



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah interacting with a deputation during Awami Mulakat at Srinagar on Monday.

## Direct Transfer Scheme to benefit people: Vyas

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 24: Principal Secretary to Chief Minister and Principal Secretary Finance B. B. Vyas today said that Direct Transfer Scheme will help in transfer of benefits including cash and subsidy directly to the beneficiaries and nationalized banks like Reserve Bank of India, State Bank of India and Jammu and Kashmir Bank will have to play their vital role for its successful implementation on ground.

Mr. Vyas was addressing a high level officers meeting here today in which Principal Secretary, Higher Education K. B. Agarwal, Commissioner Secretary Health, Commissioner Secretary, School Education, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, District Development Commissioners of Jammu, Ganderbal, Kargil, Leh etc attended the meeting.

Additional Secretary, Financial Services, GoI, Director Financial Services, representatives of RBI, SBI and J&K Bank interacted with State Government functionaries on Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme and resolved that the beneficiaries of six districts chosen under pilot project in the first phase should get the financial assistance direct through various banks via e-banking.

Director, Department of Financial Services, GoI and other officers apprised the meeting about the implication of the scheme through power point presentations.

Mr. Vyas asked the bankers and District Collectors to generate the list of beneficiaries in shortest possible time and ensure that the scheme is implemented in letter and spirit so that the benefit percolates down to the deserving persons.

Additional Secretary, Financial Services, presented an overview of the benefits of the scheme and implied upon officers of the State to render best possible services to people particularly deserving ones through a network of welfare schemes.

## Power shut down

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 24: In order to carry out immediate maintenance of 132 KV D/C Gladni-Bari-Brahmana Transmission line, the power shut down of 132 KV D/C Gladni-Bari-Brahmana Transmission line, Grid Station Bari-Brahmana-1, Grid Station, Gangyal and 20 MVA, 132/33 KV Transformer of Grid Station Miran Sahib is being availed on June 25, 2013 from 7 hours to 9 hours.

During the shut down, the power supply to Bari Brahmana Industrial Area, 1, Vjaypur Feeder, Jakh Feeder, Birpur Complex, Kartholi, Narbada Feeder, areas fed from Gangyal Grid Station i.e. Trikuta Nagar, Gangyal Industry and areas fed from 20 MVA, 132/33 KV Transformer of Miran Sahib Grid Station i.e. Chatha and Gadigarh will remain affected.

## Article 370 is article of faith, won't allow its erosion: Mufti

Excelsior Correspondent

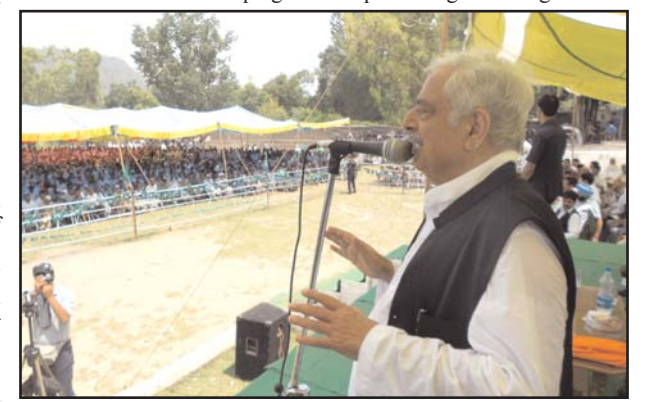
MENDHAR (POONCH), June 24: Expressing determination to safeguard the special status of the State, People's Democratic Party (PDP) today said its campaign for revival of peace process with Pakistan actually reflects the urges of a much larger peace in the two countries and not just the people of J&K.

Addressing a public meeting in this town situated near the Line of Control (LoC) party patron Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said a fully empowered democratic system was an essential requirement for ensuring that the rights of people are no more trampled in the State.

Mufti said Article 370 is an article of faith between J&K and rest of the country and even in its eroded form it grants the state substantial powers that can address the issues peculiar to it. He said the element of accountability introduced in State political system after the emergence of PDP will ensure that no party colluded in further disempowerment of the State. "It was lack of political alternatives and a single party monopoly in the past that was responsible for weakening our special status granted by the constitution of the state. Such a possibility is substantially reduced because of awareness among people and the fact that any party that collaborates in such ventures will do so to its own peril", he said.

Stressing the need for a positive response to the calls for peace from neighbouring Pakistan, Mufti said a bold initiative like the one taken by Vajpayee was expected of the Prime Minister on this crucial front. He said when we call for peace with Pakistan it does not

reflect only the aspirations of our State but the large peace constituency in the two countries. In Pakistan there has been a progressive convergence of interest in peace and now even the Army in that country seems to have fallen in line, he said and urged the Prime Minister to take note of the democratic developments there and also the peace constituency he himself represents within the country.



Patron PDP, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed addressing public meeting at Mendhar on Monday.

He regretted that State Government has subverted all moves for necessary reforms for making the governance humane, transparent, accountable, efficient and free from corruption.

"Since its formation the present regime has brazenly been indulged into subverting democratic institutions be it assembly, district development boards, urban local bodies or Panchayati Raj Institutions", he said and mentioned that failure of the State Government to conduct urban local bodies elections reflect dictatorial mindset of ruling elites.

Sardar Rafiq Hussain Khan, MLA, Yashpal Sharma, MLC, Choudhary Zulfikar, MLA, Dr Sameer Koul, Zafar Manhas, M R Qureshi, ex-MLC, Hamid Manhas, Imtiaz Bandy, Shahzad Khan, and others also spoke on the occasion.

anti-graft institution like State Accountability Commission (SAC) has been made defunct by the present regime through its misdeeds.

Coming down heavily on State Government for its failure to contain corruption, he regretted that

## CM meets deputations, individuals

# Development of weaker sections focused area: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 24: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today said that development of weaker sections of the society is receiving focused attention, adding that the equitable and inclusive development constitute important ingredients of State's development policy.

Talking to a deputation of All J&K State Pasmanda Tabka Welfare Society led by its President, the Chief Minister said that upliftment of downtrodden sections of the society is being attended under various State and Centrally sponsored schemes. He said besides providing special attention for enhancing and upgrading educational status of the students belonging to these sections various welfare schemes of backward classes are in progress.

Omar Abdullah in his Monday Awami Mulakat met scores of deputations from all across the State and representing various sections of the society and labour unions. He heard them patiently and gave on the spot directions for redressal of the problems of urgent public importance while various memoranda were referred to the concerned departments for early action.

Interacting with a deputation from Takanwari led by MLA Mohammad Irfan Shah, the Chief Minister said that augmentation of drinking water and launch of new schemes to cover uncovered areas under protected water supply programme are receiving due attention, adding that water supply sector has been flagged as one of the most important five sectors of service delivery by his government.

In response to the demand of the area for upgrading the water supply pipeline from present one and a half inches dia to three inches, the Chief Minister said that some two years back he has accepted the request of the area for granting one and a half inches water supply pipe in the area and their demand for its upgradation would be considered actively.

Omar Abdullah told the deputation of people of Yaripora led by MLC Abdul Majid that Government is concentrating on consolidation and expansion of educational sector. He said a network of new colleges, polytechnics, ITIs and other educational institutions have been opened in the State during the last over four and a half years and the process is continuing. In reference to the demand for new degree college and Tehsil and upgradation of health facilities in Kulgam District particularly in Yaripora area, the Chief Minister said that the genuine demands would be given due consideration.

A deputation from Budgam led by Haji Mohammad Yousuf stressed on the completion of a bridge. The Chief Minister told the members of the deputation that their demand would be looked into actively.

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A deputation of J&K Floriculture Employees Union apprised the Chief Minister of their demands and narrated the outcome of their interaction with the Minister of State for Floriculture and resumption of their duties. He told them that he would talk to the Minister regarding the redressal of genuine problems of the members of the Union.

Dozens of other deputations from Ganderbal, Budgam, Nowgam, Pulwama, Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Langate, Narbal, Srinagar, Pampore, Sempora, Qoimoh, Bijbehara, Banihal, Jammu, Sopore, Bandipora, Kupwara, Qazigund, Harwan, Dhara, Bagh-i-Mehtab, Anchaar, Hyderpora, and various representing students, shopkeepers, pump operators, Auqaf Committees, employees of IIM, SKIMS, GMC, Gujjars, etc also called on the Chief Minister and presented their memoranda of demands to him.

## Akhooon assumes duties of Advisor to CM

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 24: Legislator and former Minister, Qamar Ali Akhooon this morning assumed the duties of Advisor to the Chief Minister. In the Chief Minister's Private Office, Qamar Ali Akhooon was carried to his chair by Omar Abdullah in presence of Minister for Finance, Abdul Rahim Rather and Provincial President NC, Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani.

The Advisor will be available to the people in the CM's Private Office situated at Church Lane, Sonawar, Srinagar.

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