



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Wednesday.

Employment generation under SKEWPY touches 2 lakh figures

Omar describes entrepreneurship development answer to unemployment

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today highlighted the handholding of youth in their pursuit to generate self-employment and be part in the prestigious entrepreneurship development programme in the State as one of the most stupendous tasks, adding that entrepreneurship development is the right answer to unemployment crisis.

Omar Abdullah described generation of some 2 lakh job opportunities for youth under various initiatives of the Sher-i-Kashmir Employment and Welfare Programme for Youth (SKEWPY) and impressed upon the concerned departments to redouble their efforts in realising the goal of generating employment for five lakh youth in five years.

The Chief Minister was taking stock of the SKEWPY and its various initiatives under implementation in the State to help comprehensive employment generation and welfare of the youth besides enhancing their skill and capacity building to get absorbed in the modern job market within and outside the State, at a high level meeting he chaired here today.

Minister for Finance, Abdul Rahim Rather, Minister for Planning and Development, Ajay Sadhotra, Chief Secretary,

JCC announces fresh protest calendar

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Accusing State Government of being non-serious towards their demands, the employees' Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) today announced fresh protest programme including march to Chief Minister's residence at



Joint Consultative Committee leader and Employees Joint Action Committee (J) President, Abdul Qayoom Wani along with leaders addressing a press conference at Srinagar on Wednesday.

Gupkar in Srinagar. The JCC, an amalgam of the State's Employees' Unions, called for a two-day protest calendar programme on August 22 and 23 to press for their pending demands.

While addressing a press conference here, the JCC leaders Abdul Qayoom Wani, Abdul Gafoor Dar and Rauf Ahmad Bhat gave an ultimatum to the State Government that in case their demands are not fulfilled by August 22, they will launch a decisive phase of agitation against the Government.

Wani said that on August 22, thousands of employees will

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Mufti condemns LoC incident, calls for restrain

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 7: Strongly condemning the attack on soldiers on the LoC, People's Democratic Party (PDP) patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed today called for restraint and a careful handling of the situation. He said the attack on soldiers is an act of provocation but great nations having stakes in regional stability and prosperity of their people could avoid falling in trap laid obviously by those elements who are uncomfortable with growing prospect of amity between our country and Pakistan.

Mufti said war mongering is an easier course but our objective is to create a sustainable peace, "we will have to rise above provocations and stay our course that has resulted in immense relief to the people living in border areas since 2002". He said it does not bear repetition that no problems can be solved through war and the way our country has shown signs of maturity by extending hand of friendship to Pakistan in the wake of attack on the Parliament and the Mumbai atrocities in 2008 it has been established that peace is the only way forward.

Political empowerment of weaker sections active agenda of NC: Rana

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 7: Provincial President National Conference, Devender Singh Rana today said that party has an active agenda for political empowerment of weaker sections and called for larger participation of people belonging to these segments in governance and decision making. Mr Rana was addressing a function wherein Narinder Dutt, general secretary, All Jammu and



ACTF delegation led by Y P Gupta at meeting with IT Commissioner A K Thatai in Jammu.

ACTF takes up traders' issues with IT Commissioner

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 7: Associated Chamber of Traders Federation (ACTF) members met the Income Tax Commissioner (J&K) A K Thatai and apprised him of the problems being faced by the trading community. Yash Pal Gupta, president of the ACTF was leading the delegation. During the meeting with IT Commissioner Mr Gupta demanded that the old pending refund cases of the TDS may be expedited. He opined that surveys/searches were not useful as compared to motivational and awareness measures. He suggested that IT Department should lay focus on such exercises.

Mr Gupta also conveyed to the Commissioner that ACTF

was trying to motivate and make the traders aware that they should pay their taxes honestly and timely so that developmental works do not suffer. The members in the delegation also projected other burning issues of the traders. The Commissioner listened to the issues of the traders very patiently and assured the delegation that due consideration will be given to their suggestions. Those who were present in the meeting included Joint IT Commissioner R K Kakkar, Mini Chandran and Rakesh Kumar -Dy Commissioners. From ACTF Neeraj Anand, Attar Singh, Dinesh Gupta, Vinod Mahajan and Daleep Singh accompanied Y P Gupta.

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Governor N N Vohra interacting with a delegation at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday.

Joint delegation of CTFK, VHAJ, J&K Voluntary Health Association meets Governor

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 7: A joint delegation of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), India Chapter; Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi and J&K Voluntary Health and Development Association, Srinagar, called on N. N. Vohra, Governor, at Raj Bhavan here today.

A. M. Mir, Executive Director, J&K Voluntary Health and Development Association, and other members of the delegation, briefed the Governor about the activities of their organizations, particularly those aimed at spreading awareness about the highly injurious effects of smoking and consumption of other tobacco products. Mr. Mir gave details of the various initiatives taken by these Associations in the past and those planned in the coming months.

The delegation presented a memorandum to the Governor urging the need for strict enforcement of all related laws to discourage smoking and consumption of other tobacco products, with a view to progressively securing the goal of making J&K a "Tobacco Free State".

The Governor complimented CTFK, Voluntary Health Association of India and the J&K Voluntary Health and Development Association for their commendable endeavours and assured the delegation that all the concerned authorities would be addressed in regard to the issues raised in the memorandum.

DB upholds life-imprisonment to 4 real brothers in murder case

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 7: Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Virender Singh and Justice Bansil Lal Bhat has upheld the life-imprisonment to four real brothers namely Mohd Maqbool, Sharief-ul-Din, Gayas-ul-Din and Mohd Maqsood, sons of Rustam Khan of Mahore, who were facing trial in committing murder of one Mohd Rafiq and causing injuries to his brother on December 3, 2000 on issue of water pipeline. According to the police case, on December 3, 2000 Mohd Rafiq had a tiff with accused Mohd Maqbool when the former was keeping a watch on the pipe-line of water passing through his field. Later, Mohd Rafiq returned to his house and in the meantime Mohd Maqbool started crying that he was assaulted by Mohd Rafiq and he called his brothers (remaining accused) to bring rifles so that Mohd Rafiq could be done away with.

Later, the remaining three accused rushed to the spot and in furtherance of their common intention, caught hold of Mohd Iqbal, who had locked Mohd Rafiq in a room to prevent any harm to his life. On this, Parvez Ahmed hit Mohd Iqbal with an axe on his head and other accused started beating him with sticks. Thereafter, the accused broke open the door of the room where Mohd Rafiq was hiding and Mohd Maqbool fired a shot from his 12 bore gun causing death of the Mohd Rafiq. All the accused fur-

ther attacked the deceased with sharp edged weapons. After completion of investigation, challan was presented and on February 18, 2009, the Trial Court awarded life-imprisonment to both the accused. However, the Trial Court verdict was challenged before the High Court. After hearing Senior Advocate M A Goni with Advocates Ajay Singh Kotwal, Abtisham Butt, Sheikh Altaf and Kazam Bhatt for the accused persons and Deputy AG Shaista Hakim for the State, the DB upheld the sentence awarded by the trial court and dismissed the appeal filed by the accused persons.

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