

Qazigund-Banihal rail flagged off

Sonia says solution of issues under democratic set up of country

***PM assures support for development of J&K**

Fayaz Bukhari
BANIHAL, June 26: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today assured his full support for development and progress

after dedicating Qazigund-Banihal rail link to the nation, Prime Minister said at a public rally at Banihal railway station: "I assure you that Centre Government will provide all the

Jammu and Kashmir. He told the Railways to complete the remaining part of the rail link quickly. "Katra-Udhampur rail link will be completed within few

sible so the Kashmir is connected to the rest of the country through an all-weather trans-

PM interacts with school children

Excelsior Correspondent

BANIHAL, June 26: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today undertook a train journey through the 11-km long tunnel under the Pir Panjal mountain ranges along with school children most of whom travelled by rail for the first time.

Singh interacted with students during the 18-km train journey from Banihal to Qazigund which reduces the distance between the two towns by nearly half.

The Banihal-Qazigund rail section includes an 11-km long tunnel, the country's longest, built at a cost of Rs 1,691 crore.

Singh asked one of the girl "port", Dr Singh added.

"As the rail link is developed further, we will connect it to other railway network of the country", said the Prime Minister.

Singh said: "Today we are dedicating such an engineering marvel to the nation which has

(Contd on page 7 Col 1)

Any attempt to revoke Art 370 will be on our dead bodies: Omar

Excelsior Correspondent

BANIHAL, June 26: Declaring that revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution was not possible at any cost, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said "any attempt by anyone on this issue will be on our dead bodies".

Castigating the leadership of BJP, without naming them, for raising the false boggy of revocation of Article 370 providing for special status to Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the party (BJP) has developed a trait to deceive the people on this issue as soon as elections draw nearer.

"We the people of Jammu and Kashmir categorically tell them that revocation of Article 370 is not possible at all and any attempt by anyone on this sensitive issue would be over our dead bodies", he asserted and said that during the six and a half years tenure of BJP Government at the Centre, it has not even a single time talked about this issue.

"The BJP only raises the issue of Article 370 when elections are in sight", he said and challenged this party to dare to touch Article 370 which has established Jammu and Kashmir relations with the Centre.

"You have to do it over our dead bodies, he lamented and said that the National Conference (NC) and the Congress would foil all attempts to weaken the State-Central relations.

Wife of jawan killed in Srinagar attack commits suicide

BANKURA (WB), June 26:

The wife of an Army soldier, whose husband was killed in militant attack in Srinagar on Monday, today committed suicide in Bankura district, police said.

Piu Nandi(21), wife of Asim Nandi, set herself on fire at her residence at Pachmore village, the sources said.

She was rushed to Bankura Medical College Hospital where

(Contd on page 7 Col 2)

Militants kill businessman

Excelsior Correspondent

SOPORE, June 26: Militants today shot dead a businessman turned politician in North Kashmir's Sopore town, police said.

A car workshop owner, Kifayat Hussain Mir, 45, of Boripora was shot at by unidentified militants today morning at his workshop "Zorawar Motors" at Shangargund on Sopore Kupwara Highway, police sources said.

Sources said two unidentified militants arrived at his shop and opened indiscriminate fire on him and killed him on spot.

Mir was also operating a Himayat Centre-- an employment and capacity-building scheme of the Union Minister of Rural Development, under which Kashmiri youth are provided profes-

(Contd on page 7 Col 6)

CM reviews security situation

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 26: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reviewed the prevailing law and order situation in the State and received brief from Army and security agencies.

The Chief Minister was apprised of the coordination between various security agencies in dealing with militancy related incidents and ensuring safety and protection of the people. He was also provided detailed account of the preparedness of security agencies to ensure safety and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, Minister of State for Home, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary Home,

(Contd on page 7 Col 2)

Army bids farewell to martyrs

SRINAGAR, June 26:

Army today bid a tearful adieu to eight soldiers who were killed in a brazen militant attack at Hyderpora bypass in the outskirts of the city on Monday.

General Officer Commanding of Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, led the officers and jawans in paying floral tributes to the eight soldiers at a ceremony held at the headquarters of Chinar Corps at Badami Bagh Cantonment here.

As many as 16 soldiers were also injured in the attack which came just a day before the two-day visit of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi to the State.

(Contd on page 7 Col 4)

Govt forms panel for reservation policy

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 26: Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mir Saifullah today directed for constituting a Committee to review the status of reservation quota policy and its implementation in the State in the backdrop of various Court judgments and existing provisions of the Law.

These directions were given by the Law Minister during a meeting convened to discuss the reservation rules in services pertaining to promotions and seniority of the employees. The Committee headed by Advocate General Jammu & Kashmir, M I Qadri will look into the matter in the light of various Court judgments and State Reservation Laws and submit its report to the

(Contd on page 7 Col 6)



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh travelling in the train from Banihal to Qazigund along with a group of school children on Wednesday. Another pic on page 7

of Jammu and Kashmir and asked the Railways to complete remaining part of Udhampur-Baramulla rail link as early as possible so as to connect Kashmir with rest of the country through all-weather transport.

While addressing a gathering

support required for the development and progress of the State."

The PM after taking a ride on Qazigund-Banihal section of the rail described it as an engineering marvel. He said that this is part of the efforts of the Centre Government for the progress of

months from now, and then the Qazigund-Udhampur will begin which is a challenging task as the 359 meter bridge over Chenab river is to be completed, which is one of the highest rail bridge in the world. I want to tell the Railway Department to complete the rail link as early as pos-

ible so the Kashmir is connected to the rest of the country through an all-weather trans-

First batch of Amarnath yatris to leave today for shrine

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, June 26: The first batch of Amarnath Yatra will leave the base camp here at Bhagwati Nagar for holy cave shrine situated at an altitude of 14000 feet in deep Himalayas in South Kashmir district of Anantnag, early morning tomorrow under tight security measures to have darshan on June 28.

The yatris from different parts of the country have started reaching the Bhagwati Nagar Base camp and by the evening there were about 500 pilgrims inside the Yatri Niwas while several others were on their way.

The Yatra will be flagged off by Tourism Minister, G A Mir who will be accompanied by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Pardeep Gupta and other senior civil and police officers.

In view of the militants' threats and recent attack on Army convoy at Hyderpora Bye Pass, Srinagar, the Government has made tight security arrangements for the pilgrims. The three-tier security system has been kept in place for pilgrims

right from Lakhampur to holy cave, official sources said.

Sources said, besides the CRPF, J&K Police, its

after proper security check up at Lakhampur every yatri vehicle will be tagged a sticker by Traffic Police to avoid the fre-



Yatris who reached from different parts of country taking a rest at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas at Jammu on Wednesday.

Security Wing and Army has been deployed for the security of pilgrims. The Road Opening Party (ROP) of Army will man the National Highway right from Jammu to holy cave, sources added.

Sources said six companies of CRPF along with J&K Police jawans and security men are manning the Bhagwati Nagar Base camp and its outer areas. The Base Camp has been sanitized over a week back after CRPF and JK Police took its control with dog squads and bomb disposal squads in their preemptive move to keep the saboteurs at bay, sources added.

To maintain a complete vigil on Yatri Niwas, the CRPF has installed bunkers inside and outer areas of the Base Camp also.

Sources said to avert any problem to pilgrims this time

quent security checks en-route.

The Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Pardeep Gupta today took stock of the arrangements en-route the yatra up to Jawahar tunnel including longer facilities for the pilgrims.

(Contd on page 7 Col 4)

Establishment Committee clears reorganization of Settlement Org

7 Regional Directors to gear up ongoing settlement exercise, preserve land record

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 26: With the Establishment Committee headed by Chief Secretary clearing the proposal to reorganize Settlement Organization with new set of guidelines and duties, the settlement operation, which is presently going at a snail's pace, and preservation of revenue record are all set to get boost in the State.

Authoritative sources told EXCELSIOR that Establishment Committee headed by Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey, in its recent meeting, cleared the proposal regarding reorganization of the Settlement Organization and the decision will be shortly placed before the State Cabinet for its approval to go ahead with the restructuring exercise.

Stating that the reorganization would go a long way in giving impetus to settlement operation across the State, they said, "speeding up this exercise is of immense importance as settle-

ment is the primary exercise towards proper management of land record and an important tool to achieve the objective of computerization and preservation of the revenue record".

Sources disclosed that settlement operation, which was started way back in 1992, has not achieved the desired momentum till date as out of 7000 villages across the State this exercise has been completed only in 1700 villages till date that too with numerous shortcomings mainly because of shortage of manpower and lack of exclusive focus on this aspect.

"This situation is notwithstanding the fact that Central assistance, which was provided to the State under the National Land Record Management Scheme during the past several years and presently accumulated to around Rs 22 crore, could not be utilized for the intended purpose till date", sources added.

According to the decision of the Establishment Committee, under the reorganized Settlement Organization there

Explosive material haul in Surankot

Two ultras killed as Army thwarts two intrusion bids

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 26: Troops gunned down two heavily armed infiltrators along the Line of Control (LoC) at Morha Gap in forward village of Baisalli in Keri sector of Rajouri district this morning while their colleague was either trapped in thick vegetation surrounding the area or had manage to escape back to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The militants were trying to sneak in the day light taking cover of heavy rains in the area when the troops intercepted them, official sources said.

In Poonch sector also, Pakistan Army violated ceasefire for second consecutive day today by resorting to firing at Doda and Sabjian for half an hour trying to give cover to another group of infiltrators almost at the same time when intrusion bid was made in Keri sector.

"Firing by Pakistan Army was aimed at giving a cover to

the infiltrators," sources said, adding the troops retaliated to neutralize the militants. Exchange of firing continued for about half an hour in which the troops succeeded in killing two militants. Fate of the third militant was not known," sources said, adding

(Contd on page 7 Col 6)

Meanwhile, troops of Rashtriya Rifles recovered a large quantity of explosive material from Dangari forests in Surankote area of Poonch district and destroyed it on spot.

Sources said three major infiltration attempts by the militants, backed effectively by the Pakistani troops, were made on the LoC in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri during past two days when Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi were on a two days visit to the State.

Sources said troops observed movement of three heavily armed militants trying to sneak into the Indian territory between LoC and fencing at Morha Gap in forward village Baisalli of Keri sector at 11 am today. Simultaneously, Pakistan Army violated ceasefire and targeted R-3 Post of Army, which was covering Morha Gap area.

"Firing by Pakistan Army was aimed at giving a cover to

the infiltrators," sources said, adding the troops retaliated to neutralize the militants. Exchange of firing continued for about half an hour in which the troops succeeded in killing two militants. Fate of the third militant was not known," sources said, adding

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INSIDE	WEATHER
* Justice without delay ...Page 8	JAMMU
* Mess about liabilities	Possibility of light rain/thunder shower
* Mass cremation begins, 3500 yet to be evacuated ...Page 3	TEMPERATURE
* Chinar Corps pays tributes to martyrs ...Page 3	Max: 34.4 Degree C
* Sham reviews yatra arrangements at Pahalagam Chandanwari ...Page 5	Min: 24.2 Degree C
* NC's 'autonomy' invoking secession in J&K: Bhim ...Page 5	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
* Indian team leaves for West Indies ...Page 14	Highest: 89.0 per cent
	Lowest: 61.0 per cent
	Sunset on Thursday: 07.43 p.m.
	Sunrise on Friday: 05.27 a.m.
	KASHMIR
	Possibility of light rain/thunder shower
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 32.5 Degree C
	Min: 21.9 Degree C
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