

NC pays tribute to party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Congress, BJP played villains to democracy in J&K: Rana



Senior NC leaders pays tributes to Sheikh Abdullah.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference President, Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday lashed out at the Congress and the BJP for playing villains to democracy in Jammu and Kashmir; nurtured and sustained by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah over the years.

Leading party leaders and workers in paying homage to the Baba-e-Quom on his 113th Birth Anniversary at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Rana said "The Congress made repeated assaults by conspiring against democratically elected governments in 1953 and 1984, to quote a few, in a bid to weaken democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP's recent dubious role will also go as a bad chapter in the annals of democratic history of Jammu and Kashmir".

Senior leaders Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Surjeet Singh Sathia, Th Kashmir Singh, Sheikh Abdul Rehman, Brij

Mohan Sharma, Qazi Jalaluddin-Din, Vijay Bakaya, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Babu Ram Pal, Tarlochan Singh Wazir, Deepender Kour, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat, Binla Luthra, Deepender Kour, Master Noor Hussain, Gurdeep Singh Sasan, Vijay Laxami Dutta, Satwant Kour Dogra, Surinder Singh Buntay and others paid floral tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir.

He said the conspiracies have all along failed and the National Conference has, in fact, emerged stronger after every political assault due to

support of the people in all the three regions of the State.

"Now that the elections are round the corner, National Conference under the leadership of Dr Parooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah will go with renewed strength to the people and shall seek mandate for a strong and stable majority government in the State", he said, adding that the people want a single-party government as dispensations with crutches cannot satiate their political, developmental and economic aspirations.

Urging the cadre to gear up

for the elections, Rana said emergence of a strong National Conference will steer the state to peace, prosperity and development.

Earlier, senior leaders and the party workers paid floral tributes to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and pledged to work for steering Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh as peaceful, progressive and a politically stable state.

Among those present on the occasion included Bashir Ahmed Wani, Jugal Mahajan, Ch Haroon, Vijay Lochan, Abdul Gani Teli, Chander Mohan Sharma, Mohinder Singh, Pardeep Bali, Ravi Dogra, Rakesh Singh Raka, Sanjay Gupta, Rashida Begum, Daljeet Sharma, Nar Singh, Mohinder Gupta, Veena Obera, Anju Grover, Kuldeep Kour, Ch Shafi, Arif Mir, Sian Dass, Waris Gill, G.H Malik, Ch. Saleem Retd, Ch Salam Din, Subash Mehra, Rohit Kerni, Tanveer Hussain Babzada, Nitish Kumar,

Iftkhar Choudhary, Amrit Versha, Ashok Dogra, Ch. Akhter, Master Aslam and Mohit Mehra.

The National Conference leaders also distributed eatables among the inmates of Old Age Home at Amphalla here.

Former Director of Information J&K, Narinder Singh also paid tributes to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. In a statement issued from USA, Singh described him as a social and visionary leader with an international image who dominated the political scene for over five decades and made his place in the hearts of the people of the country. He said Sheikh Sahib is still remembered because of his remarkable and significant contributions such as introducing revolutionary land to the tillers law, making education free from Class One to MA and introducing of Single Line Administration (Taking Government to Door Steps of the people) and fixing priorities to the developmental projects.

Kavinder dedicates transformer to Nanak Nagar residents



Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta after dedicating power transformer to the Nanak Nagar residents.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday dedicated new 400 KVA transformer and Substation to the residents of Nanak Nagar at Shiva Ji Chowk, Nanak Nagar. The transformer was sanctioned from his CDF three months ago.

Gupta said that these

areas have been facing power crisis for the past several years and they also face power fluctuations, so for fulfilling demands of the locals of the area such step has been taken in order to eradicate the crisis of power from these areas.

Gupta said during his tenure he had tried his best for the development works

and other projects. He said the major projects executed in this area are up gradation of 10 MVA substations to 20 MVA.

Gupta assured the residents of the area that their legitimate demands would be fulfilled in a phased manner as Government at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved total development and prosperity of the State. He appealed to public to come up with the developmental works which are necessity of the hour so that process for the execution is initiated at the earliest.

BJP Gandhi Nagar Mandal President, Ankush Gupta; Shiva Ji Chowk Traders Association President, Ashok Singh Sambyal; Advocate P.S Chandel, Councillor Ward 20, Rahul Kumar, Sanjay Gupta, Sumit Prasher, Vinay Gupta and Vishal Gupta were also present.

Cygnett Park Asia holds cake mixing ceremony



Cygnett Park Asia officials during the cake mixing ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: For the forthcoming X-mas and New Year celebrations, Cygnett Park Asia, Jammu, is planning special blended Xmas cake for its customers. In this regard, a cake mixing ceremony was held in the hotel premises.

Lot of prominent personalities and other distinguished guests from electronic media and corporate sector participated in the ceremony along with R J Juh and Sidharth from 92.7 Big FM.

Executive Chef Naresh

Dabral said that the mixing is an interesting array of (raisins, glazed red cherries, orange peel, tutti-frutti, black currants, dates, dried apricots, figs and prunes), nuts (walnuts, cashew, almond flakes and pistachio) and spices (ground cardamom, cinnamon and cloves) went into a huge cauldron.

Endless bottles of spirits and syrups like golden syrup or honey were poured into the mix while a number of gloved hands kneaded the concoction tirelessly, he said.

"The more to mix, the merrier the feast!", he said.

Amit K. Sood, General Manager of Cygnett Park Asia said that the cake will be prepared with this mix for Christmas Eve and highlighted the mixing is a ritual, it's all start of festive season, specially in our country is the country of festivals where we celebrate our cultural diversity of every celebration and every occasion.

"We wish that this Christmas and coining year would be full of happiness to all of our guests," he said.

We have planned lots of activities like Thanks giving dinner or Christmas evening, Turkey dinner, Christmas Brunch, Special dinner on New Year eve and much more which will be announced soon, he said.

He added that we would like to extend special thanks to Manjeet Anand for her special presence along with other dignitaries of the city during cake mixing ceremony.

Ram Temple; VHP to hold Dharam Sabha on Dec 16



State President VHP, Leela Karan Sharma speaking to media persons at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Vishaw Hindu Parishad (VHP), J&K unit, on Wednesday is organising a Dharam Sabha on December 16, 2018 at Parade Ground, Jammu.

Briefing media persons here, Leela Karan Sharma, State President VHP, said that the Dharam Sabha will be organised in connection with construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Sharma said Hindu

Samaj is struggling for the construction of Ram Mandir since 1528. He appealed to the people of Jammu to participate in large numbers so that a strong message goes to the Central Government for the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Pertinent to mention here that the next hearing for the Ayodhya case will be held in January 2019 in the Supreme Court.

HDFC Bank to hold Blood Donation Drive on Dec 7

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: HDFC Bank will organise the 12th edition of its national Blood Donation Drive on December 7. This drive is part of HDFC Bank's Parivartan; its umbrella brand for all its social initiatives. The clarion call this year is to inspire and encourage more and more people to come forward to donate blood in what is India Inc.'s largest single-day blood donation initiative.

As a run-up to December 7, the bank has initiated a campaign #StopMithani #YourBloodMatters, where inspiring stories involving ordinary citizens are being communicated as role models for society, particularly the youth to emulate and donate blood.

Jyotindra C Mithani, a 64 year-old resident of Mira Road in Mumbai is one such inspirational story. Over the past 40 years, Mithani has donated blood 151 times. He first

donated at the time of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, when there was an appeal for blood for our armed forces.

Since then, he's made it his life's mission to do his part to bridge the gap between demand for safe blood and its supply. His inspirational record of donating blood on average 4 times a year will end once he turns 65. Mithani refuses to stop despite the medical advisory owing to his advanced age.

This stand by Mithani to 'only stop when India starts' forms the crux of the Bank's campaign where the message is to galvanize Indians to do their bit and stop Mr. Mithani. #yourbloodmatters resonates with the ethos that has driven the Bank's

annual blood donation drive; to collectively make a difference in the society we live in. Like Mr Mithani, there are many bank employees as well who have made donating blood their mission.

The objective is to inspire my fellow countrymen, particularly the youth to come forward and be part of this noble endeavor," said Bhavesh Zaveri, Country Head - Operations, HDFC Bank.

"Over the years, through this initiative, HDFC Bank has collected over 9,00,000 units of blood. According to experts, one unit of blood can save up to three lives," he said.

On December 7, over 3,200 camps in 1,040 cities will be organized to collect blood, he added.

Mahila Morcha convention held

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
ANANTNAG: State Executive Member Rumisa Rafiq organised Mahila Morcha convention at District Headquarter Anantnag.

On the occasion, Mahila Morcha State President, Rajni Sethi was Chief Guest. MLC and State Vice President BJP Sofi Mohd Yousuf, former Minister & State Spokesperson BJP Priya Sethi, Mahila Morcha General Secretary Sangeeta Dogra, National Executive Member Neelam Ghosh, National Executive Member Sheela Handoo Kaul and Rashida were present.

During the convention, women elected Sarpanchs and Panchs were also felicitated by the dignitaries present there.

Priya Sethi, in her speech, exhorted upon the party workers to highlight the policies and programmes of the party at grass root level.

Super-50 Coaching: 4,661 appear in screening test

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Around 4,661 aspirants appeared in the screening test for government-run free Super-50 Coaching for Civil Services (KAS/IAS) and Professional Courses (NEET/JEE etc) at various centres across the Kashmir valley on Wednesday. The coaching is being organized by the Department of School Education.

Out of total aspirants who appeared in the test, 3,335 appeared for NEET/JEE and 1326 for civil services at the designated centres established at all district headquarters.

Director, School Education, Kashmir, Dr GN Ito inspected the screening test centres at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, Srinagar. While interacting with the aspirants and taking stock of the

arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of screening test, students expressed their satisfaction over the facilities provided to them to write their exams in a fair and convenient atmosphere.

Director was accompanied by the Joint Director, Central, Aabid Hussain during the inspection.

Similar arrangements were put in place in all test centres at the district headquarters for the aspirants.

The results of the test will be declared shortly and classes are likely to start from 10 December 2018.

Department of School Education has been providing free coaching under Super-50 initiative to meritorious students since 2015. However, since last two years, the facility has been extended to all districts.

The Department has this

year established a centre for free coaching for Civil Service aspirants at Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh, with highly trained and professional faculty.

Pertinently, last year, 239 students qualified NEET/JEE and got admission in various prestigious academic institutions of the country and the student who topped the NEET from Jammu and Kashmir division was a government school product.

It is also pertinent to mention that the free coaching is financially supported by the MHRD through SAMAGRA Shiksha. However, Avanti Learning Centre is quite generous to provide expert and academic support with inputs of curriculum and content free of cost for which DSEK has extended its gratitude to the centre.

KVK celebrates World Soil Day



K/VK officials during the programme at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jammu celebrated World Soil Day at village Jandial, block Bhalwal, Jammu. More than 100 farmers participated in the event.

Dr Vikas Tandon, Chief Scientist discussed the importance of soil health management. He stressed on increasing use of manures.

Dr Rakesh Sharma, Senior

Scientist gave detailed account of use of fertilisers and balanced nutrition.

Dr. Jai Karoon, Scientist ACRA Dhinsar gave presentation on Rabi crop husbandry.

Dr. Sheetal Badyal, Poonam Abrol, Sarvjeet Singh JAE and Jatinder Verma JAE O Bhalla were also present.

Sarpanch Joginder Singh also urged farmers to follow scientific practices.

School children felicitated by Wildlife Department

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A function to raise awareness about biodiversity of the State and felicitate the school children who actively participated in various functions during Wildlife Week 2018 was organised on Wednesday by Wildlife Division-Central at Nature Interpretation Centre, Dachigam National Park.

The function was presided over by the Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Region Rashid Y Naqash. All Wildlife Wardens Kashmir Region, Joint Director Soil and Moisture Conservation Department, Representatives of Collaborating Partners, Divisional Forest

Officer Demarcation Division Kashmir, Teachers and the participating meritorious students from more than 20 schools across the valley attended the function.

Naqash in his address highlighted the importance of conservation of wildlife and their habitat and appealed the people, particularly the youth and the children to help and play their role to make the region "green" and safe haven for the rich biodiversity. He assured that the Department of Wildlife Protection shall sponsor a Day out in Dachigam National Park for all the participating school children for education and

awareness purposes.

Other speakers included senior Forest and Wildlife Officers and representatives of the collaborating NGOs who appealed youth to come forward and join hands with the Department of Wildlife Protection in protecting the environment, forests and the wildlife.

Earlier, Wildlife Warden Central Division Altaf Hussain made a brief of activities which were organised during the Wildlife Week - 2018.

In all 45 prizes were given away to the winners of various competitions held earlier on the theme of Wildlife Conservation along with participation certificates.

SMI alleges bungling in Sarpanch election



SMI activists staging protest at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Social Movement of India (SMI) staged protest against the J&K Police and Civil Administration alleging large scale bungling in the election of Sarpanch of Bomal Sargampur, Panchayat Halqa of Tehsil Jourian, District Jammu.

Led by Ashok Kumar Basotra, Multivasi Bahujan activist, the party workers assembled near Press Club and raised slogans against the administration.

Basotra alleged that on

November 29, 2018, the election of Sarpanch was conducted by Panchayat Halqa Bomal Sargampur and as the aforesaid ward was reserved for women only.

"Three women from Rajput community and one woman from Scheduled Caste Community namely Sunita Devi, wife of Vijay Kumar contested for the same. Some unscrupulous elements with arms and ammunition entered in the counting hall and threatened the election staff. Upon this, the election staff

collected whole of the election material and ran away from the counting hall without declaring a winning candidate," he alleged.

"The matter was also taken up with SSP Jammu, DC Jammu, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and the Chief Election Commissioner J&K State on December 2, 2018 and a complaint in this regard was filed seeking action against some unscrupulous elements," he said.

Basotra warned that if action is not taken against those persons, SMI would adopt path of agitation.

Amongst those who joined protest include Master Dharan Paul Chief Patron, Gurdas Bhagat National President, Dayal Singh, Dheeraj Thapa, Ajit Kumar Vashishth and Ghulam Mohammed Bedar.

PDD casual, need based workers seek pending wages



PDD casual workers raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To pressurise the State Government for immediate settlement of their long pending demands, a large number of casual and need based workers of Power Development Department (PDD) on Wednesday held a protest, here.

Hundreds of casual labourers of Power Development Department (PDD) assembled outside the Office of Chief Engineer and raised slogans in support of their demands.

They urged the higher authorities of PDD to release their pending wages so that they can save their families from starvation, as they do not have any other source of income. Addressing the protesting workers, Akhil Sharma, President of the Union, stressed upon the authorities of PDD to release the pending wages of need based casual labourers without any further delay. He also demanded implementation of SRO 520. Shyam Sharma, Bilal Bashir, Ab. Gani, Saleem, Sajid, Daljeet, Gurnail and Ashish Verma were also present in the protest.