

VHP, others condemn lathi-charge on Yatris, warn Government

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: VHP today accused Amarnath Yatra Shrine Board of failing to make devotees aware about the yatra regulations. "It was rude and inhuman to push back a large number of yatris without allowing them to pay obeisance to lord Shiva," VHP State president Ramakant Dubey told reporters here.

For the first time, the access control agencies are carrying out thorough checks of Amarnath pilgrims and their documentation before allowing them to proceed. He also condemned the removal of subsidy on ration to be supplied to yatris and demanded that the same of restored failing which VHP and Bajrang Dal will resort to agitation. He said the situation could have been easily avoided and tackled patiently.

HC stays dispossession of BSNL site

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: High Court today stayed the dispossession of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) land at Rambagh where the Government was proposing to construct a shopping complex for the displaced shopkeepers.

The State Government had issued notice to the BSNL under Land Acquisition Act in 2010 for acquisition of land belonging to the BSNL at Ram Bagh Srinagar. The BSNL had challenged the land acquisition by the State and approached the High Court. But the Single Bench of the High Court dismissed the interim application for granting stay to the BSNL.

Soz misleading people on Article 370: Gupta

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: Disputing the assertion of the Pradesh Congress president, Prof Saif-ud-Din-Soz that even the Parliament cannot revoke the Article 370 of the Constitution granting separate status to J&K, the former Union Minister and MLA, Prof Chaman Lal Gupta has observed that on the very face of it this Article is a "temporary provision", but it was unfortunate that politicians like Prof Soz under communal considerations are misleading their constituency and harming the interests of the country as also those of the people.

In a statement, Prof Gupta said that the Parliament is the supreme body of the country. It can amend or revoke any Article except that the basic principles and the only provision pertaining to the frontiers of the country. As far as the Article 370 is concerned even in the Constitution it has been inserted as "temporary provision". It is unfortunate that it still existed even after over six decades but for the communal considerations and the problems being created by men like Prof Soz and some others.

He pointed out that over the period the Parliament had amended over hundred provisions and can remove even this one which is of course temporary one. Prof Gupta said the Article 370 has done no good to the people of the State. This provided unbridled powers to the ruling clan who had played havoc with the democratic rights of the people. Their wrongs created resentment which is being exploited by the elements hostile to India including Pakistan.

Havan for Uttarakhand victims in Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: Management Committee of Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Gandhinagar (Jammu) has decided to organize a Havan/Yagya on July 10 for the peace to the souls of those who lost their lives during pilgrimage to Kedarnath and Badrinath in Uttarakhand recently.

Addressing a press conference here today, president of the Mandir Trust, Gulchain Singh Charak (former Minister and senior Congress leader) said that many pilgrims and others lost their lives in floods and cloud bursts in Uttarakhand and many went missing under the debris

and floods. About twenty brave soldiers also lost their lives while evacuating the helpless trapped pilgrims. In view of this tragedy, the Temple Management Trust has resolved to organize a Havan/Yagya on July 10, 2013 at Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Gandhinagar to offer prayers for the souls of those killed there during pilgrimage. He disclosed that "Puran Aahuti" will be offered at 12 noon. Various renowned religious scholars and saints are also prominent persons of the civil society are participating in this programme. The Trust has also appealed the general public to join them in this pious cause. It has also been decided to take necessary measures to send the cash relief to the affected families through Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

SADN delegation meets PM, seeks package for DPs

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: A delegation of Shiromani Akali Dal National met the visiting Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and demanded one time settlement of the claims of displaced persons of 1947 from PoK besides other issues of the Sikh minority community. Led by Gurdev Singh, working president of SADN along with Dayal Singh Wazir and Prof Amrik Singh the delegation convincingly apprised Dr Manmohan Singh over the criminal silence of the Coalition Government regarding the deteriorating plight of the displaced persons of 1947 from PoK who are clamouring for justice and

rehabilitation for the last more than six decades. They reminded that despite several meetings and representation to him, Union Home Minister and Chief Minister, the issue of refugees/DPs has remained unresolved. They pointed out that the DPs have not been given the due compensation/ claims for their properties left behind, nor they were given any assistance or relief proportionate to their physical and material loss. Their claims have not been registered so far on the plea that if done so the Union Government will lose its claim on PoK. They said that DPs are being treated as second class citizens of India. The SADN members pointed out that over 12 lakh people who made tremendous sacrifices are the real stake holders who are awaiting rehabilitation whereas Kashmiri migrants are being doled out every day with fresh monetary/ employment package, and all sorts of concessions. They condemned the State Government and revenue authorities for creating confusion and misleading the Central Govt for resolving this human issue for their vested political interests.

Transporters warn to adopt agitational path if demands not met

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: All J&K Transporters Welfare Association today warned the Government to adopt agitational path, if it fails to redress their demands including revision of passenger fare at the earliest.

A meeting of All J&K Transporters Welfare Association was held in which presidents and representative of all passenger transport associations took part. During the meeting, transporters said that Central Government increased the rate of diesel and petroleum products and the State Government also imposing VAT on it, adding that rate of diesel has been increased by Rs 4 per litre since last 6 to 7 months and Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) also increased the rate of annual premium.

They added that a memorandum for revision in passenger fare was submitted through Transport Commissioner but nothing has been done till date, due to which the transporters are facing huge losses. They demanded immediate revision of the passenger fare, power of increasing/decreasing the passenger fare be delegated to the Transport Commissioner and one point checking at district level by the traffic police.

"If our demands were not redressed then we will adopt agitational path and for any inconvenience to the people and visiting pilgrims for Shri Amarnath Yatra, the Government will be responsible", they added.

The meeting was attended by BB Gupta, president, Jammu-Poonch Bus Union, BB Sharma, president, Jammu-Chamb Bus Union, Pritam Singh, president, Banihal Passenger Bus Services, Sukhvir Singh Bajwa, president, RS Pura Bus Union, Kuldeep Singh, president, Kathua Bus Union, etc.

HC's directive to school

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: In a contempt petition filed by the Parents Coordination Committee and others, High Court today directed the K C International School to file statement of fact or Principal will have to appear in person on next date of hearing.

When the contempt petition came up for hearing, Advocate Abhinav Sharma appearing for the petitioners submitted that despite orders from the court respondents (school) have been harassing the wards of the petitioners. He further submitted that in terms of the earlier order, respondents were directed to file statement of facts but till date compliance report has not been filed. After hearing Advocate Abhinav Sharma appearing for the petitioners whereas Advocate Aditya Gupta for the respondent school, Justice Ali Mohd Magrey granted two weeks time to respondents (school) to submit the statement of facts and compliance report. In default, Harinder Chakhtaya, Principal of KC International School shall remain personally present before the Court on the next date of hearing", Justice Magrey said.

Economics & Statistics Deptt celebrates 7th Statistics Day

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: To commemorate 120th birth anniversary of Father of Indian Statistical System late Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, Department of Economics and Statistics celebrated 7th Statistics Day here today.

Minister for Labour, Employment and Planning, Ajay Sadhotra was the chief guest on the occasion whiles Principal Secretary Planning and Development, B R Sharma was guest of honour. Addressing the function, the Minister said that the statistics is a magical science and the officers should make concerted and focussed efforts throughout the year to fill the data gaps, improve timeliness and quality of data related to the labour and employment which is the theme of this year's Statistics Day.

He directed for collecting reliable data for use in planning, implementation, monitoring and re-designing of various developmental programmes, adding that the activity is absolutely essential for the State to develop more rapidly than in the past. Paying tributes to Prof. Mahalanobis, Mr. Sadhotra said that the Professor was the first Statistical Advisor to Union Cabinet who laid the foundation for promoting teaching and research in statistics and for developing the official statistical system in the country.

Referring to the theme of this year's Statistics Day "Labour and Employment", the Minister said that the State Government is committed to protect and safeguard the interests of workers in general and those who constitute the poor, deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society in particular.

Principal Secretary, Planning and Development, B. R. Sharma called Mahalanobis a legendary figure, a great statistician and promoter of talent.

"It should be our endeavor not only to carry forward the legacy of the professor but also take appropriate steps to improve the Statistically System in order to meet ever increasing data needs of diverse users", he added.

In his introductory remarks, Director Economics and Statistics, B. R. Lachotra said that our country has produced several great statisticians but contributions made by Late Mahalanobis are exemplary.

Mr. Lachotra hoped that the celebration of Statistics Day will sensitize statistical fraternity and other stakeholders about the importance and role of statistics in addressing global challenges besides inspiring them for addressing data gaps in the country and State so that right inputs could be provided to the planners and policy makers for ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.

Father arrested for killing daughter

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 29: A man was arrested in North Kashmir's Sopore town for allegedly killing his daughter as he suspected that she was an illegitimate child, police said here today.

While addressing a press conference, Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir, J P Singh said that Altaf Ahmad of Laiser, Rafiabad, along with his elder brother Muhammad Maqbool Rather had reported to police that his daughter Muskan Altaf, 7, has been missing from her home.

The DIG said that Police filed a missing report and search was started. "During the search on the next day a throat-slit body of the girl was found in an apple orchard on the outskirts of the village Laiser. A sharp edged knife, a ten rupee currency note and an empty jute bag used to contain animal fodder were also recovered from the spot," Singh said.

Singh said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to investigate the gruesome blind murder. "In the process of investigation a reasonable suspicion was developed against the father of the victim, who was called for questioning alongwith other relatives", he said.

man had misinformed them about the age of the girl who was actually seven years old. He said that the girl was last seen in the company of her father and he was asked to explain the circumstances leading to her going missing and being subsequently murdered.

"It was found from marriage and medical records that the baby was born in less than nine months of the marriage of her parents. This had made the father suspicious about the girl being his biological child. Over a period of time this developed into an extreme hatred", Singh said.

The DIG said that another motive of killing his own daughter was his greed as he was expecting cash compensation from Government once his daughter was discovered killed as he was to put blame on militants for the reason that his wife was a village panchayat member.

"On the day of murder he sent his wife to take their son to a doctor for medical consultation. Once his wife left, he took the girl in the outskirts in the apple orchard area and killed her by choking her," Singh said.

The DIG said that to mislead the police, Rather slit the throat with a knife and concealed the body in a bag and hid it under the grass and bushes.

Dev Bhoomi Group of Institutions advertisement. Includes details about courses (M.Tech, B.Tech, M.Pharm, B.Pharm, D.Pharm, MBA, BBA, MCA, BCA, B.Sc IT), advantages of affiliated colleges, and contact information for Dehradun, Saharanpur, and Kurukshetra branches.

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Top criminal nabbed with weapon

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 29: Police today arrested a notorious criminal and recovered a sharp edged weapon from his possession during a special naka laid at Gajansoo under the jurisdiction of Kanachak police station.

Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Domana, Sandeep Mehta said the criminal was chased and arrested after he tried to escape from police naka at Gajansoo this morning.

He has been identified as Kewal Krishan, son of Pritam Lal, a resident of village Chargali in Gajansoo area.

Police recovered a sharp-edged weapon from the possession of criminal at the time of his arrest. The criminal was already a history-sheeter of Kanachak police station. A case has been registered against him.

Police parties headed by SHO Jatinder Raina and ASI Kuldeep Singh, Incharge Gajansoo Police Post made the arrest.