

CM concerned over educated youth joining militancy

PM's visit on schedule, Sonia likely to accompany him

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, June 12: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's visit to Kashmir later this month is on schedule and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi is likely to accompany him, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said here on the sidelines of a police function held at SKICC, here.

Omar said the State Government is discussing with the Prime Minister's office the modalities of PM's visit to the State later this month. "This information that had been spread that the PM's visit has been cancelled is incorrect. At no point of time had the visit been cancelled. The Prime Minister's visit stands as of now", he added.

The Chief Minister said that his Government is working out the visit of Sonia Gandhi along with the PM. "We are in discussion with Sonia Gandhi and possibly she will also be visiting the State," Omar said.

Singh is scheduled to arrive in Kashmir on a two-day visit on

June 25 to dedicate the 11 kilometre long Railway tunnel in South Kashmir to people. The tunnel is part of the 345-kilometre Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project of Northern Railways.

The PM is also inaugurating



Mughal Road that connects Kashmir valley with Jammu province through Poonch. He is also scheduled to dedicate the Uri-II hydroelectric power project to the nation at Uri near the Line of Control (LoC) and will address a public rally there.

Earlier last week, Pradesh

Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, Prof Saifuddin Soz had said that the PM's visit to Kashmir valley has been postponed.

When asked whether resumption of dialogue between the Centre and the separatist leadership in the Kashmir is on the agenda during the PM's visit, Omar during his interaction with media said: "We are working out the details of his visit. Who will be involved and what are the issues, we are working on it."

The Chief Minister while welcoming the statement of Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde's on revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) said: "It is good that the Home Minister has acknowledged our viewpoint."

Omar said the Parliament was misled to some extent on the issue of AFSPA as it was told that Jammu and Kashmir Government had not submitted any proposal for revocation of the Act. "A question was asked in the Parliament that has the Government of Jammu and

No guidelines for 43,000 posts in 2 years

Fast track recruitment turns out to be non-starter

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 12: The State Government's much hyped fast track recruitment of 60,000 to 70,000 unemployed youths has turned out to be a virtual "non-starter" mainly due to delay in finalisation of vacancies by the Departments, litigations in some cases, shortage of staff with recruitment agencies and framing of rules for some of the appointments.

Though the Government hoped that the fast-track recruitment would pick up in the next few months, official sources confirmed that the process was likely to take time owing to delay on part of some departments to furnish the list of vacancies. Moreover, they said, the Government too hasn't issued clear guidelines to the recruitment agencies on fast-track recruitments.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his other Cabinet colleagues had announced in budget session of the Legislative Assembly as well as outside that the Government would fill up 60,000 to 70,000 vacancies in different departments on fast-

track basis to reduce unemployment in the State.

Sources admitted that even after three months of the announcement, the fast-track recruitment has failed to take up and the recruitment agencies of the Government were busy with normal process of filling up the vacancies.

"There was nothing like fast track recruitment. The recruitment agencies are carrying out their normal business," sources said, adding that the Departments were required to come out with all vacancies in the shortest possible time to facilitate absorption of youth. However, most of the Departments haven't come out with the list of their vacancies so far.

Further, the Government had proposed to engage 43,000 casual workers in ----- Departments, the vacancies for which had been identified way back in 2011. But even after the lapse of a two years period, the Government was unable to decide the guidelines for engagement of casual employees.

"The guidelines for absorption of 43,000 casual employees, which was committed by the Government in the Legislature

as well as outside, have not been framed yet. Certainly these vacancies can't be referred to recruitment agencies. The Head of Departments (HoDs) or other officers would be given powers for their absorption," sources said but admitted that the Government has not been able to take a decision on the absorptions so far.

As per a Government order, 43,000 casual employees were to be engaged in Power Development Department (10,000), PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control (10,000), Public Works Department (6,000), Rural Development Department (8,000), Floriculture (2,000), School Education (6,000) and Forest Department (1,000).

The sources declined to comment on whether these 43,000 appointments of casual employees were included in the list of 60,000 to 70,000 fast track recruitments or not.

They added that the Government should have come out with comprehensive orders directing all departments to refer the vacancies to recruitment agencies and then asked them to fill up the posts within the specified time period to fulfill the

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Infant among 3 killed in mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 12: Three persons were killed and two others sustained injuries when a car, they were travelling in, skidded off the road and rolled down in to river Chenab in Kishtwar district.

The ill-fated car bearing registration number JK13-5289 was on its way from Kishtwar to Jammu when it met with accident near Kuligarh. The vehicle reportedly skidded off the road due to heavy rainfall and rolled down into river Chenab. It collided with several rocks before entering the river waters.

On getting information about the accident, a police party from concerned police station swung into action and launched rescue operation. Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Saleem Mohammad along with SP Kulbeer Singh and Tehsildar Inderjeet Parihar

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HC stays promotion of 3 SEs

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 12: State High Court has stayed the promotion of three Superintending Engineers of PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

These three SEs namely Mohd Hanief Lone, Pran Nath and Abdul Wahid were among seven promoted as Chief Engineers in the Department vide Order No.151-PW(Hyd) of 2013 dated June 3, 2013.

The order was challenged in the High Court by Fida Mohammad Farooqi, Imtiyaz Ahmed Dhar and Bansil Lal Saproo

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Office gutted, BSP names candidates

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 12: A major fire broke out in the office of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Narwal Pain, Satwari ahead of party's State level convention today, gutting all the records and furniture.

"After getting information about the fire incident in the office of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) at Narwal Pain, police party from Satwari police station rushed to the spot and the Fire and Emergency Department was informed", Probationer DySP Shabir Khan said.

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People seize bovines, block road

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 12: Traffic on Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch road was blocked by the people this evening at Chowki Chowra under the jurisdiction of Akhnour police station when they caught a truck in which bovine animals were being smuggled from Jammu to Rajouri on way to Kashmir via Mughal Road.

Reports said truck No. 8295 JK02AH was spotted by the people at Chowki Chowra late this evening carrying bovine animals. The truck had developed a technical snag and the driver had gone to get it repaired when the people saw the vehicle loaded with

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Cabinet meeting today

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 12: State Cabinet is meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat Srinagar tomorrow afternoon.

Official sources said that Cabinet would meet at 2.30 pm to discuss the routine administrative agenda prepared by the General Administration Department. Besides other matters of importance, the Cabinet will take decision on the upgradation of post of Joint Commissioner Works in the Public Works Department. The decision on this issue was deferred in the last Cabinet meeting due to the absence of Minister for R&B, Abdul Majid Wani.

Major arms, ammunition haul in Bandipora

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 12: Police and Army today busted a militant hideout in the forest area of Bandipora district in North Kashmir and recovered a huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosives.

Police sources said that acting on inputs about a forest militant hideout, a joint team of police and 14 Rashtriya Rifles of counter insurgency Kilo Force launched a search operation in Kota forest area of Bandipora and recovered huge quantity of arms, ammunition and explosive material.

The arms, ammunition and explosive material recovered include 4 AK Assault Rifles, 70 AK magazines, 1200 AK rounds, 8 anti-tank grenades, 8 shells of automatic grenade launcher, 5 improvised explosive devices, 4 UBGLs and 90 UBGL grenades, 33 hand

grenades, 5 RPG rounds, two 82-mm mortar shells, 45 detonators, 16 pika rounds and 160 rounds of sniper rifle ammunition.

This is one of the largest caches of arms and ammunition recovered from Kashmir in recent years. This is thought to be a major success for the security forces in North Kashmir against the militants.

This is the largest cache of arms and ammunition recovered after last year's recovery forest area of Darashpora in Handwara district of Kupwara last year. The recovered arms and ammunition in last year in October included 10 AK-56 rifles, one AK-47 rifle, one-Pica Rifle, 12 RGP rounds, 12 Chinese Grenade, 447 AK47 rounds, 40 Pika rounds and 5 AK 47 magazines.

The success has been achieved at the time when militants are trying to infiltrate into

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Held in terror plot, SI presented gallantry award

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 12: An encounter specialist police officer who was arrested early this month for running a militant module was this evening presented with Sher-e-Kashmir Police Medals for Gallantry along with 104 police personnel by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at SKICC.

The gallantry medals have been awarded to the police personnel in recognition of different gallantry actions performed from 2002 to 2011 at various places in the State.

The name of Sub Inspector Shiv Krishan alias Sonu who was arrested early this month from Doda for running a militant module was also in the list of the police officers who were pre-

sented the gallery medals.

An encounter specialist Sub-Inspector, who was instrumental in killing 68 militants in the Doda-Kishtwar belt, was arrested along with body guard for running a militant module in Jammu division.

Sonu was serving in the Special Operation Group (SOG) of J&K Police, and was arrested at Thathri in Bhardarwah Sub division of Doda district. A case (FIR number 33 of 2013) was registered under Sections 307 RPC, 3/ (Explosive Substances Act), 7/27 (Arms Act) and 3PSS (Prevention of Sabotage and Subversion Act) against the SOG Sub Inspector at Police Station Thathri.

A police statement issued last week about his involvement reveals: "During investigation of

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Hi-tech gadgets to ensure foolproof security inside 11 km long tunnel



Ready for the ride: A first inside view of Banihal-Qazigund tunnel showing the railway track alongside 3 meter wide road. —Excelsior/Rakesh

CRS to inspect Banihal-Qazigund section on June 18

Mohinder Verma

BANIHAL, June 12: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) R K Kardam is going to conduct statutory inspection of Banihal-Qazigund Section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link on June 18 in order to pave the way for inauguration of the section by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and subsequent chugging of the trains.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that Commissioner of Railway Safety has conveyed to the IRCON International Ltd, the project-executing agency, and the Northern Railways that he

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

LCHC summons former top brass of JAKFED in embezzlement case

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 12: The Legislative Council House Committee (LCHC), investigating the embezzlement of public money in JAKFED since 1987 to 2000, today sought details of senior officers, who had remained posted in the Co-operative body during the period of irregularities.

The LCHC, which met under the chairmanship of Khalid Najeeb Suhrawardy, former Minister and MLC, has given JAKFED authorities a week's time to furnish the list of the senior officers to ascertain from them the details of the records and total amount embezzled during past over two decades.

During budget session of the

Legislature, there had been massive uproar on couple of occasions in the Legislative Council over large-scale irregularities in JAKFED in which funds worth several crores had been swindled.

Other members, who attended the LCHC meeting, included Naresh Kumar Gupta (Congress), Syed Rafiq Ahmad Shah (Nationalist Panthers Party) and Mohammad Ashraf Mir (People's Democratic Party).

The House Committee discussed the embezzlements and examined the records furnished by JAKFED on Pillai Committee report. It observed that the records were not satisfactory as the Pillai Committee report had stated that the concerned authorities of JAKFED had destroyed most of the records from time to time.

Official sources said the House Committee has asked the JAKFED authorities to submit a detailed list of the Managing Directors, General Managers, Managers and other senior staff members, who had worked on sensitive posts along with their tenure and place of posting from 1987 to 2000 within a week's time for further scrutiny by the Panel.

"The record of senior officers would help the Committee to depose before it and explain their position and the information they had about the embezzlement including destruction of record," sources said.

They added that the Committee was of the view that before recommending any action against the defaulters, it should be ascertained as to how much amount has been recovered from the defaulters since last over two decades.

The Committee decided to hold another meeting soon after the JAKFED authorities submit the requisite information to help it investigate the scam further.

Admitting that record, which has allegedly been destroyed by the JAKFED officers, could become an obstacle in the investigations being conducted into the scam by the House Committee. However, they were confident that the officers posted in JAKFED at senior posts during the period of scam and follow up years could give important information to then not only about the scam but subsequent destruction of the records to save the accused.

Among others, Secretary Legislative Council Muhammad Ashraf and Deputy Secretaries GM Bhat and Khurshid Ahmad also attended the meeting of the House Committee, sources said.

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