

Struggle for restoration of JK's identity unitedly: Dr Farooq to people

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 15: Reiterating that National Conference (NC) will keep on fighting for the restoration of the special Constitutional status of J&K, the party president and Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Dr. Farooq Abdullah

abridged Constitutional and democratic rights," he added. Party general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Senior provincial vice president, Mohd Syed Akhoun also addressed the gathering. Central Zone president Ali Muhammad Dar, district president Srinagar, Peer Afaq Ahmed, YNC provincial

promised largess that was supposed to bridge Dil ki Duri and Dili Ki Door?," he added. Addressing the workers, the party general secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar said, "The last time, our artisans had a sigh of relief was on launch of Artisans Credit Card Scheme (ACCS) initiated by Omar Abdullah led Government through which more than 70,000 artisans of the Srinagar district, associated with handicrafts and handlooms, were benefited. Nearly 40,000 modern looms were provided to the artisans free of cost. "That is how democratically elected governments work. Elected Governments are subservient to people. On the contrary the chapter which unfolded after 2015, particularly after 2019 proved to be a nightmare. It witnessed implementation of GST that came as a death blow to our artisans. It was marked by implementation of the Food Security Act, which snatched food from the plates of our daily wagers and hawkers."



NC president, Dr Farooq Abdullah addressing a workers convention at Kahanyar, Srinagar on Wednesday.

today asked people of Jammu and Kashmir to forge unity and fight for the common challenges together.

While addressing a one day workers convention of Block Khanyar at Koolipura, here, he stressed on the importance of maintaining unity in the ongoing people's struggle for the restoration of their rights. "I see no way of achieving anything in J&K without a lasting unity between different sections of our society. We have to stop seeing ourselves as Hindu-Muslim, Shia-Suni, Bareli Deobandi, Kashmiri-Dogra", he added.

He said "Unity in diversity must be our creed to last for all time and under all circumstances, otherwise there is no end in sight to our common problems in the shape of poverty, unemployment, and development. Our mutual discord will make our descent into darkness. Divided we cannot achieve anything, let alone get back our

president, Salman Ali Sagar, Women's Wing provincial president, Sabiya Qadri, block president, Bashir Ahmed Wani Halwai, YNC Block president, Abid Wani, Irfan Zehgeer, others were also present on the occasion.

Dr Farooq further stated that people, particularly the political class, have to see beyond the pale of their immediate narrow interests and work for what holds greater good for all sections of Jammu and Kashmir. "The crescendo built up by the incumbent while rescinding our unique Constitutional status has fizzled out. We witnessed towering promises made by the incumbent Government getting buried without even a whimper. People have only been bombarded with overly-charged emotive rhetorical jingoism whose shrillness on the audibility scale has crossed all limits. Where is that progress? Where are those promised jobs? Where is the

Railways restore fare concession for senior citizens

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: After the chorus grows for restoring fare concession of trains for senior citizens, Indian Railways has decided to restore the same with effect from July 1, 2022.

Indian Railways used to give concession in rail fare to many other categories of passengers including senior citizens. As per Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), 40% concession for male (60 years and above) and 50% for female senior citizens (above 58 years) used to be granted in train fares of all classes but soon after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the railway authorities decided to exempt the senior citizens from a concession in rail fare.

Currently, the railways is giving concession in fare for three categories of passengers, including four types of Divyangjan, patients suffering from 11 types of diseases, and students. In March this year, the Railway Minister, in his written response to a query in Lok Sabha, said that due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the movement of trains was high-

ly affected, which has impacted the income avenues as well and therefore, the restriction on concession in fare to some other categories of passengers, including senior citizens will continue.

Now when the rail connectivity has, by and large, reached the pre-Covid level, the Indian Railways continues to deny concession in ticket fare for senior citizens, drawing flak from the veterans and railway activists. As the chorus was growing for restoring the train ticket fare concessions for senior citizens, EXCELSIOR NEWS highlighted the matter few days back.

The news of the EXCELSIOR NEWS paid off as railways has decided to restore the fare concession (for all classes) for senior citizens with effect from July 1, 2022. According to the Railway website, all men of Indian nationality (60 years and above) will get 40% concession in train fares in all classes while as all women of Indian nationality (58 years and above) will be eligible for 50% concession in train fares in all classes. The concession in fares will be also given in Rajdhani/ Shatabadi/ Duronto trains.



President Sub Committee of Shri Hudh Mata Trisandahya Yatra, Jagdish Raj Thakur addressing a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

Hudh Mata Trisandahya Yatra from July 1

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: In a meeting here today, Sub Committee of Shri Hudh Mata Trisandahya Yatra has decided that the Yatra will start on July 1, 2022 from Dharalan Nagri, Kathua and shall culminate on July 10, 2022 at village Nanth Nallah of Tehsil Dachhan, district Kishtwar.

The meeting was chaired by Jagdish Raj Thakur, president Sub Committee Jammu.

In a press conference Thakur demanded that the district administration Kishtwar should complete the tendering process and other formalities for providing helicopter services to the pilgrims from Kishtwar to the shrine of Hudh Mata/Trisandahya Mata before the

start of the Yatra. He also demanded immediate repair of the road from Sounder to Bhawan-Brahma base in Nanth Nallah before the start of Yatra as it has been badly damaged.

Repair of the road from Patim Halla to Sounder was also demanded along with the demand of sufficient tentage facility for the pilgrims at Googath and Bhawan.

Still more demands included provision of medical facilities for the visiting pilgrims from Dharalan Kathua to Bhawan, security to the pilgrimage from Dharalan Kathua to Bhawan and that a Mela should also be organised by the Tourism Department at the Bhawan to popularise the pilgrimage.

Dr Jitendra announces Artificial Intelligence supported 'Common Single Pension Portal'

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 15: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced that the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare will soon



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh in an interaction with beneficiaries of "Bhavishya", the Portal for Pension Payment and Tracking System, at Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi on Wednesday.

launch Artificial Intelligence (AI) supported "Common Single Pension Portal" for the benefit of pensioners and elder citizens. This will also help seamless processing, tracking and disbursement of pension, he said.

Interacting with beneficiaries of "Bhavishya", the Portal for Pension Payment and Tracking System, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in keeping with PM Narendra Modi's motto to ensure "ease of loving" for all, AI driven Portal will send automatic alerts to pensioners and superannuated elder citizens. He said, the Portal will not only enable constant contact with pensioners and their associations across the country but will also regularly receive their inputs, suggestions as well as grievances for prompt response.

Most of the superannuated senior citizens including from paramilitary services and those about to get superannuated lauded the prompt pension processing through the Bhavishya platform and thanked the Union Minister for such seamless seva.

No proper sanitization results into piles of garbage in Udhampur town

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, June 15: Despite various schemes and programmes undertaken to sanitize public places, the Udhampur town seems remaining uncleaned emitting foul smell and making it difficult for the passers-by.

Heaps of garbage can be seen accumulated in most of the public places and parks, including Bhagat Singh park, which is situ-



Piles of garbage lying here & there in Udhampur town.

ated in heart of the city. Piles of dirt can be seen everywhere while drains are full of garbage.

According to the locals and morning walkers, they are forced to cover their mouth and markets await sanitization thus creating immense inconvenience for the commoners and visitors in the town.

Citing examples, locals alleged that garbage dumps could be seen littered across the whole Udhampur city and open garbage dumping station in front of DC office left and right side and near Pandav Temple, Ramnagar Chowk, Salian Talab mini bus stand, in front of District Hospital, main bazar, near ITI and other visible places centrally located in the town.

Ashok Kumar, Rahul Sharma,

to get the garbage lifted from these points on a regular basis.

In Udhampur Meat Market, Municipal Council Udhampur has created garbage dumping station in front of the mutton shops. Mutton, chicken and fish from here are supplied to the whole city and many Army, BSF, CRPF people also visit here. Shopkeepers have been demanding shifting of this dumping station for the last many months, but neither the Municipal Council nor the District Administration Udhampur takes cognizance of the same.

Locals have appealed to the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to take the issue with the concerned department and direct them to change dumping sites from the whole city.

Create more employment avenues for JK youth: Dr Narinder Singh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: BJP national secretary, Dr. Narinder Singh, has stressed on creating more employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir and said that in today's world, there are plenty of career opportunities in newer fields which require talented and innovative ideas.

Addressed a meeting of Swalambi Bharat (Self - Reliant India) at BJP headquarters, here, today, he said Prime Minister, Narendra Modi led Government has continuously supported the youth entrepreneurs by providing timely assistance through the medium of many youth employment schemes. The Modi Government is actively supporting the youths to convert their innovative ideas into suc-

cessful startups, he added.

Dr. Singh said that the BJP workers must lend a hand to the young aspiring entrepreneurs who have such innovative techniques or ideas that can provide benefits to the society and the nation. He asked the party leaders to find and support such budding entrepreneurs. He also added that the youth, by using these opportunities could convert themselves into the taxpayers instead of tax consumers hence supporting the cause of the nation.

BJP Programme in charge Ajay Pargal, all Cell in-charge, Ved Raj Sharma, Mahila Morcha general Secretary, Urvasi Gupta and BJYM State Executive Member, Abhiyudith Koushal participated in the meeting as members of BJP's Swalambi Bharat Committee.

Some of the hiccups from the banking side were brought to the notice of the Minister, which he said, would be taken care of automatically in the AI enabled portal with fixed responsibility.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Bhavishya has ensured End-to-End digitization of the Pension processing and payment in tune with Modi Government's objective of transparency, digitization and service delivery. He also

Departments including 815 Attached Offices, along with 7,852 DDOs on board. He also informed that as on date, more than 1, 62,000 cases have been processed i.e. PPOs issued which includes more than 96,000 e-PPOs.

Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Shri V. Srinivas said, PPO in Digilocker eliminates delays in forwarding PPO to new Pensioners, as well as the necessity of handing over a physical copy. Considering that a very large number of retirees are from CAPFs who serve in far flung areas of the country, such a software is a boon both in terms of Ease of processing as well as speed and accuracy in pension processing.

From the retiree filing his/her papers online till issue of the PPO in electronic format going into the Digilocker, this platform has shown the intention of complete transparency and efficiency of the Government. Every stakeholder has a deadline to complete their part of the pension processing and alerts keep going on the pensioners' mobile. As was in the past, this obviates the necessity of the retiree to keep chasing his file from seat-to-seat months before his retirement. Since the software is fed with the latest pension rules, the calculation of pension is accurate and as per rule and not based on the interpretation of the dealing staff.

Agnipath a visionary scheme to serve nation: Arun Prabhat

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Jammu Kashmir, today welcomed the decision of Central Government for clearing Agnipath scheme for recruitment of youth in the armed forces.

Briefing media persons at party headquarters here, today, State president, BJYM Arun Prabhat along with State vice president, Akhil Prashar and State media in charge, Chetan Wanchoo said that Agnipath is a visionary scheme which would provide a unique opportunity to the youth to serve the nation and contribute towards national building.

"Jammu is a land of brave Dogras who valiantly fought against the enemy and felt pride in serving the nation. This scheme would further encourage several youths of Jammu and Kashmir and country to serve in Armed Forces. About 46 thousand Agniveers would be recruited this year under the scheme, giving boost to employment opportunities," Arun Prabhat said.

Describing it as a farsighted decision, Arun Prabhat said, this will make India's young population disciplined, skilled, fit and financially empowered to make them self-reliant. This will be a foundation of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in a true sense, he said. Besides, the youth would get near about Rs 12 lakhs after serving four years in the army to pursue their future dreams without the financial pressure. The scheme would also provide

opportunity for Agniveers to train in the best institutions and enhance their skills and qualifications.

"It will also enhance the availability of trained personnel to boost national security in times of external threats, internal threats and natural disasters and



BJYM J&K UT, president Arun Prabhat, State in charge media Chetan Wanchoo addressing a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

make the profile of Armed Forces more youthful and dynamic," he said.

Arun Prabhat told reporters that the scheme provides a holistic approach as it would also ensure adequate reemployment opportunities for those returning to society and would emerge as role models for other youths.

The BJYM president also appreciated the announcement of PMO that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has asked the Government departments and ministries to recruit 10 lakh persons in the next one and a half years.

Arun Prabhat said that eight-year rule of PM Narendra Modi has done tremendous work to ensure that every section of the society gets its due share with discrimination and lopsidedness becoming the things of past. He said that the Modi Government has also given thrust to the economy by exploiting all possibilities for achieving the goal of making India a 5-trillion economy, coming closer and closer with each passing day.

Lalit Mahajan elected BBIA president for 4th term

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: Lalit Mahajan was today elected as president of the Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA) for the fourth consecutive term. The new team of the BBIA was today declared elected unopposed by the Election

office bearers of the Association, for which scrutiny was conducted on June 14. All the nominations were found in order.

After the withdrawal of the nomination papers today, in presence of Elections Commissioners, all the six office bearers were found declared elected unopposed for the term



Newly elected office bearers of the BBIA along with four Election Commissioners at BBIA Bhavan, Bari Brahmana on Wednesday.

Commissioners- Shiv Kumar Sharma, Yogesh Badyal, PL Raina and Rishi Kant Gupta, nominated for the purpose of holding smooth elections of the important organization of the Industrialists in Jammu region.

A spokesman of the BBIA said that as per the election notification of Bari Brahmana Industries Association dated June 4, 2022, for the term 2022-24, nine nomination papers were received against the six posts of

of two years. Lalit Mahajan was declared elected as president, Tarun Singla as senior vice president, Ajay Langar as vice president, Viraj Malhotra general secretary, Rajesh Jain secretary while Vivek Singhal as treasurer of BBIA for the term 2022-24.

It is pertinent to mention here that Lalit Mahajan has been elected as president of this apex body of industrialists for the fourth consecutive term.



Union Minister during visit to Baramulla.

Union MoS Home inspects Transit Accommodation Camp at Baramulla

Excelsior Correspondent

BARAMULLA, June 15: Asserting that Kashmiri migrants constitute part and parcel of Kashmir's composite culture, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Youth Affairs and Sports, Nisith Pramanik today affirmed that Union Government led by the Prime Minister is keen towards the peaceful and prosperous welfare of Kashmiri migrants. He said that several concrete measures have been taken in order to ensure their rehabilitation so that they live in their homeland with peace and harmony.

The Minister made these remarks during inspection of Transit Accommodation Camp at Khawjabagh Baramulla where he took first hand appraisal of its construction work. He was accompanied by DIG North Kashmir Uday Baskar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrihs Aagar, SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammd and other senior functionaries of the administration.

The transit camp, having the accommodation facility for about 320 families, will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 40.32 Crores in which 192 flats will be completed in December of this year while as rest flats will be completed in March next year.

While terming the people of Kashmir having loving and accommodative nature, the Minister said that time has come when the people of different faiths and beliefs live with peace and prosperity. He said that unity in diversity as envisaged in 'Azadi

ka Amrut Mahotsav' initiative, is the only unifying factor for a strong nation.

After carrying out the sports activities, the Minister asserted that the mission of 'New India' as conceptualized by the Prime Minister, can be achieved through the nation wide movement of Fit India, besides urging youth to join hands in order to realise the ambition. He said that youth of Kashmir have immense potential to contribute in nation building and there is a need to provide appropriate platforms for harnessing it in a right and constructive way.

Reiterating upon the Government's commitment of empowering youth by means of various youth engagement activities, the Minister said that various programmes are in pipeline which will enable our youth to perform progressively. He also said that future of every nation rests on its youth and they need to identify their role for the upliftment of the nation.

While enlisting various interventions taken by the present dispensation, Pramanik said that the Government is committed to provide all facilities including sophisticated infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir for sports related activities so that the youth are engaged in sports and build their careers in it.

Later, the MoS laid foundation stone of Residential Apartments (2BHK) for BDCs at Veerwan Baramulla being established at an estimated cost of Rs. 633.44 lakhs which has been highly applauded by PRIs and other concerned stakeholders.

3-day seminar on 'Life & Legacy of Maharaja Gulab Singh' begins at JU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, Prof Umesh Rai today inaugurated a three-day national seminar on "Revisiting of Life and Legacy of Maharaja Gulab Singh".

The event is being organized by the Department of History, University of Jammu in collaboration with Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR),

this region in the larger perspective.

The presidential remarks were presented by Prof Raghuvendra Tanwar, chairman ICSR. He stressed upon revisiting the history of Jammu and Kashmir, and emphasized the need for rewriting it. He also underlined the fact that ICHR is engaged in the reconstruction of the history of the region and its proper production for the citizens of India.



JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai and others lighting ceremonial lamp at inaugural of 3-day seminar on Maharaja Gulab Singh on Wednesday.

Jammu Kashmir Study Centre and Maharaja Gulab Singh Research Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Umesh Rai stressed that there was a dire need to rewrite the history of Jammu and Kashmir in general and of Maharaja Gulab Singh in particular. "Such deliberations bring out new facts and stereotyping notions about the history of Jammu and Kashmir," he said and added that such exercises can become instrumental in reshaping Jammu and Kashmir.

The keynote address was presented by Ashutosh Bhatnagar, Director JKSC, who spoke about Jammu and Kashmir being an integral part of India and its strategic importance and how Maharaja Gulab Singh and his generals reclaimed the cultural frontiers of India. He went on to emphasize the necessity of situating the history of

Earlier, the theme of the seminar was introduced by Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, Director Seminar, who gave a description of the lasting legacy of Maharaja Gulab Singh and his contributions in the formation of erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir and how this role has been neglected in the larger historical discourse.

Prof Shyam Narayan also talked about the seminal contributions of Maharaja Gulab Singh in reckoning traditional boundaries of India, especially Mansarovar, which has always been an integral part of the sacred geography of Indian civilization.

Prof Suman Jamwal, HoD History presented the welcome address and introduced the dignitaries.

The inaugural session was concluded by Dr Madhulika Singh, who presented a vote of thanks.

Eight docs repatriated from Ladakh adjusted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 15: Government of Jammu & Kashmir has ordered adjustment/posting of seven Medical Officers and one Dental Surgeon, repatriated from the Union Territory of Ladakh vide Government Order Number 177-JK (HME) of 2022 dated 18-04-2022.

According to the order, Medical Officers Dr Syed Zameer Hussain has been posted at PHC Kachen (Block Ganderbal), Dr Sheikh Rayees Jeelani at AD Preng (Block Kangan), Dr Salman Farooq

Wani at SDH Dooru (Verinag), Dr Khalid Khurshid at PHC Ompora (Budgam), Dr Ali Jan at NTPHC Sadoora (Block Qazigund) and Dr Bilal Ahmad Sheikh at CHC Sumbal (Block Hajin).

Dr Sameena Khan (Dental Surgeon) has been posted at SDH Hazratbal, GMC Srinagar on deputation basis while Dr Shah Ayush Mudaris has been posted at Ayush unit, Government Medical College Anantnag on deputation basis. However, Dr Mudaris shall draw his salary against any of the available post of Medical Officer in GMC Anantnag.