

## Threat to yatra: 'Operation Shiva' launched No structures were demolished in Leh to end standoff: Parnaik

**\* Army's no to even partial revocation of AFSPA  
Sanjeev Pargal**

UDHAMPUR, June 17: In a startling revelation, Northern Army Command chief Lt Gen KT Parnaik said today that no compromise including dismantling of structures at village Chumar in Ladakh was made to end over a fortnight long standoff with China in Daulat Beg Oldi sector in which Indian Army and People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China had virtually come face-to-face along the Line of Actual Control in April-May this year.

Lt Gen Parnaik, who is relinquishing office on June 30 on superannuation and being replaced by Lt Gen Sanjeev Chachra, told a news conference at Northern Command Headquarters here this afternoon on the occasion of 42nd Raising Day of the Command that even partial revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was not acceptable to the Army as this would be exploited by the militants to make their bases in the areas where the Act was not in force and carry out operations in other areas.

The Northern Command chief, who had a distinguished stint in

the Command spanning about two and a half years, said Army along with other security agencies, paramilitary forces and police have launched 'Operation Shiva' to ensure peaceful pilgrimage to Shri Amarnath ji shrine this year, beginning June 28, following inputs that the militants could use toothpaste, book and boot bombs to target the yatra and the security forces. He added that awareness among the pilgrims was the best option to counter the militant threats though security agencies would take all steps to ensure that the terrorists didn't succeed in their designs.

In yet another important revelation, the Army General said 2010 summer agitation that led to a number of casualties in the Kashmir Valley had been sponsored through Social Networking Sites and not through mobile telephones or other modes of communications.

On the killing of two Indian Army soldiers by Pakistani troops along with Lashkar terrorists in Mankote area of Mendhar sector in Poonch



GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen K T Parnaik addressing a press conference in Udhampur on Monday.

trict on January 8, he said "our response was very aggressive. It was more than what they did". (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

## Wrangling among Ministers intensifies Sack 'arrogant' MoS to save Coalition: Wani urges CM

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, June 17: Wrangling among two Ministers of National Conference (NC) - Congress Coalition entered the next round today with Cabinet Minister for Roads and Building and Mechanical Engineering, Abdul Majid Wani stoutly refuting all allegations and launching counter-attack on his junior colleague, Sajjad Kitchloo, who is Minister of State (MoS) in the same department.

The level of acrimony between the two Ministers representing Congress (Abdul Majid Wani) and National Conference (Sajjad Kitchloo) intensified further today with former demanding that the latter be sacked immediately from the Council of Ministers for the betterment of the Coalition Government.

Charging Mr Kitchloo of being 'hell-bent' to tarnish the image of the present Coalition Government, Mr Wani said in a communiqué, "the remarks made by my junior colleague are against the canons of the Coalition Government and it is being understood that the same

are being made to create rift amongst the coalition partners".

Refuting allegations of having bypassed his junior colleague, Mr Wani said, "The powers have been delegated to the Ministers of State of J&K by none other than Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah. Rules laid down in the Constitution categorically stated that all the files related to the cadres management (except transfers and postings) are to be routed by the concerned Administrative Secretary through the Minister of State (MoS) concerned and the same is being followed by the R&B in letter and spirit".

"It is only the arrogance and vested interests of the MoS concerned, which had forced him to take such an abrasive path and make such adverse comments in public", says the statement adding, "the Government has to work as per the procedure in vogue and every action taken by the R&B Department, whether it is with respect to cadre management or developmental activities, is as per the principles adopted by the Government". (Contd on page 13 Col 1)



A building collapses into the rising water of river Ganga in pilgrimage town of Uttarkashi on Monday. (UNI)

## Rahul natural leader: PM

NEW DELHI, June 17:

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today indicated readiness to make way for Rahul Gandhi if the UPA wins the Lok Sabha elections next year.

"I have always said, as far as I am concerned, I would be very happy to see Rahul step into my shoes. I always believe we will have a third go at the elections (Contd on page 13 Col 3)

## Monsoon woes: 60 killed

NEW DELHI, June 17:

Monsoon woes gripped several parts of north India today as heavy rains wreaked havoc in the hill States of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, leaving over 60 people dead and hundreds stranded, while several parts in Haryana were flooded after water level of Yamuna rose alarmingly.

Flashfloods in the Ganga and its tributaries triggered by incessant rains for over 48 hours left a trail of death and devastation (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## Kabir first CJI to visit KU

SRINAGAR, June 17:

Justice Altamas Kabir today became the first Chief Justice Of India to visit Kashmir University, a fact that left him "astonished". The Chief Justice visited the university, which was founded in 1948, to address the faculty and students of the Law Department here.

"I was astonished myself that no Chief Justice of India had visited here. (Contd on page 13 Col 1)

## TRAI lowers roaming charges

NEW DELHI, June 17:

Telecom regulator TRAI today allowed free mobile roaming on payment of a fixed fee from July 1 and reduced national roaming charges for others by up to 57 per cent.

TRAI, however, said making national roaming completely free of charges is not practical as of now.

"The authority has decided to reduce the ceiling (upper price for roaming call and SMS rates) across board, permitting telecom providers to issue special tariff voucher and mandating that a roam- (Contd on page 13 Col 3)

## 3 AK rifles recovered in Poonch

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 17: Army today recovered three AK rifles near the Line of Control (LoC) at Sabjan sub sector of Poonch district and started a search operation in the area.

Troops of Rashtriya Rifles of Poonch Brigade launched a search operation and recovered three AK-47 rifles and one butt of AK.

After the recoveries, Army has launched a search operation in the area for the possible movement of militants. The search operation (Contd on page 4 Col 6)

## Hurriyat leader held with hawala money

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 17: Police today arrested a leader of Hurriyat Conference (Mirwaiz) along with Rs 95,000 worth hawala money at Thanna Mandi in Rajouri district when he was smuggling the money from Surankote in a Maruti car.

The Hurriyat leader was traveling in a red color Maruti car No. 2611 JK12 when he was intercepted at Thanna Mandi. Police recovered Rs 95,000 worth hawala money from the Hurriyat leader, who has been identified as Farooq Ahmad son of Abdul Lateef Khan, a resident of Potha, Surankote.

Police parties led by SDPO Thanna Mandi Mubeeb-ur-Rehman (Contd on page 13 Col 5)

## Temp below normal in J&K

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, June 17: With the onset of Monsoon 15 days earlier than its normal course, the day temperature plummeted five degrees below the normal in Jammu region. However the night temperature in Jammu remained one degree above the normal.

The temperature recorded by Metrological Department at vari- (Contd on page 13 Col 3)

## CM inter-acts with pilgrims 15,000 visit Kheer Bhawani

Mir Farhat

SRINAGAR, June 17: Thousands of devotees today worshipped at the shrine of Goddess Ragnia Devi to celebrate the annual Kheer Bhawani mela at Tulmulla in Ganderbal district.

Local and migrant Kashmiri Pandits along with tourists offered prayers throughout the day. Around 65 passenger buses carrying Kashmiri Pandits had arrived Kheer Bhawani to participate in the mela.

The devotees prayed for peace and return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. "We prayed for peace and our return," said Manoj Koul, 52, a migrant who had come from Jammu to celebrate the festival.

But, a group of young Kashmiri Pandits said that they would return back to Kashmir only if the Government develops infrastructure and create opportunities so that they can carry on

their studies and jobs similar to that of other States like Delhi, Bangalore.

However, the devotees rued at the Government's arrangement. "The Government has failed to provide necessary arrangements to us. There is



Devotees sing religious songs at the Kheer Bhawani temple at Tulmulla in Ganderbal on Monday. —Excelsior/Amin War

shortage of drinking water, washrooms and tent facilities. Last night when it rained we had to sleep under open sky as there were no adequate rooms and

tents available in the Temple campus. Devotees had no shelter to take during the rain," said Sudarhan Das.

Meanwhile, several politicians like Union Health and family Welfare minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and CPI

(M) State General Secretary MY Tarigami also visited Tulmulla to greet the devotees.

Das said: "The politicians (Contd on page 13 Col 1)

## Amarnath yatra: junior doctors being deployed in place of specialists

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, June 17: Notwithstanding clear directions of the Supreme Court for deployment of Medical Specialists on temporary duty during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Junior Doctors are being listed for official duty

during the pilgrimage, which is commencing from June 28.

Registrars in different departments of Government Medical College Jammu and Srinagar are being deployed for the Yatra duty in place of Specialists, who are learnt to have expressed their inability to perform camp duty en route

owing to different reasons.

Despite the requirement of services of four Specialists from the Medicine Department in GMC Jammu, only Registrars of the said department are being deployed on the Yatra duty while alteration is allegedly being made in the Roster for replacement of Lecturer with Registrar in Orthopedics also, sources said.

"We have been told by the HoD to be prepared for the Yatra duty as the Lecturers listed in the Roster have refused to get deployed apparently because of their private practice," claimed a Junior Doctor on the condition of anonymity.

Similarly from GMC Srinagar also, some Registrar and Junior Doctors are being deployed for the Yatra duty in place of Specialists on weekly basis.

Pertinent to mention that as per the Supreme Court direction, the Government had sought services of Medical Specialists, Surgery Specialists and Orthopedics from GMC Jammu and GMC Srinagar besides General Duty Doctors, Pharmacists, NOs, Technicians and Sanitary Workers from Health and Medical Education Department for their deployment on temporary duty during the Amarnath Ji Yatra for the current year.

The each GMC was required to furnish list of four Specialists in Medicine, Surgery and Orthopedics for the purpose. However, despite having 14 (Contd on page 4 Col 7)

## Kharge gets Rlys, 8 more inducted as Ministers

NEW DELHI, June 17:

In perhaps the last reshuffle in the party, senior woman leader from election-bound Rajasthan Mukherjee at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan attended by Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and union ministers among others.

71-year-old Kharge, who missed out in the Chief Ministerial race in Karnataka last month, has been compensated with the heavyweight Railway portfolio after being shifted from Labour and Employment.

Labour has now been given to Ola, the 86-year-old Jat leader from Rajasthan who gets back the same portfolio he had held in the UPA-I.

Fernandes, who had also been Labour Minister and Sports and Youth Affairs Minister in UPA-I, got Road and Highways Ministry, succeeding C P Joshi who resigned over the weekend.

Giriya Vyas got Housing, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, a portfolio held by

Ajay Maken who also had quit on Saturday to work for the party. K S Rao (69), a five-time MP from coastal Andhra Pradesh who nearly quit Lok Sabha after being ignored in the Cabinet expansion last year, was given the Textiles portfolio.

Among new Ministers of State, Seelam, a former IAS officer, is a dalit face from Andhra Pradesh. He got Finance.

Gavit, 78-year-old tribal leader from Maharashtra and a nine-time MP, has been allotted Social Justice and Empowerment portfolio.

Santosh Chowdhury, a dalit from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, was given Health & Family Welfare Ministry.

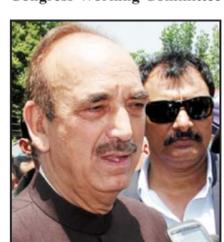
Nachiappan, a member of the panel of the presiding officers in the Rajya Sabha, was given Commerce and Industry.

The reshuffle was expected for some time after the exit of DMK's six ministers and resignation of Pawan Kumar Bansal and Ashwani Kumar. (PTI)

## 'Modi's elevation made Cong stronger' CWC to decide on pre-poll alliance in J&K: Azad

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, June 17: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and senior Congress leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad today said that his party has not taken any decision on the pre-poll alliance with National Conference (NC) in Jammu and Kashmir and the issue will be decided by the Congress Working Committee



(CWC) ahead of Assembly polls in the State.

When asked about the pre-poll alliance with the NC in the State ahead of assembly polls next year during a function of his Ministry in Srinagar, Azad said: "No decision has been taken yet on the issue. The coalition is running and there is still one and a half year to go for polls. However, there are divergent views in Congress and NC on the issue. In Congress, there are some leaders who are for it and others are against it. In the

same way, there are some leaders in NC who are in favour of alliance and others oppose it."

At Kheerbhawani in Central Kashmir district of Ganderbal while speaking to reporters, Azad said: "The decision about the pre-poll alliance ahead of the Assembly elections will be taken by the Congress Working Committee led by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, President Sonia Gandhi and Vice President Rahul Gandhi."

On the elevation of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi as head of BJP's poll campaign, Azad said that it has strengthened the Congress party and weakened the Bharatiya Janata Party and is set back to the NDA as its allies are running away.

"Modi's coming has become a danger not for us but for the BJP. Congress has become stronger while the BJP has disintegrated and its allies are running away," Azad said.

Azad welcomed the decision of Janata Dal (U) to snap its 17-year-old ties with BJP-led NDA over the elevation of Modi as BJP's poll campaign head. "I want to congratulate them for the move which came very late though. I know Nitish Kumar and Sharad Yadav very well. They are secular people and I don't know what prompted them to join the BJP-led NDA at that time," he said.

On bringing JD (U) to UPA

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Lawyers should be depicted as socially responsible citizens: CJI ...Page 3	RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 74.0 per cent Lowest: 47.0 per cent Sunset on Tuesday: 07.41 p.m. Sunrise on Wednesday: 05.25 a.m.
Azad launches Medical Mobile Unit ...Page 3	KASHMIR Rain/thunder shower. TEMPERATURE Max: 24.2 Degree C Min: 12.2 Degree C
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