

Settle Kashmir issue through globally accepted means: Mufti

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 20: Demanding settlement of the Kashmir issue through globally accepted means, People's Democratic Party (PDP) patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today called for strengthening of democratic and civil institutions in the State.

Addressing party office-bearers from Srinagar parliamentary constituency, Mr Sayeed said democratic space could no longer be squeezed for security concerns. It was important that security concerns are addressed but not without providing a full democratic space to people, where they could run their civil institutions without someone having to breathe down their neck, he observed and said laws like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) have to go to realize a credible restoration of democracy in the State.

"PDP's aim is to pave the way for resolution of Kashmir issue through democratic methods", he said, adding that it was fundamen-

Revolt in PTS Manigam Deal cops under Sedition Act: VHP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Taking serious exception to refusal by over 900 cops to attend the Amarnath duty, State VHP has demanded that strict action under law be taken against them.

Taking to reporters here, today VHP State president Dr Rama Kant Dubey along with other senior leaders of the organization, Hem Raj Khajuria, Dr Sham Lal Gupta and S R Sharma said that they all should be dealt with under Sedition Act.

He said the refusal to discharge the Amarnath duty by these cops is an anti-national activity and they deserved to be dealt as anti national elements.

He said some of these newly recruited policemen are surrendered militants and stone pelters who were appointed by the Government under a wrong policy and its repercussions have now become evident.

Dr Dubey said that VHP right from the beginning was

mental that the people of J&K enjoy complete liberties within democratic system as available to other parts of the country.

He said restoration of all human rights by revoking emergency laws are not just slogans for the PDP but a historical necessity for bringing people of the State back from deep seated sense of injustice, deprivation and alienation.

Rolling back legislations like AFSPA was inescapable, he said and added PDP has from the very beginning delivered on this front with credit.

Mr Sayeed recalled that he had taken up the revocation of AFSPA with the Prime Minister and to review the law a high level committee was constituted by the Central Government in 2007 on his initiative.

"But subsequent events resulted in logjam like most other initiatives that were taken by the PDP-Congress Government," he said and regretted that this important issue had now been reduced to a mere slo-

gan to hide failure on governance front.

Questioning the wisdom of asking the security forces to prevent recourse of educated youth to join armed resistance Mr Sayeed said it would signify failure of the political leadership.

He said no research is needed for finding out the reasons for youth to feel driven to arms even after the futility of violence and its disastrous fallout has dawned on everybody.

"The youth are clearly alienated for a variety of reasons that include police repression, injustice, scandalous employment policy and muzzling of dissent by the Government" said Mr Sayeed while appealing young people to strengthen democratic process and secure empowerment through the system.

He said the role of youth in the coming elections will be crucial in making Governments accountable for their performance and securing the individual and collective rights of people.

Mr Sayeed said since its inception, PDP has struggled against the official repression and after coming to power in 2002 it immediately began by disbanded the Task Force and other instruments of terror.

The common Minimum Programme (CMP) between PDP-Congress listed withdrawal of draconian laws as a priority, he said adding:

"We began by repealing POT, which had been introduced by previous Government, and in 2007 identified revocation of AFSPA as a focus area in view of the vastly improved situation."

It is the part of the political agenda of PDP that there has to be restoration of trust between people of Kashmir and rest of the country on the basis of shared values of democracy.

He said democracy was not just a ritual of having elections but a way of life in which everyone feels empowered and constantly engaged in running the affairs of the State.

"Unfortunately J&K has been in deficit on this score ever since independence and in a major sense responsible for the crisis successive generations have faced" said Mr Sayeed.

BJP MP seeks justice for people of Ladakh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: After the conclusion of his 3-day tour of Ladakh region, BJP MP and Prabhari of the State, Avinash Rai

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Khanna has criticized the Government for not keeping any centre at Leh in Ladakh region for the candidates appearing in Civil Services and other competitive examination.

He has also noted with concern the inconvenience faced by the people as there is no bench of State High Court in Ladakh region and the people have to travel to Srinagar or Jammu to seek justice



'Sharbat' being offered to passers-by on the occasion of Nirjala Ekadashi.

Nirjala Ekadashi celebrated with religious fervour

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Nirjala Ekadashi was celebrated with full religious fervour and gaiety all over Jammu region today.

from High Court. Khanna has taken up these issues with the Central Government. In the letters written to Central authorities, he has pleaded that in Leh the UPSC and Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Commission are not setting up their centers for the examination they are conducting, thereby the students have to either go to Jammu or Srinagar which is far away from Leh and not affordable for the poor students to appear in these competitive examinations.

He has also written that the litigants of Leh, Ladakh and Kargil have to go to Jammu or Srinagar High Courts if they want to file any appeal as Leh Ladakh and Kargil have no separate High Court's Bench.

The people of Ladakh region have been demanding that a separate Bench of High Court be set up at Leh on the pattern of Bench of High Court of Jammu. If not possible then a mobile High Court Bench which can function 7 to 15 days in a month be opened at Leh which will give relief to the litigants of the region.

Mr Khanna has also raised the issues of high air fare of the flight to Leh and Kargil and has demanded increase in the frequency of flights and curtailment in the fair.

Bhalla reviews progress on 100-bedded SDH

* Visits quake affected areas of Kishtwar

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR-GANDOH, June 20: Minister for Housing, Horticulture and Culture, Raman Bhalla, today said that Government has prepared a comprehensive plan to construct new Sub-District Hospitals and Primary Health Centres in far-flung and hilly areas of the State.

This was stated by the Minister while interacting with people of Gandoh tehsil of Kishtwar district after reviewing the progress of 100-bedded hospital, here today.

Managing Director Housing Board, Kiran Wattal and Director Horticulture Anil Kumar Sharma besides other senior officers of Housing Board and Horticulture Department accompanied the Minister.

The Minister directed the executing agency to use quality material and ensure timely completion of this project.

At Kishtwar town, Bhalla inspected ongoing construction work on ANM School which would be completed at

an estimated cost of Rs. 2.30 lakh. He asked the Housing Board officers to complete the project by March 2014.

Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, Saleem Mohammad to further speed up the process for preparation of the lists of



Minister for Housing, Raman Bhalla being briefed about a project during his visit to Kishtwar.

Later, the Minister visited Gandoh, Ballessa, Bhaytas, Khara, Doonadi, Bathri, Malikpora, Gwari and Khilotran of Kishtwar district and took stock of losses caused to the private and Government property due to recent earthquake.

Bhalla directed the District

affected families so that the relief under State Disaster Relief Fund could be distributed among them. He also asked them to ensure early repair and renovation of Government Higher Secondary School Gandoh (Bhallessa) building.

Responding to the demand of Fruit and Vegetable traders, the Minister asked the DDC to identify the land for establishment of mandi in the town. He asked the Director Horticulture to set up a nursery for the convenience of F&V growers.

Earlier, the Minister inspected horticulture nurseries at Batote in Masjid Mohalla, Barthal, Assar, Thathri and Gandoh areas. He directed the Director Horticulture to arrange awareness camps in hilly and far-flung areas of Kishtwar district so that the fruit growers can be made fully aware about the Central and State sponsored schemes.

The Minister stressed for exploring new markets to promote State's horticulture products across the country.

A deputation of Sarpanchs of Gandoh tehsil met the Minister and put forth their demands related to horticulture sector.

Mr. Bhalla asked the horticulture officers to solve projected issues on priority basis.

People protest, demand recovery of missing woman

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 20: Hundreds of people, including family members and relatives of Kanta Devi, held massive protest demonstration outside the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, under the leadership of BJP senior leader Sat Sharma (CA) and Pargwal Block president Jai Singh.

Later, they submitted a memorandum containing the series of events and the delay on part of the Akhnoor Police in investigation to know the whereabouts of Kanta Devi, a resident of village Jogan Balto of Akhnoor Tehsil.

Briefing the Assistant Commissioner (Central) in absence of Divisional Commissioner, Sat Sharma said that Kanta Devi, who had been married to one Darshan Singh few years ago in village Jogan Balto of Akhnoor Tehsil, has been missing for the last about

two months from his in laws house. Her husband did not deem it necessary to register any complaint with police and when the brothers of Kanta Devi came to know about her missing, they started searching for her and even approached the concerned Police Post, Police Station and IGP Jammu Range.

He said however till date no progress has been made in the investigations and the woman remains untraced.

He said that there seems a foul play due to which the Akhnoor Police is neither taking the case seriously nor investigating it to the satisfaction of the family members. He said that Narco test of the husband of Kanta Devi be conducted besides case being transferred to SIT or CBI so that the truth comes out and in case of any untoward thing the culprits be punished under law.



Prime Minister



APPEAL

My Fellow Citizens,

You are all aware that there has been extensive devastation due to cloud burst and floods in the State of Uttarakhand. A large number of persons have died and property worth crores of rupees has been damaged. The Union Government is extending all cooperation and assistance to the State Government in rescue and relief operations.

2. At this moment, affected people need our help to tide over the calamity that has fallen upon them, to survive and to rebuild their lives. I request all citizens of India to stand with our distressed fellow countrymen, and actively participate in the national effort to support them at this difficult time.

3. I appeal to all citizens to donate generously to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund [PMNRF].

Manmohan Singh
(Dr. Manmohan Singh)

Payment may be made by cheque or draft in the name of the "Prime Minister's National Relief Fund" and sent to the Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi 110011. As per directions on the subject the nationalized banks are not to charge any commission on preparation of drafts favouring the PMNRF. Online contributions can also be made through the website of Prime Minister's Office i.e. www.pmindia.gov.in.

Contributions can also be made directly in the account of Prime Minister's National Relief Fund at the branches of the following banks: Allahabad Bank, Andhra Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Citi Bank, Corporation Bank, Dena Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank Limited, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Punjab and Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, State Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, United Bank of India, Vijaya Bank, and Yes Bank Limited.

Contributions can also be sent through Money Order with no commission chargeable. Contributions to the PMNRF have been notified for 100% deduction from taxable income under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act.

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