

CM Omar Abdullah convenes meeting with Religious Leaders & Civil Society Members

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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In the wake of the prevailing situation in West Asia following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday held an interaction with religious scholars, civil society members and representatives of trade and business bodies at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

The meeting was attended by Minister Sakina Itoo, Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, several Members of the Legislative Assembly from across Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo and other senior officers of the divisional and district administration.

Prominent members of civil society, including religious leaders, social activists, retired bureaucrats, academics, educationists and representatives of trade bodies, participated in the interaction convened in the backdrop of the escalating war in West Asia and its possible aftermath in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Valley.

The Chief Minister listened attentively to the concerns and suggestions raised by the participants and reaffirmed his government's commitment to maintaining peace and ensuring the smooth functioning of essential services.

Participants expressed deep concern over the developments in the West Asia region, which have engulfed several countries, and conveyed their sympathies to those who lost their loved ones, particularly the targeted assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah



Ali Khamenei and several of his family members.

During the meeting, the attendees urged the administration to deal with the protestors & mourners with sympathy and understanding while allowing gatherings to express grief, ensuring that public order is maintained. They also called for the release of detainees held in recent days and to quash FIRs against youth who were out on the streets only to grieve the death of their spiritual leader.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his grief and condolences over the loss of lives in Iran. He stated that the killing of the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, "cannot be described in words." He said that the late leader was a true sympathiser of the people of Kashmir and had always maintained cordial relations with India.

Recalling his visits to Iran twice, as Minister of State for External Affairs Government of India and as Special Envoy of PM Atal Behari Vajpayee, CM Omar Abdullah said that the ties of India with Iran have always been cordial. CM said that the late Iranian supreme leader was a friend of India and a true sympathiser of the people of Kashmir.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir while respecting the

sentiments of the people and urged people to ensure that expressions of grief remain peaceful and responsible.

Highlighting the purpose of the interaction, he said it was intended to collectively express pain and sorrow over the recent developments and to make a joint appeal for peace. He called for collective condemnation, collective condolence and a joint commitment to maintaining calm during the mourning period.

He underscored the role of the administration and religious organisations in ensuring a peaceful atmosphere and stressed that no one should be harmed during condolence gatherings.

Regarding recent detentions and the filing of cases, the Chief Minister assured the participants that he would take up the matter at the highest level to adopt a soft and lenient approach. He said that he does not want that his people particularly youth should put themselves in harm's way.

Responding to the issue of evacuation of Kashmiri students stranded in Iran, he said he has been in constant touch with the Ministry of External Affairs regarding their safety and safe return. He informed that the students are being shifted to safer locations for their onward journey through land route as flights stand cancelled in the region. He said that parents had met him for

stranded students and in

some cases students who are interns had refused to come back while some had been barred by medical colleges who have cautioned students that they shall lose one year and have to study academic session all over again in case they go back. CM assured that concerned college authorities in Iran would be requested through diplomatic channels to not to penalise students who want to return to India.

Some civil society members raised the issue of increase in prices of essentials, petrol and stressed the need for uninterrupted supply chains and proper functioning of key sectors such as health and power.

On essential supplies, the Chief Minister directed Deputy Commissioners to closely monitor stock and supply positions to prevent overpricing or hoarding and appealed to the public to bring any grievances to the notice of the administration.

Earlier, the meeting began with condolences over the demise of Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, followed by Fateha prayers for the supreme leader of Iran, school girls and other who lost their lives in the strikes on Iran.

Several religious leaders & members of civil society spoke in the meeting to express their sentiments and concerns. Those who spoke included Molvi Imran Ansari, Aga Syed Mehmood, MLA Ali Muhammad Sagar, MLA Tanvir Sadiq, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, Syed Shaheel Qalandar, M Yaseen Khan, Mushtaq Chaya, Aga Syed Mudasir Rizvi, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, Ms Tanvir Jehan, Dr Dechen Paljor, Jaspal Singh, G N War, MLA Mubarak Gul, Nasir Shah, Manzoor Pakhtoon, Shamim Ahmad Shah, Maulana Maqbool Hussain, Dr A G Ahangar, Iqram Shafie & others.

HQ 84 Bn Central Reserve Police Force celebrates Holi

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The vibrant festival of Holi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and community spirit today at Tac Headquarters 84 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The festival, which marks the arrival of spring and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, brought together officers, personnel, family members and local residents in a spirit of unity and joy.

During the celebrations, participants exchanged greetings, played with colours and shared sweets, strengthening bonds of friendship and harmony.

The event reflected the sense of camaraderie and togetherness that defines the force and its extended family.



Speaking on the occasion, Commandant 84 Bn, N. Ranbir Singh, highlighted that CRPF personnel, hailing from different parts of the country, often remain stationed in far-flung and conflict-prone regions in the line of duty. He stated

that such celebrations are organized to ensure that personnel and their families do not feel isolated and continue to experience the warmth of festive traditions despite being away from their native places. He also appealed to everyone to em-

brace the spirit of harmony and togetherness and to actively contribute towards nation-building.

The celebration concluded on a joyous note, reaffirming the commitment of the CRPF fraternity to unity, resilience and service to the nation.

Delegation calls on Forest Minister, seeks reforms in Forest Development Corporation

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A delegation led by former Minister Abdul Majid Wani and Ghulam Mustafa today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, to deliberate on key issues concerning the functioning and strengthening of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation Limited (J&K FDC).

The delegation raised several important matters related to timber marking, scientific extraction processes, quality control mechanisms and the need for a more transparent and efficient sale system.

They underscored the importance of modernizing and streamlining the operational procedures to ensure consistent supply of high-quality timber, enhance revenue realisation and protect the legitimate interests of contractors and



stakeholders associated with the Corporation.

They stressed the need to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest dwellers and local villagers through value addition, community participation and environmentally responsible initiatives.

Responding to the concerns, the Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues and suggestions presented by the delegation. He assured them of time-bound redressal of their issues. He reiterated the government's commitment towards transparency, efficiency and accountability in the functioning of the Corporation.

He further stated that necessary reforms and modernization measures would be undertaken to address the operational bottlenecks and enhance overall performance.

Dy CM visits Reasi, reviews infrastructure projects

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Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited various areas of Reasi to review the ongoing development works.

During the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed progress on key infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening the connectivity and public convenience.

The Deputy CM conducted an on-the-spot inspection of the link road from Kalidhar Mandir to Samadhi Ghai Jagi. He reviewed the status of the project and directed the PWD (R&B) Division Reasi to ensure immediate completion of the road, including blacktopping (BT), at the earliest for convenience of the general public and the visiting devotees. He instructed the concerned officers and field



functionaries to expedite the execution of work and ensure timely completion strictly as per approved specifications and quality standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister

also paid obeisance at Kalidhar Mandir and sought divine blessings for peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He inspected the ongoing works being undertaken to

ensure seamless accessibility, improved facilities and greater convenience for the devotees. He also inspected other ongoing projects and stressed on timely completion.

DC Ramban reviews developmental scenario, essential services in Gool, Sangaldan

RAMBAN, MARCH 5: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alys Khan, today conducted an extensive tour of Sub Division Gool and reviewed the overall developmental scenario in the area and assessed the status of essential services and supplies.

SSP Arun Gupta; ACR Showkat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed and other concerned officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of essential services including power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation

and road connectivity in the area. He directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of services, particularly in view of the prevailing weather conditions. He asked field officers to remain proactive in addressing public grievances and maintain close coordination for effective service delivery.

The DC also reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental works in the Sub Division. He assessed the status of the infrastructure projects and instructed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while strictly maintaining quality standards and adhering to the timeline.

As part of the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted market inspection in Gool and Sangaldan markets. He directed the concerned officers to maintain strict vigilance against overpricing, hoarding and black marketing.

Stressing transparency, he instructed shopkeepers to display updated rate lists and maintain proper hygiene standards in their establishments.

The DC interacted with shopkeepers and members of civil society, seeking feedback regarding availability and pricing of essential commodities and other civic issues.

Maiden Bhairav Yatra organised at Rajouri amid vibrant cultural performances

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For the first time, the annual Bhairav Yatra was organised here with vibrant cultural performances, adding a new cultural dimension to the traditional festivities.

The celebrations featured a colourful tableaux (Jhanki) depicting Ashta Bhairav, coupled with an engaging street play (Nukkad Natak), highlighting the significance and heritage of the yatra. The atmosphere was further enlivened by traditional folk performances featuring Dhol and Shehnai, which resonated with the festive spirit of the occasion coinciding with Holi.

The cultural programme was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Acad-



emy of Art, Culture and Languages in coordination with the district administration after a request was made to the Department of Culture, Government of Jammu and Kashmir to support cultural presentations during the yatra.

The vibrant cultural celebrations were made possi-

ble with the efforts of Principal Secretary to Culture Department, Brij Mohan Sharma and DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma.

Artists and cultural performers received enthusiastic appreciation from devotees and the general public who had gathered to participate in the yatra. The

addition of cultural performances brought renewed vibrancy to the celebrations and highlighted the rich cultural traditions associated with the region.

Among others present on the occasion were Chander Prakash, Mohd Jahangir Khan, Bikram Kumar and other officers.

DC Reasi approves 311 cases under Mission YUVA; Reviews PMAY (U) progress

REASI, MARCH 5: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review Mission YUVA proposals, submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit.

After detailed scrutiny and evaluation, 311 cases were approved for financial

assistance and institutional support.

The DC directed banks to ensure expeditious processing and timely disbursement of the approved cases. Banks were also instructed to provide clear reasons for any case rejections to maintain transparency and accountability in scheme implementation.

Later, the DC reviewed

the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

The Executive Officer - Municipal Council briefed the chair on eligibility criteria, payment disbursement, recovery status and the physical and financial progress under the housing scheme. The DC directed concerned authorities to initiate recovery from bene-

ficiaries who have not commenced construction even after receiving assistance. He instructed officials to personally engage with beneficiaries to motivate early initiation of construction.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ALC and other concerned officers.