against such mischief mongers.

**Special offer on
HDFC Home Loans**

@8.50%*
p.a. onwards

**Credit score linked
Interest rates#**

**Give us a missed call
on 09289 120 120**

Disclaimer: *#All loans are at the sole discretion of HDFC Ltd. For detailed terms & conditions, visit www.hdfc.com CIN: L70100MH1977PLC019916.

Scan for a Home Loan