



NC president and MP from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah addressing a public rally in Marwah area of Kishtwar.

Dr Farooq exhorts people to stand up for their rights

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Oct 5: National Conference (NC) Party president and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah today exhorted people to stand united for the restoration of their abridged democratic and constitutional rights.

"If we don't do it, our future generations won't forgive us. The need of the hour is to unite. The anti J&K forces are hell bent to divide us. They are consistent in their efforts to create differences between the people by flaring up communal, regional and ethnic tension. But we as a civilized society have to fight such divisive agenda dem-

ocratically," he said on the third day of his tour of the remote areas of Chenab region while addressing a series of public gatherings in Warwan and Marwah areas.

Party general Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, Member Parliament (Anantnag) Hasnain Masoodi and senior leader Sajad Kitchloo were also present on the occasion.

Dr Farooq further added, "The first step in this direction is to have ourselves registered as voters and second one is to come out and vote in huge numbers. There is no other way to salvage our future generation from the repercussions of ongoing assaults on our unique iden-

tity. If we err in our efforts, it will have a lasting impact on our future generations."

Expressing concern over the plight of the helpless and hapless people of the remote regions of Marwah, he said, "The need of the hour is that the common man living in Jammu, Kashmir and Marwah should stand up for his rights. There can be no trade-off between development and one's dignity. Both have to go hand in hand. It's only NC that can protect the unique identity of our diverse people across J&K and also strive to ensure fruits of development reach the last man living in Marwah, Warwan, Paddar, Inderwal and Bhadarwah."

Shah assures statehood soon after Assembly polls: Bukhari

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari Tuesday evening led a high-level party delegation to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Rajbhawan in Srinagar.

The delegation submitted a memorandum that contained several demands including restoration of statehood to J&K, holding of Assembly elections, the release of detainees, transparent



recruitments, resolution of the issues of the fruit industry etc.

During the meeting, Union Home Minister assured Apni Party leaders that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored soon after the Assembly elections are held here.

Besides, Bukhari the delegation included senior vice president Ghulam Hassan Mir, Chairman Political Affairs Committee Mohd Dilawar Mir, vice presidents Ch Zulfikar, Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Zafar Iqbal Manhas, Usman Majid, Javid Mustafa Mir, general secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, Provincial president Mohd Ashraf Mir, chief coordinator Abdul Majeed Padder, president for party's Youth Wing Junaid Azim Mattu,

Provincial president Jammu Manjeet Singh, general secretaries Vijay Bakaya and Syed Asgar Ali.

A party spokesman said that AP leaders had detailed conversation with the Home Minister on several important issues. The meeting was held in a conducive atmosphere and the Home Minister was kind enough to pay attention to the demands and issues that the leaders raised during the meeting.

The AP also demanded transparent and fast recruitments in J&K, release of jailed youth, ensure stoppage of tax-free apple imports from Iran via Afghanistan for the safeguard of domestic fruit industry.

They said the apple industry, worth Rs 12,000 crore, is the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy. As many as 3.5 million persons are directly or indirectly dependent on the apple trade, contributing about 8% to the region's GDP. The fruit growers and traders, however, have faced multiple hardships and downsides since January 2020 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The apple trade at present is also marred by low prices for the produce. The rates, according to the farmers, have plummeted to half in what many see as an outcome of tax-free imports from Iran via Afghanistan which affects the economy of J&K.

They also demanded completion of projects like Sadhna Tunnel, Mughal Road Tunnel, Sinthan tunnel and Lolab-Bandipora tunnel. AP leaders sought raising additional special battalions, particularly in border regions to create job opportunities.



Priests handing over idol of Sharda Mata to the Head of Save Sharda Committee Ravinder Pandita.

Idol received for Sharda Temple

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 5: Save Sharda Committee Kashmir on the invitation of Sringeri Dakshinayam Sharda Mutt received panchloha (5 metals) Sharda idol for Sharda Temple at Line of Control (LoC) in Teetwal of Kashmir.

In a function at Sringeri, the Shankracharya of Sringeri Mutt Swami Vidushekhar Ji handed over the idol of Sharda Mata to the Head of the committee Ravinder Pandita in presence of many Kashmiri Pandit community members.

This 3 ft weighing 100 kilograms idol will be taken in a yatra early next year to Teetwal Kashmir where it will be installed in the new Sharda Temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Founder of Save Sharda Committee Ravinder Pandita said that he is very grateful to Sringeri Mutt for supporting in reclaiming the lost heritage of 1947 at Teetwal.

"There used to be a Dharamshala and a Sikh Gurdwara in Teetwal which was

burnt during Qabali raids in 1947. We got the land from locals in September 2021 during our annual yatra on this traditional route of Sharda Peeth yatra, which lies in PoK now. The official Charri Mubarak would proceed from Teetwal to Chilhana onwards to Sharda Peeth those days. We feel blessed on this historic moment" said Ravinder Pandita.

The work on this heritage temple is likely to be completed in November and the idol will be carried to Teetwal early next year for installation and final inauguration.

Meanwhile, the committee is constructing the Sikh Gurdwara also and its work is near completion.

Hit & run case solved, driver arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 5: Kanachack Police solved a hit and run case by arresting the accused driver.

As per police sources, an information was received at Police Station Kanachack through reliable sources regarding an accident between a car and motorcycle bearing registration number JK02CS-9518.

In the accident, the couple identified as Ashok Kumar, son of Bato Ram and his wife Asha Devi received serious injuries and were rushed to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where pillion rider succumbed to her injuries.

5 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 5: Bishnah, Gujjar Nagar and Phallian Mandal Police seized five vehicles involved in illegal mining.

As per police sources, teams from Police Station Bishnah led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma, Police Post Gujjar Nagar led by PSI Ajaz Ahmed and Police Post Phallian Mandal led by PSI Ajesh Singh Jamwal raided different locations in their respective areas and seized 5 vehicles involved in illegal mining.

DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same. The mining was being done in violation of order of High Court of J&K.

In order to strictly implement the drive against illegal mining and to tighten noose against the violators of the law, Jammu Police has initiated strict action.



HM Amit Shah during visit to martyr SPO's house in Baramulla.

HM visits martyr SPO's family at Uri

Excelsior Correspondent

BARAMULLA, Oct 5: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah today took the mountainous terrain and visited martyr SPO, Mudasir Sheikh's family who laid down his life while fighting militants.

Soon after addressing the rally at Baramulla, he headed

for the border town Uri to pay homage to the martyred SPO. Mudasir, son of Maqsood Sheikh (retired SI of JKP), was part of the team of undercover operatives of Jammu and Kashmir Police which intercepted the militants heading for targeting Shri Amarnathji Yatra in a joint operation with 52RR of Army.

While visiting the family, Shah said that the martyr

Mudasir's family is a great source of inspiration for the police force and the youth of Kashmir, with their open denouncement of terrorism and celebrating the martyrdom of their son as a national sacrifice.

Martyr Mudasir was unmarried and is survived by his father Maqsood Sheikh, mother Shameema Begum, two sisters and three brothers.

Constitutional reforms usher new era of growth, development in J&K: RSS

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 5: Observing that recent constitutional reforms have ushered a new era of growth and peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Sah-Sarkaryavah of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Dr Krishna Gopal today said that the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh are witnessing positive change after constitutional reforms.

Addressing Swayamsevaks on the occasion of Vijaydashmi at Ved Mandir ground Jammu, here today, he said that J&K is now scripting another chapter in its old cherished history after constitutional reforms.

Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosbale, Prant Sanghchalak Dr Gautam Mangi and Jammu Vibhag Sanghchalak Suresh Chandra were also present on this occasion.

Sah Sarkaryavah urged the Swayamsevaks to reach out to all sections of society and eradicate

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

all forms of discrimination. Such a society will be a beacon light to the entire world which is struggling with various issues of harmony, he added.

Explaining Hindu philosophy and Hindutva, Dr Krishna Gopal said that people do not understand Hindu philosophy and Hindutva because they see it through western vision and are caught in illusion.

"Hindu philosophy and Hindutva take different ideologies and thoughts together by evolving consensus," he said and pointed out that despite having hundreds of dialects, languages, and diversity in the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the Bharat is one and the Hindutva is the binding force.

Elaborating the philosophy of Vasudev Katubkam, Dr Krishna

Gopal said only Hindu philosophy says that God is omnipresent, the earth is one and we are all its children.

In this context, Dr Krishna Gopal gave the example of late singer Lata Mangeshkar's tour of America and said that when she

Bhavantu Sukhina Mantra, Dr Krishna Gopal said that despite having hostile relations with Pakistan, our Prime Minister offered to send wheat to our neighbouring country when there was a shortage of wheat in Pakistan.



Top RSS functionaries performing Shashtra-Poojan on the occasion of Vijaydashmi at Jammu on Wednesday.

reached the stage there, she worshipped the stage. "Similarly, when the country's daughter climber Santosh Yadav reached the summit of Everest, she stopped two feet earlier and did not put her foot on the top point, but bowed her head before the top point. This sentiment is the spirit of Hindutva," he explained.

Referring to India's Sarvag

Dr Krishna Gopal said that those who opposed the Sangh, are now understanding what RSS is, in its true sense. "In the long journey of 97 years of the Sangh, we have had to face hardships. Despite this, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh stands with one force. Our resolve is eternal that India is a Hindu Rashtra," he stressed.

Some politicians diluting autonomy demand: Soz

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Former Union Minister Prof Saifuddin Soz has alleged that a section of J&K mainstream politicians has created confusion over the real demand of the people of J&K relating to State's autonomy within the constitution of India.

"I feel deeply surprised that certain J&K mainstream leaders are creating confusion on the basic issue of the people of J&K State regarding autonomy within the Constitution of India. These politicians assert that they would help the people of the J&K State in restoration of full statehood

from the current Union Territory status," Soz said in a press statement here.

"They conveniently forget that the PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have committed before the Parliament that the statehood would be restored soon after the Delimitation process. This assurance is before the Parliament of India. However, irrespective of this assurance from the PM and HM, people of the J&K State would continue their legitimate struggle for restoration of Autonomy within the Constitution of India," Soz added.

New Kashmir Fruit Association elects office bearers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Bashir Ahmad Basheer has been re-elected as President of the New Kashmir Fruit Association (NKFA) for the seventh time.

The officials of the NKFA said that the general election of office bearers, Members of the Working Body of the New Kashmir Fruit Association, Fruit Marketing Complex, Parimpora was held peacefully and during which 91% of votes were cast by the Voter Members of the Association.

Based on the number of votes, those who have been elected include, Bashir Ahmad

Basheer as President, Anil Kumar as Vice President, Mohd Shahid Chowdhary as General Secretary, Farooq Ahmad Rather as Joint Secretary, Ashfaq Ahmad Jalla as Member Accountant, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat as Chairman Trade Settlement Committee and Ghulam Ahmad Dar as Chairman Transport Committee.

Others, including Omar Jan, Mohammad Yaseen Bhat, Bashir Ahmad Shah, Ali Mohd Reshi, Mohammad Ishfaq Dar, Mohammad Lateef Wani, Mehraj-ud-din Matta, Farooq Ahmad Bagow, and Fayoq Ahmad Kuloo have been elected as Working Body Members.



Divisional Commissioner inspecting work on NH-44.

Div Com inspects progress on NH-44 widening work in Ramban

* Directs to ensure smooth traffic movement

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Oct 5: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar today inspected the pace of progress on National Highway-44 four laning construction works in district Ramban. He also reviewed the status of traffic movement on the Highway.

The Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarrat Islam, SSP Mohita Sharma, officers from NHAI besides representatives of the construction companies

engaged for the four laning project.

The Div Com visited several vulnerable spots, including the sliding area at Mehar, and directed the NHAI to expedite the road clearance works to facilitate smooth double lane traffic.

He also directed the NHAI to expedite the pace of progress on the widening work and ensure mechatimization of existing highway for undistruptive movement of the traffic on the National Highway.

He directed the construc-

tion companies to station adequate manpower and machinery at all the vulnerable sliding zones for immediate clearance of landslides and to maintain hassle free traffic.

The DC apprised the Div Com about section wise progress on the four-laning of National Highway, including Nashri-Ramban and Ramban-Banihal sections.

The Div Com also directed the traffic police department to effectively regulate the Vehicular traffic and facilitate smooth passage of the fruit carrying vehicles on the National Highway.

Meanwhile, the DC also apprised the Div Com about measures taken by the District Administration to resolve the bottlenecks hindering the pace of progress on the prestigious national project as projected by the Construction Companies.

FCIK delegation meets HM, seeks rejuvenation of industrial sector

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) delegation today called on Home Minister Amit Shah here today and demanded rejuvenation of industrial sector in J&K.

FCIK team led by president Shahid Kamili along vice president Nisar Ahmad and secretary general Ovees Qadir Jamie met the visiting Home Minister at Srinagar. The Chamber during the meeting said that Kashmir enterprises are currently passing through a worst ever situation that has brought them on the brink of closure and extinction. During the past three decades of un-conducive working atmosphere, the enterprises have suffered immense losses because of frequent business interruptions. The miseries got doubled during past over one decade with volatile situation in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2019 followed by subsequent lockdowns which was further followed by COVID-19 impact of which remained till 2021.

FCIK further said that the pitiable condition of the existing enterprises may definitely have its impact on the prospective investors' confidence that in turn has the potential to

adversely affect the massive industrialization program of the your Government. The situation is alarming and before it turns uglier.

FCIK demanded immediate interventions to constitute a time-bound Task Force or a high level committee for recommending slew of measures necessary for survival, revival and sustainability of business enterprises in Kashmir. Our organization may kindly be made part of the Task Force/committee. It also demanded to provide marketing support to local enterprises in all Government procurements and earmark a portion of recently announced PM package of incentive scheme of Rs 28400 crores for marketing, expansion, revival and sustainability of existing business enterprises. In addition, direct all banks operating in Jammu and Kashmir for launching a uniform and non-discriminatory liberal OTS scheme for accounts that have turned NPAs.

The Home Minister directed the officers to take measures and submit a proposal for marketing support to Industrial units and FCIK was asked to submit the demands for marketing support immediately.

Police rejects Mehbooba's claim of house arrest

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 5: Police today said that former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was free to visit Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, rejecting her claim that she was "under house arrest".

"Again reiterating you are free to go madam, an official message has already been sent in this regard from PCR Kashmir. There were certain security related inputs that were conveyed to you before planning a visit as is routine. If you still don't want to visit, we can't help it madam," Srinagar police said in a tweet, responding to Mehbooba Mufti's statement that she was asked by SP Baramulla last night that she would not be permitted to travel to Pattan."

"I was informed last night by SP Baramulla @bbhatray that I wouldn't be allowed to travel to Pattan. Today @JmuKmrPolice

have themselves locked my gates from inside & are now lying through their teeth. Sad that law enforcement agencies are brazenly trying to cover up their tracks, Mehbooba tweeted"

Earlier the Srinagar police had tweeted to clarify that no restriction of any kind of travel to Pattan was imposed on her. "Travel to Pattan was at 1 pm as intimated to us. The picture tweeted by her is of inside of the gate with own lock of residents who stay in the bungalow. There is no lock or any restrictions. She is free to travel," police had said.

The response by Srinagar police followed tweet by Mehbooba Mufti: "While HM is going around Kashmir beating drums of normalcy, I am under house arrest for simply wanting to visit Pattan for a worker's wedding. If an ex CM's fundamental rights can be suspended so easily, one can't even imagine the plight of a commoner. @AmitShah@manojsinha"

Thief arrested with stolen items

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 5: Miran Sahib Police arrested a thief and recovered stolen items from his possession.

As per police sources, a complaint was lodged by a person namely Rakesh Kumar, son of Bihari Lal of Kotli Mian Fateh with Police Station Miran Sahib regarding theft of water pump motor, fan motors and some copper wire from his shop situated at Kotli Mian Fateh.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR Number 121/2022 under sections 454 and 380 IPC was registered at Police Station Miran Sahib and investigation started.

During the course of the investigation, a team from Police Station Miran Sahib led by SHO Inspector Zaher Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Surinder Singh and SP Headquarters Jammu Ramnish Gupta put in hectic efforts and with the help of technical assistance alongwith timely human intervention apprehended the thief, who was identified as Vishal Singh, son of Romesh Lal of Chatha Mill.

On his disclosure, stolen items including two scooters, three bicycles, one water pump motor, two fan motors and some copper wire were recovered.

Further investigation into the case is going on.



Effigies of the demon king Ravana, his brother Kumbhkarana and his son Meghanatha being burnt during the Dussehra festival in Srinagar. -Excelsior/Shakeel