

## Govt declares entire yatra route terror prone Home Deptt issues SOP for yatra as per SC guidelines

**Fayaz Bukhari**  
SRINAGAR, June 18: To ensure the safety and security of the Amarnath pilgrims, State Government has issued Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Amarnath Yatra-2013 as per the Supreme Court guidelines and has declared entire yatra route as prone to terror strikes.

The Home Department in its order (No. 226, June 2013) has declared entire yatra route as terror prone. "Considering the security scenario, topography of the yatra area, high potential of terrorist attacks on the Yatrists to create Law and Order situation throughout the State and the country, sensitive nature of the yatra, and the high publicity the yatra generates, the entire yatra area is highly prone to terrorist attacks", the Home Department order adds.

The department has asked the police to ensure strict enforcement of Access Control Measures at Domel on Baltal route and Chandanwari on

Pahalgam route to ensure that only registered Yatrists having Yatra Permits for that day are allowed to cross the Access Control Gates.

The department has asked



Temporary sheds and langars being set up at Baltal base camp on Tuesday. -Excelsior/Amin War

the Shir Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) to explore the possibility of installing CCTVs at Access Control Gates at Domel and Chandanwari and link these via internet with Control Rooms at Srinagar for monitoring the

movement of the yatrists at these gates.

The department has asked the Police and other security forces to ensure that darshans at the Holy Cave are regulated

in such a manner that there is no stoppage of Yatrists in front or near the Holy Cave, particularly during the VIPs visit. The Home Department has asked the Chief Engineer, R&B,

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## PCI calls for Omar-Montek plan meeting on July 2

\*J&K to seek Rs 8050 cr annual plan

**Sanjeev Pargal**

JAMMU, June 18: Setting stage for annual plan finalisation of Jammu and Kashmir, the Planning Commission of India (PCI) today called final meeting between Deputy Chairman of PCI, Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on July 2.

The State Government today received a communiqué from the Planning Commission fixing July 2 as the date for final plan meeting, which had earlier been postponed twice in view of differences between the two sides over the size of plan and its funding by the State.

Official sources confirmed to the Excelsior that the Planning Commission after deferring two previous meetings fixed for May 20 and June 2 has now sent another communiqué to the Planning and Development and Finance Departments of the State Government calling them for final plan meeting on July 2 at Yojana Bhawan in New Delhi.

The meeting would be held between Mr Ahluwalia and Mr Abdullah, who would be accom-

panied by Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Rather, Planning Minister Ajay Sadhotra, Minister of State for Finance and Planning Dr Manohar Lal Sharma and Economic Advisor to State Government, Jalil Ahmad Khan.

Prior to the final meeting, the Planning Commission Advisors and Members would hold another round of meeting with the State bureaucrats including Principal Secretary, Planning and Development, B R Sharma, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, B B Vyas and Administrative Secretaries and HoDs of important departments.

Sources said the Government was confident that it would be able to clinch a healthy annual plan of Rs 8050 crores for current financial year of 2013-14 after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah last month took up with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh the Planning Commission's earlier refusal to sanction the highest ever plan for the current fiscal.

Instead of Rs 8050 crores worth plan, the Planning Commission had just offered the State Rs 5800 crores plan for 2013-14, which was Rs 1500 crores less than the last financial year of 2012-13. The Planning Commission had conveyed its decision to the State bureaucrats in a meeting in New Delhi. This had resulted into differences between the two sides leading to cancellation of May 20 plan finalisation meeting as the State had refused to accept Rs 5800 crores worth plan.

Despite approval of Rs 7300 crores worth annual plan in

2012-13, the State eventually ended up with getting only Rs 5800 crores as the Planning Commission withheld Rs 1500 crores of plan and Rs 630 crores under other heads causing a total loss of Rs 2130 crores to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources said the State Government has insisted on Rs 8050 crores worth plan and was now confident that the Planning Commission would approve it. In addition, it has sought Rs 600 crores under Prime Minister's Re-construction Plan (PMRP). The State would also seek last year's funds under PMRP, which are non-lapsable. During 2012-13, the State was approved Rs 700 crores under PMRP but it got just Rs 300 crores.

During 2012-13, the State's annual plan was finalised on July 13.

The State Government has already started the District Development Board (DDB) meetings to approve development works of the districts for current fiscal year. At present, the districts were being given the plan amount for current year at par with last year. However, it has assured 10 per cent increase in the plan to all the districts if the Planning Commission approved the proposed plan of Rs 8050 crores in its favour.

Nevertheless, the State Government has authorized all the District Development Commissioners (DDCs) to utilise 25 per cent amount of the sanctioned plan during first three months of current financial year i.e. from April 1 to June 30 and another 25 per cent from July 1 to September

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## Rains toll 131, thousands trapped

DEHRADUN/SHIMLA, June 18:

The famous Kedarnath shrine was virtually submerged in mud and slush where 50 people died in the unprecedented flash floods that claimed over 130 lives in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and left over 70,000 pilgrims for Himalayan shrines stranded.

The shrine, one of the four holy dhams, in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand bore the brunt of torrential rains. About 500 people, including several pilgrims, are said to be missing in the area.

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## Autonomy closed chapter: Fotedar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 18: Senior Congress leader and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Makhan Lal Fotedar today said that the chapter of autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir was closed in 1975 and accused National Conference of raising the issue during elections and when the party is out of power.

While interacting with the media persons at Congress headquarters here, Fotedar said that National Conference is itself responsible for the erosion of autonomy since they have entered

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## Bear spotted at Mehbooba's house

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 18: Panic gripped at the Gupkar residence of former Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti when the family and other security men spotted a black bear inside the lawns of the house today.

Reports said that as soon as the bear was spotted in the lawns, the family immediately called Wild Life Department to remove the wild animal from the spot.

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## Modi to address rally at Madhopur

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 18: While former Deputy Prime Minister and senior BJP leader, L K Advani is visiting Jammu on June 23 to participate in a function organized by Pt Prem Nath Dogra Memorial Trust in connection with observance of Martyrdom Day of founder president of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Dr Shyam Prasad Mookerjee here at Jammu Club, BJP's chairman National Election Campaign Committee (ECC) and Chief Minister, Gujarat, Narendra Modi is also visiting Madhopur in Punjab to address a public rally the same day.

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## Tehsildar among several injured

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 18: Tehsildar Bijbehara was around a dozen persons injured in protests in a village in South Kashmir's Bijbehara town.

Abdul Rashid Shah, Tehsildar Bijbehara, was injured when he tried to pacify the people protesting against curtailment of electricity at village Kannelwan.

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## NC, PDP hurl abuses at Bandipora DDB meet

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 18: The ruling National Conference (NC) and opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) today turned the District Development Board meeting at Bandipora into a virtual battlefield by hurling abuses at each other.

The chairman of the DDB Bandipora and Minister for Tourism, G A Mir, had to intervene and call for lunch to calm down the tempers. The PDP MLC, Nayeem Akhter, boycotted the DDB meeting in the post lunch session in protest against Lone abusing his father. Sources said that PDP MLA Nizamuddin Bhat was making

some demands during the meeting for his constituency and he was interrupted by Higher Education Minister Mohammad Akbar Lone.

Sources said that Lone told Bhat that the DDB has only recommendatory role and it is the departments that execute the works. In reply, Bhat told Lone let the demands he has put forward be recommended by the DDB.

Sources said that irked by long list of demands by Bhat, Lone launched at scathing attack on PDP in his trademark style. Shouting at Bhat, Lone said that the PDP is making noise here when these issues are to be raised in the State Assembly, that they boy-

cotted. Bhat replied that the PDP boycotted the Assembly as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his helplessness in the Assembly. "There was no fun of being inside the Assembly as CM surrendered by showing his inability", Bhat reportedly told Lone.

Sources said that Lone hit back at Bhat and asked him not to drag Chief Minister's name into this. Both Lone and Bhat shouted at each other leading to verbal dual between the two", sources said.

Lone also spoke against the former Chief Minister and PDP patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Seeing his patron under attack from Lone, PDP MLC

Nayeem Akhter asked chairman DDB Bandipora, Mir to intervene and asked him to stop Lone from speaking against Mufti.

Lone and Akhter traded serious charges against each other in the meeting and passed remarks.

Sources said that this led to commotion in the meeting and Chairman G A Mir tried to pacify the warring leaders. As he failed to manage it, he called for a lunch break to restore calm. Sources said that Akhter later boycotted the meeting as a mark of protest against Lone's remarks.

Later the meeting continued in the post lunch session and District Bandipora got an outlay

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

## SPG, Rlys officials inspect rail link ahead of PM's visit

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 18: Ahead of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's inauguration of railway track between Qazigund to Banihal next week, a high level team of Railway officials and PM's Special Protection Group (SPG) today visited inspected the track and site.

A team of SPG headed by its Inspector General SPG and accompanied by Deputy Inspector General of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Security wing, Mushataq Sadiq today visited Qazigund to finalise the security arrangements for PM's visit.

The PM is scheduled to arrive in Kashmir on June 25 for two day visit to inaugurate the



A view of Banihal Railway station carved out in high mountains by Indian Railways. -Excelsior/Sajad Sameer

Qazigund-Banihal rail link, throw open Mughal road and Uri power Project in Uri near the Line of Control (LoC) and

address a public rally there. Commissioner Railway Safety (CRS) BS Karham, and Chief Executive Officer P D

Garg along with other officials also inspected 18-kilometer railway track from Qazigund and Banihal and expressed content with facilities at station buildings, track alignment, signalling and electrical work.

Talking to reporters, CEO P D Garg said that the Railway track between Qazigund and Banihal is ready for the train services to operate.

"The rail link between Qazigund and Banihal will provide all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and rest of the world. The link between Banihal and Udhampur will take some time. But we will bridge the two stations with road," Garg said.

There will be a single ticket

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## DC orders enquiry, constitutes 3-member panel Embezzlement of nearly Rs 21 lakh detected in Reasi Municipal Committee

**Mohinder Verma**

JAMMU, June 18: An embezzlement of about Rs 21 lakh has been detected in the Municipal Committee Reasi and taking serious note of the gross financial irregularity

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today ordered enquiry by a three-member committee.

Official sources told the EXCELSIOR that after ascertaining development related demands of the people in differ-

ent public meetings, the Deputy Commissioner last month issued orders for assessing the funds available with the Municipal Committee Reasi so that developmental works in 13 wards of the town could be taken up on priority.

While ascertaining the financial position of the Municipal Committee, Executive Officer noticed misappropriation of huge public funds. Accordingly, vide letter No.MC/R/2013-14/311-13 dated June 14, 2013 the Executive Officer informed the Deputy Commissioner, who is also Administrator of the Municipal Committee Reasi that Chuni Lal, Senior Assistant has embezzled more than Rs 20 lakh.

"The Senior Assistant collected the rent of shops etc against seven number of GR books in 2009-10, which has been calculated at Rs 9,98,719. Out of this amount he deposited only Rs 4,99,680 in the Municipal Committee office

and the balance amount of Rs 4,99,039 is still lying with him", the Executive Officer informed the Deputy Commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner was also informed that the Senior Assistant even allotted strips of land to the shopkeepers at different locations and issued GR receipts against two GR books, which have not been entered in record of the Municipal Committee, sources further said.

"The Senior Assistant didn't hand over the record to the Executive Officer Municipal Committee either on his taking over or thereafter and the amount calculated on two GR books is reported to be Rs 15,96,875 thereby making the total outstanding against the official to the tune of Rs 20,95,914", sources said quoting the communication of Executive Officer.

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