

**Committee to appoint Chairman, members**

## CM heads Ministerial Panel on Property Tax Board

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 12: The Government has constituted a high level Ministerial committee to appoint Chairman and members of the long pending Property Tax Board, which had to study various models of property tax before recommending its imposition for first time in the State.

Imposition of property tax was one of the various urban reforms recommended by the Government of India for implementation in the State, which have been linked to release of certain specific grants. Holding elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) was another reform.

Official sources told the Excelsior that the high level committee, which has been mandated the task of appointing the Chairman and members to the Property Tax Board, would be headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and comprised Urban Development Minister Rigin Jora and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Saifullah Mir. The panel was expected to meet shortly to deliberate on the names before it for appointment as Chairman and members of the Board to make it functional and do rest of the job.

"The Property Tax Board would be constituted as soon as its Chairman and members were finalised by the high level Ministerial committee," sources said.

An Act to constitute the mandatory Property Tax Board for imposition of property tax in the State has already been passed by the Legislature after various hiccups including blocking of the bill in the Legislative Council.

Sources said soon after the Property Board was made functional it would study various models of property tax across the country and recommend some of them, which were suitable for the State, for implementation.

"Various States across the country have adopted different methods for imposition of property tax. The Board would study

all available models, select few of them and place them before the Government for implementing one of them," they added.

Sources were of the view that the slabs proposed for property tax in the legislation were not found fit for implementation in view of discrepancies. The experts, who had studied the bill, were of the view that majority of the population would be left out of purview of the property tax if the legislation was implemented in its original form.

They added that the Property Tax Board would suggest the tax slabs in such a manner that the people were also not burdened and the Local Bodies, which had to implement the tax, also earned revenue for them. "A balance has to be maintained as the tax was being imposed for the first time".

Sources confirmed that the Local Bodies would be the ultimate agencies in implementing the property tax.

Already, the experts are

**14,945 pilgrims perform darshan on Day 15**

## Guv reviews arrangements at cave, other places

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, July 12: Governor N. N. Vohra, who is also Chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, (SASB) today visited the holy cave shrine of Lord Shiva and reviewed the yatra arrangements there. He also reviewed the arrangements at, Panjarni, Domel and Baltal camps.

At the holy cave, the Governor prayed for peace, harmony, progress and prosperity in the State.

The Governor, accompanied by Navin K. Choudhary,



Governor, N N Vohra enquiring the arrangements from yatri at Baltal on Friday.

Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, inspected the arrangements at the Holy Cave, Panjarni and Domel and held meetings with the concerned officers at these three Camps.

Later, he inspected the functioning of the Access Control Gate at Domel, functioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and the arrangements at the Baltal base camp. Thereafter he chaired a high level review meeting involving the Camp Director and the senior most officers of all concerned State Government departments and

**Reasi Distt Admn going to lodge criminal case**

## Andhra-based company leaves Rly project without clearing Rs 2.60 cr liability

**\*KRCL ready to compensate for depleting water resources**

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 12: An Andhra-based company engaged for the construction of tunnels on Katra-Dharam railway Section has left the project without clearing Rs 2.60 crore liability of local labourers, contractors and suppliers and taking serious note of this, the District Administration Reasi is going to lodge FIR against the company and its five officers.

Meanwhile, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) has agreed to com-

pen- sate for the water resources depleted due to the tunneling works and has urged the District Development Commissioner, Reasi, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, not to initiate criminal proceedings against it or Northern Railways officers.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that during the past some time, Deputy Commissioner Reasi was receiving lots of complaints from contractors, local labourers and other workers regarding non-payment of dues vis-à-vis cost of material and labour by Vishakhapatnam based M/s

Apex Encon Projects Pvt Ltd. When the District Development Commissioner took the matter with the Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd, which had engaged M/s Apex Encon as an associated company for construction of tunnels, Chief Engineer KRCL facilitated payment of labour wages in favour of large number of workers engaged by M/s Apex Encon. However, a number of cases of payment of labourers, house rent, hiring of vehicles/water tankers and mobilization of machineries remained pending with the M/s

Apex Encon, sources said. In response to a question, they said, "as per one list available with the district administration, the liability of M/s Apex Encon is to the tune of Rs 2.60 crore. However, there may be many other such cases as all the aggrieved persons may not have been able to reach the administration".

M/s Apex Encon, which has moved out of the project without making payments to different stakeholders, misled the workers, labourers, contractors and suppliers by sending a letter dated July

## 40% population registered under NPR Smart Cards

**\*90 lakh target unlikely to be met by Sept 2013**

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, July 12: While the first ever major exercise under the direct control of Registrar General of India to

generate 90 lakh National Population Register Smart Cards (NPR/Aadhar Cards) by September 2013 in J&K commenced in January this year, the target is likely to

jump ahead by two more months as in several districts including Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Jammu and Srinagar the process is yet to be started.

Authoritative sources told the Excelsior that process of holding camps under the control of Deputy Commissioners/ADCs/ SDMs and Tehsildars etc for generating NPR Smart Cards and collecting bio-metrics through moveable machines will commence in Jammu and Srinagar in the first week of October 2013 as a part of first round of this major operation for citizens' registration. A population of about 30 lakh is targeted to be covered under the exercise within two months.

Sources further said that Ward/locality/ village- wise camps are being organized where men, women and children assemble and produce themselves in front of the machines installed where bio-metrics are

taken besides other data. Thereafter, the data will be forwarded to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIAI) and then Citizens' Registration Authority of India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which will provide the NPR Smart Cards to the citizens. This card will be the 'life-line' of any citizen and his/ her unique identification as Indian national with unique number.

On the basis of this card, a citizen will be entitled for any benefit including, job, ration card, gas/water/power connection, passport, purchase of any property, vehicle, open bank account, prepare any category or other certificate, take admission in school-college, effect bank transactions, prepare Pan Card, draw any sort of pension/stipend or take any subsidy from the Government or benefit of many Govt schemes. Country's further

**'Submit proposal within 15 days'**

## Govt asks private schools to get fee structure approved

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 12: The circular issued by the Committee for Fixation of Fee Structure of Private Educational Institutions has asked the private schools of the State to follow the Supreme Court guidelines under which imparting of education has been declared charitable in nature and surplus amount generated to be used for the betterment of the institute and not for personal gain or diverted to other businesses.

Chairman of the Committee for Fixation of Fee Structure of Private Educational Institutions, Justice (retd) Bilal Nazki has asked the private schools across the State to get their fee structure approved from the committee as per the Supreme Court guidelines.

The committee has directed the private schools of the State to submit the proposed fee structure for new academic session before the committee within 15 days.

Quoting Supreme Court ruling on the free structure

in private schools, Justice Nazki in a circular has said: "In the light of this judgement, it is imperative for all Private Educational Institutions in the State to submit the proposed fee structure for approval before the Committee."

"It is also clear from the judgement that although educational institutions are free to fix their fee structure yet they can't have a fee structure without approval of the Committee", the circular revealed.

The private schools have been asked to submit the details of the infrastructure of the school and facilities they offer to the students. They have been asked to submit the fee details charged from the students, like amount charged at the stage of admission, fee per month of each class and bus charges. As per the guidelines, the schools have to justify their fee structure as per their infrastructure.

They have also been asked to submit the details regarding the qualification of the teachers and salaries that are paid to them. They have been asked to disclose the financial sources, property owned by school and the buses owned or leased by the school.

Around 5000 private schools across the State will not be allowed to introduce any hike in their fee structure from next academic session without prior permission from the Committee. The next academic session starts in autumn in Kashmir valley and summer in Jammu division. Justice Nazki said that the

Supreme Court had issued clear guidelines on the free structure by private schools. The committee has incorporated most of the guidelines issued by the Apex Court in its circular.

The Supreme Court judgement in the case of Islamic Academy of Education Versus State of Karnataka reported in 2003 laid down the guidelines that brought major relief to thousands of parents across the country.

The Supreme Court had categorically stated that private unaided schools do not have the right to hike fees.

The Supreme Court guidelines state: "The fee structure for each institute must be fixed keeping in mind the infrastructure and facilities available, the investments made, the salaries paid to the teachers and staff and future plans of expansion for the betterment of the institute."

The SC guidelines say that profiteering and capitation fee can't be charged and emphasized that imparting of education is essentially charitable in nature. And the surplus amount generated must be used for the betterment of the institute and not used for personal gain or diverted to other businesses.

The Fixation of Fee Structure Committee headed by Justice (retd.) Nazki was constituted in May this year by the Education Department following a direction from the High Court. Nazki, who had served as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court was nominated as the head of Committee by Chief Justice of High Court, Justice M M Kumar.

**Pran passes away at 93**

MUMBAI, July 12:



Legendary actor Pran, loved and feared in equal measure by moviegoers for his roles in Bollywood hits like 'Milan', 'Madhumati' and 'Zanjeer', passed away at a Suburban hospital here this evening at the age of 93.

"He died after a spell of prolonged ill-

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

## Several Forest officers shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 12: The Cabinet which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah approved promotions and postings in the Forest Department.

Vinod Ranjan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, has been placed in the apex scale and designated as Head of Forest Force (HoFF). Upon his promotion Vinod Ranjan has been transferred and posted as Chairman Pollution Control Board. The post

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

## STF on Muslim terror cases mooted

NEW DELHI, July 12:

Sharing the perception of Muslims that they are being "victimized", Minority Affairs Ministry will soon moot a proposal for setting up of a special task force to oversee the terror cases against the members of the community.

"Muslims believe their youth are being arrested but not tried for years... There is a perception Muslims are being victimised," Minority Affairs Minister K Rahman Khan reporters.

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## 3 boys drown in nullah

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, July 12: In a tragic incident, three school boys of Army personnel drowned while taking bath in Nuddan Nullah near Bikram Enclave in Chopra Shop area, Udhampur today.

Identity of the drowned boys was established as ten-year old Ankit Kumar, son of Head Constable Dinesh Kumar, Anurag Rao (12) son of B P A Rao and Abhyan Paswan son of B N Paswan.

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## Two FSL officials suspended

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 12: For dereliction of duties, two officials of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) unit of PCR Srinagar were today placed under suspension.

The suspended officials, namely Riyaz Ahmad Shah (Lab Assistant) and Showkat Ahmad Bhat (Lab Attendant) have been attached with FSL Headquarters Bemina, Srinagar with immediate effect.

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