

Probe initiated in many complaints

SVC gets 362 cases of graft, irregularities in 4 months

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 3: The Government apathy towards the State Vigilance Commission (SVC) notwithstanding, the Commission has received 362 cases of corruption against the Government officials in a short span of just four months of its formal constitution. It has investigated a number of cases and disposed some of them.

The Commission, headed by former Director General of Police (DGP) Kuldeep Khoda which has been functioning from lawns of Old Assembly complex in Srinagar, the summer capital of the State, has received a total of 362 cases that included 154 directly and 208 from the State Accountability Commission (SAC).

After a lot of hiccups, the SVC was formally constituted in February end this year with the oath of Mr Khoda as Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and R K Jerath, a retired IAS officer as Vigilance Commissioner.

Sources in the Commission

New track reduces distance

Over 14,000 yatris perform darshan

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 3: Though rush of the Amarnath pilgrims this year has been considerably less than the previous year, over 14,000 pilgrims performed darshan in the holy cave on day six of the yatras today.

According to an official spokesman, 14,655 pilgrims performed the darshan of Ice Lingam in holy cave of Swami Amarnath situated at an altitude of 14,000 feet in Lidder Valley in South Kashmir district of Anantnag.

With this, the total number of pilgrims performing darshan at cave shrine in last six days of

told the Excelsior that it has received 154 cases directly in just four months. Despite massive shortage of staff, it took up investigations expeditiously in 53 cases. While it closed 38 cases as "not established" after due inquiry, it has sought reports from various departments in 15 cases for initiating further action in them.

One hundred and one directly received cases were under process, they said.

The SVC has received 208 cases from the SAC, which pertained to corruption charges and other irregularities in Government Departments.

Of them, the SVC has taken up investigations instantly in 33 cases. While 13 cases were found as "not established", 20 others were under investigations, which were likely to be completed in the next few days. As many as 175 cases handed over to the SVC by the SAC were yet to be taken up for investigations in the absence of staff, office, framing of rules etc.

It may be reported here that the Government had decided

that the SAC, another anti-corruption body, would hand over the cases of corruption and other irregularities against the Government and Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) officials/officers to the SVC while retaining the cases against politicians only.

Reliable sources said that newly set up SVC was facing massive shortage of staff, which was having telling impact on investigations of the cases, which it has received during a little span of just four months.

Worthwhile to mention that the SAC is yet to be fully constituted as it was short of one Vigilance Commissioner.

Moreover, as against the sanctioned staff strength of about 100 officials/officers, the Government has given the Commission only a dozen staff members. The Commission had been allotted Old Assembly Hall as the office, which was still in the process of being given the shape of an office besides the renovation work.

Pending commissioning of the office, the SVC has been

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PIL seeking recovery of Sales Tax arrears

DB directs Commissioner ST, IGP to lodge FIR against defaulters

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Mansoor Ahmed Mir and Justice Tashi Rabstan today directed the Commissioner Sales Tax and Inspector General of Police (IGPs) of Jammu and Kashmir Zones to draw action plan including lodging of FIRs against those Sales Tax defaulters, who are not traceable and who have given improper/incorrect addresses.

This direction was passed in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Balvinder Singh and Others seeking recovery of Sales Tax arrears worth crores of rupees from the defaulters.

In the status report submitted by the Commissioner, Commercial/Sales Tax, the details about the arrears of tax and the amount recovered by the authorities in terms of the orders passed by High Court in this case were furnished. It has been stated that Rs 111.48 crore have been recovered with effect from April 1, 2011 up to June 24, 2013.

According to the status report, Rs 67.22 crore are to be recovered from Government/Semi Government Departments, Rs 113.75 crore

from non-traceable defaulters, Rs 20.23 crore from migrant dealers and Rs 122.52 crore from existing defaulters. However, the respondents have also moved an application seeking modification in the order dated September 4, 2012 in order to grant amnesty to the dealers of Ladakh region.

According to the status report filed by IGP, various raids were conducted to execute the warrants at the given addresses as well as the residential premises of the defaulters. However, some of the defaulters could not be located and in their cases warrants were to be returned unexecuted to the concerned authorities on the due dates. Further, it has been stated that improper particulars of the defaulters was one of the reasons for non-execution of the warrants.

After hearing Senior Advocate Sunil Sethi with Advocates Ravi Abrol and Mohsin Bhat for the petitioner, Senior AAG Gagan Basotra for the State respondents whereas Advocate MA Bhat for the Sales Tax Department, the DB issued directions for taking all steps as warranted under law read with the orders passed by High Court from time to time to effect recovery of arrears of tax from all the defaulters including

Government/Semi Government Departments.

The DB also directed Commissioner, Commercial/Sales Tax to furnish details of all those defaulters, whose warrants have been received back unexecuted for want of correct particulars of their units and residential premises and the details of the migrant dealers to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Jammu, who in turn shall furnish present addresses of those migrant dealers, residential as well as commercial, to the Commissioner Commercial Sales Tax and IGP so that the warrants could be executed against them and recovery of arrears of tax could be effected from them by the Commissioner Commercial/Sales Tax.

The Division Bench further directed IGP to execute the warrants on their receiving the exact particulars of defaulters and report compliance. The Commissioner Commercial/Sales Tax and IGP were directed to draw action plan including lodging of FIRs against those defaulters, who are not traceable and who have given improper/incorrect addresses as reported in the status report submitted by them.

'No pilgrimage for unregistered yatris'

Omar to continue efforts for AFSPA revocation

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 3: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that he will continue to press for the revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) despite the attack on Army convoy in Srinagar in which 8 Army personnel were killed last week.

After inaugurating three-day National Summit organised by National Rural Health Mission here at SKICC, the Chief Minister said he would continue the discussion with the Centre on the issue of partial revocation of AFSPA in the State. "I will only say that our discussions about AFSPA will continue," he added.

Omar said that some incidents in the Valley over the past



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at National Rural Health Mission seminar in Srinagar on Wednesday.

now. Last 10 days, we have seen two incidents which have given evidence both for presence and revocation of AFSPA," he added.

Chief Minister said the advocates of continuing AFSPA in the State cite the example of attack on Army convoy in Srinagar last week and those who want it cite the example of Sumbal firing incident.

"They say that AFSPA cannot be revoked when such incidents take place. Those who want the Act to go cite the Sumbal incident saying there was wrong use of powers which led to death of two youth. If there was no AFSPA it would not have happened," he said.

On killing of two youth on

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Situation tense along LoC: GOC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 16 Corps, Lt Gen D S Hooda said today that firing, ceasefire violations and infiltration attempts from across the border have increased and the situation along the LoC is tense.

"The situation on the border (with Pakistan) is tense but under control," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function to remember Brigadier Mohammad Usman, who attained martyrdom while defend-

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Ishrat encounter fake: CBI

AHMEDABAD, July 3:

CBI today held that 19-year-old college student Ishrat Jahan was killed in a "fake" encounter in cold blood here in 2004 in a joint operation by Gujarat police and the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau, a development that comes as a major embarrassment to the Narendra Modi Government.

The chargesheet filed by CBI in a local court, which also raises questions over the role of Intelligence Bureau, does not say

(Contd on page 6 Col 6)

Cabinet clears Rs 710 cr grant to J&K

NEW DELHI, July 3:

A week after Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's announcement in Srinagar, the Union Cabinet today gave its nod to a grant of Rs 710 crore for land acquisition for expansion and upgradation of rural roads network in Jammu and Kashmir.

The payment will be a special one-time dispensation for J&K to meet the cost of land acquisition covering compensatory afforestation, forest land, trees, private land and structures for com-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Police foils separatists' march

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 3: The authorities today imposed curfew like restrictions in parts of Bandipora district to foil Markundal march call of Hurriyat Conference.

Despite the tough security restrictions, clashes erupted at various areas of Kashmir valley between youths and police against the killing of two youths on Sunday.

Senior Separatist leaders including Hurriyat Conference (G)

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

DB grants last opportunity to 6 MLAs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by SOS Election, Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Mansoor Ahmed Mir and Justice Tashi Rabstan today granted final opportunity of three weeks to six MLAs—Prof Chaman Lal Gupta, Durga Dass, Prof Gharu Ram, Bharat Bhushan, Jagdish Sapolia and Lal Chand, to file reply.

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5 Kashmiri ultras among 11 held

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: Shashtra Seema Bal (SSB) last night arrested five Kashmiri militants, their four Pakistani wives and two children at Sonouli area of Maharajaganj in Uttar Pradesh, bordering Nepal.

Reports received here said the militants along with their families had reached Kathmandu from Karachi on Pakistani passports and visas and then entered Indian territory from Sonouli area along Nepal border at 8.40 pm last night.

Five militants have been identified as Afzal Mir, 55, Qazi Barkat,

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

JKSPDC gets coal block in Odisha

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, the State Power Development Corporation has bagged coal block for power sector.

According to the official handout released by the Union Ministry of Coal, JKSPDC has been allotted Kundanli-Luburi coal block in Odisha for 25 years.

Jammu and Kashmir JKSPDC is among the 15 States and six Central Public Sector Undertakings which have been allocated 14 coal blocks on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

HC notice to CS, BOPEE

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 3: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court today issued notices to the Government asking it to file reasons before the court about leakage of the papers in Board of Professional Entrance Examinations last month.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court division bench comprising Chief Justice M M Kumar and Justice D S Thakur while taking suo moto cognizance of the leakage of the BOPEE papers that led to huge public outcry and cancellation of the examinations, issued notices to Chief Secretary and BOPEE authorities.

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Nearly Rs 30 lakh go down the drain; DC approaches CVC, CS for action

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 3: Unbelievable it may sound but it is a fact that a Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) hostel constructed about four years back at a cost of Rs 30 lakh in Nyoma Sub-Division of the Leh district and remained unused till date, has now been found completely unsafe for any use. In order to ensure that those, who were behind blatant misuse of official position and involved in the embezzlement of the public money do not go scot free, the Deputy Commissioner Leh has approached the State

Vigilance Commission and Chief Secretary for criminal and departmental action.

According to the highly placed sources in the Civil Secretariat, the blatant misuse of powers by the officials of the Directorate of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) came to the fore during the visit of Deputy Commissioner Leh, Simrandeep Singh to Nyoma Sub-Division in the month of May this year.

On the complaint of the people, the Deputy Commissioner personally inspected the KGBV hostel building and found that inferior quality material was used in its construction as the building had developed many

cracks.

Accordingly, the Deputy Commissioner got preliminary enquiry conducted through the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nyoma during which the blatant misuse of powers by the officials of the Directorate of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was established. The preliminary enquiry revealed that as per the guidelines for construction of KGBV, the work on hostel at Nyoma was executed departmentally by the Directorate of SSA through the Executive Engineer, North SSA Division Kashmir, sources said.

Though the construction



Women pilgrims to Amarnath await registration at Tourist Reception Centre at Nowgam in Srinagar on Wednesday. (UNI)

yatra has reached 78,112.

The spokesman said a fresh batch of 5,410 pilgrims left Nunwan base camp for holy cave via traditional Chandanwari-Sheshnag track under a tight security cover while 5,042 yatris left via shorter Baltal track. In addition to it, 1,478 pilgrims left by air.

While some of the pilgrims who left via Baltal track have performed the darshan in holy cave and were all set to return to base camp, others were on their way, the spokesman said, adding the pilgrims who left via Chandanwari track after a night halt at Sheshnag and Pancharni will perform darshan tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

the same the yatris have to approach the CRPF.

The spokesman said that with the construction of new track for pedestrians this year from Brari Marg to holy cave three kilometers distance was shortened. Known as Kali Mata track, it has been thrown open for pedestrian yatris only and it has reduced the distance from Dumel to holy cave from 16 kms to 13 kms, spokesman added.

Spokesman said earlier the yatris had to come down from Brari Marg to Sangam and go up again. Now they prefer to walk via new track because it has an easy grade from Brari Marg to

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	Sunset on Thursday: 07.43 p.m.
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	KASHMIR
	Mainly clear sky.
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 30.9 Degree C
	Min: 15.6 Degree C
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 73.0 per cent
	Lowest: 37.0 per cent

4 booked for duping youth

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 3: Crime Branch has booked four persons for duping innocent youth on the pretext of providing jobs abroad.

The accused have been identified as Suresh Kumar of Chakravti in Bhaderwah, presently putting up Doda migrant camp Beli Charana Jammu, Kailashpati and Mukesh (brothers) from Kishtwar and one Major Singh. A case under Section 342, 382, 420, 406, 120-B RPC and 3/25 Arms Act has been registered against them on the direction of the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate Passenger Tax, Shops and Establishment Jammu following a complaint by one Punjab Singh of Rajinder Bazar

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