

Omar approves Rs 109.47 cr Annual Plan for Jammu

***Measures being taken to make winter capital hub of pilgrim, conventional tourism**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today approved Rs. 109.47 crore Annual Plan 2013-14 for Jammu District which includes Capital component of about Rs. 66.96 crore and Revenue component of over Rs. 42.51

placing of such conditions makes the situation often more difficult.

The Chief Minister said that despite all odds on the financial front his Government is determined to move forward on road to progress and reach out every area for inclusive and equitable development. He

500 crores is being conducted. He said the project has been put to Asia Development Bank funding by the ERA. He said work on flyover is going on and widening of B. C. Road project is under active consideration. He said construction of Basantpur-Satwari Canal has been got cleared and its



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing DDB meeting at Jammu on Monday.

Chairing the District Development Board meeting of Jammu District of which he is also the Chairman, the Chief Minister dispelled the impression being created by certain quarters that the Union Government has curtailed the Annual Plan for 2013-14 for non-utilization of funds by the State Government during the last year and said that the average expenditure during the last year has been more than 90 percent in all the districts across the State with Jammu figuring at the top of the list by realizing 99 percent targets.

The Chief Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir is totally dependent on the Union Government for funding of Annual Plans, as such, the financial health at the Centre reflects on the fund flowing from the Government of India to the State. He said the Government of India maintained Rs. 7300 crore Annual Plan allocations for the State for the year 2013-14 despite financial constraints.

Omar Abdullah said that sometimes he envies financially sound States of the country which earmark thousands of crores for the development purposes including providing of 1 Kg ration at the rate of Rs. 1 to the people as these States do not depend on the Central support for announcing such schemes.

"Till the time we achieve that position we have to bear the constraint", he said, adding that his Government has initiated measures to give financial strength to the State so that it could spend required sums on the specific development issues on its own.

Omar Abdullah said that the State had to buy power for over Rs. 3600 crore annually and the total revenue realization as power tariff in the State is about Rs. 12 to 13 hundred crores. "The Planning Commission has placed a rider to the State to collect Rs. 2840 crore from power tariff for expending on development activities during the current fiscal", he said and added that

said expansion programmes in health and education sectors have been chalked out for the current fiscal besides consolidation strategy.

On the development of Jammu, Omar Abdullah praised the District Administration for achieving almost 100 percent targets and laid stress on ensuring outcomes of the development schemes rather than focusing on outputs. He said that this aspect has to be regularly monitored and people made aware of the outcomes of development programmes besides keeping them abreast with all details and financial status of schemes.

The Chief Minister said that the linking of railway to Katra would not hamper the economic activities in Jammu as the Jammu is the winter capital and second face of the State. He said moving of offices to this place annually from Srinagar will continue to generate economic activities and maintain its significance as the capital of the State.

Omar Abdullah said that Government is taking various measures to make Jammu a hub of pilgrim and conventional tourism. He said the Artificial Lake in River Tawi would be completed this year while the decks are being cleared to launch the ropeway project in Jammu City for which the Supreme Court team has visited the area and its report for clearance of the project is expected soon.

He also mentioned the restoration of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and beautification of Raghunath Bazar, adding that both the programmes are going on apace.

"I have provided Rs. 50 lakh last year for the beautification of Raghunath Bazar and same amount would be provided this year", he said, adding that additional amount to complete this project would be earmarked as per its requirement.

The Chief Minister also mentioned other ongoing development works in Jammu Division and said that preliminary work on Chenab Water Supply project involving Rs.

construction and restoration is on cards. He said OPD Block of Super Speciality Medical College has already been made functional while IPD will be operationalized this year. He said Department of Oncology in the Super Speciality Hospital is also in offing.

Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, Minister for PHE, Sham Lal Sharma, Minister for Planning and Development, Ajay Sadhotra, Minister for Housing Raman Bhalla, Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Vice Chairmen of various Advisory Boards, Member Parliament, Madan Lal Sharma, Legislators from Jammu District, Chief Secretary, Mohammad Iqbal Khandey, Principal Secretary Planning and Development, B. R. Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, B. B. Vyas, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Pradeep Gupta and District Development Commissioner, Jammu, Ajit Sahu were present in the meeting.

House Committee seeks property statements of JAKFED officers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 15: A meeting of House Committee (HC) of Legislative Council constituted to look into alleged bungling and embezzlement of public money worth crore of rupees in JAKFED was held under the chairmanship of MLC, Khalid Najeeb Suhawardy here today.

Legislators, Naresh Kumar Gupta, Ravinder Kumar Sharma, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar and Syed Mohammad Rafiq Shah attended the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on the issue and the Committee directed the concerned for submission of property statements of the officers posted during 1985 to 2000 in JAKFED. It also directed for submission of Audit Report of JAKFED since 1985 to the Committee.

The Committee also directed the Joint Registrar Audit, Jammu and Registrar Cooperative to come up with balance sheet in the next meeting.

Expressing displeasure over non-submission of relevant records by the concerned JAKFED authorities, the Committee directed to submit the same in the next meeting positively.

Secretary, Cooperatives, Special Secretary, Cooperative and Managing Director, JAKFED,



besides officers and officials of Council Secretariat also attended the meeting.

JKB RSETI Directors' conclave begins

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 15: Two-day conclave of Jammu and Kashmir Bank (JKB) Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Directors commenced today at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters, here.

Renuka Kumar, Deputy Secretary Ministry of HRD,



Government of India (GoI) presided over the inaugural event, while Farooq Ahmad Peer, Commissioner Secretary, J&K Rural Development Department was the chief guest. The conclave

was attended by KN Janardhana Chief Project Coordinator RSETIs, Mahesh Bhat Bali State Project Coordinator, Bank Presidents Nayeemullah, Abdul Rauf, SK Bhat, Vice Presidents and Zonal Heads, Directors RSETIs, LDMS and successful entrepreneurs.

Speaking about the significance of RSETIs in the overall development of the societies, Mushtaq

Ahmad, Chairman and CEO, J&K Bank said that helping a person to earn his livelihood with dignity is the best way to serve and empower the people.

He urged the Directors and all the concerned to put all the acts together and improvise further upon the performance to achieve the objectives attended by excellence and with a serious sense of social responsibility.

Chairman also announced cash prize of Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000 to Directors whose institutes have received grades 'A' and 'B' respectively.

Few of the entrepreneurs including women also spoke on the occasion. They recalled their journey to self-reliance and then to providing jobs to others with a deep sense of accomplishment.

Moved by the personal accounts of entrepreneurs at the conclave, Renuka Kumar gave a powerful presentation on the Government's envisaged role of RSETIs in the countrywide programme of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Speaking at the conclave, Farooq Ahmad Peer gave a detailed overview of the unemployment scenario in the State.

Earlier, K Janardhana gave a brief overview of the RSETI movement, its effective functioning and discussed various important issues.

Nayeemullah, Bank's Nodal Officer for RSETIs, presented vote of thanks, whereas Bank's Vice President A&AP AK Pandita conducted the proceedings.

An in-house corporate film on the functioning of JKB RSETIs was screened on the occasion. The film will also be screened in the RSETI Divas scheduled next month in Delhi.

Scholar suspended for manhandling JU security officer

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: Following a strong protest by the Jammu University security staff over alleged manhandling of the Chief Security Officer, JU administra-



tion today suspended the accused scholar from Botany Department.

The suspended scholar Anil Sharma along with his associates had allegedly manhandled JU Chief Security Officer R Dubey and also ransacked the Nehru Hostel under the influence of liquor on the intervening night of July 12-13, 2013.

Anil Sharma has been suspended till pending of the report by an inquiry committee, which is being constituted to look into the entire episode, informed JU Registrar Prof Manoj Dhar.

flash strike seeking stern and immediate action against the accused scholar. They closed all three gates of the University forcing the faculty members, non-teaching staff, scholars and students to enter the campus on foot leaving their vehicles outside the JU premises. The stranded vehicles on the road in front of JU gates led to traffic jam and chaos for more than two hours.

The protesting Security personnel could be pacified only after the University authorities ordered suspension of the accused scholar.

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Copter service from Pahalgam remains suspended due to bad weather Amarnath Yatra touching 2.50 lakh

Avtar Bhat

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, July 15: The Amarnath Yatra has touched 2.50 lakh in last 18 days of darshan.

According to an official spokesman 11,685 pilgrims performed the darshan in holy cave of Swami Amarnath situated at an altitude of 3880 metres in deep Himalayas in South Kashmir district of Anantnag since the first day of darshan on June 28.

He said with this the total number of pilgrims visiting the holy cave during last 18 days has reached to 2,48,186. Till last evening 2,36, 501 pilgrims had performed darshan in the cave shrine, he added.

He said the yatra is proceeding smoothly. However one pilgrim identified as Gouri Anit was injured after fall from horse at Panchtarni today. She was from Maharashtra. She was shifted to Joint and Bones Hospital, Barzulla Srinagar for treatment, he added.

The spokesman said that majority of these yatris have returned to their home states while others are on their way. He said despite drizzling in the morning and cloudy weather enroute the cave shrine, 11,685 pilgrims performed darshan of Ice Lingam in the holy cave today.

He said the helicopter service to the holy cave from Pahalgam remained suspended today due to bad weather. However, the copter service from Baltal plied normally despite the drizzling at Baltal in the morning hours, he added.

Spokesman, said that weather was clean at Pahalgam and Nunwan while it was cloudy at

Mahant Manjitt calls on CM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: Mahant Manjitt Singh called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and discussed various issues relating to the welfare of Sikh Community.

Mahant Ji also briefed the Chief Minister about the progress on the development of Medical College Complex for which Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah laid the foundation near Gadi Garh, Jammu.

The Chief Minister assured Mahant Manjitt Singh of the Government's determination to reach out all areas and all sections of the society for equitable and inclusive development.

Sheshnag and Panchtarni which hampered the copter service to holy cave.

He said 3,903 pilgrims left Nunwan- Pahalgam base camp under tight security measures for holy cave from traditional Chandanwari track while 4,049 left from Baltal base camp via shortest track. Besides, 1,525 pilgrims left by copter from Baltal to holy cave, he added.

He said the pilgrims stationed at Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni camps also started their journey for next destinations early this morning. While the pilgrims who left from Panchtarni and Baltal managed to perform darshan in cave shrine today and have started their return journey also, those who left from Chandanwari and Sheshnag will

reach cave shrine tomorrow and day after tomorrow.

Meanwhile a fresh batch of 1,027 pilgrims left for holy cave from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu base camp in a cavalcade of 43 vehicles under tight security measures early this morning. They included 710 male, 183 female, 9 children and 125 Sadhus. The cavalcade had crossed the Jawahar tunnel by the evening and where on their way to next destinations in Kashmir valley where from they will start their journey by foot to cave shrine tomorrow morning.

This is so far the lowest batch of pilgrims leaving Jammu base camp for holy cave since the first batch of yatra was flagged off from here on June 27, 2013.



Congress spokesman and former Rajya Sabha MP, Meem Afzal along with senior Congress leaders releasing pamphlet on National Food Security Ordinance during a press conference at Congress Headquarters in Srinagar on Monday.

No subsidy on sugar: Congress

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 15: The Congress party spokesperson Meem Afzal said that the Government is not in a position to provide subsidy on sugar to ration card holders due to low production of sugar-cane in Haryana and other States, and consequently closing down of scores of sugar manufacturing industries.

"Farmers in the country have stopped sugar-cane farming due to low market value of their produce and that affected production of sugar. Thus Government was compelled to lift subsidy on it," Afzal told media persons at the Congress party headquarters here.

Afzal said that sensing the continuous worries about sugar production in the country, the Government has already stopped export of sugar and started importing it from countries like Pakistan.

Briefing the media on the 'Food Security Ordinance', he described it as a welfare scheme that provides food grains and nutritional security at affordable prices for 67 percent of the population.

"The bill will cover 50 percent of urban population and 75 percent rural population, which is about 81 crore of the total population of the country, and rice, wheat and millets will be supplied to them for Rs 3, 2, 1 respectively a month," he said.

He said it will also give benefit to pregnant women, their children and school going children up to class 8.

Lashing out at Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, Afzal claimed Congress Parliamentarian Ajay Maken has provided figures and facts which testify Modi's Gujarat lags far behind in education, sports and other fields. "BJP runs on twitter and social networking sites only, they are confused party," he added.

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