

Govt approves 50 pc plan for all districts for 6 months

*** Delayed approval won't hit works**

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, June 13: With plan finalisation getting delayed, the State Government has decided to extend authorization of 25 per cent utilisation of plan expenditure to 50 per cent from June 30 for next three months. The decision would help the district administration to go ahead with ongoing development works and take up other works identified by the District Development Boards (DDBs), whose meetings have already been set into motion.

"Delay in finalisation of the State's annual plan for current financial year of 2013-14 didn't mean that the Planning Commission of India was discriminating with Jammu and Kashmir. There are many other States, whose plan was yet to be finalised," official sources said.

With no new date finalised as yet by the Planning Commission for the State's final plan meeting after cancellation of May 20 and June 2 meetings, the Government has decided to increase authorization of the districts for plan expenditure from 25 per cent to 50 per cent.

CJI visiting Valley for 2-days from June 16

*** To inaugurate J&K Judicial Academy**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 13: Chief Justice of India, Justice Altamas Kabir is arriving in Srinagar for two-day visit from June 16. This would be Justice Kabir's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after becoming the Chief Justice of the country in September 2012. He, however, has paid several visits to Jammu and Srinagar as senior most Judge of the Supreme Court.

According to the itinerary of his visit, Chief Justice of India will arrive at Srinagar airport at 1 pm on June 16 and at around 2 pm he will inaugurate Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy's complex at Mobinabad, Srinagar

plan allocation of 25 per cent to the districts for first three months of the current financial year i.e. April 1 to June 30. It would be extended to 50 per cent for another three months up to September 30.

In the meantime, the Government hoped that the Planning Commission of India would finalise the State's annual plan and it would be able to release 100 per cent funds for the districts within the time frame for developmental works.

Sources said the increase in plan authorization for the districts was necessitated as the Government anticipated that its plan finalisation could take few more days as so far there had been no communication from the Planning Commission on the date for final meeting.

"Nevertheless, we expect our plan to be finalised in the next few days," sources said.

They added that 50 per cent plan allocation for the district was sufficient to carry on with ongoing development works and take up more works, which were identified by the people's representatives in the District Development Board (DDB) meetings.

Pointing out that the State's annual plan in one year in the late nineties was finalised as late as November, sources said the delayed plan approval was not going to have any adverse impact on the development as the State utilised its own resources for funding 25 per cent or 50 per cent plan allocation for the districts for the first six months of the financial year till the annual plan was finalised.

Moreover, they noted, the payments for the development works undertaken in the hands by the District Development Commissioners on the basis of the DDB meetings, had to be made in parts and by then the State would get nod for its annual plan.

The Government has, meanwhile, directed the DDCs to ensure that the development works didn't suffer in the absence of plan approval. They have been asked to utilise the resources at their command for the development works.

The State has sought Rs 8050 crore worth annual plan for 2013-14 and Rs 600 crores under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction plan as against Rs

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Fear of damages increasing during rainy season looms large Ditched by Govt, earthquake victims reject financial aid

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 13: Feeling ditched by the Government after being promised the moon, the earthquake victims of Chenab valley have flatly refused to accept the financial assistance for the restoration of their damaged houses on the ground that the aid was too paltry to bring them out of the prevailing situation.

Due to this stand of the natural calamity hit people of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, the Government is in quandary as on one side the Union Government has not given any nod to Rs 607 crore relief package sought by the State Cabinet and on the other side fear of damages increasing during forthcoming rainy season is looming large.

According to the official sources, 1139 houses got damaged fully, 14269 severely and 56500 partially in the earthquake, which rattled Chenab valley region comprising districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban on May 1. Soon after the announcement of Rs 25 crore by the Chief Minister on May 6, the civil administration of these districts started prepar-

ing the cases for disbursement of financial help to the people for restoration of damages suffered by their houses.

Following the laid down norms, the administration conveyed to the people that an amount of Rs 35,000 would be paid for the fully damaged Pacca houses and Rs 15,000 for fully damaged Kacha houses. Similarly, the administration offered Rs 6300 for Pacca houses, Rs 3200 for Kacha houses under the severally damaged category and Rs 1900 for the partially damaged houses.

However, not even one family has taken this financial assistance till date and made it clear to the administration that they would prefer not to repair their houses instead of taking paltry sum from the Government.

"Several Ministers and other politicians on behalf of the Government had announced that we will be provided relief at par with the flashflood victims of Ladakh but now we are being told to accept paltry sum", some hapless people told EXCELSIOR, adding "had the Government not been able to treat us at par with Ladakh people it should not have promised the moon to

us".

"Don't add insult to the injury by offering paltry amount. Instead you take Rs 1900 or Rs 3200 from us for the Government coffers", sources said quoting a group of angry people having told a visiting senior Cabinet Minister at Doda recently.

In response to a question, sources said, "the Government is in quandary as on one side the people have refused to accept the financial aid under the existing norms and on the other side the Union Government has not taken any decision on Rs 607 crore demand projected by the State Government". No doubt the Government has proposed Rs 2 lakh for houses having suffered more than 60% damages and Rs one lakh for less than 50% damages before the Union Government, the same would become reality only after the Centre sanctions the package, sources added.

Justifying the demand and immediate release of financial aid at par with Ladakh, sources said, "if the people fail to repair the damages the situation is going to become worse during

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IAS officer, wife among 4 killed in Leh

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 13: In a tragic road accident in Leh, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and his wife were among four persons killed and three others, including another IAS officer and an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer were injured in Ladakh region today.

Police identified the dead as IAS officer Dharma Rao, Commissioner Industrial Board, Bhopal; his wife Vidya Rao, Kumet Singh and the driver, Chemet Dorjay son of Tsering Namgyal of Hamaskot, Kargil.

All of them died on the spot of the accident when their vehicle fell into a deep gorge at Khardungla, 18,380 feet above sea level, on Leh-Nubra road.

IG Vigilance Bhopal, Ashok Awasti, his wife Manjori Awasti and Shivindira Singh IAS (PO) Development Project Authority, Bhopal, were injured in the mishap, police

SMVDSB employee among 5 killed

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, June 13: An employee of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and his wife were killed while two others injured when a car, they were travelling in, met with an accident in Pathankote Punjab last evening.

An SMVDSB employee identified as Kapil Dev along with his wife Sunita Devi, daughter Isha and a village Sarpanch Suresh Kumar who

The injured were shifted to Leh hospital for treatment, police said. They said the group of officers from Bhopal was on a holiday in Ladakh.

Police said that five persons were injured in different road accidents in Valley today, police said.

Police said that in a collision between a Tata Mobile (JK02AD/9342) and a Maruti car (JK02N/9982) at Vesoo near a petrol pump at Qazigund in Kulgam district, two men Arif Ahmad Ganie son of Sonaullah and Azad Ahmad Rather son of Mohammad Ramzan of Quimoh, were injured.

A Tipper (JK04/4487) hit and injured a pedestrian Abdul Hamid Dar son of Abdul Ahad of Bundgam at Bundgam, Budgam. Dar was shifted to Bone and Joints Hospital, Srinagar for treatment, police said.

Police said a Tata Sumo (JK14A/0481) hit and injured a

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Sonia meets PM on reshuffle

NEW DELHI, June 13:

Congress President Sonia Gandhi today met Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in the backdrop of speculation of a cabinet reshuffle.

The meeting also came on a day when the Government's plan to push through an ordinance on food security bill came a cropper amid indications that the Government could begin the consultation process with the opposition on the issue from tomorrow.

A reshuffle-cum-expansion of the Union Council of Ministers as well as the AICC has been pending for a long time and is likely happen in a week. This may be the last reshuffle in the UPA 2 with Lok Sabha elections less than a year away.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Advani visiting on June 23

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 13: BJP veteran L K Advani is visiting Jammu on a day's visit on June 23 on the occasion of 60th death anniversary of Jan Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

This was likely to be the first visit of Advani to any State after recent controversy shrouding his resignation from all top party posts followed by their withdrawals on the intervention of RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Mr Advani would attend a non-political function organised by Pt Prem Nath Dogra Trust here at 11 am on June 23. He would release

(Contd on page 6 Col 4)

FIR against Health Minister's brother

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 13: After the lapse of over 43 days, the police has finally registered a case on the directions of State High Court against the two doctors including a real brother of Minister In-charge Health Shabir Ahmed Khan for the death of 18-year-old boy due to negligence in Rajouri hospital.

A senior police officer said that an FIR No. 297/ 2013 under Section 304-A RPC has been registered in Rajouri Police Station against Dr Vijay Gupta, ENT Specialist and Dr Mohd Bashir Khan (Anaesthetist), real brother of MOS, Health (Independent charge) Shabir Ahmed Khan. On the directions of State High Court, the

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

2 Judges get STS, 8 SG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 13: The full court, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Justice, M M Kumar, accorded sanction to the placement of two Sessions Judges in the Super Time Scale of the Higher Judicial Service and nine District and Sessions Judges in the Selection Grade.

According to the order issued by Registrar General, Suresh Sharma, Kartar Singh, Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu and M K Hanjura, Principal District and Sessions Judge Kathua have been placed in the Super Time Scale of Higher Judicial Service. Kartar Singh has been given the scale retrospect-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Guv, GOC review security

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 13: Governor N N Vohra and Commander of Srinagar-based 15 Corps of Army today discussed various issues relating to internal and external security management in the Valley ahead of annual Amarnath pilgrimage.

General Officer Commanding of Chinara Corps Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh called on the Vohra at Raj Bhavan this afternoon and during their meeting, they discussed various issues relating to internal and external security management besides the security arrangements being made for the yatra to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath at an altitude of 3,880 metre, an official spokesman said.

(Contd on page 6 Col 2)

Mush sent to judicial custody

ISLAMABAD, June 13:

Former President Pervez Musharraf was today formally arrested and remanded to judicial custody for a fortnight over the 2006 killing of Baloch nationalist leader Akbar Bugti.

Musharraf, 69, was arrested by a team from the Crime Branch of Balochistan Police.

The team was sent from Quetta to Islamabad yesterday after an anti-terrorism court in Balochistan rejected Musharraf's bail application and ordered his arrest.

Acting on a request from the Balochistan Police team, an anti-

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Work on 93 mw New Ganderbal Project to begin this year

Avtar Bhat

SRINAGAR, June 13: With authorities optimistic to get the design clearance from Central Water Commission (CWC) by end of this month, the work on 93 megawatt New Ganderbal Hydro Electric Power Project will be started within this year.

According to high placed sources, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has already been approved and the team of CWC engineers headed by its Director had also visited the State on

May 29 to inspect the site and the additional changes in the design are to be cleared by this month end so that the work on the Project can be started within this year.

A team of senior officers of the Power Development Corporation (PDC) which is constructing the Project led by Basharat Dar, Managing Director, had already met the Chairman CWC, senior engineers and officers at New Delhi and discussed the Project report with them, sources added.

Sources said over Rs 861

crore project will be completed within four to five years after the commencement of the work. The multi purpose project besides boosting the power generation will also provide irrigation facilities to the Ganderbal area and drinking water supply to Srinagar city, sources added.

Providing irrigation facilities to farmers and drinking water supply to the people of Srinagar city will be the greatest advantage of this Project, sources said, adding it is the first power project in the State which besides generating hydro electricity will also become an alternative for providing drinking water facilities to Srinagar city and Irrigation facilities to farmers in Ganderbal belt.

Sources said the project has

been designed to tackle the drinking water problem of the city upto year 2030.

Sources said the Project has already got the environment clearance from Ministry of Forest and the land acquisition process is 50 per cent complete. The negotiations are in final stage with the farmers also whose land comes in the project, sources added.

Sources said the technical qualification tenders were already called and some ancillary works like providing of infrastructural facilities including construction of roads to Project site and office buildings have been started.

The 93 mw project will be of three units with each unit having capacity of generating 31 mws

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Slow pace of work on Dastgeer Sahib shrine irks devotees

Mir Iqbal

SRINAGAR, June 13: One year after the Dastgeer Sahib shrine at Khanyar in Srinagar was completely gutted in a blaze, the State Government at that time has promised to give priority to restore the shrine to its architectural glory with a blend of traditional and modern Islamic architecture within the stipulated period of two years.

Sajada Nasheen of the shrine, Syed Khalid Geelani says that the work on the re-construction of the shrine is going at slow pace. "The Shrine was gutted in June last year and the State Government had promised to construct it on fast track basis in two years. However, its completion on time seems to be doubtful", he said.

"The way work is going on in the shrine in a slow pace, then it will take many years to com-

plete it." Geelani said. He said that more labourers and other construction workers should

have been engaged if the shrine was to be constructed on fast track basis.

"The basic structure was to be completed in 6 months and it is still under construction. The construction agency blamed winter and rains for the delay. Now, we want that there should be no delay in interior work. I hope for interior work on the shrine, Government will ask the construction agency to engage more men," Geelani said.

The Jammu and Kashmir

Project Construction Corporation (JKPCC) officials said that the work is

going on with good pace and they have completed 90 per cent of structure within these months and hoped to complete rooftop of the shrine within a

week.

"We have almost completed 90 per cent of the work on the



The reconstructed portion of Dastgeer Sahib.

Excelsior/Amin War

shrine, and within one week we will complete its rooftop; then for interior work, some other agency is working," a top offi-

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