State Cong takes on ‘senile’ Fotedar

‘He visits Kashmir for sightseeing, doesn’t represent anybody’

Srinagar, June 12: State unit of Congress Thursday took a dig at veteran party leader Makhram Lal Fotedar for his ‘interference in party matters’ saying that he was a leader of yesteryears who visits Kashmir for sightseeing and doesn’t represent anybody.

In a joint statement, five PAC vice-presidents—Muhammad Musafer Parry, Ghalib Nabi Mughal, Bashir Ahmed Magray, Abdul Gani Vakil and Muhammad Anwarud Din—said it was regrettable that Fotedar, Congress Working Committee member, has been exhibiting his taste for generating controversies, year after year when he visits Srinagar.

“He is a leader of yesteryears,” the statement said. “Fotedar visits Srinagar every year in June for sightseeing. Some people show respect to him as he is an old hand in Congress party. This gesture of some Congress leaders has not gone well with Fotedar and erroneously he thinks that he was relevant also to the present time.”

Two days ago, Makhram Lal Fotedar had told Greater Kashmir that Ghalib Nabi Azad couldn’t be the CM candidate of Congress after his defeat in the recent Parliamentary polls. Instead, he had pitched Peerzada Muhammad Sayeed, Ghalib Ahmad Mir and Taj Mohsin as potential CM candidates.

Today’s statement by five Congress leaders further said that it is unfortunate that Fotedar lives in the past and does not seem to have taken notice of recent political and economic developments in JK. “Fortunately, he does not represent anybody in the higher echelons of power at New Delhi, nor does he represent anybody in the JKPCC,” the statement said. “He has always been his own self, therefore his opinion, subjective in facts, suits his mindset,” the statement added.

The statement went on to say that the party leaders find it disheartening to have someone in the leadership who has such a mindset and outlook.

Srinagar, June 12: The autistic children in Kashmir have a new hope as the psychiatry department of government medical college (GMC) Srinagar has started the first of its kind therapy centre for autistic children.

The centre which has been recently started at the community general hospital unit at the SMSR hospital, will spare the parents of the children from taking them outside the state for treatment.

Along with the therapy centre where the children will improve their learning skills, the GMC has also started outpatient department (OPD) for routine check-up of children with psychiatric diseases once a week.

“The centre is manned by pediatricians, speech therapists and development therapists to treat the children and is the first of its kind in the state and one of the few in government sector in whole India,” the statement said.

“Bring more services of Edu deptt under PSGA’

Omar discusses problems of various sectors

Srinagar, June 12: In order to streamline the process of issuing No Objection Certificates relating to the functioning of private educational institutions in the State, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday directed for bringing various such tasks under the Public Services Guarantee Act so that their deliverance is time-bound and smooth.

The issue was raised by JK University Private Schools Co-ordination Committee during a meeting here Monday with the Chief Minister requesting his intervention in making the system of granting affiliation, recognition and other related issues by the Education Department time-bound.

The Chief Minister, while directing for taking necessary steps to bring such services in this regard under the ambit of PSGA, said that no compromise whatsoever shall be made in ensuring quality, security and education of students besides basic facilities in the private educational institutions.

In another meeting with Kashmir Hoteliers Association, the Chief Minister took stock of various issues and problems confronting the hoteliers in Jammu and Kashmir and directed the Tourism, Transport and Urban Development Departments to look into the genuine problems of this industry in a holistic manner and come up with a feasible solution.

It was noted that in Srinagar city alone, the sewage scheme with an estimated cost of Rs 129.92 crore which, it is likely to be completed by March 2013. It was stated that by the completion of this scheme, the hotel industry in the State would get a big boost.

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