



Governor N N Vohra and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah discussing arrangements for Indian Science Congress at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday.

Governor, CM discuss arrangements for Indian Science Congress

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 20: N. N. Vohra, Governor and Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister, discussed the arrangements to be put in place for the 101st Session of the Indian Science Congress being held at the University of Jammu from February 3-7, 2014, and the Regional Science Congress to be organized at the Kashmir University on September 29 October 1, this year, at a high level meeting held at the Raj Bhavan here today.

The Governor, who is Chancellor of the Universities of Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized the need for accessing all possible sources of funding for organizing the Indian Science Congress in a most befitting and memorable manner. He observed that micro attention needs to be paid to all the arrangements for the Indian Science Congress and the Regional Science Congress so that all logistics and other facilities are timely positioned.

The Governor observed that, last month, he has already held a meeting with the Vice Chancellors and the heads of the various medical, science and technology institutions of higher learning in the State and secured their happy willingness to join hands for organizing this mega scientific event in the most befitting manner, keeping in mind that this Science Congress will provide a historical opportunity for the students, teachers and scientists to demonstrate their talent and scientific temper. He stressed that Universities and other institutions in the State must have considerable representation at the upcoming Science Congress and the Regional Science Congress both in the academic arena and all other aspects.

The Chief Minister, who is Pro-Chancellor of both Jammu and Kashmir Universities, said that the Indian Science Congress and the Regional Science Congress are required to be organized in a most befitting manner and for this purpose all the requirements and arrangements must be ensured well in time.

Mohammad Akbar Lone, Minister for Higher Education, put forth several suggestions in regard to the hosting of Indian Science Congress and the Regional Science Congress by

the University of Jammu and the Kashmir University, respectively.

Prof. R. C. Sobti, Vice Chancellor, Baba Saheb Ambedkar University, Lucknow and the General President, Indian Science Congress Association, in his presentation, gave details of the establishment, evolution, history and aims and objects of organizing the Indian Science Congress. He said that more than 10,000 scientists, including a large number of top scientists from within and outside the country, are likely to participate at the 5-day 101st Science Congress.

He said that the main activities of this event will comprise Inaugural Ceremony, 14 Parallel Sessions on identified themes, Science Communicators Meet, Women's Science Congress, Children Science Congress, Science Exhibition, Book Exhibition and Valedictory Function.

The meeting discussed issues relating to financing the varied expenditures, arrangements to be positioned for the Science Congress which included, interalia, accommodating the VIPs and all others who are likely to participate in the Inaugural, Working and Valedictory sessions, transport, security, preparation of mementos, presentation of awards, publication of a Souvenir, cultural and other logistics. The participants put forth several suggestions for successfully organizing the Indian Science Congress and the Regional Science Congress.

Among those who participated in the meeting included Mohammad Iqbal Khandey, Chief Secretary; Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University; Prof. M. P. S. Ishar, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University; B. R. Sharma, Principal Secretary, Planning and Development; P. L. Gupta, Additional Director General of Police, Coordination, PHQ; B. B. Vyas, Principal Secretary,

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IT Commissioner visits Anantnag office

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, 20: Income Tax Commissioner (J&K), A K Thatai visited the Anantnag office of the department and interacted with the tax payers and the staff.

The purpose of the visit of IT Commissioner (IRS) at Anantnag was to get first hand feel of the working of the Income Tax office which has a wider jurisdiction over the four revenue districts of Kashmir including Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian. During

his visit Mr Thatai interacted with the staff and shared their problems and issues of concern. He also met the tax payers and other people of the area and listened to their suggestions and issues.

Mr Thatai expressed his concern over the issue that in spite of wider jurisdiction of the Anantnag office of IT, the number of assesses and the revenue generated by this office was comparatively much low. He urged the assesses of these districts to voluntarily join hands with the department in the development of the country and the State by paying their due taxes and filing returns. He further impressed upon the tax evaders and non-filers of the returns that the department is maintaining a constant vigil over them.

Gulzar Ahmed Wani, IRS Assistant Commissioner of Srinagar IT Circle was also present besides Manzoor Ahmed, IT Officer Anantnag and Noor-ud-Din Income Tax officer Srinagar.

Holy mace reaches Panchtarni, 342 perform darshan

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 20: The annual Amarnath pilgrimage will culminate tomorrow with performance of darshan by Chhari Mubarak (holy mace) at cave shrine situated at an altitude of 14,000 feet in deep Himalayas in South Kashmir district of Anantnag.

The holy mace led by Mahant Deepender Giri reached Panchtarni the last stop to holy cave on Chandanwari track this afternoon. After a night halt at Chandanwari, it will leave for the darshan of ice Lingam in holy cave early tomorrow morning. It will perform darshan and Pooja archana in the cave shrine in a traditional manner. Later it will return to Panchtarni in the evening on its way to Pahalgam

and Dashnami Akhara Srinagar. With this the 55 day long annual yatra to Swami Amarnath will culminate. A large number of Sadhus and devotees are accompanying the holy mace.

Meanwhile 342 pilgrims performed darshan at cave shrine today. With this total number of pilgrims performing darshan in holy cave since the annual Amarnath yatra started on June 28 has reached 3,53,784 an official spokesman said.

He said the weather at holy cave and on two tracks was cloudy and it drizzled during the day also. He said the traditional Chandanwari track was closed for yatra for 11,000 hours yesterday but 188 pilgrims left for cave shrine from Baltal camp via shortest track.

PIL regarding better care of old age home inmates DB directs Principal Secy Finance to file personal affidavit for not releasing aid

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 20: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Viklang Chhatra Trust regarding better care of old age home inmates, Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Virender Singh and Justice Bansil Lal Bhat today directed Principal Secretary, Finance Department to file his personal affidavit for not releasing the grant-in-aid.

The DB issued this direction as in the compliance report submitted by the Chief Secretary in terms of the earlier order, it has been stated that matter regarding release of Rs 5 lakh grant-in-aid in favour of old age home was taken up with Finance Department by the Social Welfare Department on July 16, 2013 and after the release of the amount by the Finance Department the same will be released in favour of old age home at Ambphalla.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocate Avni Ravi for the Viklang Chhatra Trust whereas Deputy AG ZS Watali for the State, DB observed, "it is not understandable as to why the Finance Department is delaying the matter for one reason or the other as such Principal Secretary Finance Department is impleaded as party respondent".

Accordingly, the DB issued notice, which was accepted by Deputy AG ZS Watali on behalf of Principal Secretary Finance. The DB directed Principal Secretary Finance to file his personal affidavit within two weeks time with regard to the steps taken by him for releasing Rs 5 lakh as grant in aid in favour of old age home.

2 KAS officers assigned charge in SSKSB

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Aug 20: Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today issued orders for appointment of 2 KAS officers for holding charge in Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, for improving services provided to visiting pilgrims and developing infrastructure.

Tilak Raj Shastri, Assistant Commissioner, Reasi, has been appointed as Member-Secretary of the Board and will also hold additional charge of Executive Officer relieving Dr Manmeet Kumar of the additional charge.

Dr Manmeet Kumar Mottan, Tehsilwar, has been appointed as Addl Executive Officer and assigned duty of execution of various plans for welfare of pilgrims.

Minister, senior officers rush to camp to defuse situation Migrant employees protest at Haal Camp against stone pelting incident

Avtar Bhat
PULWAMA, Aug 20: The irate migrant employees putting up at Haal, Pulwama transit camp today came to streets and protested



Minister of State for Revenue, Aijaz Ahmed Khan pacifying protesting migrant employees at Pulwama on Tuesday.

proper security and the miscreants responsible for yesterday's stone pelting incident will be arrested. The Minister also constituted a Committee of prominent people of the area and migrant employees of

Later a demolition squad swung into action and dismantled the private structures in the area adjacent to the camp. This provoked the people who had constructed these quarters and they

the camp which will interact with Government from time to time and also work for building bridges between the displaced people and locals.

The local people including Panchs and Sarpanchs who were also present on the occasion assured full cooperation to the migrant employees putting up in the camp and said that they will not allow any body to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the area. They said the stone pelting incident in the camp was the handiwork of some miscreants who will be identified and arrested soon as the local people strongly condemn the incident.

MLA Pulwama Syed Bashir also visited the camp and assured migrants full support of the local population. He said no body will be allowed to repeat 1989-90 incidents as Kashmiris have suffered a lot on account of the violence.

It may be recalled that panic gripped the camp yesterday evening after some miscreants pelted stones at migrant quarters at Haal Pulwama. The incident took place soon after the visit of the DC Pulwama to the camp who on his return issued orders of demolition of some private structures constructed on the Government land in the area.

Idea of change getting strengthened in J&K: Mehbooba

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Aug 20: President of People's Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti today said that idea of change is getting strengthened in the State because large number of people especially youth are joining PDP to become part of the movement for the change.

Addressing a function here today to welcome hundreds of National Conference workers from Sonawari areas, who joined PDP Ms Mufti observed that workers from ruling party were joining PDP which was a clear indication that there was a strong resentment against the present dispensation which has miserably failed to address grievances of the people. She said that it was result of the people's disillusionment with the present regime that youth were coming forward to join PDP to become part of the movement for change. She exhorted the party workers to channelize power of the common masses to bring change in the coming Parliament and Assembly elections.

Ms Mehbooba said it was result of the good governance of the previous PDP led coalition that there was realization among all sections of the society that only PDP has the vision and commitment to address their aspirations. "Within short span of its formation, the PDP has earned faith and credibility of the people", she said and reminded that PDP during its tenure had proved its capability of changing life of the common masses by treating all individual equally and providing equal opportunities to all sections of the society. "The PDP led regime during its tenure had generated governance consciousness among the people who had a taste of good governance and pro-people administration", she said. She recalled that the ceasefire, which was announced on the border by the former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in the year 2003 during PDP led regime, had brought positives changes lives of the common people in Jammu and Kashmir. "The ceasefire all along the border from Kathua to Kargil had proved to be very important event not only for the two countries but also for the people in all the regions of Jammu & Kashmir", she said, adding "for the people of Jammu & Kashmir the ceasefire has brought peace in their lives but now some unpleasant incidents took place recently and regretted that State Government headed has failed to play its role in facilitating peace on borders. Former Minister and general secretary of the PDP Mohammad Dilawar Mir, Naem Akthar, MLC, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, MLA, Yasir Rishi, Abdul Majid Mir, Abdul Rashid Singh and other prominent leaders were also present.

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