

Omar calls for upholding of ceasefire along borders

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Mar 18: Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called upon India and Pakistan to uphold the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC), saying innocent lives were being lost to border skirmishes.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of workers' convention

cern over the growing unemployment in the State and said the PDP-BJP Government's open patronage to nepotism, corruption and illegitimate recruitment practices had created a deep sense of despondency among the youth.

The former Chief Minister said that the Chief Minister has not delivered the promise of holding inquiry into backdoor appoint-

and the State Government had been effectively shifted to the Central Government and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Omar said: "PDP's Faustian bargain with the BJP was not an electoral compulsion as Mehbooba would like us to believe today. It was a pre-determined, pre-planned tactical and strategic coming together of the PDP and the BJP to reap dividends of a simultaneously divisive, insular and deceitful politics in both regions of the State."

Stating that J&K has been pushed into the throes of renewed militancy, turmoil and division, he said while the situation in Kashmir is volatile and unstable, Jammu is on the brink due to BJP's politics of polarization.

Omar said the situation is volatile especially in South Kashmir where the youth stand alienated and disenchanted because of PDP's complete U-turn after 2014.

"Mehbooba has summarily surrendered her power to take decisions and has precious little to offer to the people beyond photos and press statements. Just yesterday Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh exposed the duplicity and disingenuous modus operandi of the Chief Minister and her party when he revealed that the idea to offer amnesty to stone pelters came from the Central Government and not the State Government", he said.

ments. "Three weeks before Chief Minister assured to youth of the Valley that there will be enquiry about back door appointments in Khadi and Village Industries Board but the enquiry order is still not issued from the Secretariat. We want to know whether the orders of Chief Minister are not followed or Chief Minister had herself deliberately kept the youth of the Valley in dark as she promised to the youth but never issued the order", he said.

When asked about the defeat of BJP in Bihar and UP polls, Omar said: "May be this is the beginning of defeat of BJP and we will end their rule here in 2019".

The former Chief Minister said that Mehbooba stood relegated by her allies as erstwhile exclusive jurisdictions of the Chief Minister



Former CM Omar Abdullah addressing workers' convention at Kulgam on Sunday.

to commemorate the 23th Death Anniversary of Late Wali Muhammad Itoo at Kulgam.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Omar urged India and Pakistan to follow the ceasefire agreement of 2003 which had brought respite to the people living along the borders.

"Ceasefire was the best gift India and Pakistan gave to the areas near the border and the LoC, but since the last few years, we are continuously seeing that it has remained confined to paper only. It is not being implemented. I request both New Delhi as well as Islamabad to follow the ceasefire as part of the CBMs (confidence building measures)", he said.

Omar expressed serious con-



Participants during fbb Colours Femina Miss India 2018 talent hunt at Jammu.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

fbf Colours Femina Miss India 2018

3 girls from J&K proceed to

North Zone Crowning Ceremony

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: India's most exciting, glamorous and credible beauty pageant fbb Colours Femina Miss India 2018 commenced its talent hunt here today. The auditions received an overwhelming response as more than 80 contestants participating from all parts of the State.

The auditions were judged by fbb Colors Femina Miss India United Continents 2017 Sana Dua.

Continuing the same format this year, Miss India in its 55th edition will be touring to all 30 States including Delhi of the nation and to crown 30 State representatives who will then compete for the coveted Miss India crown. The top 3 of Jammu and Kashmir will proceed to the North Zonal Crowning Ceremony to be held in Delhi on April 12.

At Delhi, the most deserving candidate from each of the 8 States i.e. Miss India Madhya Pradesh, Miss India Jammu and Kashmir, Miss India Uttarakhand, Miss India Haryana, Miss India Punjab, Miss India Himachal Pradesh, Miss India Uttar Pradesh and Miss India Delhi will represent their State at the grand finale which is going to be held in Mumbai in June.

For the second time, the pageant

will host mentors for each zone who will guide the contestants to merit. Neha Dhupia, Femina Miss India 2002 and Bollywood Actress and beauty queen who is predominantly known for her work in Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam language films will take charge of the proceeding for the North Zone.

The names of the top 3 winners of Jammu and Kashmir are Samreen Kaur, Malika Kapoor and Deepshikha Sharma.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Carrying forward the successful legacy of fashion and excellence, fbb-India's Fashion Hub has come together once again with the Miss India team to look for the next 'face of India' and also vows to continue this tradition as it enters its fifth wonderful year in a row of its association with the Miss India title.

For the past 6 years, the pageant has been in a strategic alliance with Colors to achieve maximum mileage for the pageant. Rajnigandha Pearls has come on board as a co-powered by sponsor.

The finalists of fbb Colors Femina Miss India 2018 will undergo vigorous training from the best experts of the industry before the grand finale.



NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana during flagging off yatra to Pingla Mata.

Rana flags off Pingla Mata Yatra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: National Conference Provincial President Devender Singh Rana today flagged off yatra to holy Pingla Mata in Ramnagar of Udhampur district and felicitated devotees on the auspicious occasion of Navratras.

Reciting Bhajans and Kirtans, the yatra left for the pilgrimage amid spiritual ambience to pay obeisance at the cave Shrine of "Mata Pingla Devi". The pilgrims will have to tread six kilometers by foot from Kaghole village to the cave shrine while passing through beautiful surroundings, scenic beauty and peaceful atmosphere amidst the green pine trees.

Earlier, Rana paid obeisance at the Kol Kandoli

Temple, the first spiritual destination on way to Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine on Trikuta Hills. He offered prayers on the first Navratra and prayed for universal brotherhood and peace.

Rana also prayed for well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir besides peace and tranquility.

On the occasion, he felicitated the people on Navratras and hoped this auspicious occasion to spread peace and amity and inspire people to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity and the country.

"Pray Navratras to bring happiness, peace and prosperity to the people of the country and the State", he said.



Minister of State in PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, inaugurating Shri Ganesha Art Gallery at Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Shri Ganesha Art Gallery

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Shri Ganesha Art Gallery was inaugurated today by Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, here at 64 D/C, Gandhi Nagar.

It is the first time that a proper Art Gallery has been opened in Jammu which would cater to the needs of local talent of painters and sculptors. The inaugural exhibition showcasing the work of Dr Raj Kumar Sharma will remain open till March 28 from 11 AM to 5 PM daily. The Gallery is air conditioned and provides latest painting hanging system and lights which are of international stan-

dards. Dr Raj Kumar Sharma has participated in various national and international exhibitions and art camps. His major field of work on Ganesha has been appreciated by one and all. This is his 5th solo exhibition, which is showing paintings of Ganesha, nature and abstract works. There are sculptures of Ganesha, Third Eye of Shiva and flowers.

This Gallery in future would project the works of young and budding painters and sculptors. The Gallery also proposes to hold national level art camps and art symposiums, which would benefit art and nature lovers.

Doctor terminated for posting inflammatory messages on Facebook

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Principal and Dean, Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, Dr Sunanda Raina, has terminated services of Dr Amit Kumar, Registrar in the Department of Anaesthesia, GMC Jammu, for posting inflammatory and extraneous messages on social media.

The order issued on March 15 said that it was noticed that Dr Amit Kumar used his personal social media account (Facebook) and commented with the intent of provoking readers, following which a notice vide No GMC/ES-1/PF/2343 dated 12/03/2018 was served to him to show cause and explain his position within a period of two days.

"Dr Amit Kumar submitted his reply on March 14 which was examined and found unsatisfactory, therefore in the light of the fact that posting such content on the social media with the intent of provoking readers is against the provisions of SRO 525 and contrary of being a Government employee, engagement of Dr Amit as Registrar in the Department of Anesthesia, GMC Jammu, issued vide letter No GMCJ/ES-1/PF/713 dated 05-09-2017 shall cease with effect from 15-03-2018", the order reads.

The order further said that Dr Amit shall not be entitled for any experience whatsoever, for the period, he has worked in the department.

Navreh function held at KP Sabha Thousands of devotees pay obeisance in temples on first Navratra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: The nine-day long Navratra festival started today with thousands of devotees visiting various temples of Goddess Durga from early in the morning to pay their obeisance and participated in special pooja-archana.

All the temples were illuminated and specially decorated by their respective managing committee and devotees with special lights, flowers and bunting.

The huge number of devotees visited the Bawe Wali Mata temple at Bahufort from early this morning. The devotees were seen waiting in large queues for their turn to have darshan.

According to officials by 7-30 pm over 25000 devotees had performed darshan at Bawe Wali Mata temple today and still large number of devotees were waiting in the queues for their turn.

The elaborate security and other arrangements were made near all the temples by the authorities.

As per reports, thousands of devotees visited the Sukhrala Mata temple in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district, Chechi Mata temple in Samba district, Joda Wali Mata and Bala Sundri in Bani tehsil of Kathua district on the first day of Navratra today.

A large number devotees also

visited Baba Kaikh Nath Ashram where Master Somnath Trust had organized a free langer for the devotees on the occasion of first Navratra today.

A huge number of devotees attended the annual function held at the Bhagawan Gopinathji Ashram Udaiwala, Bohri near here to celebrate first Navratra. The function started with Guru Vandana. As usual, Guru Geeta recitation competition was held in which 30 competitors participated. The competition is held with a view to promote Bhagawan consciousness in the youth.

The competition was categorized in the Sub Junior up to 5th standard and junior group beyond 5th standard and up to 8th standard. Mahraj Krishan Santosh, Kamlesh Tufchi and Krishan Ji Pandita acted as the judges on the occasion.

The participants who bagged first, second and third prize in the Sub Junior Group are Simran Choudhary, Mahi Sharma and Mansi Bhardwaj respectively.

In junior group Narmata Bhat, Mishika Moza and Harshulla Ganjoo got first, second and third prize respectively.

The function was presided over by Kusum Pandita. In her address she said that such type of programmes will help in promoting moral and educative influence on the youth.

An eight-day long spiritual activity in connection with the Navratra festival also started at the Ashram from yesterday evening with a Havan and the activity will be daily held in the Ashram from 4-30 am to 7-30 am up to March 25.

The Durga Navratra celebrations started on a grand note in the ancient Mahakali temple at Bhadarwah today. The devotees from Bhadarwah and other parts of erstwhile Doda district participated in the function from early this morning to offer special prayers to Goddess.

The first Navratra is also being celebrated as Navreh by the Kashmiri Pandits and in this connection functions were organized at various places by displaced Pandits.

A grand function as usual was held at KP Sabha Ambhalla here to celebrate the Navreh in which State BJP president and MLA Jammu West, Sat Sharma was the chief guest and Ashok Kaul BJP general secretary (Org) was the guest of honour.

S L Bhagati general secretary of the Sabha read the annual report

highlighting the achievements of the Sabha which included assistance to the deserving students, widows, for promotion of sports among the students of the community, medical assistance to needy persons, construction programme of Old Age Home, etc.

K P Sabha president, K K Khosa briefed about the 105 years history of the Sabha and objectives

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

of its formation which was to preserve ethos and culture. He also highlighted the role of Sabha since 1990 when the mass exodus of community took place and the contribution of the Sabha towards the exiled people especially in the field of education.

He informed that the construction programme of Old Age Home will be completed soon.

He lamented the lackluster approach of the Government towards the displaced community and urged it to take cogent steps to redress the problems of the community. He said despite repeated reminders the Government has failed to provide proper accommodation to package employees and demanded that the employment drive should be further started and balance posts be filled up immediately.

P L Hatash gave account of KPs contribution to Indian culture. BJP president and MLA, Sat Sharma lauded the courage K P community for its efforts to lift itself to greater heights after displacement while Ashok Kaul general secretary BJP spoke about the significance of Navreh.

Shanti Lal Sidh and his team sang the melodious bhjans on the occasion and vote of thanks was proposed by Ashok Braroo, senior vice president of the Sabha. The celebration of Navratras started at Sharika Peeth Sansthan and special prayers were offered by devotees in the temple of Goddess Durga. The religious function will continue for the nine days in the Sansthan. On the occasion president of the Sanstha M K Jalai threw light on the significance of Navratra.

Vishwa Kashmiri Pandit Samaj also celebrated the Navreh function at its office here under the chairmanship of its convener Kiran Watal. The speakers highlighted the significance of the day and prayed for the peace and brotherhood. Watal wished an honourable and dignified rehabilitation and return of the displaced community.

CONGRATULATIONS

Best Female and the Best Male academic topper for academic year 2015-17 receiving J&K Bank Gold Medals



RICHA VATS
Female Topper from Department of Mathematics, School of Basic and Applied Sciences



MANIK JAIN
Male Topper from Department of National Security Studies and School of National Security Studies.

J&K Bank Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed in presence of Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu Prof. Ashok Aima presenting J&K Bank Gold Medal to the Academic Toppers, Male and Female, for the year 2015-17.

The J&K Bank Gold Medal for Toppers has been instituted by the Bank and the Central University of Jammu as acknowledgement of the academic excellence and educational distinction. It is a part of broader understanding of the current leadership of the Bank to recognise the achievers and forge a strong and sustainable relationship between academia and industry within the state of J&K.



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