



Governor, Satya Pal Malik and Union Ministers, Ch. Virender Singh & Dr Jitendra Singh releasing a magazine at Katra on Sunday.

'My speech often leads to controversies'

Governor, Virender Singh pay glowing tributes to Ch Chhotu Ram, term him messiah of Kissans

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Feb 10: Governor, Satya Pal Malik while paying rich tributes to Rahbre Azam Deen Bandhu Ch. Chotu Ram on his 138th birth anniversary said the late Kissan leader was a great revolutionary and a man of character who never made any compromise on the rights of farmers of the country.

Addressing a function jointly organized by Chhotu Ram Sabha

*** Watch video on www.excelsonews.com**

Jammu and Kat Sabha Chandigarh Panchkula led by Dr M S Malik former DGP, Governor said that attending the function of Ch Chhotu Ram is not less than a pilgrimage to a religious place like Haridwar as he was a man of principles and revolutionary leader who up to his last breath fought for the welfare and rights of Kissans of the country.

Governor said it was this visionary leader who relieved the farmers of country from debt trap. Governor said that his speech leads to controversies but he never minds for that and speaks whatever he thinks is true and right. Recently during PM's visit to the State, he got instructions from PMO to send the text of his speech to PMO in advance which he is going to make while addressing public meetings along PM in the State. "I submitted the speech to PMO but could not hesitate while making some additions in my speech like demanding construction of an airstrip at Katra as people of the area face many problems in traveling the other parts of the country and State in winter due to road blockade, he added.

Governor said that the struggle for the rights of Kissans is there where it was left by Ch Chhotu Ram and a farmer still is not in a position to decide the rate of his produce. Satya Pal Malik, while complimenting Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for implementation of Swaminathan Commission report said it will still be useless as the middlemen system has not

been abolished who fleece the farmers and farmer is not given the rate of his produce within one month of harvest when he needs it most. After that he falls in the trap of middle men who take the maximum advantage while the farmer gets nothing, Governor added.

Fully justifying the cause of farmers, Governor said the injustice with farmers should end once for all and they should not be forced to distress sale. He said that nation can never be prosperous if its farming community lives in distress. He regretted that even today the farmer becomes poorer day by day. Substantiating this, he said cement purchased today for one quintal of wheat is half than what was purchased 10 years back for same quantity of wheat. Same is the case with diesel, he added.

He said if a farmer comes to know of this he will commit suicide. Stressing on imparting good education to children, Governor stressed on setting up of quality education institutions and asked the philanthropist organizations to play their vital role in this regard. He said 12 Indians have so far got Nobel Prize and out of them seven were either settled outside or were outsiders while only five were from India.

He said if you want to empower the people establish quality education institutions as nothing empowers people more than education which he termed a greatest wealth with any community and country. Governor said a capitalist spent Rs 700 crore on marriage of his daughter as per records while he spent Rs 2000 crore unofficially. Had he contributed same amount for J&K's development the State could have produced many Nobel laureates, he added.

Speaking on the occasion Union Minister, Ch Virender Singh who was the chief guest in the function announced Rs five lakh from his MP LAD Fund for construction of Deen Bandhu Community Hall at Katra and Rs one lakh from his own savings.

He said if the country had produced any messiah for farm-

ing community in last 100 years there are no two thoughts in it. He said people accord status of a Devta to such personalities. He said Ch Chhotu Ram played same role for welfare of farmers of the country as Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar played for Dalits. He said as Dalits consider Dr Ambedkar as an inspiring force likewise farmers of the country consider Ch Chhotu Ram as an inspiring force for them. He said the late Kissan leader was so concerned for the welfare and rights of farmers, peasants and land tillers that when the then British Viceroy asked him that they want to purchase wheat from farmers as the same is needed badly at the rate of Rs six per 40 kgs, he resisted and said that rate will be decided by him and no farmer will sell the wheat on this rate instead they be given Rs 10 for 40 kgs of wheat.

When the Viceroy warned him that they will send force to collect wheat from farmers, Ch Chhotu Ram resisted saying that he will not allow them to sell wheat but instead ask them to set ablaze the wheat in fields than selling it on cheap rates. This revealed the revolutionary mindset of this great leader, he added.

He said Ch Chhotu Ram told Viceroy that he demanded minimum support price for farmers who work in harsh weather conditions to produce crop for himself and other countrymen.

Earlier welcome address was read by the president cum chairman of Jat Sabha Chandigarh, Panchkula, Dr M S Malik who termed the Ch Chhotu Ram a messiah of farmers. He said a community hall of 300 rooms at the cost of Rs 120 crore is being constructed on his name at Katra Vaishno Devi. Prof Harbans Singh Sambhal also spoke on the occasion. The function was attended by former Ministers, Ch Sukhmandan, Ajay Nanda, Garu Ram, MLCs Vikram Randhawa and Surinder Choudhary besides a large number of people from Haryana and J&K.

A cultural programme was also organized by the students of different schools in memory of Ch. Chhotu Ram on the occasion and the people who have excelled in various fields were honoured on the occasion. Later Ch Virender Singh and Union Minister of State, Dr Jitendra Singh laid foundation of community hall and also unveiled the portrait of Ch Chhotu Ram at Katra.

Kargil protests for Divisional Headquarters on rotational basis

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, Feb 10: Demanding Divisional Headquarters of Ladakh at Kargil and Leh on rotational basis, a large number of people today took out a massive protest rally at the Kargil town on Sunday.



People taking out protest march at Kargil. — Excelsior/Basharat Ladakhi

Hundreds of people flooded to Kargil town and assembled at Islamia School Chowk under the leadership of various religious, political and social organizations and marched towards Baroo Kargil to protest the sanction of the fixed Headquarters for newly created Ladakh Division, the third division of J&K State at Leh.

*** Watch video on www.excelsonews.com**

The protesters were carrying banners and raising slogans in support of their demand of Headquarters at Leh and Kargil on rotational basis.

This was for the first time that all religious organizations, including, Anjuman Jamiyat

Ullama Isna Ashirya Kargil, Imama Khomenie Memorial Trust Kargil, Anjuman Shabe Zaman Kargil, Ahlae Sunnat Wal Jamaat Kargil, Anjuman Sofia Noorbaksha, Minority Communities Sikh, Hindu Buddhist etc and all political parties as well as Acting CEC LAHDC Kargil, Nasir Hussain Munshi came on one platform and protested in one voice for common cause.

The speakers, while addressing the protesters, said that the order on Divisional status

to Ladakh has united all the stake holders of Kargil for the first time and they would not stop till decision on the Headquarter is reviewed. The Division headquarters should be on rotational basis at Kargil for six month of summer and at Leh for six months of winter.

Acting CEC Nasir Hussain Munshi said that the Council would lead and start a civil disobedience movement against SRO 110 till the decision is not reviewed.

Meanwhile, Youth Action Committee Kargil Ladakh called a press conference during which it whole heartedly supported the mass movement in Kargil, Jam-mu and other parts for rotational headquarters of the Ladakh Division.



Artists performing at Jammu Mahotsav on Sunday.

Local performances mark 2nd day of Jammu Mahotsav

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: On the second day of Jammu Mahotsav-2019, enthralling performances were given by the local artists at Mansar, Chhiti Mata, Suchetgarh, Bagh-e-Bahu, Mubarak Mandi, Yatri Niwas Ground, Jammu and Bus Stand-Katra.

Morning started with the Nukkad Naatak based on the social theme "Beti Bachao-Beti Padoo" organized at Veer Marg Market witnessing the enthusiastic tourists. Cultural Programmes were held at Suchetgarh Border Post as part of Jammu Mahotsav to promote Border Tourism wherein large number of tourists enjoyed the mesmerizing folk songs and dances performed by the local artists.

Similar function was organized at Bagh-e-Bahu which also witnessed heavy rush where local cultural programmes started with Dogri group dance by Jakson Institute of Cultural Society, Jammu followed by Kashmiri dance item, Sham Rang. The audience applauded the Dogri song presented by Mohinder Pancharvi "Mithdi-e-Dogren Di Boli" followed by Punjabi and Ladakhi Group dances. Ethnic dress modeling show by KC and RB was also presented. The cultural groups and artists who participated in the programme including French Club, Jammu,

Dance Smiley Zone, Jammu, Fusion Dance Institute and others. Stalls of local food and cuisines, handicrafts, handloom, floriculture, horticulture, agro and other Departments were arranged for the visitors/tourists.

Cultural programmes, folk dances were highly appreciated by the tourists present in good numbers at tourist resort of Mansar. A skit on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was also performed at the venue to give social message to the public. Tourists from outside the State danced on the tunes of local music.

A heavy rush of pilgrims at Bus Stand, Katra was witnessed where local artists thrilled the audience with their traditional cultural performances. The main attraction at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex was the painting competition of school children besides local cultural programmes, ethnic food stalls and photo exhibition was also appreciated by the tourists.

The main highlights of the second day of Jammu Mahotsav-2019 was the live performances of Abha Hanjura, Dr Deepali Wattal, Jeewan Sharma, Suchi Arora, Subash and Neelam Langleh, Ashok Dogra and others. The audience was thrilled by the laser show based on Jammu tourism and patriotic song and danced on the songs of the celebrity Abha Hanjura.

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Ex-MLA resigns from PDP

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Feb 10: Former MLA Mohammad Shafi today resigned from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu and Kashmir citing personal reasons.

"I hereby tender my resignation from the basic membership of the PDP for personal reasons," Shafi said in a letter to party president Mehbooba Mufti.

He had won the 2008 assembly elections on the PDP ticket but lost to National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in 2014 elections.



Stranded passengers staging protest at Jammu on Sunday. — Excelsior/Rakesh

Stranded passengers stage protest, demand airlifting

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 10: Hundreds of passengers stranded at General Bus Stand here due to the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in view of landslides held protest demanding airlifting to Kashmir, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar.

The travellers from Kashmir, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar

*** Watch video on www.excelsonews.com**

Valley are stranded at the General Bus Stand here with the highway remaining closed for the fifth consecutive day today in the wake of landslides at some places.

Stranded passengers urged Government to take immediate steps to clear the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and to help the families stranded here.

"Government should airlift stranded passengers as there are women and children who are suffering badly," protesters said.

Officials said that around 300 people are stranded due to closure of highway, the only road connectivity Kashmir, Ramban, Doda and Kishtwar to the rest of the world.

The protesting families assembled at General Bus Stand Jammu urging authorities to take

to be serious about the problems faced by them.

Many stranded families claimed that market price of commodities has skyrocketed as there is no market checking squad to put rates in order. "Some of the shopkeepers and hoteliers are taking undue advantage of our miseries," they claimed.

When contacted, Tehsildar Rajinder Singh told the EXCELSIOR that arrangements for the stranded passengers have been made at Mufti Hostel near Commerce College on Canal Road.

"Food and accommodation are being provided to the stranded passengers and all these arrangements are being made by the district administration", he added.

Singh informed that some of the stranded passengers are staying in hotels and lodges and are approaching Mufti Hostel to get them register for airlifting to their respective destinations.

Regarding overcharging by the hotelier, Singh said that complaints regarding overcharging by a hotelier was received, but when verified it was found that the hotel was charging Rs 800 for accommodating four persons in a single room. "Rs 200 is not a big amount for a stranded passenger to stay in a hotel in the prevailing conditions", he added.

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