



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurating modern testing gadget in GB Panth Hospital on Sunday.

Omar inaugurates latest gadget in GB Panth Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 28: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today inaugurated a modern testing gadget in GB Panth Hospital for which Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has donated Rs. 30 lakh out of his MP Local Area Development Fund. The Minister for Medical Education, Taj Mohi-ud-Din was also present on the occasion.

The new medical testing gadget known as Bact Alert is a comprehensive machine that would undertake the culturing of blood sample within 24 to 36 hours isolating the bacteria and its specie, and decide the requisite antibiotic for the treatment of the patient. The gadget is having the capacity of handling as many as 240 samples at a time as such will give considerable fillip to the modern testing and treatment facilities in the hospital.

While enquiring about the functioning and facilities added in the hospital since the last year, the Chief Minister also received appraisal of the status of treatment being provided to the infants in the hospital. The Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. Masoodi told the Chief Minister that 15 bedded Paediatric Intensive Care Unit has been made functional in the hospital, adding that this facility has expanded the orbit of specialised treatment and medicare in the hospital.

The Chief Minister said that the development of health sector has been flagged as one of the most important sectors in the State's development policy and focused attention is on ensuring all-round and comprehensive development in all disciplines of health Sector in the state. He said along with providing modern equipment better infrastructure is being added in the hospitals both in the urban as well as rural areas.

Expose elements behind

Budgam clashes: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: Expressing concern over continuing spate of sectarian clashes in Budgam and adjoining areas over the last 10 days, BJP national executive member and J&K chief spokesperson Dr Jitendra Singh has called for a thorough probe to identify the elements behind these clashes and expose their nefarious designs.

Dr Singh said certain Kashmir-centric politicians and groups, in their bid for competitive upmanship, trigger such volatile situation and as the election time approaches nearer, this phenomenon assumes more acute proportions. This could also be the handiwork of a certain Kashmir-centric political party which apprehends decline in its political fortunes in the ensuing elections, he alleged.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, instead of seeking mileage from such unfortunate loss of life and property, it is the responsibility of all political parties to come together for restoring peace in the disturbed

Central Kashmir areas at the earliest because the foreign sponsored militant outfits are already on look-out to take advantage of such a situation in order to push in their terrorist designs. He said there is enough intelligence evidence that as a part of their revised strategy, the militant outfits resorting to the methodology of planting rumours to instigate violence and provoke attacks on security forces so that the latter may be compelled to open fire and precipitate further unrest. The Gool incident of 18 July is one such example, he added.

Dr Singh suggested a joint meeting of religious heads of the two conflicting sects in Budgam and a joint effort by them to educate the innocent people not to fall prey to the opportunists. At the same time, he also appealed the administration to immediately bring to book the mischief mongers and also make arrangements for adequate compensation to the affected people.

Car plunges into gorge; toddler killed, parents serious

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, July 28: A one and half year toddler was killed, while her parents were seriously injured, when the car they were traveling in rolled down from Maggar Khad bridge, under the jurisdiction of Lakhampur Police Station.

As per reports, Abhinav, son of Devinder Nath of Basholi along with his wife Sunita and one and half year old daughter Nahila was on way to his residence at Basholi in a car bearing registration number JK08C-7177.

The driver lost control over the steering, as a result the vehicle rolled down from Maggar Khad bridge, causing grievous injuries at all the

occupants. On getting information, police and locals rushed to the spot and started rescue operation. All were shifted to District Hospital Kathua in police and other vehicles, where doctors declared the



DG Medical Services (Army) Lt Gen S S Panwar during visit to Military Hospital at Satwari on Sunday.

DG Medical Services visits Military Hospital

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: Director General Medical Services (Army) and Senior Colonel Commandant of the Army Medical Corps Lt Gen S S Panwar, accompanied by Maj Gen PP Varma (MG-Med) Northern Command and Brig Pawan Kapoor, (Med) visited the 166 Military Hospital at Satwari here today.

On arrival, Lt Gen Panwar was received by Brig Man Mohan Harjai, Commandant and Principal Matron Col Leena Kumari, MNS of 166 Military Hospital. This is the first visit of the General Officer to any Army Medical unit, after assuming the appointment of the DGMS (Army) in June this year.

An alumnus of KGMC, Lucknow Lt Gen Panwar was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps in January 1977. The General Officer is an ENT Specialist of international repute, with almost 30 years of experience in his field of speciality and having specialized in 'Neuro-Otology' and 'Cochlear Implant Surgery'. He is a pioneer in the field of Cochlear Implant Surgery and has been instrumental in giving shape to the Cochlear Implant Centre at Army Hospital (R&R). Lt Gen Panwar has also held a variety of prestigious administrative appointments, including that of Brig (Med) of White Knight Corps, the Commandant of

2150 kilograms of rare herb seized, one held

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, July 28: The sleuths of Excise Department today seized 2150 kilograms of rare herb (Nag Chhatri) from a truck at Lakhampur toll plaza.

On specific inputs, the sleuths of Excise Department intercepted a Punjab bound truck bearing registration number HR38S-4737, told Deputy Excise Commissioner, Toll Post Lakhampur, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed.

During checking, the sleuths recovered 2150 kilograms of rare herb (Nag Chhatri) from the truck and arrested the driver, who has been identified as Madan Lal, son of Beli Ram of Dhar Mahanpur, Basohli, Kathua, he added.

He said that the above said herb has great medicinal value and is in high demand in the international market. During investigation, Madan Lal disclosed that walnut kernels and medicines were loaded in the truck at the time of assessment before the Assessing Officer on duty, Dr Ahmed added.

The vehicle has been seized and further investigation into the case is going on.

The recovery was made by the team headed by Excise and Taxation Officers Ravi Thakur, Sanjay Bhat, Sahil Jandyal and Lekh Raj, Inspectors Excise Romesh Kumar and Farooq Choudhary and Sub-Inspector Excise Dheeraj Kumar under the supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner, Toll Post Lakhampur, Dr Mushtaq Ahmed.

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toddler as brought dead.

Citing the condition of two others as very critical, they were referred to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where they were undergoing treatment, when last reports came in.

The body of the toddler has been handed over to family members for last rites after completing legal formalities.

A case under relevant Sections has been registered at Lakhampur Police Station and investigation started.

Religious procession of Mata Sheetla taken out with fervour

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 28: A religious procession of Sheeta Mata was taken out amid religious slogans and chanting of devotional songs from Raghunath Mandir here to the temple of Mata Sheetla near Dogra Hall, Secretariat Road.

Besides, the devotees from other States like Punjab, Haryana and South India thronged the religious procession in hundreds. The devotees stunned the spectators by their daring feats like piercing the holy Trishools of Mata Sheetla through their cheeks, and thus showed their firm faith in Sheeta Mata.

About 500-700 people participated in the procession, which concluded at the temple of Mata Sheetla near Dogra Hall. All the devotees then entered the 21 feet long holy Agni Kund and took the blessings of the deity. A close aide of the president of the Sheeta Mata Temple Committee told that a religious function of breaking the earthen pot will be held tomorrow at temple premises and on July 31 the holy Kalash will be immersed in



Passengers travel on the roof of a train at Hiller Shahabad Railway Station in Anantnag. -Excelsior/ Sajad Sameer

Overcrowding poses life threat No proposal to increase coaches, frequency of trains: Railways

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 28: After Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh dedicated the 18-kilometre rail link between Qazigund to Banihal to the nation last month, the number of travellers of the train has gone up by around 100 per cent, leading to overcrowding of the train with people travelling on roof of the coaches.

The Chief Controller of the Railways in Kashmir, Vikramjeet Singh told Excelsior that the number of travellers has gone up to 18,000 per day after the Qazigund-Banihal portion was dedicated to the nation by the PM last month.

"The travellers' number has gone up as 11-kilometre Pirpanjal tunnel is the main attraction for the people",

he said.

Singh said that before the dedication of Qazigund-Banihal portion of the Rail to nation, on an average 10,000 people were travelling daily. "The overcrowding is due to the Pirpanjal tunnel. It has become a major attraction for people. We will assess the rush for a couple of months. If the number of travellers remains same, we will send a proposal for increasing the frequency of trains between Banihal and Baramulla and adding more coaches", Singh said.

Singh said that the Railways are operating 14 trains between Banihal and Baramulla daily. "We have no proposal of increasing the frequency of trains or adding more coaches to the trains at present. We will have

a look at it after couple of months", he added.

According to sources in Railways, five pair on Trains run daily between Srinagar and Banihal, and Budgam and Baramulla. "Each train has 8 coaches with sitting capacity of 600 but on an average over 1500 people travel in each train", they said.

Railway officials said that due to the overcrowding, large number of commuters travel on roof tops of trains posing a major threat to their lives. They say police is not preventing the people from travelling on roof of the trains.

DIG Railways, A K Atri said that they have given clear instructions that no passenger should travel on roof top. He, however, said that the number of commuters is increasing day by day while the frequency of trains is the same. "This has led to overcrowding", he added.

"We have taken up the issue of overcrowding with the Railway authorities at highest level. We have asked them to increase the frequency of the trains and also change the timings so that there is no overcrowding", said DIG Atri.

A Railway police official said that Railway police sits on roof of the trains at the Railway stations to prevent people from travelling on roof tops. "As the trains start chugging we get down and some of the commuters climb on the roof top. It is very difficult for us to control the commuters from travelling on roof top", he added.

Zahoor Gulzar travels to his office from Anantnag to Srinagar in train daily. "It is very difficult to board the train as large number of commuters travel at peak hours. I have been travelling between Anantnag and Srinagar since 2008, when it was running between Anantnag and Budgam. Since then more stations have been added but frequency of trains and number of coaches has remained the same", said Gulzar.

Gulzar added that the frequency of the trains at the peak hours should be increased to overcome the problem of overcrowding.

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