

'Cong compromising with national interests, time to rout it'

Modi favours Vajpayee's doctrine to solve Kashmir

***Calls for equal development of Jammu & Ladakh, justice to KPs**

Sanjeev Pargal

MADHOPUR, June 23: Sounding the bugle for 2014 Parliamentary elections, newly appointed BJP Election Campaign Committee chairman and Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi today declared that Congress is the "root cause of all problems" faced by the country including Kashmir and called upon the people to ensure rout of this party in the upcoming general elections.

Addressing a mammoth 'Sankalp Rally' here, the border of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab organised jointly by ruling BJP-Shiromani Akali Dal (B) on the occasion of 60th anniversary of Jan Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's martyrdom, Mr Modi said former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee would have solved Kashmir



BJP leader Narendra Modi addressing a mammoth rally at Madhopur on Sunday.

problem had the NDA been voted back to power in 2004 elections.

Asserting that Kashmir problem was the "creation of Congress" including India's first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal

Nehru, Mr Modi, in his first public meeting after being appointed as BJP's Election Campaign Committee chairman and after the exit of JD (U) from NDA, called for justice and respect to Kashmiri Pandits,

who were forced to leave their houses by the Kashmiri militants in 1989 and equal treatment to Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions.

Flanked by bigwigs of BJP and Akali Dal including

Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal, Shanta Kumar, former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Anurag Thakur, BJYM president, Jagat Prakash Nadda, All India general secretary, Avinash Rai Khanna and several MPs and Ministers from Punjab, Mr Modi in his 40 minutes speech, said the "vote bank politics" being pursued by the Congress has become a threat to the country and it was time now to get India rid of Congress in the next Parliamentary elections.

Mr Badal went a step ahead declaring that "second war of independence" has begun under the leadership of Modi and it would end with the wiping out of Congress from the national scene in 2014 elections as the ruling party was responsible for all ills faced by the country

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With the onset of monsoon, a farmer ploughs his field on the outskirts of Rajouri.

-Excelsior photo

9 foreigners killed by Taliban

ISLAMABAD, June 23:

In an unprecedented attack on foreigners, Taliban militants wearing paramilitary uniforms stormed a mountaineering base camp in northern Pakistan, killing nine foreign tourists and two Pakistanis, embarrassing the PML-N Government just weeks after it assumed office and offered peace talks with the insurgents.

About 14 to 16 militants targeted the camp at Buner Valley

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Advani for repealing Art 370

NEW DELHI, June 23:

Senior BJP leader L K Advani today pushed for repealing Article 370 of the Constitution, saying it would help Jammu and Kashmir's full integration with India.

"The country eagerly awaits the day when Article 370 would be repealed and the two vidhans (Constitution) also would become one," Advani wrote in his blog to commemorate the 60th death anniversary of party's founder Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.

Article 370 accords special Constitutional status on J&K and its abolition has been one of BJP's core demands. The party had put the issue on back burner in its attempt to woo more allies, most of whom are wary of its Hindutva agenda.

In his blog titled 'Independent India's First Martyr for National Integration', the veteran leader said Mookerjee's death in controversial circumstances triggered a series of developments which significantly promoted the process of national integration.

The permit system, which the then J&K Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah had introduced for non-state residents wishing to enter

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3 buried as house collapses

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, June 23: Three persons including a 9-year-old boy, were buried alive while three others injured in a house collapse near Shahdara Sharief in Thanna Mandi area of district Rajouri today.

A police spokesman said that incident took place when the family was busy in repair of a kutchha house near Shahdara Sharief Ziarat in Thanna Mandi this afternoon. Two persons had also been engaged for the work by the family. Suddenly the main wooden pillar supporting the load of the central wooden beam (Shehter) broke down and the house collapsed. A portion of the house was meant for the cattle.

While three persons including a minor boy of the family were buried alive, three others received injuries and were rushed to

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3 held for smuggling forest produce

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 23: Police today arrested three persons for indulging in illegal transportation and sale of banned forest produce.

Giving details, police spokesman said that on the basis of reliable information Satwari Police apprehended three persons namely Assadullah, son of Ahamdullah, Bashir Ahmed, son of Mohammed Abdullah and Salam Din, son of Qasim Din, all the residents of Gandoh, Doda.

They were engaged in the illegal transportation and sale of Trilleien Govarta (Nagchatri), a forest produce whose sale and purchase is banned under the Forest Act. An amount of Rs 5,41,890, which was suspected to have been received from the sale of about 250 kg of banned forest produce, was received from their possession.

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Pilgrim killed, 4 hurt in mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, June 23: A woman pilgrim died while four persons were injured when their car hit another vehicle at Barwal More on Jammu-Pathankote National Highway near here early this morning.

According to police a Scorpio car bearing number DL7 CN 9273 which was on its way from Delhi to holy township of Katra to have the pilgrimage of Mata Vaishno Devi hit another vehicle from back side resulting into the death of one lady passenger and injury to four others including three children.

The deceased has been identified as Nitu Sharma, wife of Subash Sharma of Shadra Delhi while her husband Subash Sharma, son of Mohan Lal Sharma, daughters Baskar Sharma, Barkha Sharma and another infant child were injured.

The dead body after postmortem in District Hospital Kathua

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'Tourism for fun resulted in destruction'

5000 feared killed, 19000 still stranded in Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN, June 23:

Kedarnath Valley, the temple town which was the epicentre of the Uttarakhand rain fury, was today cleared of all stranded pilgrims, as rescuers battled rains to evacuate 3,000 more people in the disaster in which the death toll is likely to cross 5,000.

With MeT department warning of adverse weather in the region from tomorrow, the multi-agency operations raced against time to try to rescue remaining 19,000 stranded people stuck in three areas including Badrinath. Air operations had to be also briefly suspended due to bad weather.

As stepped up rescue operations amid intermittent rains led to evacuation of more than 3,000

pilgrims and tourists out of the stranded 22,000 people, the State Government said at least

5,000 people must have perished in Uttarakhand in the worst ever

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Stranded and injured pilgrims being evacuated by ITBP personnel through a temporary ladder from the remote parts of Badrinath on Sunday. (UNI)

Scrutiny of various Depts being done in Kashmir; Ladakh, Jammu to follow

Disciplinary action against officials failing to implement PSGA

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, June 23: Determined to infuse sense of accountability among Government employees, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has given instructions for constitution of special teams to monitor the status of implementation of Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA) at various Government offices across the State.

Besides, directions have been issued for initiating disciplinary action against officials, who have failed to adhere to the guidelines defined under various provisions of the Act in letter and spirit.

Reliable sources said the State Government is working on twin strategy for ensuring accountability among the officials working at different levels in the administration. "During the first round, the officials shall be sanitized about various provisions of the Act and in the second round and disciplinary action shall be taken against the officials, who fail to provide services to people as demanded

by the Act".

"As part of this exercise, senior officials of the General Administration Department (GAD) had been assigned the task to cover Kashmir province first and hold parleys with officials. Subsequently, the team will cover Leh, Kargil district and then move to Jammu province", sources said, adding, "presently, several senior incumbents of GAD have been holding interactions with officials".

Sources said the first program has been named as Program Capacity Building for Designated Officials and First Appellate Authority as specified under various provisions of the Act.

Presently, around 70 services provide by the Government Departments and agencies have been brought under the ambit of the PSGA. The Act provides for time bound delivery of services on receiving a complaint and the functionaries failing to comply with the rules of the Act are liable to be penalized.

Sources said the team of officials have been inspecting various Departments in several dis-

tricts of Kashmir Valley and have also issued warning letter to some incumbents, who have deliberately 'ignored' the provision of the Act. "They have been advised to implement the PSGA in true spirit as failure to do so would also invite disciplinary action", sources asserted.

Source said, "the Government is vigorously working for the implementation ever since its enactment in the year 2011. The Rules pertaining to the provisions of the Act were also framed within the shortest possible time by July, 2011 and now efforts are being made to make them work on ground".

The State Government had on July 26, 2011 issued notification under SRO 223 and 224 identifying the public services, designated officers, stipulated timeframe for providing the services, first appellate authority and second appellate authority besides notifying rules to make the Act operational with immediate effect.

The Act, sources stated, was aimed at empowering general

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File shuttling between Finance, Law Depts

Financial implications creating obstacles in establishing first-ever Law Commission

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 23: The financial implications have been creating obstacles in the establishment of first ever Law Commission in Jammu and Kashmir and presently the file is shuttling between Finance and Law Departments in order to arrive at consensus on the arrangement of manpower for this body, whose major function would be to work for the legal reforms.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that soon after the conclusion of Budget Session of the State Legislature during which the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mir Saifullah made announcement regarding setting up of first ever Law Commission in Jammu and Kashmir, the Law Department started exercise to prepare a detailed proposal to give practical shape to the statement.

After hectic exercise, the framework of the Law Commission was prepared and the file forwarded to the Finance Department for concurrence. However, the Finance Department raised objections particularly with regard to the

manpower to be deployed in the Commission on the ground that creation of fresh posts would put financial burden on the exchequer, sources said.

While recommending that manpower for the Law Commission should be on deputation from the Law Department, the Finance Department returned the file to the Law Department for necessary exercise to bring down the proposed manpower, they said. "Though the Law Department has curtailed the manpower to certain extent yet it is finding it difficult to bring down the manpower to the level suggested by the Finance Department. Moreover, it is not possible for the Law Department to depute manpower to the Commission in view of the fact that it has already been facing shortage of officers and officials", sources added.

"As the setting up of first ever Law Commission in Jammu and Kashmir is getting delayed due to financial implications, it is expected that both the Minister for Law and Minister for Finance would sit together to resolve the issue", sources said.

Since the announcement about setting up of Law

Commission was first made on the floor of the House by the Minister for Finance, Abdul Rahim Rather about two years back it was expected that he would not allow financial implications to create hurdle in having such a body in the State, which would help in ensuring legal reforms. "Once the issue is resolved the file would go to the Cabinet, which will take final call on establishing of the Law Commission", sources added.

According to the proposal, retired Judge of the High Court or an officer, who had been Commissioner/Secretary of the Law Department, would be the Chairman of the Law Commission, which will have two official members and two non-permanent members.

The functions of the Law Commission would be broadly to review and repeal of obsolete laws. It will have the responsibility to identify laws, which are no longer needed or relevant and can be immediately repealed; identify laws, which otherwise require changes or amendments and to make suggestions for their amendment, consider in a wider perspective the suggestions for revision/amendment given by Expert Groups in vari-

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Govt stops subsidy on food grains supplied for Amarnath yatra

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, June 23: The Central Government's decision to cut the subsidy on consumer items being supplied to State Government from this year has left it with no alternative but to increase the charges on the quota of food grains and other consumer items being supplied to Amarnath yatis and lingers to be run by various philanthropists

enroute to holy cave.

In this regard a notification has been issued by Director Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Kashmir vide his order number DDS/ANG/44/2013-14/515-17 dated 6.6.2013 under which revised rate list was issued for the food grains and other consumer items like rice, flour, sugar, K Oil and LPG to be supplied for Amarnath yatra from Nunwan to holy cave.

According to official sources the State Government was constrained to take the decision and increase the rates after the stoppage of subsidy on food items by Union Government from this year for the holy Amarnath yatis.

Sources said that State Government was left with no option but to increase the prices of food grains and other consumer items supplied to holy Amarnath yatra after Central Government stopped entire sub-

sidy on food grains from this year to be supplied for holy Amarnath yatra and other quota. "The Centre asked us to take the stock on economic rates after cutting the subsidy and we were left with no option but to increase the rates which are much higher than that of subsidized rates", he added.

As per the notification the rate for per quintal of rice at base camp Nunwan in Anantnag district of South Kashmir has been fixed as Rs 2800 per quintal while the same for common consumers of APL category in the State is Rs 1100 per quintal. Likewise per quintal of rice at Chandanwari will cost Rs 2850 while it will cost Rs 4770 at Sheshnag.

The rate for per quintal of flour has been fixed at Rs 1900 at Nunwan as per the notification, Rs 2100 at Chandanwari and Rs 3950 at Sheshnag when the actual rate is Rs 800 per quintal under APL category.

Likewise the rate for K. Oil has been fixed Rs 71 per litre at Nunwan, Rs 73 at Chandanwari and Rs 92 at Sheshnag while the actual rate of the same is Rs 17.50 per litre.

The rate of commercial LPG per cylinder as per the notification has been fixed at Rs 1670 at Nunwan, Rs 1675 at Chandanwari and Rs 2516 at Sheshnag.

The sugar will be supplied at the rate of Rs 3300 per quintal at Nunwan, Rs 3350 at Chandanwari and 5270 per quintal at Sheshnag while the actual rate of the same is Rs 1350 per quintal under APL category.

This rate will be much more

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INSIDE	WEATHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balistic missile defence ...Page 10 Incriminating ICIJ expose Religions seek salvage of human beings from evils : Omar ...Page 3 LoC has to be Line of Cooperation: Mufti ...Page 3 HCC to bid for Arpinchala-Dharam railway project in J&K ...Page 5 Bridge over Jhelum in Rajbagh to be completed on time: JKPC ...Page 5 England restrict India to 129/7 in CT final ...Page 18 	<p>JAMMU</p> <p>Possibility of light rain/thundershowers.</p> <p>TEMPERATURE</p> <p>Max: 39.7 Degree C</p> <p>Min: 30.6 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY</p> <p>Highest: 58.0 per cent</p> <p>Lowest: 48.0 per cent</p> <p>Sunset on Monday: 07.43 p.m.</p> <p>Sunrise on Tuesday: 05.26 a.m.</p> <p>KASHMIR</p> <p>Partially cloudy sky.</p> <p>TEMPERATURE</p> <p>Max: 33.3 Degree C</p> <p>Min: 20.4 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY</p> <p>Highest: 65.0 per cent</p> <p>Lowest: 42.0 per cent</p>

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