

IM behind explosions; NIA, NSG teams rushed

9 blasts rock Bodh Gaya, 2 injured

GAYA (BIHAR), July 7: Terror struck one of the holiest Buddhist shrines, the Mahabodhi Temple, and other places in Bihar's pilgrimage town of Bodh Gaya early

which Lord Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment, did not suffer any damage in the blasts which shook the holy town frequented by lakhs of Buddhist pilgrims from Sri Lanka, China, Japan and the

attack and NIA and NSG teams have been sent for post-blasts investigations. A five-member NIA team comprising a DIG and two SPs reached here by a special plane from New Delhi and

Bihar police chief DGP Abhayand told reporters, adding CCTV footage was being examined for leads to the terrorists.

The explosions, the first of its type to target the town and the temple, a UNESCO heritage site, took place between 5:30 and 5:58 am. The explosives were set off by timers.

Last year, the Delhi Police claimed to have foiled a 'fidayeen' attack in the town with the arrest of suspected Indian Mujahideen (IM) elements to avenge "atrocities" against Muslims in Myanmar. Security agencies suspect that IM may be behind today's multiple blasts.

However, no group has claimed responsibility for what the Centre and State Government have described as a terror attack in a region where Maoists have a strong foothold.

"While four blasts took place inside the Mahabodhi Temple complex, three occurred in Karmapa monastery, one each near the famous 80-ft Buddha statue and at the bus stand near bypass," Khan said.

Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde said two live bombs were defused in the town. A third bomb, hidden in a cylinder, was recovered from a village near Bodh Gaya hours

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The debris inside the temple after the bomb blast at the World Heritage Mahabodhi temple premises in Bodh Gaya on Sunday. (UN)

today, with suspected Indian Mujahideen operatives simultaneously triggering nine low intensity bombs leaving two monks injured.

The temple's sanctum sanctorum and the Bodhi Tree, under

whole of southeast Asia each year.

Union Home Secretary Anil Goswami told reporters in New Delhi that serial explosions inside and outside Mahabodhi Temple complex were a terror

began their probe at the temple complex, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Gaya Range, Nayyar Hasnain Khan, said.

Security has been beefed at the temple and adjoining areas,

Anti-infiltration measures stepped-up

Army to decimate leadership of major terror outfits

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 7: Army has decided to decimate top commanders of the militants first to make the major terror outfits leaderless with a view to curb the militant activities, which have witnessed an increase in the Kashmir Valley during the past few weeks.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the Army top brass has issued direction to the Commanders to look for leaders of different militant outfits and go for the kill to reduce incidents of violence in the Valley.

It has also asked its Commanders of the LoC along Jammu and Kashmir to maintain best possible surveillance during the Monsoon as Intelligence inputs have pointed out that the militants would go all out to sneak-in into the State in the next couple of months and settle themselves well before the announcement of Parliament and Assembly elections next year.

"Though all militants operating in the State estimated to be around 300 always remained on our hit list, we have devised a strategy to identify the leaders of

the militant outfits and their groups within the organisations and target them directly to ensure their killing.

"We believe that leaderless group and the outfit wouldn't be in a position to carry out tasks or operations unless more commanders were inducted into their ranks from across the LoC," sources said, adding it has been observed earlier also that the militants, whose group leaders or outfit heads had been killed, were unable to carry out operations as they were rendered "directionless".

They said most of the outfits or groups within the terror organisations, whose leaders had been killed by security forces and police, remained in wilderness for a long period till the new leadership took over and issued them directions on the tasks they had to carry out.

Noting that killing of eight Army soldiers and some police constables besides targeted attacks on the Panchayat members in the Kashmir Valley were carried out by the militants at the behest of their leadership, sources said it was in this con-

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)



A mother duck feeds her ducklings in a pond at Srinagar on Sunday. —Excelsior/Amin War

Spice Jet grounded for 4 hrs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: New Delhi bound Spice Jet flight was today grounded at Jammu Airport for about four hours after fire was detected in Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) of the aircraft by the staff, who were cleaning it before boarding of the passengers.

An emergency was sounded at the Airport and fire tenders were called in but the aircraft crew switched off the power and averted any possible tragedy.

SSP Airport (Anti-Hijacking) Jammu, Ashok Sharma, who supervised the operation, told the Excelsior that Spice Jet flight landed at Jammu Airport at 2.40 pm along with 130 passengers and crew from New Delhi.

It had to return to New Delhi at 3.05 pm along with 150 passengers. However, when the staff was cleaning the plane, they observed sparks from APU of the aircraft and immediately sounded an alarm.

Mr Sharma said an emergency was sounded at the Airport and

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Parl session after Aug 15

NEW DELHI, July 7:

With ordinance promulgated on the Food Security Bill, Monsoon Session of Parliament is now expected to be convened only after August 15.

Government sources said that though no decision has been taken, there is no hurry to call the session with a section contending that it should start in early September.

Generally, the Monsoon Session commences in the third week of July and is spread over a month-long period.

Plans for convening of a Special Session have been given up in the wake of promulgation of the ordinance.

Earlier a section in the Government was pitching for such a session for the passage of the Food Security Bill, which is being seen as a game changer for the Congress in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Government has plans to bring forward a number of economic

(Contd on page 9 Col 6)

Take steps for DGPC elections: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 7: High Court has directed the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to take steps for holding elections to the District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC), Jammu and conclude the process as early as possible and positively by September 30, 2013.

After hearing battery of lawyers, Justice Hasnain Massodi directed Divisional Commissioner Jammu that he shall take over the responsibility of District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Jammu from the petitioners.

"The petitions with the consent and on agreement of counsels for the parties are disposed off with the terms that the notification dated November 10, 2008 (SRO 357 of 2008) and the notification dated December 19, 2011 (SRO-375 of 2011) shall cease to be in force from July 8, 2013", Justice Massodi said.

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Two bike riders killed in mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, July 7: A motor cyclist and his pillion rider were killed in a fatal road accident at Ravi bridge while on their way to Madhopur (Punjab) late last night.

The deceased have been identified BSF Jawan, Rakesh Kumar, son of Surinder Kumar of Ward No 16 Kathua and Amit Kumar son of Parshotam also of Ward 16.

According to police Rakesh and Amit were on their way to Madhopur on a motor cycle. While Rakesh had to attend his duty in BSF unit Madhopur, Amit was accompanying him for some domestic work. When they reached middle of Ravi bridge, the area falling under the jurisdiction of Madhopur Police, a Maruti car bearing number JK083-9054 coming from opposite direction hit the motor

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

1.42 lakh yatris perform darshan in 10 days

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU July 7: As many as 1,42,648 pilgrims have performed darshan in holy cave of Swami Amarnath Ji situated at an altitude of 3,880 meters in deep Himalayas in South Kashmir district of Anantnag during first 10 days of yatra.

According to an official spokesman, 14,480 pilgrims

* Pic on page 9

performed darshan in the cave shrine today while a total number of 1,28,168 pilgrims had performed darshan till late last night.

"The yatra was progressing smoothly," he said.

He added that 6, 178 yatris left Nunwan base camp for holy cave via traditional Chandanwari -Sheshnag track under tight security measures early this morning.

Besides 3,435 pilgrims left Baltal base camp via shorter track for holy cave while 1402 pilgrims performed the yatra by air.

He said the pilgrims who left via Baltal had reached the cave shrine by late in the evening while those who left via Chandanwari track after night halts at Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchnarni respectively will reach holy cave a day after tomorrow.

About 6,000 pilgrims, who had night halt at different

halting stations on traditional Pahaigam route, including 3,780 at Chandanwari, the last mortarable point, also left for the cave shrine early this morning.

The spokesman said pilgrimage was going on smoothly. He said the weather enroute to holy cave was cloudy.

However, there is a forecast for rain or thundershowers with cloudy weather on both routes from base camps.

He said the pilgrims reaching the Baltal camp till 1100 hrs will be allowed to proceed towards the cave shrine from the shorter route, he said, adding that the gate will be closed and nobody will be allowed to move towards the shrine after 1100 hours as directed by Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB).

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 1974 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas—the Jammu Base Camp for holy cave in a cavalcade of 65 vehicles under tight security arrangements early this morning.

They included 1396 male, 455 female, 23 children and 100 Sadhus. These pilgrims had crossed the Jawahar tunnel by the evening and were on the way to their next destinations. This is the 11th batch of Yatra which left Jammu base camp since the yatra started from here on July 27.

(Contd on page 9 Col 4)

Don't take Kashmiris for granted, Omar warns Centre

* Peace not permanent, anger can boil beyond limit

Excelsior Correspondent

KANIR, July 7: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today lashed out at the Centre for its failure to address political issues of Jammu and Kashmir and considering that selection of a Kashmiri youth in national squad would resolve the basic issues.

In a hard hitting criticism of the Centre Government, headed by the Congress, which was a coalition partner with Omar's National Conference in the State, the Chief Minister said: "those sitting in Delhi and considering that participation of people of the State in Panchayat elections, qualifying of IAS and other All India Competitive Exams by Kashmiris or selection of a local youth (Parvez

Rasool) in Indian cricket team would solve basic political issues, are wrong.

"This kind of mindset is unfortunate and untrue," Omar

inter-acted with 5000 people representing different shades of opinion and finalised a report. Pointing out that it was the Government of India, which

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

had appointed the Interlocutors to look into political problems of the State and suggest a viable solution, the Chief Minister said: "the

Centre had to work out a political solution to the issue. Political and financial autonomy of the State is the cherished

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

Home Secy puts civil, police adm on alert

Leh shocked over terror attack on Mahabodhi temple, observes bandh

* Chakka Jam in entire distt, Zanskar today

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 7: Shocked over the terror attack on the world famous Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya area of Bihar early this morning, Leh town observed complete shut-down throughout the day today demanding stern action against those involved in the heinous act. As the religious sentiments of Buddhists have hurt badly due to the incident, Union Home Secretary, Anil Goswami has put the civil and police administration in the Leh district on alert with directions to step up vigil to foil any attempt on the part of

anti-social elements to foment trouble.

As soon as the news regarding terror attack on the Buddhist pilgrimage town of Bodh Gaya targeting the world-famed heritage Buddhist Stupa and the

* Pic on page 9

Bodhi Tree (Mahabodhi Temple) spread, Ladakh Buddhist Association gave a call for bandh in the Leh town and conveyed the decision to the district administration.

In the meanwhile, civil and police administration received a communiqué from the Union Home Secretary, Anil Goswami regarding maintenance of high

purpose, floating pontoons are required at the terminals which have not been allotted by the Government yet."

The project was inaugurated with much pomp and show by the then Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Asgar Samoon along with then Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Baseer Ahmad Khan, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation GN Qasba, Director Tourism Talat Parvez, Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Imitayaz Ahmad Dar and Head Disaster Management Amir Ali by making a trial-run of river water transport from Pantha Chowk to Chhatabal Weir.

Ajaz says under the Public-Private Partnership model it is the duty of the

Government yet," Ajaz said. Since last year, Ajaz said, the company has had a huge learning experience how to promote it and attract people towards it. "The terminals have to be developed with changing water level in the river. For that

(Contd on page 9 Col 4)

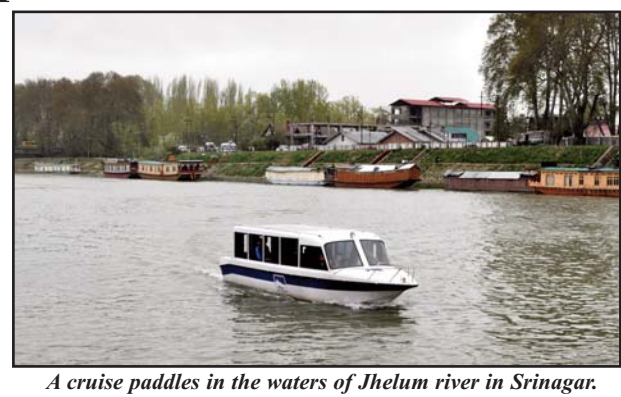
After pompous launch, Jhelum cruise capsizes

Mir Farhat

SRINAGAR, July 7: Following pompous launch of first passenger water transport service, cruise, in river Jhelum by the Government, it has failed to take off due to lack of infrastructure which Government was to develop.

The Government last year roped in a water transport company, Kashmir Motors Marine Services, to operate the services, claiming that it was an attempt to get rid of traffic mess on the congested roads.

But the company head Ufair Ajaz said this mode of transport cannot ease traffic congestion as necessary infrastructure to run the service is yet to be made available due to lackadaisical approach of the Government.



A cruise paddles in the waters of Jhelum river in Srinagar. —Excelsior/Amin War

"It will take a lot of time to make it feasible for public transport. We have been facing lot of difficulties because of the non-availability of basic infrastructure; boarding and de-boarding terminals for the motor boats have not been built by the

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WEATHER

JAMMU
Light rain/thundershowers

TEMPERATURE
Max: 32.0 Degree C
Min: 25.2 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 95.0 per cent
Lowest: 80.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 07.42 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 05.32 a.m.

KASHMIR
Light rain/thundershowers

TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.2 Degree C
Min: 21.7 Degree C

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Highest: 77.0 per cent
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