

Audit unearths major land scam

Large scale post-Roshni encroachments regularized

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 14: A major land scam has been unearthed by the Audit findings of Roshni Act in the State as it has found large scale regularization of post-Roshni launch encroachments done by the officials.

The Principal Accountant General, Dr Subhash Chandra Pandey in its interim report based on the study of Roshni Act and Rules of 1250 land transfer cases in Budgam, Anantnag, Srinagar and Jammu districts has found that the scheme was announced without prior survey and identification of eligible beneficiaries leaving scope of post scheme launch encroachments being regularised.

Finance Department has taken serious note of the findings of the Audit. It has declared the findings as quite grave, raising questions of propriety in the implementation of the scheme and post scheme launch encroachments.

The Audit report on Roshni Act says that thousands of applications have been rejected but illegal occupants have not been

disposed of the illegally occupied land so far.

The report says that by fixing a cut off date for regularization at 31-03-2004, the scheme allowed the benefit even to those who actually occupy or claim to have unauthorisedly occupied public lands after the 2001 Act.

The interim report says that the main objective of the Act of raising resource for investment in power sector stand frustrated. "Only Rs 76.24 crore had been realised by 31st March 2013 as against Rs 25, 000 crore", the report reveals.

"Instead of assisting the State exchequer in raising resources, the rules facilitated transfer of precious public land to unauthorised occupants at the prices below market rates and large scale transfer of agriculture lands free of costs", the report reveals.

The report has declared as illegal all the transfers of lands shown as agriculture in the office records and all other land transfers done below committee-fixed price and has recommended its rescinding.

The report says that under

the rules, the implementation of the scheme of regularizing unauthorised occupation of State land has been entrusted almost exclusively to the very officials, whose statutory duty is to protect public lands from unauthorised occupation. "Anybody can claim to be unauthorised occupant and get public land almost free under the opaque system instituted by the Rules. Basic rules and canons of financial propriety and public accountability stand compromised", the report adds.

"There has been huge delay in the disposal of applications received for regularization. No priority list or waiting list is being maintained, leading to selective disposal of pending applications and attendant risks", the report adds.

The report has found that the cases that were cleared the payments are still pending. It says that it is not lawfully possible for any executive officer to entertain any payment received after 2 years in land transfer cases.

The report suggests that in such cases eviction process (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Proposal being mooted to strengthen institution of DVOs

Internal vigilance in Govt Deptts, PSUs remains depressing

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 14: Notwithstanding the fact that corruption has emerged as a major issue required to be tackled strongly, the internal vigilance in the Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings to check the corrupt practices has remained depressing despite repeated verbal and formal instructions from the higher authorities. Now, a proposal is being worked out in order to make the institution of Departmental Vigilance Officers eye and ear of the State Vigilance Commission (SVC) in real sense.

The process of appointment of Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVOs) on the pattern of Central Government in the State Government Departments and PSUs was actually started in 1994 with the issuance of Circular No.12 by the General Administration Department on February 22, 1994.

The decision was based on the facts that in majority of the complaints before the Vigilance Organization, allegations are mainly about violation of codal

formalities in the award of contracts, purchases, appointments, promotions and transfer and denial of services by the Government departments and unless more details become available these allegations don't attract provisions of the Prevention of the Corruption Act.

By describing them as helping hands of the Vigilance Organization, the Government, by way of Circular No.12, issued directions for appointment of DVOs so that internal vigilance improves in the departments.

However, the institution of DVOs failed to come up to the expectations and keeping this in view the GAD reiterated directions by issuing fresh circulars on June 19, 2002 and May 26, 2003 respectively.

Even the exercise of holding DVOs conferences twice in a year was set in motion to give impetus to the functioning of this institution but the situation today largely remains the same as was several years ago.

"The internal vigilance in the Government departments and PSUs remains depressing despite the fact that this concept (Contd on page 4 Col 1)



Beautiful waterfalls at Doodh Sagar in Beglaum. (UNI)

Chinese choppers violate airspace

LEH, July 14:

Two Chinese Army helicopters violated Indian airspace on July 11 in the Chumar sector in Ladakh, days after their soldiers intruded and took away an Indian surveillance camera.

The PLA choppers violated Indian airspace in the Chumar sector on July 11 around 0800 hours and returned after flying (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Army chief visiting Srinagar today

NEW DELHI, July 14:

In the backdrop of recent terror activities in the State, Army chief Gen Bikram Singh will be in Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow to review security situation with the State Government and top military commanders.

Gen Singh will reach Srinagar tomorrow where he will hold discussions with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Governor N N Vohra, senior Army sources told reporters here.

During the visit, the Army chief will be given a detailed briefing by the 15 Corps Commander Lt Gen Gurmit Singh on the activity (Contd on page 4 Col 5)

J&K seeks review of airfare for Haj

SRINAGAR, July 14:

The State Government has asked the Centre to review "exorbitant" airfare charged from pilgrims slated to perform the Haj for second time this year.

"The State Government has taken a strong note of exorbitantly higher airfare for the repeat pilgrims of Srinagar, in comparison with Delhi or other embarkation points as prescribed by the Haj Committee of India," an Government spokesman said here.

Although only 55 of the 8,819 pilgrims from the State are registered under repeat category, the State Government has taken up (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Petrol prices up by Rs 1.55

NEW DELHI, July 14:

Petrol price was today hiked by a steep Rs 1.55 a litre, the fourth increase in rates in six weeks, as falling rupee made oil imports costlier.

Oil companies raised petrol rates by Rs 1.55 a litre, excluding local sales tax or VAT, with effect from midnight.

Actual increase will be higher and will vary from city to city depending on local taxes.

Petrol price in Delhi has been hiked by Rs 1.86 per litre to Rs (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

EC to meet all parties on freebies

NEW DELHI, July 14:

The Election Commission will convene a meeting of political parties next month to formulate its opinion on the proposed guidelines on poll manifestos announcing freebies against the backdrop of the Supreme Court ruling in this regard.

Though the EC is preparing a background note on the issue, it is finding it difficult to formulate a clear policy on defining freebies announced by parties in their manifestos.

Sources say EC has started consultations on the issue of framing (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

15 kg IED, AK seized in Mahore

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 14: Troops of Rashtriya Rifles today recovered a consignment of arms and ammunition at village Sarh in Chana area of Mahore tehsil in Reasi district.

Reports said the troops conducted searches operation at village Sarh in Chana area after development specific information provided by credible sources and recovered the consignment hidden in the fields.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Shahrukh, Hrithik movies inspired Chinese intrusion

LEH, July 14:

As security agencies probe the motive behind the infiltration of three Chinese Muslims through Sino-India border, the trio is singing a different tune.

If the responses of the three persons to the interrogators are to be believed, it was the charm of Bollywood superstars Shahrukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan that apparently drove them to India. They were detained last month.

The three -- Salamo, Abdul Khaliq and Adil Thorsong -- at present in the custody of security agencies at Margo post in North of Ladakh after being detained on June 12 had told their interrogators about their dreams to enter India and earn money as they were facing acute poverty in their region, official sources said.

According to the sources, there was incoherence in their statements except that they were mesmerised by the charm of Bollywood superstars -- Khan and Roshan.

The three claimed that they were driven out by extreme poverty from home and wanted to come to India because they had seen it as a land of prosperity on the silver screen, the sources said.

All the three claimed during their interrogation, which was done separately, that the movies of Khan and Roshan were a hit in their area -- Kargalilik of Xianjiang province.

The trio, who knew only two languages -- Yarkandi and Uyghur -- gave a different version about their family background and the way used by them to come into India.

The security agencies were still not convinced and their interrogation would continue, the sources said. The three men, aged between 18 and 23, one of whom is one-eyed, were nabbed inside Indian territory on June 12

near Sultanchku.

They were at present in the custody at Margo post where the interrogators were flown along with a translator.

It was also not clear from where they had come as the nearest habitation across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was in North of Karakoram range. Authorities are working on the possibility that they could have entered through either Raki Nallah, Jeevan Nallah or North of Daulat Beig Oldie, where Indian and Chinese troops had a face-off for nearly 21 days from April 15 to May five.

The three men also could not give a clear description of the areas used by them to come to India. Besides this, apprehension was being expressed that the three could have been headed towards Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir which is barely 30 kms up North of the area where they were nabbed.

The three men were carrying a big political map and two smaller versions of the document with Arabic and Yarkandi script on it.

Besides this, they were carrying improvised swords and knives, tinned food including egg powder (useful in higher region), Chinese currency of over 900 Yuan and Chinese leather jackets.

The three claimed that the jackets, discarded by the Chinese troops, were picked enroute.

Both summer and winter road connectivity to this post were cut off due to bad weather in Ladakh region this year and therefore, the security agencies airlifted the interrogators and the translators to the post where they were detained.

According to the laid down procedure along the LAC, the custody of any accused apprehended in the area has to be with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and interrogation can be carried out by central security agencies. (PTI)

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, July 14: As the State Government's budget has already been hit badly by the less annual plan for 2013-14 than projected, it is expecting more trouble with power purchase bill also expected to surpass budgetary provision of Rs 3579 crores by about Rs 700 crores to Rs 800 crores.

Official sources told the Excelsior that though the revenue generated by the Power Development Department was also increasing every year significantly, the increase in power purchase bill was more than revenue. The Government was anticipating that the purchase

Losses may be around Rs 2500 cr

Power woes: purchase bill set to surpass budgetary provision

bill could stand around Rs 4300 crores to Rs 4400 crores much more than budgetary provision of Rs 3579 crores.

During 2012-13, the Government had kept budgetary provision of Rs 3100 crores for purchasing electricity from different resources mainly Northern Grid to meet the shortfall in the State. The budgetary provision was subsequently revised to Rs 3875 crores but it ultimately stood at Rs 4000 crores i.e. Rs 900 crores more than the budgetary provision.

Against this, the Power Development Department (PDD) had generated Rs 1450 crores worth revenue last fiscal resulting into net loss of about Rs 2500 crores to the State.

During current financial year, the Government has kept budgetary provision of Rs 3579 crores for power purchase notwithstanding the fact that it had purchased power worth Rs 4000 crores last year. With increase in electricity cost as well as demand, the Government was anticipating that it would have to revise the budgetary estimates for power purchase and the bill could go up to Rs 4300 crores of Rs 4400 crores.

As against Rs 1900 crores power target given to the Power Development Department in the last financial year of 2012-13, it had been able to generate Rs 1450 crores. Despite this, the

Government has fixed a virtually "non achievable target" of Rs 2340 crores for the PDD for current financial year of 2013-14.

Though the PDD has been increasing the revenue on account of power every year, the sources observed that it was not only difficult but virtually impossible for it to meet the target of Rs 2340 crores. The Department could fall short of target by about Rs 400 crores despite increase in electricity charges, slight reduction in Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses, covering more areas under electronic meters and taking other measures to increase revenue and curb the

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

'Cong suffers in coalition, fails to cover manifesto'

Setting aside factionalism, Cong puts up united face before 2014 polls

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, July 14: Setting aside factionalism and making fresh efforts of sinking 'differences', majority of the Congress leaders from both the factions put a united face by sharing the single platform during a large rally here today, sending a clear message to the opponents that Congress was still very strong and is all set to lead in the Assembly elections 2014.

Union Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and newly appointed in charge Congress affairs, J&K State, AICC general secretary Ambika Soni were supposed to address the rally

organized by District Congress Committee Jammu (Urban). However, they could not make it to the party function due to some engagements in the Union Capital. Majority of the party functionaries and workers were

*Pic on page 4 expecting the arrival of these leaders at the function.

Today's Congress rally had great significance for the party cadre as not only the leaders and party functionaries from both Azad and Soz factions but the rebel candidates from the party, who had contested last Assembly elections against official candidates, were also seen sharing the platform. While some of the party leaders, during

their address stressed for greater unity within the party leaving aside the 'petty differences' before polls, many of them complained that Congress was suffering in coalition as it has been lacking behind its partner in fulfilling the aspirations of the people and covering points mentioned in its election manifesto.

Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand who shared the dais with Prof Soz admitted that it (unity) should have been happened much earlier. "Der Aaye, Darust Aaye. It is never late to mend." Honestly admitting but downplaying, he further maintained "Groupism existed but it was just difference of opinion which is healthy sign in

any democracy. Due to this ideology, the Congress is a largest and strongest party in the country," the DyCM maintained.

Though many leaders from one faction were present, yet MoS Cooperatives and Finance Dr Manohar Lal and former ministers G S Charak, GM Saroori Jugal Kishore were found missing in the function.

Apparently, the PCC president and even the party ministers also came under 'mild attack' from their own party functionaries during their speeches, who alleged that Congress was suffering in coalition as many of its points of (Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Rush of yatris decreases

Over 10,000 perform darshan at holy cave

Avtar Bhat

SRINAGAR/ JAMMU, July 14: There has been a slight decline in the number of yatris visiting holy cave since last few days. The number of pilgrims paying obeisance at the cave shrine which was about 15,000 daily during the first fortnight has suddenly come down to 11,000 in the second fortnight.

The cause for the decreasing number of pilgrims is attributed to opening of educational institutions all over the country after summer break as well as strict restrictions imposed by Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) on the darshan of unregistered yatris due to which a large number of pilgrims also returned without performing darshan during the first fortnight.



Pilgrims on their way to the Amarnath cave shrine near Dhumail, Baltal in Sonamarg on Sunday. —Excelsior/Sajad Sameer

Internet Edition: www.dailyexcelsior.com
E-Paper: http://epaper.dailyexcelsior.com

INSIDE

- * Legislators immunity ...Page 8
- * PDP to play decisive role to change destiny of J&K people: Mehbooba ...Page 3
- * Nation not safe in hands of Congress: Murliidhar Rao ...Page 3
- * Bhalla asks JMC to intensify sanitation drive ...Page 5
- * Shankaracharya for widening of track Amarnath shrine ...Page 5
- * Farooq announces cash award for Shubam Khajuria ...Page 14

WEATHER

JAMMU
Possibility of light rain/thundershower.

TEMPERATURE
Max: 34.0 Degree C
Min: 24.9 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 83.0 per cent
Lowest: 68.0 per cent
Sunset on Monday: 07.40 p.m.
Sunrise on Tuesday: 05.36 a.m.

KASHMIR
Mainly clear sky.

TEMPERATURE
Max: 33.3 Degree C
Min: 19.5 Degree C

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Highest: 63.0 per cent
Lowest: 33.0 per cent

JAMWAL
Group of Institutions

ADMISSION OPEN

Punjab Campus www.tawicolleges.com

TAWI ENGINEERING COLLEGE B.Tech
Approved by AICTE/Punjab Govt., Affiliated to PTU
Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, E&C, Computer (Regular & Lateral Entry)

TAWI POLYTECHNIC Diploma
Approved by AICTE/Punjab Govt., Affiliated to PSBTE

Salient Features: 21 years' experience of managing Educational Institutions. The Campus spread over 350 kanals of land is on a hillock commanding a scenic view. Separate Hostels for Boys & Girls. Transport facility from Kathua. Special Scholarship Scheme of MHRD, Govt. of India for J&K students.

Register immediately to avail Special Scholarship Scheme for J&K 9 Kms from Lakhnapur (Jammu Border)

Jammu Campuses

Institute of Management Sciences (IMS) MBA MCA BBA BCA
NORTH Polytechnic (NP) Mechanical Computer Electrical Civil E & C IT
IECS Polytechnic (IECS) Diploma

For Admissions contact at:
Doda: Vision Finishing School, Top Floor, Fairday Building, Near Town Hall, Barath Road, Doda City. Phs. 9797435564, 9796477474
Ramban: Talwar Mobile Shop, Maitra, Ramban Ph. 9596816255
Bhaderwah: Khidmat Centre, Mandir Bazar, Bhaderwah Ph. 729848263, 9419870385
Kathua: TAC Building, Shaheed Chowk, Kathua. Phs. 9419224708, 9419195950
Billawar: Kawa Institute, Near Post Office, Billawar Phs. 8803774916, 9419114809
Printer: 1st Floor, Near Verma Jewellers, Main Chowk, Printer Phs. 9797414325, 9797414325
Bani: Anand Digital Studio, Bus Stand, Bani Ph. 9018779479 9906022129 Main Campuses

Jammu Campuses Purkhoo Camp, Domana, Jmu, Ph. 9469087774, 0191-2604464, 2604032
Gurha Brahmana (Patoli), Akhnor Road Ph. 9906019729, 0191-2605601-03

Punjab Campus Shahpur Kandi, Distt. Pathankot (Punjab) Ph. 09646028160, 08437895559, 01870-264600, 264602-03