

## Wani reviews status of PMGSY projects

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, July 25: To expedite the process of assessing the quantum of land compensation under PMGSY and its disbursement among the owners, the Minister for Roads & Buildings and Mechanical Engineering, Abdul Majid Wani today chaired a joint meeting of PMGSY functionaries and Revenue to review the status and other related matters with regard to such roads coming up in different parts of Jammu region. MLA, G M Saroori, besides senior functionaries of the two departments were present in the meeting. Reviewing district-wise and project-wise status of schemes, the Minister directed for disbursement of the available amount of compensation with the department within a month. He also directed for conducting joint inspection by PMGSY and Revenue officials to assess the amount of compensation scheme-wise and its early submission so that the issue of release of funds could be taken up with the centre. He warned the concerned functionaries against

any laxity in this regard. He also called for working in coordination and early settling of the issues, if any, regarding compensation to avoid hurdles in the completion of projects. The Minister said that the Government of India launched various flagship programmes under Bharat Nirman, of which PMGSY was most prestigious programme aimed at to connect each and every village with the nearest urban centers. He said that various projects were pending due to non-payment of land compensation in the state, adding that release of Rs.710 crore by the Union Government under the programme would help in completion of these projects. Elaborating upon the criteria under the scheme, Mr. Wani asked for preparing Detailed Project Reports to connect the habitations having a population of less than 500 souls also. Earlier, the meeting was informed that 552 projects are taken up under the programme in Jammu region, of which joint inspection on 356 have been conducted and 100 schemes have

been accorded final award. The meeting was informed that 49 schemes have been taken up for which Rs. 30.9 crore were released and Rs. 17.66 crore were disbursed as compensation up to June, 2013 in Kishtwar district. Similarly, for 65 schemes taken up in Doda district, Rs. 46.92 crore have been released and Rs. 37.46 crore disbursed as land compensation. Likewise, Rs 41.64 crore have been released for 39 schemes taken up in Ramban district, of which Rs. 29.97 crore was disbursed as land compensation, the meeting was informed. Among others, Deputy Commissioners of Doda and Kishtwar districts, Chief Engineer, PMGSY, Assistant Commissioners Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, representatives from Forest Department and engineers of the department attended the meeting.

## Bhalla for developing tourism infrastructure in Jammu

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, July 25: Minister for Housing and Horticulture, Raman Bhalla today convened a meeting of officers to discuss the matters related to the promotion of tourism infrastructure in Jammu city and other adjoining localities. Commissioner Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Atal Dulloo, Director Floriculture, Jammu, K.K. Sharma, Director Horticulture, Jammu, Anil Sharma and other officers of tourism and floriculture were present in the meeting. The issues related to the creation of new avenues for tourism development in and around the Jammu city were

discussed in the meeting. In the meeting the possibilities for developing new facilities as also to augment the existing ones were discussed. Mr. Bhalla impressed upon the officers to formulate projects for the development of new parks in the area. He also directed for restoration of Floriculture Park at Chatha Bhour camp as per its full potential to achieve its objective. He called for fresh look on the re-designing and development of the park with attractive facilities and forwarding the revised project to the Centre for funding. He also directed the Director Floriculture to re-visit the Baghe-Bahu Park and undertake necessary renovation works and create more facilities for the visitors. He asked for installation of 5-D Theatre for the amusement of children in the park.

## SPOs after ITI training can be eligible for conversion to constables: Kichloo

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
SRINAGAR, July 25: In first of its kind major welfare initiative for about 35000 SPOs working the J&K Police, Government today decided to impart crash course ITI training in Police related trades to SPOs in all the district headquarters of the State. Such training programmes can be organized even outside the State for the benefit of SPOs. Only such SPOs who will be ITI trained in Police related trades will be eligible for conversion to constables. Decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting held here today. The Minister of State for Home, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo presided.

The Minister of State for Technical Education, Vikar Rasool was also present. The Principal Secretary, Home Suresh Kumar, Director General of Police, Ashok Prasad, Secretary Technical Education, Parvez Malik, Director Technical Education Jaipal Singh, ADG Police, S. P. Vaid and concerned officers were also present in the meeting. It was decided that in the first phase about 500 SPOs will be trained annually. It was also agreed in the meeting that instead of Diploma, the SPOs having certificates from Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) will also be eligible for conversion a constable as also as

followers. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kichloo enjoined upon the concerned police authorities to explore all possible measures for the welfare of police personnel. He said that J&K police is considered as one of the disciplined and efficient belt force who has always offered supreme sacrifices for maintaining law and order and security in the State. He said Government will provide all the possible facilities and incentives to the police force to further enhance its efficacy and human interface. Viqar Rasool assured that the Technical Education Department will provide better possible vocational training to the SPOs and other police personnel to shape their future.

## NPP demands district status for Billawar, Akhnoor

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, July 25: Chairman of the National Panthers Party (NPP), Harshdev Singh (MLA) has lambasted the Coalition Government for its attitude of delay over the creation of new administrative units in the State. In a press statement issued here the NPP leader alleged that Government had belied the hopes and aspirations of the people of the State who had been repeatedly assured of time bound creation of new administrative units including new districts, tehsils, blocks, Panchayats and Patwar Halqas. He said the issue was agitated in successive sessions of Legislative Assembly and on each occasion the Government had assured early action in the matter on the basis of report of the Committee constituted for the purpose. He regretted that by neglecting the report of Mushtaq Ganai Committee which had been prepared after three years of strenuous exercise was indicative of highly biased and prejudicial approach of the Government towards the vital issue. He said entrusting the job after four years to Cabinet sub-committee

revealed the intentions of the Coalition Government which seemingly was averse to apolitical recommendations made by the said committee. While criticizing the ruling alliance for the highly unjustified and biased decision, Mr Singh said that Baloria Committee constituted in 2007 for the purpose which gave its report in 2009 had also met the same fate with the same Coalition Government. He said the Ganai committee had also extensive surveys and visited different parts of the State including remote areas during the past three years for identification of the deserving and eligible areas. A lot of effort and resources had gone into the preparation of the said report which unfortunately was discarded by a single stroke of pen, he regretted. Cautioning the Government to refrain from playing politics over the issue, he sought creation of new administrative units strictly on merit rather than narrow parochial political considerations. He demanded early creation of districts if Billawar, Akhnoor and tehsils for Basantgarh, Pancheri, Vijaypur, Purmandal, Jhour, Jindrah besides other deserving and eligible areas of Kashmir region.

## DDC reviews implementation of PC&PNDT Act

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, July 25: District Development Commissioner Jammu, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, today convened a meeting of District Advisory Committee for implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC&PNDT) to review the initiatives for strict implementation of the Act against the prenatal testing for sex determination. Threadbare discussion was held on various aspects of the Act including issuance of registration certificates for various ultrasound clinics. The DDC asked the concerned to ensure that the cases put forth before the committee are complete in all respects and all the legal and requisite param-

eters are met in accordance with the Act. He stressed on devising a regular monitoring mechanism to check functioning of ultrasound clinics and ensure that no sex determination tests are carried out and strict action under law is taken against those involved in such mal practices and also against the unregistered clinics. Exhorting the need for better coordination between the concerned agencies and the NGOs for generating mass awareness about the Act, the DDC said that the need is to bring about a change in the mindsets of the people to check the declining sex ratio. He said stringent laws along with motivating the people in a right perspective is imperative to bring about a social change and deter the people to indulge in such practices.

## BJP announces candidates for LAHDC elections

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
KARGIL, July 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today announced the candidates for the 3rd LAHDC Kargil elections. The candidates were announced by Dr Nirmal Singh, during a public rally at Baroo, here. For Baroo, the candidate is Sheik Nasir, for Town is Mohammad Hussain, president, Yuva Morcha, Kargil, for Poyan is Haji Mohammad Hassan, secre-

tary, Yuva Morcha and for Choskoire is Mohammad Ali, secretary, BJP, Kargil. Dr Singh while talking to media said that the party will file its candidature for 23 seats out of total 26 and will contest with some allies on remaining 3 seats. Earlier, president Haji Ghulam Mohammad Khudam announced that if NDA Government will be back in the Centre, then they will ask for opening of Kargil-Skardu road.

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