

Several injured despite curfew in Kashmir

BSF vacates Dharam camp, Amarnath yatra suspended

***Cabinet approves Rs 5 lakh for each victim's family**

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 19: The Border Security Force (BSF) today vacated its Dharam camp in Gool-Sangaldan area of Ramban district after yesterday's attack by the mob in which four civilians were killed and 43 others including BSF and police personnel were injured while police today registered six FIRs—three each at Gool and Ramban police stations on the killings, injuries and rioting etc. Authorities suspended pilgrimage to holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnath ji from Jammu today in view of protests by the people on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The yatra will remain suspended tomorrow also from Jammu. A decision to this effect was taken by the authorities tonight due to prevailing conditions in the Valley.

All four people, who were killed in yesterday's firing by the security forces at Dharam, were



Vehicles stranded at Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar highway on Friday. —Excelsior/Sajad Sameer

buried in their native villages in Gool-Sangaldan this morning amid tight security arrangements. Meanwhile, State Cabinet that met in Srinagar this morning under the chairmanship of Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah condemned "excessive use of force" in Gool and extended condolences to bereaved families and sympathies with those injured in firing incident.

The Cabinet extended ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed in the firing. It sanctioned one Government job to each family, who lost their mem-

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Sathasivam sworn-in as CJJ

NEW DELHI, July 19:

Justice P Sathasivam was today sworn in as the 40th Chief Justice of India (CJI) by President Pranab Mukherjee.

He took over the post from Justice Altamas Kabir, who served as the CJI for over nine months.

Justice Sathasivam, 64, took oath in the name of God at a brief ceremony at Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Vice President Hamid Ansari, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj, her Rajya Sabha counterpart Arun Jaitley, NDA Working Chairperson L. K Advani, CPI leader D Raja, several Union Ministers were present at the ceremony.

Justice Sathasivam was elevated to the Supreme Court in August, 2007 and would demit office on April 26, 2014.

Like his predecessor, Justice Sathasivam is opposed to scrapping of the present Collegium system for appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges.

But at the same time, he has admitted that there are drawbacks in the Collegium system and efforts can be made to overcome

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Snails crawl on the face of a woman during a demonstration of a new beauty treatment at Clinical-Salon Ci:z.Labo in central Tokyo.

BJP announces Team Modi

NEW DELHI, July 19:

Narendra Modi's stamp was written all over today as BJP announced its Election Campaign Committee for 2014 polls including top leaders Murali Manohar Joshi, Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley who will work under him.

The 12-member Committee to which Modi was appointed as chairperson in Goa last month will also have other senior leaders

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Omar laments wrong reporting

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today lamented the "inaccurate" reporting by some sections of media about the deaths in the firing incident at Dharam in Gool area of Ramban district saying it does not help in improving the situation on the ground.

"As deeply as I regret yesterday's deaths, the inaccurate report-

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Govt to file review petition on CET order

NEW DELHI, July 19:

An "upset" Government may file a review petition on the Supreme Court verdict scrapping common entrance test for medical colleges, with Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad today making it clear that legal recourse is the only option available.

Azad said the apex court order will create difficulties for students aspiring for medical degrees and the Health Ministry has sought legal

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Charges to be framed against Salman

MUMBAI, July 19:

Actor Salman Khan was today directed by a Mumbai Sessions court to appear before it on July 24 for framing of charges, setting the stage for start of a fresh trial for culpable homicide in the 2002 hit-and-run case for which he can face a jail term upto 10 years.

Sessions Judge U B Hejib had on June 24 upheld a metropolitan court's order that the offence of culpable homicide not amounting to murder was made out against the 47-year-old Bollywood superstar, dis-

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Yatra crosses 2.85 lakh

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 19: A total number of 8,553 pilgrims performed darshan at holy cave of Amarnath Ji on 22nd day of yatra today.

This was stated by an official spokesman. He said with this the total number of pilgrims performing darshan during the ongoing yatra so far has reached 2,85,341. Till yesterday, 2,76,788 pilgrims had performed darshan in cave shrine, he added.

He said 2,095 pilgrims left from Baltal base camp for holy cave via shorter track early this morning under tight security cover while 1,104 pilgrims left via chopper.

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Man shot dead by Revenue official

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: A middle aged man was shot dead by his neighbour Revenue official at village Gurha Slathia in Samba district, late this evening.

The deceased was identified as Ramesh Singh (58), son of Karnail Singh of Mandi Poali in Gurha Slathia.

He was allegedly shot dead by his neighbour Jasbir Singh son of Kartar Singh, who is a Gardiwar in the Revenue Department and husband of local Panch.

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Militant killed as Army foils infiltration attempt

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 19: Army today foiled a major infiltration attempt by militants in Gurez sector in North Kashmir on the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan and killed a militant.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Kupwara based 28 Division of Army, Major General Lalit Pandey said: "Army troops noticed the movement of a group of 3 militants who were trying to sneak in at Pant Post on the LoC in Gurez sector last night. We challenged them and opened fire killing one militant while another one was injured and third one fled back to Pakistan under the cover of darkness."

Army has launched a massive operation in the area to ensure that no member of the group has managed to sneak in. The GOC, however, said that it was only a group

of three militants that tried to sneak in.

The Army commander said that militants have adopted a new strategy of sending smaller groups first and if they manage to infiltrate, it is being followed by infiltration by bigger groups.

The General said that Army along the LoC is on high alert to foil any attempt by the militants to infiltrate. He added that there are 350 militants waiting on the launching pads on the other side of the LoC opposite to Tangdhar, Keran, Maachil and Gurez sectors in North Kashmir.

According to Army sources, militants are desperate to fill the void created by successful operations in Kashmir valley during which several top commanders were killed during past two years.

A Srinagar based Defence spokesman said here today that

Minister Omar Abdullah condemned "excessive use of force" in Gool and extended condolences to bereaved families and sympathies with those injured in firing incident.

The spokesman said that based on specific information from intelligence agencies regarding likelihood of terrorists attempting infiltration in Gurez Sector of the frontline Division of North Kashmir, vigil-ant troops detected three terrorists moving in the forest area on the out side of Line of Control. "The terrorists were immediately engaged by firing from the post located along the fence. The fire was very effective and resulted in the elimination of one terrorist, while the remaining two managed to escape under the cover of thick foliage. However, one terrorist

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Govt begins physical verification of projects on random basis

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 19: In order to obtain exact feedback about the status of the infrastructural projects, the Planning and Development Department has set an exercise in motion for the physical verification and monitoring of such projects on random basis across the State. Under the exercise, launched for the first time in the State, the projects/schemes involving more than Rs 1 crore of the State Sector and Rs 20 lakh of the District Sector, will be covered.

"At present, the projects involving Rs 10 crore and above are being examined by the Monitoring Cell of the Chief Minister while as other projects both under the State and District Sectors are being monitored at the level of Administrative Secretaries/HoDs/Deputy Commissioners", official sources told EXCELSIOR.

Now, the Principal Secretary, Planning and Development Department, B R Sharma has found it appropriate to get the physical verification and monitoring of infrastructural projects taken up under State/District

Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes under projectized mode, NABARD and other institutional financing conducted by the Directors/Joint Directors (Planning) of the Administrative Departments, Regional Joint Directors (P&S), Chief Planning Officers, District Statistical Evaluation Officers and Additional District Development Commissioners of the districts, they informed.

As per the mechanism laid down for the physical verification of the projects/schemes involving more than Rs 1 crore of the State Sector and Rs 20 lakh of the District Sector, Planning and Development Department will be the Nodal Department through Director PA&PM and all the instructions, clarifications and modifications will flow from the Department.

Responding to a question, sources said, "this mechanism would go a long way in ensuring required focus on the already taken up infrastructure projects especially when the Government has decided to start creation of new infrastructure across the State during the remaining part of its term".

"This step would also be of immense help in ensuring that

no hurdle crops up in the smooth execution of the projects. Moreover, the performance of the projects executing agencies, flow of funds and quality of work would get closely monitored", sources said while pointing towards the format prepared by the Planning Department to obtain general overview of the project/scheme.

Pointing towards the general complaints about prolonged delay in release of compensation amount, sources said, "this mechanism would timely bring to the fore whether any person has been deprived of compensation for land or structure and help the Planning Department in issuing timely instructions", adding "there is also a provision in the mechanism to ascertain whether the project was started keeping in view the area specific need or on the request of the public representatives".

They disclosed that Planning and Development Department will assign 2 to 4 projects on monthly basis to the concerned for physical verification on random basis from the list of works under

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Govt delays nomination of non ex-officio members

Sukrala Mata shrine awaits development as Board takes control of offerings only

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 19: Famous Sukrala Mata Shrine near Billawar in Kathua district is still awaiting initiation of development activities and reforms in the management affairs even after a Board has come into existence on the pattern of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Though the newly created Board has taken control of offerings at the temple, management of the shrine continues to be run by the Baridars as a result that ill practices like begging by minor girls and fleeing of pilgrims by some self styled priests in the temple premises are still going on unabated.

While delay in initiation of development activities is causing resentment among the locals and visiting pilgrims, the Board is awaiting nomination of three non ex-officio members for taking over full control of the shrine and its managements.

Situated on a small hill, at a distance of 12 kilometers from Billawar town in Kathua district, the historic Sukrala Mata temple is dedicated to Hindu Goddess

Sukrala Devi.

It was constructed by a banished prince of Chamba, Madho Singh. This temple is also believed to be the holy abode of Goddess Mal Devi, who is considered as the reincarnation of another Hindu Goddess Sharda Devi. The temple is visited by hundreds of devotees daily resulting into offerings worth lakhs of rupees.

For development of this shrine and on the consistent demand of locals, a bill for constitution of the Board for Sukrala Mata and Bala Sundri was passed in last session of the State Legislature.

On April 25, a notification in this regard was issued following which the Board immediately took over control of the offerings in the temple. However, management affairs of the shrine remained with the Baridars and other people dealing with the same since years as the Board was not constituted fully.

The 11- members Board is headed by Divisional Commissioner Jammu as its Vice-Chairman and Director Tourism Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, SDM Billawar and Tehsildar Billawar as its ex-officio

members. The Board also comprises three non ex-officio members, including two religious scholars of repute and a female social activist.

As the three non ex-officio members have not yet been nominated by the Government, the Board is not in a position to take control of management of the Shrine thus delaying initiation of developmental works there, sources explained the Excelsior.

When contacted, Director Tourism Soujanya Sharma informed that probable names were being scrutinized for submitting a panel to the Government for nomination of three persons as the Board members. "Since development of the Shrine and its adjoining area needs formulation of a Master Plan, the Board will discuss the same with Chief Town Planner once the non ex-officio members are nominated," he added.

The Deputy Commissioner Kathua Jatinder Singh also said that the Board would take control of management of the shrine as soon as the ex-officio members are nominated by the Government.

Koal remains found in samples; short circuit theory ruled out

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, July 19: Virtually establishing sabotage in the outbreak of major fire in Civil Secretariat Srinagar on July 11, the Forensic examinations of the spot sample have detected kerosene oil remains and also ruled out any possibility of electricity short circuit behind the incident.

This has been elaborated by the J&K Forensic Science Laboratory in its report submitted to the investigating agencies probing the incident, highly placed authoritative sources informed the Excelsior.

Enough kerosene oil residues have been detected in the Forensic examination of the samples lifted from the site of fire in the presence of Inquiry officers and others, sources

added.

Total nine samples were taken from the site of fire on the same day of incident as well as on the very next day while the Kerosene oil remains have been detected in samples lifted on both the days, sources explained and further said that the FSL in its report has also ruled out any possibility of electricity short circuit as cause of the incident thus hinting at a sabotage behind the fire that destroyed important records kept in the damaged portion.

As reported earlier, a major fire had broken out in the two storied annexe building of the Civil Secretariat on July 11 morning around 9 a.m and engulfed the whole building that was made of wood. As the Firemen took time to reach the spot and douse the flames, the building and records of six Government Departments as well as Service Books of over 300 employees were completely destroyed in the fire.

Besides Police investigations, the Government also ordered a time bound inquiry into the incident. Headed by Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad, Secretary GAD, the probe committee has been asked to enquire into the circumstances leading to the outbreak of fire and submit a report within two week's time.

For assisting the inquiry committee and the Police, a high level team of FSL also visited the spot and lifted samples from the site of fire in presence of Police Inquiry officers.

Five samples were lifted on the same day of incident while four more samples were taken

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INSIDE	WEATHER
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