

Asgar Ali to be next CEC

Cong gets majority in LAHDC Kargil

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, Sept 1: In what could be termed as reversal of roles, Congress party is all set to replace its coalition partner National Conference (NC) as head of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, with the party claiming to have obtained majority in the 26 member body.

Reliable sources told EXCELSIOR that Congress party, which had won 10 seats in the keenly contested election, has secured support of five other independents thereby increasing their joint tally to 15 and will be submitting their formal claim before the Deputy Commission Kargil tomorrow morning.

Congress party has made significant gains in these Hill Council elections as it has managed to almost double its tally. Congress led alliance, which earlier had only 8 seats has been able to increase its tally to 15, while as NC led alliance which earlier had 18 seats has been reduced to 11. For National Conference, eight persons won on party mandate while three

others have extended their support.

Confirming that Congress had managed to get majority in the LAHDC, Kargil polls, PCC (I) chief Saif-ud-Din Soz told EXCELSIOR from New Delhi,



"the party has managed to rope in five independents, thereby taking the total tally of Congress-led alliance to 15. The newly constituted Council would steadfastly work for the development of the region under the Congress led alliance".

"Former CEC Asgar Ali

Karblaie, who won on Congress mandate from Pashkum would be heading the Hill Council", said the JKPCCL(I) chief.

Elated over the success of his party, Mr Karblaie said, "we would be submitting the details of our Concillors to the Deputy Commission tomorrow", adding, "five independents who chose to side with the Congress party included Syed Hasan Arman, Advocate Mohammad Amir, Mohsin Ali, Sheikh Hussain and Mohammad Hussain".

After the Congress-led alliance submits to the District Magistrate the list of its members, the same would be forwarded to the State Government. Subsequently, the Government would issue a formal notification for formation of Council to be followed by oath taking ceremony.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Secretary, Ladakh Affairs Department has also sent formal information to District Session Judge Kargil, Tahir Khurshid Raina informing him of his appointment as formal official for administering

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Financial crisis hits police MHA fails to release single penny from Rs 127 cr budget

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Sept 1: The economic crisis faced by the country has cast a devastating shadow on Police Department of Jammu and Kashmir, whose entire budget of Rs 127 crores for current financial year of 2013-14 has been blocked by the Ministry of Home Affairs so far even as the Department was released only Rs 22 crores in the last fiscal as against the budgetary allocation of Rs 111 crores.

Official sources told the Excelsior that modernization plan of the Police Department was the worst casualty not only during the ongoing financial year but the last year as well. Various proposals, which the Police Department proposed to implement, have taken a back seat while several schemes, which were at their final leg of implementation, have run beyond schedule.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had allocated Rs 127 crores worth budget to Police Department of Jammu and

Kashmir for modernization plan and implementation of various welfare measures for its personnel and completion of ongoing schemes aimed at making the police a more vibrant force.

However, even after the lapse of five months of current financial year, the Ministry of Home Affairs has not released a single penny to the Department for current financial year. Top brass of the Police Department have taken up the matter with the MHA and sought early release of funds for the modernization plan, sources said.

They pointed out that during the last financial year i.e. 2012-13, the MHA had allotted Rs 111 crores to Police Department. However, the Department just got Rs 22 crores i.e. Rs 89 crores less than the budgetary allocation. The Police Department before the end of last financial year had sent repeated reminders to the MHA seeking release of pending funds but to no avail.

"This time also, the situation is almost same. Five years have



Women perform rituals for the long life of their sons on Sunday on the occasion of 'Baccha Dua', a tradition followed in Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

10 pc DA hike on cards

NEW DELHI, Sept 1:

Ahead of festival season, Central Government will this month announce a hike in dearness allowance to 90 per cent from existing 80 per cent, benefiting about 50 lakh central employees and 30 lakh pensioners.

According to official source, dearness allowance hike will be

Asaram quizzed for 4 hours

JODHPUR, Sept 1:

Self-styled godman Asaram Babu, accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl at his ashram, was today remanded to police custody for a day after being grilled by Jodhpur police for about four hours.

72-year-old Asaram, who was flown from Indore where he was arrested after midnight amid high drama, cleared a potency test conducted on him at the SN Medical college here.

He was also taken to the Manai ashram, 30 km from Jodhpur,

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Check misuse of stamp papers: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 1: To check the misuse or re-use of stamp papers, the State High Court has directed all Registrars and Sub-Registrars to comply with certain instructions.

In order to keep proper record of stamps attached with original instrument, the serial numbers of the stamp papers attached with the original document should be recorded in the office records. The name of the stamp vendor and the date of purchase should be mentioned so that the possibility of using counterfeit stamp papers could be avoided, said a circular issued by the Registrar Vigilance,

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6 injured in 3 Valley blasts

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 1: Four security force personnel were among six persons injured in three separate explosions in Kashmir valley today.

Militants tonight lobbed a hand grenade at Police Station Amar Garh in North Kashmir's Sopore area of district Baramulla. The grenade fell inside the Police Station injuring two Special Police Officers (SPOs) identified as Mohammad Talib and Mehraj Ahmad.

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Sonia to fly to US for check-up

NEW DELHI, Sept 1:

Congress president Sonia Gandhi is travelling to the US for a medical check-up, a senior party leader said today.

"Her going to the US for medical check-up is due," he said but declined to give any details when asked about reports that she may be flying out tomorrow evening.

Gandhi, who had undergone a surgery in the US for an undisclosed ailment in August, 2011, had flown there for a check-up in February and again on September 2 last year.

The Congress president was on August 26 admitted to AIIMS hospital after she was taken ill in the Lok Sabha where her pet

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Geelani re-elected chairman TeH

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 1: Senior separatist leader and chairman of hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, was re-elected as chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat party for a term of three years.

A party spokesman said here that Geelani got 590 votes out of 669 votes polled while Mohammad Ashraf Sefrai got 66 votes in the elections that were held at party headquarters here today.

Geelani formed Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in August 2004 after his parent party Jamaat-e-Islami allowed him to form the party to

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Chouhan takes over as SSP Reasi

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 1: Mohammad Sharief Chouhan, a KPS officer of 1999 batch today took over as SSP Reasi.

The post of the SSP Reasi had fallen vacant on the retirement of Raghuraj Singh from the services yesterday.

Soon after taking over as SSP Reasi, Mr Chouhan reviewed security scenario in the district. He gave a detailed report to Minister for Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation on damages caused in the district due to floods.

Mr Chouhan had served as DySP Headquarters Kargil and SDPO Mahore when militancy in Reasi district was at its peak. He has also served United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

Power evacuation from unused Samba grid Standing Committee seeks timeframe from J&K for laying 220 KV network

*State's alternate connectivity with NG gets nod

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Sept 1: Taking serious note of the multi-crore 400 KVA Sub-Station at Samba remaining un-used for the past several months due to delay in settlement of some issues between the Jammu and Kashmir Government and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, the national level Standing Committee on Power System Planning has directed the Power Development Department to submit within 15 days the time-line required for laying 220 KV transmission line network from Samba to Burn. Moreover, the Standing Committee has approved alternate connectivity of the State with the Northern Grid through Samba-Jalandhar line and installation of second 400 KVA line between Jammu and Srinagar via Mughal Road.

Reliable sources told EXCELSIOR that the Standing Committee on Power System Planning in its 32nd meeting for

the Northern Region held under the chairmanship of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Chairperson Mr Ravinder at Union Capital last evening, has directed the Jammu and Kashmir PDD to submit within 15 days the time-line required to lay 220 KV transmission line network from Samba to Burn and from upcoming grid at Wanpoo near Qazigund.

"The delay in having this network for the Samba grid has resulted into non-evacuation of power till date and has rendered crores of rupees expended on the construction of grid unfruitful", sources said quoting the observations made by the Standing Committee.

"The Standing Committee also resolved the issue between J&K PDD and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) vis-à-vis connecting Samba grid with Hiranagar by 220 KV line and found weightage in the stand taken by the J&K PDD", sources said. The J&K has stressed that Samba Grid should be provided 220 KV connectivity with the

Hiranagar Grid by the PGCIL so that some power could be evacuated till the Samba-Burn transmission network is put in place.

While agreeing in principle to direct the PGCIL for providing 220 KV connectivity to the Samba Grid with the Hiranagar-Samba Inter-State Transmission System line, the Standing Committee made it clear that J&K PDD should speed up the work, which falls under its domain. Not only about Samba-Burn Transmission Line, the Standing Committee has also issued directions for submitting time-line vis-à-vis laying of 220 KV network for Wanpoo grid station near Qazigund, which is all set to be completed very shortly, sources informed.

The Standing Committee also approved the decisions

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Many unit holders refuse to resume repair work PDD fails to pay Rs 12 cr arrears of pvt firms repairing transformers

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Sept 1: Despite Cabinet decision to clear the dues worth crores of firms engaged in repairing of damaged transformers for the Power Development Department (PDD), the Government has released peanut amount of just Rs 2 crore in favour of over a dozen firms against the pending arrears of over Rs 14 crores.

With this, attitude of the Government, majority of the firms expressing anguish, have refused to resume the repair work of transformers and the general public is badly suffering during the humid days as pendency of transformers under repair has increased and there has been sharp rise in the public all set to be completed very shortly, sources informed.

Hardly 2 or 3 well-off firms, have resumed work while majority of other private firms are not willing to work under such con-

ditions. They alleged that despite claims of the Chief Minister to release funds, the State PDD authorities have failed to pay their pending arrears worth Rs 12 crore for the last one and half year whereas, the own workshops of the department are unable to take the load of repair work especially during peak summer months.

Authoritative sources told the Excelsior that over 70 per cent repair work of the damaged transformers of PDD was being performed by nearly a dozen odd private firms located at Gangyal, Bari Brahmana, Kathua, Samba and other places in the region besides a few in the Valley. The department had to pay nearly Rs 10 cr as arrears on account of repair/replacement of damaged power transformers to the private firms engaged for the work as on March 31, 2013. This amount has now gone up. These firms are demanding

release of their arrears. They had also given representations to the Chief Engineer PDD Jammu, Power Development Commissioner and the concerned Minister of State for Power, but the department failed to release their pending payments. These firms stopped the repair work of damaged transformers in June last but the State Cabinet in a decision in first week of July took decision to release arrears worth Rs 10 crore. But the Government released only Rs 2 crore for the purpose and roped in the firm owners to resume work in view of the peak hot summer season and increasing pressure of public. The pendency period of under repair transformers in Govt workshops also increased, with the result the public suffered badly during hot summer days. The PDD workshops are unable to take such huge load while general public has been

increasing pressure of public. The pendency period of under repair transformers in Govt workshops also increased, with the result the public suffered badly during hot summer days. The PDD workshops are unable to take such huge load while general public has been

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'People can't be befooled as Cong is in Govt for 11 yrs'

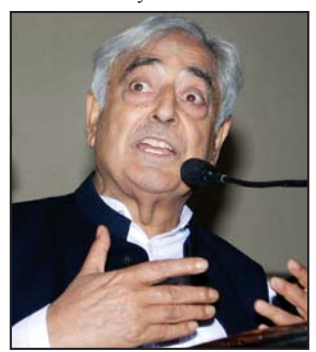
Mufti assails Cong for 'shadow boxing' on 73rd amendment

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 1: While launching frontal attack on the Congress Party today, former J&K Chief Minister and PDP patron, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed alleged that Congress stood exposed for its 'shadow boxing' and double standards on the 73rd Amendment as it continued to harp on the issue in the public despite the fact that it was ruling (in coalition) for the last 11 years in the State.

"Congress Party is in 'Coalition Government' in the State for the last 11 years. Being in Government and in power, if its leaders only harp in the public or give statements for the media consumption, it sounds of its double standards. It the lead-

ership is so serious on the issue why can't they talk with in the coalition? Why to raise this issue



only in public or before media? Ye Dogli policy nahi chalne wali. The people can not be befooled for long." Mr Sayeed said while launching election campaign for the party candidate Yash Paul Sharma for Jammu-

Poonch Lok Sabha constituency.

Referring to the repeated statements being given by the Congress leaders on 73rd and 74th amendments in public, Mufti said that failure of Government to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State was a clear indication that Congress leaders were giving statements only for public consumption but internally they were also not serious in strengthening democracy at grass root level.

"Had Congress leaders been serious in holding Civic Bodies polls or strengthening Panchayats, the Government would have taken some concrete steps in this regard," he observed and regretted that Congress leaders were indulging in double standards.

Mr Sayeed said the Congress raised this issue when Dr Manmohan Singh inaugurated Udhampur railway line in 2005. Since then, the party could not fulfill its commitment with the people.

"If you can not fulfill your promises made with public in the election manifesto while in power, you can never accomplish it when out of power. The people realize this fact and they can not be befooled any more. The PDP fulfilled all its commitments which were made with the public as per its election manifesto," he maintained.

Pointing towards delay in strengthening Panchayati Raj Institution in J&K and conducting Urban Local Bodies

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	Mainly clear sky.
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 27.1 Degree C
	Min: 18.6 Degree C
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 75.0 per cent
	Lowest: 54.0 per cent

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Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, UPA
Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister

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The Union Government promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance on 5th July, 2013. The bill is under the consideration of the Parliament.