

## Army, police order investigations 2 men killed in Bandipora; SP among dozens injured

Fayaz Bukhari

**SRINAGAR, June 30:** Army today opened fire killing one person during protests over the shooting of a youth in North Kashmir's Bandipora district in a security force operation leading to protests in which a senior police officer was among around a dozen persons injured.

Police have registered a case in the incident and both Army and police are investigating into the circumstances in which the two men were killed in village Markandal of Sumbal area in Bandipora district. Police sources said that a case (under FIR 115/2013 302 RPC) was registered against those responsible for killing. "The FIR says when the youth was killed, Army was on patrolling", sources added. "Another case (FIR 116/2013 under Section 307 RPC) was also registered in the Police Station Sumbal", sources said.

An official spokesman said here that the State Government today registered an FIR in Sumbal Police Station against

those responsible for the killing of civilians. "Termining the incident as most unfortunate and unacceptable, the State Government expressed its deep sense of anguish and conveyed condolences to the bereaved families", the statement adds.

The spokesman said that Director General Police, Ashok Prasad has been asked to expedite the investigations. "State Government has reaffirmed its stand of zero tolerance against innocent killings and has conveyed this to the security forces emphasising upon them to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) under all circumstances", the spokesman added.

**The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's counter insurgency Victor Force, Major General R R Nimbhorkar in a hurriedly arranged press conference while sharing details with the media said that the incident of killing of two men in North Kashmir's Markandal village happened during a joint operation by police and Army.**

The GOC said that there was an input about the presence of militants in the area and the incident happened at around 3 a.m. "Two youth of Markandal village lost their lives. We deeply mourn their demise, loss of life. And through you, I want to convey deep condolences to the bereaved families", he said.

Major General Nimbhorkar assured that Army is conducting investigation into the incident and will take appropriate action if something wrong has happened. "...we are investigating the details of the incident and I can assure you if any wrong doing emerges appropriate action will be taken. You have already reported there are lot of protests and that is why I said we will carry out detailed investigations, therefore as of now I am not able to comment as to what exactly happened. I will assure you if something wrong has happened we will take appropriate action", he added.

A Defence spokesman said here that on the basis of a specific intelligence about the presence

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## Over an year gone, Planning Board's fate hangs in balance

\*Bureaucratic wrangles delay constitution

Sanjeev Pargal

**JAMMU, June 30:** The much hyped proposal of the State Government to set up first ever Planning Board in Jammu and Kashmir to address development needs of all regions and districts especially the backward and under-developed pockets has been hanging for past over a year now, reportedly due to bureaucratic wrangling.

Even as composition of the Planning Board, whose constitution was first announced by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah himself in 2012 budget session of the Legislature in February-March that year when he was holding charge of the Planning Department, has already been finalised, its constitution continued to be delayed reportedly due to files moving from one Department to the other.

Official sources, however, said that the Government was committed to the constitution of the Planning Board on the pattern of Planning Commission of India and it would overcome all hurdles or queries raised by the different

departments to ensure that the Board was set up at the earliest.

But going by the response to queries by different departments engaged with the task of setting up of the Board, its constitution didn't seem to be an easy task.

Sources said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as well as new Planning and Development Department Minister Ajay Sadhotra have given nod to setting up of the Board but it was composition of the Board that was leading to its delay.

**The Board to be headed by the Chief Minister himself was supposed to look into concerns of some backward and under-developed States and release adequate funds in their favour for their proper development. However, sources regretted that more than a year has passed when the Chief Minister had made an announcement on constitution of the Board but its fate continued to hang in balance.**

The 13th Finance Commission of India had also suggested to the State Government to set up its own Planning Board to address needs of all regions, districts and areas in development.

As per composition of the Board proposed by the Government, it was to be headed by the Chief Minister and have 12 members from among the legislators (both MLAs and MLCs), Members of Parliament (MPs), retired bureaucrats and experts of Planning and Development. It was also supposed to have four Directors and eight Deputy

Directors.

The Government had already sanctioned 53 member staff for the Board.

**According to the Government proposal, the Planning Board had to evolve an integrated approach to policy formulation in planning and development in the State.**

The Board had to play an effective advisory and recommendatory role for evolving an integrated approach to policy formulation in critical areas of human and economic development.

It will also play a role of mediator and facilitator for devising a framework for allocation of resources for equitable development of different regions across the State.

Apart from this, it will facilitate making an assessment of material, capital and human resources of the State, including technical personnel and exploring the possibility of augmenting resources, the Planning Board would formulate long-term, medium-term and annual plans for most effective and balanced utilisation of resources.

Sources said the Planning Board could have undertaken visits to all districts and identified needs of backward pockets of the State to ensure that they were released more funds from the plan and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development. However, delay in its constitution has upset whatever the little hopes the people of far off areas had for the development of their villages and districts.

## Goswami takes over as HS

NEW DELHI, June 30:

Senior IAS officer Anil Goswami, a seasoned hand on Jammu and Kashmir affairs, today took charge as the new Union Home Secretary.

58-year-old Goswami, a 1978 batch IAS officer, is the first bureaucrat from Jammu and Kashmir to rise to the post of Union Home Secretary and will have a two-year tenure.

He took charge from incumbent R K Singh, who retired today. A resident of Jammu, Goswami was appointed as Officer on Special Duty on April 26, prior to his taking over as Union Home Secretary.

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## 900 yet to be evacuated from Badrinath

DEHRADUN, June 30:

Fifteen days after the Uttarakhand disaster, 900 stranded pilgrims and locals in Badrinath were today left to be evacuated and 3,000 people remained missing, as authorities grappled with the grim task of extricating dead bodies from under heaps of debris and disposing them.

Nearly 1,489 pilgrims were today taken to safety from Badrinath--874 by air and 615 by road--today, an Uttarakhand Government official said, adding only 300 pilgrims and 600 locals

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## IAF, Army rescue 6 boys

Excelsior Correspondent

**SRINAGAR, June 30:** Air Force pilots, Naval Commandos and Army today rescued six boys who were struck amid the landslide, in the freezing waters of Kausernag Lake in Pir Panjal mountains of Kulgam district.

Army said that a joint Army-Navy-Air Force rescue mission was launched at the behest of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Shailendra Kumar on hearing about the life threatening situation of six trekkers.

Reports said a group of six boys had gone on an adventure trip to Kausernag which is located on the Pir Panjal Ranges of South Kashmir. While trekking, a landslide occurred enroute, trapping the group into the Lake.

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## 43 killed in Pak terror attacks

PESHAWAR, June 30:

At least 43 people were killed and over 100 injured in Pakistan today in different attacks, including a powerful bomb blast that targeted a passing convoy of security forces.

In the first incident, at least 17 people, including four children, were killed and nearly 50 injured when the powerful remote-controlled bomb targeted a passing convoy of security forces near a busy market here in northwest Pakistan.

The blast, believed to be an IED explosion, targeted the convoy of Frontier Corps on their way to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's capital Peshawar from Kohat district but narrowly missed it.

Javed Marwat, Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar, said, "17

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## Woman pilgrim on 16th trip to Amarnath shrine

## 16,159 perform darshan on Day 3

Avtar Bhat

**SRINAGAR/ JAMMU June 30:** On day three of the annual Amarnath yatra today, over 16,000 pilgrims performed darshan of the icy Lingam in the holy cave.

According to an official spokesman, 16,159 pilgrims performed darshan in the holy cave situated at an height of 14000 feet in Lidder Valley of Anantnag district of South Kashmir.

With this the total number of pilgrims performing darshan in holy cave since the 55 days long Amarnath yatra started on June 28 has touched 35,672 as 19,513 pilgrims performed darshan in

the holy cave during first two days.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of

more than 8,000 pilgrims left for holy Amarnath cave shrine from Baltal and Nunwan Pahalgam



Pilgrims on their way, from the Chandanwari-Pahalgam base camp, to the holy Amarnath cave, on Sunday. -Excelsior/ Sajad Sameer

base camps this morning.

The 55-day-long yatra, which started on June 28, was going smoothly.

**A yatra official said 5,381 yatis, including 1007 females and 24 Sadhus left Baltal base camp for the cave shrine from shortest route this morning.**

He said another batch of 2,650 yatis left Nunwan Pahalgam base camp on traditional yatra route. They included 30 females and 171 Sadhus.

Those, who performed the pilgrimage during the first two days, have returned to Baltal base camp. Majority of them later left for their homes.

However, the authorities

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## Recapitalization of three 'ailing' Cooperative Banks

## J&K to seek financial help from PCI during Annual Plan finalization meet

Mohinder Verma

**JAMMU, June 30:** As sword of losing banking character has been looming large over three ailing Cooperative Banks, the State Government has decided to vociferously project the requirement of financial assistance before the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India during the forthcoming Annual Plan finalization meeting in order to bail out these banks of the crisis.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that as no viable

option could be found till date to bring Jammu Central Cooperative Bank, Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank and Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank out of the red, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and Minister of State for Cooperatives, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma, have decided to seek financial assistance from the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India, Montek Singh Ahluwalia during the forthcoming Annual Plan finalization meeting.

Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives, Mohd Afzal Bhat

and Chief General Manager of NABARD, J&K, Dr B D Mukhopadhyay, who is strong votary of extending help in early bailing out these banks of the financial crisis, will accompany the Chief Minister and Minister of State for Cooperatives. The NABARD is the monitoring agency for recapitalization of the banks.

**Sources disclosed that Jammu and Kashmir would lay stress on the Planning Commission's Deputy Chairman to either sanction soft loan to meet the financial implications involved in the**

recapitalization of the ailing cooperative banks or grant a suitable package as the State has no resources to meet the burden in this regard.

"This issue has already been taken up with the Union Finance Minister, P Chidambaram by the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah so that these Cooperative Banks don't lose their banking character for want of cleansing their balance sheets and recapitalization, which are imperative for getting the license to work as banks from the Reserve Bank of India", sources said while

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## Tourism Deptt fails to develop Mantalai

## J&K submits Rs 150 cr proposal to Centre

Gopal Sharma

**JAMMU, June 30:** Though the State Tourism Department has taken over the properties of Dhirendra Brahmachari including Aparna Ashram at Mantalai in Sudhmahadev area of Chenani in district

Udhampur besides multi-storey building and land in Jammu, yet there is no proper upkeep and further development of this hill resort which once was a major source of attraction, whereas, State Government claimed to have submitted a prestigious Rs 150

crore project for creation of Pilgrimage Circuit in Sudhmahadev-Mantalai area of Udhampur, Sufi Circuit in Kashmir and Buddhist Circuit in Leh.

Sources in the Tourism Department and local administration in Chenani revealed that due to ill-management of affairs and damage being caused to properties of late Dhirendra Brahmachari at Mantalai in the foothills of Seoj Dhar near Sudhmahadev, a great resentment among the people of the area is prevailing. This impressive picturesque and hill resort is in the state of shambles and the State Government has not paid any heed towards its further development and protect this valuable property. Even massive property items of Brahmachari have been stolen and some of them were lying in the houses of high officials and contractors of the area.

Though the place is hardly 55 to 60 kms from district headquarters Udhampur having good

road link via Chenani but Tourism Department has made no investments at this hill resort which has great potential of tourism attraction. A large number of pilgrim tourists to Mata Vaishnodevi can be diverted to Patnitop and Mantalai if this place is developed. It is great demand of the people of the area to improve road network and develop this place as tourism destination. Massive infrastructure and other property of the Ashram was gathering rust and getting damaged.

**The sources indicated that there was no proper care and planning to utilize the remaining property for the promotion of tourism. The multi-storey building at Gandhi Nagar has also been badly damaged and there was no proper utilization of the complex. Many costly things have gone missing and there was no accountability at all.**

During the previous budget session also, this issue was

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Assam	3,050	Himachal Pradesh	2,050	Manipur	300
Bihar	7,760	Jammu & Kashmir	1,610	Meghalaya	940
Chhattisgarh	3,450	Jharkhand	4,930	Mizoram	310
Delhi	3,010	Karnataka	6,080	Nagaland	610
Goa	840	Kerala	4,140	Odisha	7,090
Punjab	3,960	West Bengal	10,760		
Rajasthan	3,440	Andaman & Nicobar	220		
Tamil Nadu	9,250	Chandigarh	270		
Tripura	520	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30		
Uttarakhand	3,910	Daman & Diu	70		
Uttar Pradesh	18,120	Lakshadweep	20		
		Puducherry	160		

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