

NC leaders join agitation at Kalakote Bandh continues in Nowshera, JAC to wait up to 4 pm today

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Mar 18: While bandh and protest in Nowshera town in support of public demand of district status continued on the 31st consecutive day today, Joint Action Committee (JAC) Nowshera has given ultimatum to the Govt up to 4 pm today while several National Conference leaders led by Provincial President Devender Singh Rana joined agitation at Kalakote.

The agitating JAC members of Nowshera had given 'Jammu Chalo' call on Saturday. But with the intervention of Deputy Commissioner, thousands of people returned from Lamberi in the afternoon. The Govt had sought time up to Monday afternoon. If announcement for the posting of ADC at Nowshera was not made by this time, the JAC has declared to move towards Jammu the next day.

The people of Nowshera town and adjoining areas today again assembled at main bazaar and held strong protest demonstration. They also took out protest rally in the entire town and then reached at the main venue outside SDM's office. They staged day long dharna there. Today was 31st day of the agitation at Nowshera. Several local leaders addressed gathering and criticized local MLC/MLA besides BJP Ministers and the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti for their role of ignoring Nowshera.

Kalakote town also continued indefinite bandh today, seeking separate ADC's posting there. Entire market remained closed in the town and the vehicles also remained off the road. The

Kalakote JAC led by Rashpal Singh (Ex-MLA), Randhir Singh and others took out strong protest march in the town and then moved to the Tehsil complex. They have rejected the Govt formula of rotational ADCs for Kotranka and Kalakote.

In support of Kalakote people and local former NC MLA Thakur Rashpal Singh, several NC leaders including Devender Singh Rana-MLA Nagrota, former minister Ajay Sadhotra and Youth NC provincial president Jammu, Ajaz Jan also joined agitation at Kalakote today. They sat on day long there at the venue and accorded their party's support for their genuine and justified cause.

These leaders while lauding the spirit of unity and amity being demonstrated by people of Kalakote, Nowshera and Sunderbani during the ongoing peaceful and apolitical agitation in support of their demands, sought carving out of a new district and posting of separate Additional Deputy Commissioners to assuage the aspirations of the remote and border areas.

Provincial President, Devender Singh Rana and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra expressed solidarity with the agitating people and cautioned the PDP-BJP Government against selectivity in activation of the new administrative units sanctioned by the previous government headed by Omar Abdullah.

"As the people of these areas are pursuing their rightful cause by rising above politics and party affiliation, the Coalition Government is injecting politics and engineering divide to sabotage

the issue", Devender Singh Rana said while joining the party functionaries and workers in the sit-in dharna here.

Rana referred to the meeting of president National Conference Dr Farooq Abdullah with Governor N N Vohra in this regard and said the party leadership wants the state-mate to end so that normal activities are resumed again. He lamented that instead of solving peoples' problems, the present Government was forcing them to take to streets.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra cautioned against delay in acceding to legitimate demands of the people, saying the Government must come forward to address the issue by shunning its egoistic approach.

"Keeping in view the topography of the area, it is imperative to have the administration at door-steps of people, who are forced to travel long distances in pursuit of solution to their problems", Sadhotra added.

Th Rachpal Singh assailed the Government for taking vicarious pleasure in sufferings of the people. He said the present dispensation has failed on all fronts, administratively and politically, which is why the people are forced to take agitational recourse.

"The Government should not test the patience of the people", he cautioned and hoped that the order pertaining to rotational order will be rescinded and permanent arrangement made to assuage the aspirations of the people.



Speaker Kavinder Gupta inaugurating development work at Jammu on Sunday.

Speaker takes stock of development works

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta today visited various areas including Chattha Pind, Gandhi Nagar and Bathindi in Gandhi Nagar constituency and took stock of various developmental works in these areas.

A team of senior officers of various departments accompanied the Speaker.

The Speaker dedicated 250 KV transformers to the people of Chattha Pind, which will improve power supply of the area.

Interacting with the people at various places, the Speaker said that the Government is committed to provide improved basic amenities to the people of the State. He said the construction work on various developmental works is apace in the constitu-

cy and on completion of these works it will change the socio-economic conditions of the people of the area.

The Speaker said concerted efforts are being made to fulfill aspirations of the people, as the Coalition Government has initiated several developmental programmes in the State.

"All efforts are being put in to develop Gandhi Nagar as a model constituency on modern lines", said the Speaker and added several developmental works have been completed and the work on other different works is in full swing. He said many mega developmental projects have been launched by the Government and tangible change is visible on the ground as far as the developmental scenario of State is concerned.

RSS holds various programmes to celebrate Varsh Pratipada

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Various functions in connection with Varsh Pratipada were organized by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) here, today. The day also coincides with the birth day of founder Sarsangchalak of RSS, Dr Hedgewar who had laid the foundation of Sangh on Vijay Dashmi in 1925.

RSS Prant Karivah, Parshotam Dadichi was the main speaker at the Baba Jattu Nagar programme while former HoD Economics University of Jammu, Prof A N Sadhu presided over the programme held at Durga Nag Trust Community Hall, Barnai. Parshotam Dadichi highlighted the objective of Sangh which has come into existence to lay the foundation of a strong nation so that India can regain the status of Vishva Guru.

He said Sangh is working in nation building and despite facing many hardships from its detractors in the country its activists never looked behind and devoted their life for strengthening the society which in turn can make the nation strong.

He said Sangh is above cast, creed and region and religion and it treats all people alike who are devoted to their motherland. Parshotam Dadichi took the parties to task which ruled the country for last 70 years after independence by thrusting the western culture and ignoring the rich culture and traditions of India.

DPs from PoK to field own candidates for LS elections

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Chairman of SOS International-an organization of Displaced Persons from PoK, Rajiv Chuni today claimed that DPs would field own candidates in the coming Lok Sabha elections next year from Jammu-Poonch and Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituencies.

Addressing a rally of DPs at Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu today, Chuni sought support from all the members of the displaced community for this cause. He claimed that DPs were being used

Zulfkar takes up developmental issues of Rajouri, Poonch with Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Mar 18: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali called on Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office and Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh and discussed various issues of twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

The Minister raised the issue of Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch Railway line and said that railway connectivity is necessary for the development of the region and lack of development in Rajouri and Poonch is attributed to lack of rail connectivity.

Briefing about the project, the Minister brought into the notice of MoS PMO that the Jammu-Poonch railway project was designed as a national project on March 22, 2012 to be connected from Jammu Tawi Railway Station and Prime Minister during his visit to Poonch in connection with Assembly elections in 2014 announced construction of the Railway line. He said that preliminary survey for Railway line was conducted by Northern Railway Construction Organization but no progress has been made on this project as on date.

Raising the demand of four Lanning of Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch road, Zulfkar said that Union Government in July 2015 approved construction of 08 new National Highways which include Jammu-Akhnoor-

Nowshera-Rajouri-Poonch NH 144-A and the same project was included in Prime Minister's Development Project announced on 7th of November 2015 and an amount of Rs 5100 crore was earmarked for its construction.

The Minister also demanded four Lanning of Rajouri-Budhal-Mahore-Ramban road. He said that the areas of Budhal, Mahore, Gool remained neglected due to bad condition of roads.

The Minister also raised the issue of construction of Budhal Shopian road. "The Budhal to Shopian road will provide connectivity to the people residing in Budhal and Mahore areas of districts of Rajouri and Reasi", he said.

Raising the issue of demining of border areas & permanent rehabilitation of LoC shelling victims, Minister said that Poonch and Rajouri remained a battle field of various wars besides this majority of the population of the area has been the victim of cross LoC intrusion, firing and shelling. "The mines network along LoC area has also led to the loss of lives of the people and loss of movable and immovable property", he said demanding demining of areas so that the people of border areas can use their land for agriculture purpose and loss of lives and property is brought down.

Terminating air connectivity as vital for Poonch-Rajouri, Minister said that in view of present security scenario, air connectivity in the twin districts is necessary. He briefed PMO that Ministry of Civil Aviation has planned to construct Civil Airport in Rajouri, Surankote and Poonch but the work has not been started as yet. He demanded better air connectivity to Rajouri and Poonch districts with other parts of the State and country.

The Minister also demanded comprehensive project for exploring 7 lakes of Pir Panjal for tourism promotion.

Expressing concern over snails pace of work on GREF roads, the Minister brought into the notice of PMO that since Rajouri and Poonch are twin border districts and major roads are under the control of GREF (BRO) but there is no proper maintenance of these roads besides new projects taken up by GREF are also going on in snail pace. He said that some projects have been left midway while some roads are in dilapidated condition.

Dr Jitendra Singh listened to the demands and assured the Minister that he will take up the issues with concerned and provide all support in mitigating all these demands.



BJP and P K leaders releasing a booklet 'Terrorism in J&K' at Jammu on Sunday.

Shri Bhat showed way to struggle for success: Sat Sharma

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Panun Kashmir organised a function in commemoration of the birthday of the legendary Shri Bhat (Surya Bhat) here, today.

The programme was presided over by Sat Sharma CA, MLA, Jammu West and president, BJP, while Ashok Kaul, general secretary (Org), BJP-J&K was the chief guest. Sardar Bhau Singh, president, Khalsa Centre-London was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Kailash Mehra, the renowned iconic voice of the State was the special guest who presented beautiful musical concert on the occasion. A booklet 'terrorism in J&K: A historic perspective' written by Ashwani Kumar Churungoo was also released on the occasion.

Virender Raina, national spokesperson-PK presented the welcome address while the preface of the booklet forwarded by Prof. M.L. Raina was presented by J.L. Kaul, vice president-PK. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by P.K. Bhan, senior activist of Panun Kashmir. A video presentation on Shri Guruji Puruskar was also made in the function while a seven-point charter of demands was presented to the BJP leaders on the occasion.

Ashok Kaul in his speech said that the KPs have proved its resilience over the last three decades and BJP always had a soft corner for the displaced and dislocated people.

Sat Sharma in his presidential address said that there can be no

gainsaying the sufferance of the Kashmiri Pandit community due to mass exodus.

He said Shri Bhat in the 15th century while opening the closed gates for Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir also showed us the way a struggle could be successful.

Ashwani Kumar Churungoo, president, P K in his concluding address said that Surya Bhat commonly called Shri Bhat, made a great contribution to the history of Kashmir. The legendary Shri Bhat is an inspiration in the context that the ultimate aim of the struggle in exile in the current situation has to be the resettlement in the Valley of Kashmir as per the geo-political aspirations and the Margdarshan Resolution of 1991.

The seven-point Charter includes immediate filling up of all 6,000 posts under PM's package, plus 2,000 Central Government jobs for the KP youth, one-time compensation settlement plan for the over-aged youth, linking of the relief to the cost of consumer price index, passage of Hindu Temples & Shrines Bill and compensation to the people whose lands, orchards and other properties have been usurped by the State and non-State actors besides setting up of Special Crimes Tribunal to probe into the heinous crimes committed against the community on the basis of NHRC decision and bringing the culprits to justice and initiating a serious dialogue process with the representatives of the displaced community for their resettlement in Kashmir.



Army officers and devotees during restoration of ancient idol of Maa Bhadrakali at her original abode in Handwara.

Original idol of Maa Bhadrakali restored at ancient temple

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 18: The ancient temple of Bhadrakali village in Handwara wore a festive look today, as the original idol of the presiding deity, Maa Bhadrakali, was restored to its original abode in a simple ceremony at the temple.

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

The idol was stolen in 1881 and was subsequently recovered and kept in Jammu since 1999. In 1891, Sarwa Bayu, a resident of Handwara had a dream wherein 'Maa Bhadrakali' directed him to unearth her idol from a shrine located in Khanyar, Srinagar. His son, Pandit Keshavji Bayu, accordingly, retrieved the idol and placed it at Bhadrakali temple in village Bhadrakal.

The idol was stolen in 1881 in mysterious circumstances and subsequently recovered in 1983. During the exodus of Pandits

from Handwara, the idol was left behind in the house of Pandit Jagernath. It was recovered from Panditji's Handwara house and taken to Jammu in 1999 by Bhusan Lal Pandita, a staunch devotee of Maa Bhadrakali.

In a chance meeting with Brig DR Rai, Cdr Seth RR in October 2017, Bhusan Lal Pandita sought support and cooperation of Army for restoration of Mata's original idol at Bhadrakali temple. Accordingly, 21RR deployed for protection of the temple facilitated the re-establishment of the idol.

With the blessings of Maa Bhadrakali and cooperation of devotees and Bhadrakali Reconstruction Committee, the ancient idol of Maa Bhadrakali was restored today after a gap of 38 years at her original abode by Major General AK Singh, GOC CJF (K), in the presence of a large number of devotees some of whom had come from other parts of the Country.

Girls capable of breaking highest, toughest glass ceiling: SSC topper

Amit Katoch

JAMMU, Mar 18: Sumia, a girl from Reasi who has topped the Short Service Commission (Tech) Women list said that the girls are mentally much more



stronger than boys and are capable of doing the things more perfectly and professionally irrespective of being in any field.

"In this era of feminism girls are no way inferior to anyone and can do anything. Girls are now making their presence felt in every field and the notion which is there in the society which states that Defence sector is not safe and

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

secure for girls I completely disagree with this and firmly believe that Defence is infact made for girls in which they can serve the country with dignity and pride," she told the Excelsior News in an interview.

Sumia completed her initial schooling from KV No-1 Udhampur and B-Tech from Rajasthan. Sumia is the first woman officer from district Reasi who has cracked and topped this examination. She is also now the third generation from her family to don the green uniform for the country.

"My parents had played a very constructive role in shaping my career. Their timely support and

guidance acted like catalyst in my performance. I have marshal blood in my DNA and this too somewhere developed in me the passion for donning the uniform. My success is the result of parental blessings," she said.

Sumia belongs to a very remote village Bharakh of tehsil Pouni in Reasi. To a question Sumia does acknowledge that she is an average student but was focused and pre-determined to crack this examination.

"My success mantra was very simple. I always followed what my heart said and tried to put my sincere efforts to bring that to a logical conclusion. Although I had taken coaching to crack this examination but still you need to be very original and honest in your personality for these kinds of competitive exams. Manipulative nature can cost you badly. Raw minds who are thinking to join this service should develop a character which is as original as their nature is," she emphasized.

Data revealed that only 3.05% of women are in JKP in Jammu and Kashmir. The figures certainly are not very encouraging at a time when whole country has death of women police personnel's. Sumia in this scenario has emerged as a ray of hope to motivate and inspire the parents and society which has dubious and disdain attitude towards joining the belt forces as a profession.

"Defence is made for girls and they are no way inferior to anyone. Parents play a constructive role in shaping the career of their children. They should promote and support the interest of their girl child as my father stood behind me like a rock and always supported my decisions whether it was going to Rajasthan for higher studies or for receiving coaching outside the State," she asserted.

NPP protests at DGP's residence against assault on Harsh Dev, wife

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 18: Seeking immediate arrest of all culprits involved in the murderous assault on NPP Chairman and former Minister, Harsh Dev Singh and his wife, a large number of Panthers Party workers today held a massive protest outside the residence of DGP on Railway Road here today.

A large number of NPP activists led by Hash Dev Singh assembled outside DGP's residence here today and held strong protest. They were demanding action against BJP workers and leaders involved in attack on

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Harsh Dev Singh and his wife.

Addressing media persons, Harsh Dev Singh said that he had been receiving numerous threats of physical elimination from BJP leaders, the details of which were repeatedly provided to Police but of no consequence. He said that a highly biased and Saffronized administration in district Udhampur had refused to take cognizance of dozens of complaints filed against the notorious elements of BJP who were openly indulging in 'goondaism' with public announcements to kill the NPP leaders.

He said that even the video recordings and documentary evi-

dence provided to Police authorities were disregarded and thrown into the dustbin at the behest of their political masters. He said that yesterday's episode was a part of the well planned conspiracy hatched by BJP workers in connivance with some Police officers on the directions of their political bosses.

Strongly condemning the attack on Panthers Chairman and his wife, Rajesh Padgotra provincial president said that it was yet another cheap sadist attempt of BJP to silence the voice of Jammu. He said that JKNPP shall hold protests in all district headquarters to expose the nefarious designs of Saffron Government which had issued open threats to kill the Panthers Chairman who had unrobed the BJP for its omissions and commissions.

Anita Thakur, General Secretary of the party while condemning the attack on Manju Singh ridiculed the BJP and the woman CM of the State for making the most contemptuous mockery of the slogan of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. "If the wife of a political person, former Minister and party Chairman is unsafe, then where is the security of ordinary woman?" questioned Anita.

Yashpaul Kundal Ex-MLA, Bansilal Sharma, Jagdev Singh, Gagan Pratap Singh, Shiyam Gorkha and others also spoke on the occasion.



Anshul Garg, Additional CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, inaugurating fresh currency counter at J&K Bank's Vaishno Devi business unit.

J&K Bank opens fresh currency counter at Vaishno Devi

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Mar 18: On the eve of Navratras, J&K Bank's Vaishno Devi business unit threw open its fresh cash currency/note exchange counter for the general public.

The counter was inaugurated by Anshul Garg, Additional Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in presence of SDM Bhawan, Jagdish Singh and Tehsildar Bhawan, Duni Chand.

Notably, the counter shall be offering fresh currency/note exchange facility to the devotees coming here from various parts of the country. A simple but impressive function was held on

the occasion in which officials of the SMVDSB, police, CRPF, local shopkeepers and a large number of devotees from different corners of the country were present.

While speaking on the occasion, Anshul Garg lauded the role of the bank in the economic upliftment of the people, especially the weaker sections of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, trade and industry. He hailed the efforts of the bank in providing highest number of employment to the local youth.

Earlier in his welcome address, Branch Head, Sanjay Gupta, presented mementoes to the chief guest and other guests on the occasion.



PoK DPs' leader Rajiv Chuni addressing rally in Jammu on Sunday.

as vote bank for various political parties since long. They were befooled many times and lured with false and hollow promises. But now they will not come in their talks and have decided to install own candidate in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections news year.

The members extended their full support to SOS International and its leadership for its continuous dedication of raising voice for the well being of PoK DPs. Rajiv Chuni said that the motive behind organizing rally was to pass resolution to field candidates from PoK DPs community in 2019 general elections and seek their support.

"The candidates will contest