



Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah chairing State Mission Authority meeting at Srinagar on Tuesday. **1st meeting of State Mission Authority convened**

Omar for setting definite goals for women empowerment

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, July 16: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today asked the State Mission Authority for Women Empowerment to set the definite goals, share programmes and make regular review a constant feature of functioning to ensure success in the stupendous task of women welfare and empowerment.

Chairing the first meeting of State Mission Authority for implementation of National Mission for Empowerment of Women of which he is also the Chairman, the Chief Minister said that ladies specific and gender neutral activities have to be underlined in all the departments to involve women participation and help their economic and holistic welfare.

"I will stress upon the functionalities of State Mission to primarily address the issue of decline in

compound walling of girl schools as an essential ingredient to ensure girls continue their studies in the secured schools.

Omar Abdullah said that the Government has approached Government of India for providing more women degree colleges to the State to ensure enhanced accessibility to women to pursue higher educational goals. However, the Chief Minister emphasized on taking all measures at elementary school level to ensure reduction in drop outs. He said creation of befitting sanitation facilities in schools is a thrust area in educational programmes of the State.

Directing for early placing of Resource Centre and full time Mission Director for implementation of National Mission for Empowerment of Women, the Chief Minister said that formulation of programmes, identification of areas, coordination with other departments and monitoring the status of various schemes under implementation in different departments for women empowerment, is of paramount importance and 90 percent success of the Mission will be dependent on the personal dynamism and dedication of Mission Director with a well established and functional Resource Centre.

The Chief Minister said that the schemes and programmes for empowerment of women are cross cutting in nature and involve various departments and ministries. He said the programmes of different departments need dovetailing and engendering as also inter-sectoral convergence. "This can also be ensured through the Resource Centre", he added.

Omar Abdullah said that health, education and security related matters need to be identified by the Resource Centre for appropriate action at the apex level for addressing and redressing these issues. He said the State Government has already approved two Women Police Stations one each in Jammu and Srinagar. He said Women Cells in various Police Stations in the Districts are also being strengthened. He said Government would provide all help to the Mission to carry forward its objective successfully and realize the goals perfectly.

The meeting was attended by

Minister for Medical Education, Taj Mohi-ud-Din, Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Hassan Mir, Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, Minister for Higher Education, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Minister for Law, Mir Saifullah, Minister of State for Revenue, Ajaz Ahmad Khan, Minister of State for Health, Shabir Ahmad Khan, Chairperson State Commission for Women, Shamima Firdous, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, B. B. Vyas, Secretary Social Welfare, Gazzanfer Hussain, Mission Director, Hafiza Muzaffar, Non-official Members and various senior officers.

In a Power Point presentation Secretary Social Welfare, Gazzanfer Hussain highlighted the role of State Mission Authority and presented resume of the objectives of National Mission for Empowerment of Women.

Sarthal Devi Yatra begins

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, July 16: The two day annual yatra of Sri Sarthal Devi Mata began today with a large number of people from across the State and outside taking part in the Yatra.

On this occasion, an impressive Shobha Yatra was taken out from Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot , which after passing through main markets, culminated at bus stand Kishtwar.

From there the yatrins boarded the buses and left for Ashtadash Bhujia Mata shrine located at scenic Sarthal village.

The Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Saleem Mohammad and SP Kishtwar, Sunil Gupta congratulated the people on this auspicious occasion.

They assured every possible cooperation from the administration for successful conduct of yatra.

Meanwhile, the District Administration has made all necessary arrangements regarding security, drinking water, power supply, transport and other facilities for the two day yatra.

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female child ratio, mortality of infants and pregnant women, gender gap in education, drop outs of female students from schools and other similar matters confronting the women in the State", he said and added that creation of economic opportunities to empower the women by realizing specific targets and goals through various programmes should be another area of focus in the task of women empowerment and welfare.

The Chief Minister said that it has been observed that most of girl students leave schools for want of adequate sanitation facilities. This, he said is a critical area having huge impact on the continuation of education by the girls in schools. He also underlined importance of



Provincial President NC, Devender Singh Rana addressing public gathering at Dhok Wazira on Tuesday.

Rana advises Army against use of Shishu Samadhi land for defence purposes

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 16: Provincial President National Conference Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday stressed the need for maintaining sanctity of the Shishu Samadhi (children graveyard) and Christian graveyard at Dhok Wazira village in Nagrota and urged the Army to defer its plans of using the major chunk of the village land for defence purposes without even the same being transferred to them by the State Government.

"In view of the sensitivity of the issue, the matter has been taken up with top ranking officers of the civil administration and the defence services for maintaining status-quo, as the land belonged to locals and was being used for community purposes", Mr Rana said while addressing the people who were agitating over the attempt of the

Army to take over the community land earmarked by the Panchayat for the purpose of community common facilities.

The Provincial President said that he has taken up the issue with the Corps Commander 16 Corps and the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu so that peace in the area is not effected. While emphasizing the need for good Army-Civil relations, he hoped that the Army will understand the sensitivities involved in the matter.

He assured the locals that their legitimate interests will be safeguarded at all costs and appealed them to maintain calm.

It may be mentioned here that on 12th July, 2013 people of the area had come on streets protesting against the move of the Army to take over additional land. Army already has 4300 kanals of land in the area.

3 pick pockets caught red handed

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 16: Three Kashmiri pick pockets were caught red handed by passengers in a minibus and handed over to police.

Reports said that some passengers in a minibus noticed the accused pick pocketing in the vehicle and overpowered them. Later the trio was handed over to a Police patrolling party.

Identity of the arrested pick pockets was established as Abdul Rashid of Mon tehsil Durgah in Srinagar, Mohd Saleem and Showkat Ahmed Nazir of Rainawari Srinagar. Rs 1200 were recovered from their possession.

Police have registered a case under Section 380 RPC against them at Udhampur Police Station.

3 bovine animals rescued,

2 smugglers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 16: Continuing its drive against bovine smuggling, Udhampur Police today rescued 3 animals and arrested 2 smugglers.

According to Police, a patrolling party intercepted one Mahindra vehicle in the wee hours near Jakheni. The vehicle, bearing registration number JK14C-0388, was carrying 3 bovine animals, which were rescued by the police party. Police also seized the vehicle and arrested the smugglers, identified as Mohd Saleem of Chanderkote and Bashir Ahmed of Jagti Nagrota.

A case has been registered in this connection for further investigation.

Governor reviews arrangements at Sheshnag, Chandanwari, Nunwan Camps

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 16: Governor, N. N. Vohra, who is Chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, visited Sheshnag, Chandanwari and Nunwan Camps to review the arrangements put in place for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra, which entered the 19th day today.

The Governor, accompanied by Navin K. Choudhary, Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, inspected the arrangements at Sheshnag and Chandanwari and held meetings with the Camp Directors and other concerned officers at these two Camps. Thereafter he inspected the functioning of the Access Control Gate at Chandanwari, the CCTV Cameras and had discussions with the Camp Director, Deputy Commissioner, Senior Superintendent of Police and other concerned officers about the difficulties faced by the pilgrims in respect of the extant systems and procedures. The Governor called upon the Camp Director and the District authorities to ensure that duly registered pilgrims do not face any avoidable inconvenience whatsoever.

At Chandanwari, the Governor inaugurated a free medical camp set up by the Bharat Sevaashram Sangh, a Kolkata based NGO. He appreciated the gesture of the organization and enquired about the medicare facilities, medicines and other support made available by them to the Yatrins. He also interacted with the Yatrins and Ponywallas and heard their suggestions about the Yatra arrangements.

Later, the Governor had an intensive inspection of the Nunwan Base Camp and took stock of the various arrangements and logistics positioned there to facilitate the Yatrins. During inspection of the Base Hospital at the Camp, he interacted with the doctors, enquired of the difficulties faced in the functioning of the Hospital, spoke to some of the Yatrins admitted in this Hospital and advised the doctors to ensure against any ill person being allowed to undertake the Yatra. He also advised them to refer all seriously ill pilgrims to the hospitals at Srinagar for specialized care, as considered necessary.

While inspecting Langars, the Governor asked the Langar organizations to maintain hygienic conditions and cleanliness in and around their Langars and serve food to the Yatrins strictly as per the prescribed menu.

The Governor undertook a detailed review of the functioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant

Rains disrupt traffic, chopper service

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, July 16: Heavy rains once again disrupted vehicular traffic on Katra-Udhampur road besides chopper service to Sanjichat, here today.

Reports said that Katra traffic was disrupted for the third consecutive day due to landslide that occurred near the Panthal check post. Incessant rains led to landslide on the road that was already under repair. The road was cleared and opened for small vehicles in the morning but later on continuous rains hampered the smooth passage for the vehicles, informed SP Katra Pawan Parihar.

Chopper services for pilgrims ferrying them from Katra to Sanjichat also remained suspended due to heavy rains in the area. Yatrins inside the helipad hall kept waiting and watching the mood of climate since morning before proceeding further on foot for the darshan in the evening.

Pertinent to mention that the poor visibility due to fog and bad weather are hampering chopper service for the last two weeks.

(STP), water and power supply and sanitation measures. He reiterated earlier directions to the Camp officers to ensure cleanliness in and around the Camp round the clock. Thereafter, the Governor

ior Civil, Police and Security Forces Officers and the District and Divisional level officers of the Power, Public Health, Roads and Buildings, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Health,



Governor N N Vohra inspecting functioning of Access Control Gate at Chandanwari on Tuesday.

chaired a high level review meeting at the Nunwan Base Camp. Among those present included Navin K. Choudhary, Principal Secretary to the Governor and CEO, SASB; Vijay Kumar, DIG, Anantnag; Dr. Farooq Ahmad Lone, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; R. K. Jalla, SSP Anantnag; Nasir Hussain Wani, Chief Executive Officer, Pahalgam Development Authority; R. K. Pandita, GM (Works), SASB; sen-

Veterinary, Labour, and the other concerned agencies.

The Governor reviewed the arrangements made, for provision of facilities of medicare, Fire and Emergency Services, availability of rations and other essential commodities, telecommunication, weather forecasting, Public Address System, etc. He also took stock of the arrangements made at the Mir Bazar and Walnut Factory Transit Camps.

DGPC election process to be completed by October: Law Minister

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 16: Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mir Saifullah today discussed the modalities for carrying out the elections process to District Gurudwara Prabandak Committees in the State at a high level meeting of officers here.

The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner Revenue Dr. Arun Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Shailendra Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Pradeep Gupta, Secretary Law Farhat Tasneem and other senior officers.

Detailed discussions were held on the smooth conduct of the election process and in this connection it was decided that the latest electoral roll for the elections under the J&K Sikh Gurudwara and Religious Endowment Act 1973 will be finalized by mid-August and put on display for objections at Tehsil and District level headquarters immediately.

Meanwhile, the Law Minister directed the concerned

to take all necessary steps for the elections of DGPCs in the State which he said should be completed by October this year.

No truck with goods goes to PoK

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, July 16: Not even a single truck loaded with goods went to PoK through Chakkan-da-Bagh LoC point today while seven-truck goods arrived here from the other side.

Showing least interest in cross LoC trade, the businessmen on both the sides have stopped sending goods. Today not even single truck loaded with goods was sent on that side of the LoC. This is the third occasion in last two-three weeks. However, seven trucks loaded with almonds, herbs and fruits arrived here from the Pak Occupied Kashmir.

The value of goods was put at around Rs 1.52 crore. Afzal was Trade Facilitation Officer from PoK side while Kapil Sood was deployed as TFO from Indian side at the LoC point.

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