



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah interacting with Probationary IFS Officers at Srinagar on Wednesday.

Omar for National Disaster Management Agency on USA pattern

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 3: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today pitched for a resourceful, capable and pragmatic National Disaster Management Agency at the Union Government level which would be at beck and call of all State Governments at the time of high magnitude and unforeseen natural calamities like tsunamis, earthquakes, cloud bursts etc.

Interacting with the Probationary IFS Officers here, the Chief Minister underlined the importance of balancing development needs of people with environmental necessities, adding that unchecked and illegal infrastructure development particularly in tourist areas at the cost of environment is fatal and responsible for massive damage and casualties during natural calamities. "When we block the natural passage of rain water coming down from mountains by building structures, we would be definitely in heavy trouble, if there are incessant rains or cloud bursts", he said asserting that tampering with nature always proves dangerous.

He advised the young forest officers to face the modern challenges of carrying forward development in consonance with environment requirements in a meticulous and effective way to satisfy both human beings and the nature. Omar Abdullah said that in a State like Jammu and Kashmir where accessibility and road communication is vital for sustenance and economic welfare of people living in far-flung areas, construction of roads under PMGSY is a challenge which has to be dealt with total care and efficiency. "It is not a zero sum game, we cannot have one or the other way but strike a balance so that both go side by side and without hindering or hampering each other", he said emphasizing the larger need of conserving water bodies, forests and natural wealth.



Advisor to Chief Minister, Qamar Ali Akhoun flagging off Kargil-Jammu bus service on Wednesday.

Akhoun flags off Kargil-Jammu bus service

Excelsior Correspondent
KARGIL, July 3: For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K State Road Transport Corporation started its Kargil-Jammu bus service from today. The bus service was flagged off by the Advisor to Chief Minister Qamar Ali Akhoun in presence of Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC, Kargil Kachro Ahmad Ali Khan.

help particularly the student community studying in Jammu, Delhi and other cities of the country and the businessmen in general. He said the J&K SRTC purchased two High Tech buses to ply on Kargil-Jammu route, keeping in view this necessity of bus service on the route, adding that it was also long pending demand of the people of Kargil.

On this occasion, Executive Councillors, LAHDC, Kargil Haji Ghulam Amir Kamran and Ghulam Rasool Naqvi, MLC Kargil Syed Aga Razvi, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil Fida Hussain, Councillors, General Manager, SRTC, Kashmir and other prominent persons were present.

Union Secy's concern over dropping child sex ratio in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 3: Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry today expressed concern over dropping child sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir and asked the State Government to take necessary steps to reverse the trend. Union Health Secretary K D Raju while addressing the national summit on Best Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare System said here, "the child sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir is alarming. This is a matter of great concern."



Lt. Gen DS Hooda, GOC White Knight Corps, laying a wreath at the War Memorial of Brig Mohd Usman at Jhangar on Wednesday.

'Jhangar Day' celebrated in memory of Brig Usman

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 3: A grand yet solemn memorial function was held at Jhangar, Nowshera to commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by Brigadier Mohd Usman, MVC, who attained martyrdom, defending the motherland during 1947-48 operations, in the Nowshera Sector. Lt Gen DS Hooda, General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps, was the chief guest on the occasion. A large number of military, police and civil dignitaries graced the occasion, who included the General Officer Commanding, Ace of Spades Division, Maj Gen VP Singh.

Brigadier Mohd Usman had played a pivotal role as the commander of 50 Parachute Brigade, during the recapture of Jhangar and the battle of Nowshera, which earned him two titles of endearment, 'Hero of Jhangar' and 'Saviour of Nowshera'. For his courageous leadership and act of valour, he was posthumously awarded the 'Maha Vir Chakra'. A memorial has been built at the very place in Jhangar, where Brigadier Mohd Usman sacrificed his life during the Indo-Pak War of 1947-48. Among those who paid tributes to the 'Hero of Jhangar' were the 'Bal Sainiks' who as young boys, had taken part in the 1947-48 operations, along with Brigadier Mohd Usman. They fondly remembered with

Rather presents Rs 5.10 cr capital share cheque to Grameen Bank

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 3: Minister for Finance and Ladakh Affairs, Abdul Rahim Rather, on behalf of the State Government, today handed over a cheque worth Rs. 5.10 crore as its capital share to the J&K Grameen Bank under recapitalization scheme of the Government of India.

ations of Jammu Rural Bank and Kamraz Rural Bank and started functioning as J&K Grameen Bank on 1st July, 2009. He said, for last two years, the Bank is earning profit and is adequately capitalized. The Bank has 201 branches and this year more 20 new branches are being opened in rural areas of district Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Ladakh and Kargil. He said the Bank is fully computerized and is working on Core Banking Solution (CBS). The J&K Grameen Bank, having a total business turnover of Rs. 3,022 crore, has advanced Rs. 591 crore to priority sector which constitutes 70% of the total advances of Rs. 858 crore. Of this, Rs. 189 crore have been advanced to agriculture sector alone which is 22% of the total advances and much higher than prescribed by NABARD and RBI. The Bank has total deposits to the tune of Rs. 2165 crore with 40% CD ratio against 36% during the last fiscal. The Bank has issued 91,000 KCCs to eligible farmers and is also giving small ticket size loans.

A total of Rs. 34 crore are being infused as capital to the J&K Grameen Bank. Out of this amount, Government of India will contribute Rs. 17 crore, whereas the share of J&K Bank will be Rs. 11.90 crore. As on date, the Bank has capital adequacy rate of 11.20%. Principal Secretary Finance, B. B. Vyas, who is also Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, President, Finance and Grameen Bank Management, J&K Bank, S. K. Bhat, who is also Director of J&K Bank Board and Consultant, Finance, Resham Kashyap were also present on the occasion.



VRS employees raising slogans during protest at Jammu on Wednesday.

The capital share cheque was received by S. K. Bhat on behalf of the J&K Grameen Bank.

Briefing about the performance, S. K. Bhat informed that the Grameen Bank is a sponsored Bank of J&K Bank. It was established after amalgamation of Jammu Rural Bank and Kamraz Rural Bank.

CM inspects mega education exhibition

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 3: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today inspected mega education exhibition organized at SKICC to give information to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir about various educational institutions and nature of studies offered by them in the field of Science and Technology.

VRS employees hold protest, highlight demands

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, July 3: State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) Volunteer Retirement Employees Association held protest demonstration here today. Amid slogans, VRS employees under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali, president, VRS Union assembled outside Press Club and held protest. Addressing the gathering, Dev Raj Bali demanded clearance of dues of the VRS/GHA and normally retired employees from the funds given by the Central Government to the tune of Rs 710 crore. "We are struggling for our demands for the past over three years and warned to come on roads if the Government fails to clear their dues out of Rs 710 crore sanctioned by the Central Government", he added. He said 126 slabs of Cost of Living Allowances (COLA), 6th Pay Commission arrears with effect from January 1, 2006 and release of pending arrears since 1999 along with leave salary, gratuity and ex-gratia grant. Among others present were Surinder Singh, general secretary, Balwinder Singh, vice president, Dhian Singh, Mohinder Singh, Harbans Singh, Surat Singh, BV Sharma, etc.

On this occasion, modified scooters sponsored by various corporate houses, were presented to civilians who had suffered mine casualties on the Line of Control, to facilitate their mobility, thereby helping them become contributory members of society. The Veer Naris were also honoured and presented cash awards. Sewing machines were also presented to disabled ladies from Below Poverty Line (BPL).

CM sanctions Rs 1 lakh to Uttarakhand victim of Kathua

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 3: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has sanctioned Rs. 1 lakh for ITBP Inspector Bhim Singh of Kathua, who has lost his life while saving pilgrims in Uttarakhand natural calamity. The Chief Minister in a condolence message to the family of the deceased has also conveyed his sympathy and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

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