



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah delivering inaugural speech at the National Summit on Best Practices & Innovations in Public Healthcare System at SKICC, Srinagar on Wednesday.

3-day Summit on Public Healthcare begins

Healthcare indicates development status: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 3: Describing healthcare status as the basic indicator of growth and development of a society, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today said that healthy human resource is vital for comprehensive and all round growth.

"Unless our children are healthy we cannot think of them taking advantage of educational initiatives and developing as capable citizens to lead the country in future. Similar is the case of our work force, farmers and the general population", he said adding that better medical facilities across the State is essentially important for all sectors to grow and ensure development of a healthy society.

In his inaugural speech at the National Summit on 'Best Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare System' at SKICC here, the Chief Minister said that creation of better infrastructure in the health sector and assuring upto the mark service to people in rural areas is all the more important. He said there are challenges to address this issue in a State like Jammu and Kashmir which presents mosaic of topographical diversities, remoteness of areas and sparse population scattered in mountainous and difficult areas.

The Chief Minister said that launch of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has helped in a big way to reach out people in rural areas in healthcare sector. He said that better perks and salaries being offered to doctors and paramedics under NRHM has enhanced the chances of placing qualified medical staff in the rural areas.

Omar Abdullah said that during the militancy the healthcare sector in the State received huge

brunt and hospitals were more or less rendered non-functional. "We have rebuilt the system brick by brick and block by block", he said maintaining that a good quality healthcare facilities are being created all across the State.

He said, "we are concentrating on putting hospitals to the best uses for the people and provide required equipment, drugs and manpower to these institutions so that these attend to the health needs of people". He said better hospital facilities in rural areas are also important to reduce pressure on apex and referral hospitals. He said that NRHM has been a blessing to the State in strengthening rural healthcare systems.

Expressing concern on the decline in female sex ratio in the State, the Chief Minister said that this is the area which calls for unified approach by the civil society and Government Departments together. "If the data collected in this regard is genuinely correct, which we should accept as the correct till it is confronted by more surveys and investigations, we have to gear up at all levels and reverse the unfortunate trend", he said asserting that the religious leaders, imams of mosques, pujaries in temples, priests in churches, granthies in gurudawaras and heads of other religious places need to sensitize the society about the most dangerous evil of female feticide.

The Chief Minister hoped that the 3-day National Summit in which Mission Directors and medical experts from all over the country are participating, would prove fruitful for exchanging the expertise and innovations regarding addressing various challenges on account of health-

care requirements and needs in the modern days.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Health, Shabir Ahmad Khan said that as many as 4,000 health units are providing service to the people in the State in the Government sector. He said there has been remarkable improvement in the important health indicators in the State which has earned two National Awards for it during the two consecutive years.

He also expressed the hope that the National Summit on Healthcare Systems at the Srinagar would prove highly beneficial for the States participating in learning innovative methods to upgrade public healthcare systems in their States.

The inaugural function was attended by J&K Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khanday and Commissioner Secretary Health, Shaleen Kabra while the Union Health Secretary, Kashev Desi Raju and Union Additional Secretary, Anuradha Gupta who is also Mission Director spoke on the occasion.

Governor, CM grieved over loss of lives in Leh mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 3: N. N. Vohra, Governor, has expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in a road accident near Lamayuru in Leh district last night.

In his message, the Governor conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved families and prayed for speedy recovery of all those injured in this tragic accident. He also asked the Kargil and Leh Civil and Police Administrations to more effectively enforce the traffic management regimen.

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has also condoled the demise of students in Lamayuru accident describing it as most unfortunate and heartbreaking.

In his message to the bereaved families, Omar Abdullah said that he was deeply saddened on hearing the loss of precious young human lives at Lamayuru in an accident. He expressed solidarity with the bereaved families, conveyed his sympathy to them and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

Soz discusses J&K situation with Shinde

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 3: Former Union Minister and Pradesh Congress Committee president Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz met the Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde and discussed political situation of the State with him today.

During the meeting with the Home Minister Prof Soz took up several issues with him of the mutual interest. Prof Soz also explained to Mr Shinde his perception of timing for holding elections to Block Development

Committees and District Boards in the Panchayat system of the State and elections to the Local Bodies.

Earlier, in the evening the PCC chief met the Defence Minister A K Antony and gave his assessment of the situation in J&K. The Defence Minister reiterated his position that the message is loud and clear to all the concerns that no human rights violation would be tolerated and whosoever crosses the limit of law would have to be brought to justice.

Corruption charges framed against ex-SE, others

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu, Puneet Gupta today framed corruption charges against Yoginder Sapru, the then Executive Engineer (retired as Superintending Engineer), Farooq Ahmed Tak, the then AEE Doda (presently AEE Electric Estate Jammu), Saral Singh Manhas, presently AEE Maintenance Division Doda and Tariq Hussain, presently JE Maintenance Division Batote for misappropriation of Rs 16,14,784.

According to the challan, on the basis of source information regarding large scale bungling in utilization of public funds meant for construction of 33/11 KV receiving station-II Dallahina,

Panch among 3 nabbed with 1 kg charas

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, July 3: The police arrested a village Panch and his two associates, hailing from Shopian area of Kashmir along with one kilogram charas at Thanamandi in district Rajouri this evening.

Acting on a specific information, Thanamandi police party under the supervision of SDPO Muejeb-ur-Rehman, laid a naka at Maiki Morh, between Dera-ki-Gali and Thanamandi and intercepted a car bearing registration No. JK-22/4233 this evening. The police men then took the vehicle to Tehsil complex Thanamandi and started search in presence of Tehsildar (Magistrate) Thanamandi Farooq Khan and SDPO. The occupants of the car were also taken into custody by policemen.

After thorough search, the

police managed to recover nearly one kilogram of charas which they had concealed in the specially designed long green maize type spaces at the place above rear wheels. All the three were taken into custody and a case FIR No. 109/2013 was registered against them. They had to deliver this consignment at Rajouri. The police placed them under sustained interrogation to unearth the link of smugglers operating between Kashmir, Rajouri, Jammu and Mumbai.

Those arrested were identified as Mohd Nazir Malik (Panch Chogam), son of Ali Mohd, Irfan Ahmed Mir, son of Hassan Mohd Mir and Irshad Ahmed, son of Ghulam Nabi, resident of Shopian. The police said that some more people are likely to be arrested in this connection in near future.

Miraculous escape for SDPO, staff

Excelsior Correspondent

MENDHAR, July 3: Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mendhar, Amit Bhasin and his personnel staff had a miraculous escape after a live 33 KV line got broken and fell on his official Gypsy amidst sparking on the road today.

The incident took place at around 10.45 am when the Dy Superintendent of Police, Mr Bhasin was going to attend a function related to sports activity in the area. As he reached near Mosque, suddenly sparking start-

ed in the live electricity cables and one of them got broken and fell on the vehicle of the DySP. A panic was created with the massive sparking and other vehicles stopped their movement. Though the cable hit vehicle's roof top (Tipal) but all the occupants including Mr Bhasin remained lucky, having miraculous escape.

An Alto car suffered damage after its driver lost control in panic after sudden sparking. The police has taken cognizance of the matter. It registered a case against the PDD staff for negligence.

Farooq inaugurates rooftop solar power plants in Chandigarh

Excelsior Correspondent

CHANDIGARH, July 3: Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah inaugurated a 50 KWp solar photovoltaic power plant on the rooftop of Paryavaran Bhawan, Chandigarh. The plant will be able to generate 65,000 units of electricity per year. He also inaugurated a 100 KWp solar photovoltaic power plant on the rooftop of Model Central Jail, Burali, Chandigarh. This plant will be able to generate 1,30,000 units of electricity per year.

These rooftop power plants are coming up as a part of the solar city programme of Government of India under which 54 cities have been selected to become solar cities in the country. Chandigarh is one of these solar cities. Chandigarh has a plan to cover almost all Government buildings with solar rooftop power plants so that each building is able to generate a part of its power requirement through its own power plant thereby reducing the demand of electricity and using more and more of clean energy. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has already sanctioned projects to cover 30 Government build-

ings in Chandigarh, which will generate 3 MWp of solar power.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah had a meeting with Shivraj Patil, Governor of Punjab and Administration of UT, Chandigarh. During the meeting, it was decided

power can be fed into the grid.

Dr. Abdullah also had a meeting with Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal. Various programmes for promotion of renewable energy were discussed. Dr. Abdullah the Chief Minister to



Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah inaugurating solar power plant at Chandigarh on Wednesday.

that efforts will be made to cover all the Government buildings in Chandigarh with solar power plants and solar water heaters. Private building owners would also be encouraged to set up solar rooftops. These power plants would be connected with the grid so that surplus

encourage use of solar powered pumps for irrigation as this would help in providing irrigation water to the farmers during day time and save electricity. He also requested that solar based steam cooking systems should be installed in all the religious institutions in the State.

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