

State to seek inclusion of more projects in PMRP PM reviews works with top brass ahead of J&K visit

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, June 21: Even as Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh today reviewed the status of Rs 37,000 crore work under Prime Minister's Re-construction Plan (PMRP) in Jammu and Kashmir with top officials of the Government of India ahead of his two days visit to the State beginning June 25, the State administration geared up to seek inclusion of some more projects under it from the current financial year and release of funds blocked under the plan last fiscal.

Rehabilitation of Dal lake dwellers and construction of Mughal road were two major projects undertaken under the PMRP, which were likely to be completed during the current financial year. A handsome amount under the PMRP is being used to check Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses in the power sector.

Official sources told the Excelsior that Dr Singh reviewed the pace of PMRP works—both in Central and State sector—with top brass of PMO and other Ministries including his Principal Secretary

Pulok Chatterjee, Advisor TKA Nair, Home Secretary-designate Anil Goswami and Planning Secretary Sindhu Shree Khullar. Mr Nair, Mr Goswami and Mrs Khullar had been to Jammu and Kashmir during past one and a half months separately to review various development projects in the State especially the PMRP.

Sources said the PMRP was to the tune of Rs 24,467 crores when it was announced by Dr Singh in 2004 as head of UPA-I but had subsequently gone up to Rs 37,000 crores due to massive cost escalation of various projects in both Central and State sectors mainly due to delay in execution of projects.

Sources said the PMRP involved 67 projects and schemes covering 11 sectors of the economy including expansion of infrastructure and basic services and employment generation.

They added that Dr Singh was briefed in the meeting that 34 projects and schemes have been completed and work in 28 is in progress.

Among the projects completed are setting up of 1,000 micro hydro-electric projects, electrification of all villages, expansion of total literacy campaign to

remaining three districts of Kargil, Poonch, and Doda and training to enhance skills of youth for IT/BPO sector at Jammu and Srinagar.

The other schemes completed are starting of six new degree colleges and setting up of five women's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the Kashmir valley.

The completed projects also include relief and rehabilitation for the displaced families and victims of militancy. This involved construction of two-room tenements for Kashmiri migrants and construction of temporary shelters, rebuilding of village infrastructure and repair and restoration of damaged houses for people on the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC) affected by cross-border shelling.

Sources said top brass of the State administration headed by Chief Secretary Mohammad Iqbal Khandey have also prepared detailed presentation on review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the PMRP.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was likely to bring more projects under the PMRP. (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Cabinet orders transfers of 6 IAS officers Omar prevails upon party Minister, sanctions package for Jammu migrants

* Civil System of Accounting put on hold
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 21: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today prevailed upon his Cabinet colleague and gave nod to Rs 91.56 crore package for the Jammu migrants, which will now be forwarded to the Union Government for funding. The Cabinet also ordered transfers and postings of 6 IAS officers with immediate effect.

Besides, the Chief Minister also directed the Finance Minister, Abdul Rahim Rather to put on hold the Civil System of Accounting in various works departments as the same had stalled the developmental activities across the State.

Sources told EXCELSIOR that when the package for return and rehabilitation of Jammu migrants came up for discussion in the Cabinet, a senior National Conference Minister expressed reservations over according approval to the same on certain 'flimsy' grounds.

However, he failed to convince the Cabinet colleagues with Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah stating that since the package would be funded by the Union

Government on the analogy of one sanctioned for the Kashmiri migrants there was no justification behind opposing the same, sources said. Accordingly, Chief Minister directed that the package prepared by the Revenue Department should be forwarded to the Centre for necessary action.

It is for the first time since 1995-96 that any comprehensive package has been prepared for 1054 families, which migrated from various parts of Jammu province due to the militancy. Denial of package on the pattern of Kashmiri migrants had also led to litigations in the State High Court which finally gave verdict in the favour of migrants.

However, the verdict of Division Bench of State High Court was challenged by the State before the Supreme Court and the same was disposed off with the directions to the State to provide relief to the Jammu migrants as per the policy. At present these migrants are getting cash assistance of Rs 400 per person per month subject to maximum of Rs 1600 per family, 9 (Contd on page 6 Col 3)



A farmer plucks lychees in his garden on Jammu's outskirts.

—Excelsior/Rakesh

Cordon, frisking in Lal Chowk

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, June 21: Panic gripped Lal Chowk this afternoon after police assisted by the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) cordoned off city centre and conducted frisking of the commuters and passersby.

Police and CRPF cordoned off Lal Chowk area at around 3 p.m and conducted searches of the vehicles and frisked the commuters and pedestrians.

The commuters and pedestrians were stopped by the police (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

U'khand toll 207, 50000 trapped

DEHRADUN, June 21:

Rescuers found 40 bodies floating in the Ganges river near Haridwar today taking the death toll to 207 in the massive flooding in Uttarakhand, as they intensified efforts to evacuate 50,000 people still stranded in different inaccessible parts of the hill State.

Nearly 34,000 stranded people were evacuated in operations on a war footing launched by multiple agencies including the Army, IAF and ITBP since the heavy monsoon rains pounded the state a week ago.

The IAF deployed 13 more aircraft for relief and rescue work, taking to 43 the total number of planes in operation.

The aircraft including IAF's heavy lift Mi-26 helicopters—the world's largest chopper—for transporting fuel and heavy equipment required by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to clear roads closed due to landside and also set up an airbridge in one affected area to pull out stranded persons.

As the terrible magnitude of nature's fury continued to unfold and survivors spoke of untold miseries, the death toll was expected to rise with Uttarakhand Principal Secretary Rakesh Sharma (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Good signals from Pak: India

NEW DELHI, June 21:

India today said the Nawaz Sharif Government in Pakistan has given 'good signals' in normalizing bilateral ties but cautioned against expecting "magic overnight".

"With the new Government (in Pakistan), good signals have been given by them. But I don't think we should expect magic overnight", External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said, apparently referring to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's pledge to "progressively pursue" normalisation of ties with India.

"I think we should wait for a little more time and give (them) little more time to show what they (Pakistan) are able to do and what they are capable of doing," Khurshid told reporters on the sidelines of the opening of ASEAN-India Centre at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) here.

"Government of India is engaged in both keeping track of what was happening in Pakistan and also ensuring that the channels of communication remains open in our interest," he said.

Earlier, while addressing the gathering, he said the ASEAN- (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Army reviews yatra security

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 21: Amid intelligence inputs of terror threat to Amarnath yatra, the Army today reviewed security measures for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage to the 3,880 mt high cave shrine, scheduled to start on June 28.

"A security conference was organised today by Counter Insurgency Force (Delta) to co-ordinate security issues with various agencies involved in providing security and other administrative arrangements for smooth conduct of the Amarnath yatra," a defence spokesman said here.

The conference was chaired by Officiating General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Counter Insurgency Force (Delta), Brig H S Faujdar.

Brig Faujdar assured the civil administration of all Army support for the smooth conduct of Amarnath yatra, the spokesman said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, representatives of J&K Police and CRPF, apart from other officers of the Army were (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

34 AEEs promoted as X-Ens

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 21: Government today accorded sanction to the placement of 34 Incharge Assistant Executive Engineers as Incharge Executive Engineers (Civil) Hydraulic Wing with immediate effect.

The promotes are Itfikhah Ahmad Kakroo, Azad Ahmed Beigh, Manzoor Ahmed Wani, Ali Mohammad Kachroo, Ferooz Ahmad Ahanger, Naveen Chander, Ghulam Mohammad Ganai, Prathvi Pal Arora, Masood Hussain Sahaf, Zaffar Ahmad Faktoo, Ferooz Ahmad War, Mohammad Afzal Charoo, Altaf Ahmed Koul, Afroz Ahmed Mir, Mohammad Shafi Sofi, Gh Rasool Ahanger, Chander Shekher, Ved Raj, Ghulam, Ahmad Beigh, Manjeet Kotwal, Basharat Jeelani Kawoosa, Kuldeep Kumar Badyal, Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Itfikhah Ahmad Wani, Hamesh Manchanda, Sandeep Dhar, Manish Kumar Bhat, Naseer Ahmad Kakroo, Rajiv Abrol, Kuljeet Singh Hans, Virander Kumar Gupta, Bashir Ahmad Kuchey, Manoj Gupta and Vinay Gupta.

Upon promotion, the services of Itfikhah Ahmad Kakroo, (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

Pak woman's body handed over

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, June 21: Body of a Pakistani woman, who had died due to renal failure in the Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, was today handed over to his family members at Chakan-Da-Bagh on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district.

The woman Zainat Bibi, 58, wife of Mohammad Sharief, a resident of Gujranwala, Pakistan had come along with her husband to the residence of Mohammad Latif Mughal at Gambhir Mughal in Manjokote area of Rajouri district last month.

She was taken ill and shifted to District Hospital, Rajouri yesterday from where she was referred to the GMC Jammu, where she died.

Authorities at Chakan-Da-Bagh headed by Trade Facilitation Officer (TFO) Bashir Ahmad Lone handed over the body of the woman and repatriated her husband to PoK. TFO Hajeera, PoK, Parvez Kayani received the body.

Indoor service in 2 weeks SSH unlikely to become fully operational soon

Nishikant Khajuria

JAMMU, June 21: Super Specialty Hospital Jammu is unlikely to become fully operational soon even as Indoor services by a few departments are likely to be started by first week of next month.

According to the reliable sources in Medical Education Department, delay in getting

and Urology are likely to be started in phased manner within days, probably in first week of next month.

When contacted, the Minister for Medical Education Taj Mohi-ud-Din informed that everything was ready and Indoor services in the Super Specialty are likely to be started within two weeks. "Even as some advanced



SSH Jammu awaiting formal commissioning.

—Excelsior/Rakesh

some advanced equipments for operation purpose and ventilators, non availability of required para-medical staff and funds are major hurdles in making the Super Specialty Hospital fully operational.

While the advanced equipments worth crores of rupees for Neurosurgery have to be procured by the Government of India, the arrangement of ventilators and para-medical staff is the responsibility of the State Government, sources said.

Though orders have been placed for the ventilators and the Neurosurgery equipments while the process for engaging required para-medical staff is already on, the Super-Specialty has to wait for more time to become fully operational and get formally inaugurated by some VVIP, sources further said.

By the time, sources added, Indoor services in Cardiology, Cardio Thoracic, Nephrology

equipments for Neurosurgery are in the process of reaching here, we are ready to start the Indoor service of other departments, which are fully equipped to handle the cases," he said adding that around ten ventilators were presently available with the hospital while order for more has already been placed.

However, at the same time, he made it clear that it would take some time to make the hospital fully functional for its formal inauguration, most probably by UPA Chairperson and AICC president Sonia Gandhi.

Pertinent to mention that the Super Specialty Hospital Jammu, taken under the Prime Ministers Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) at the cost of Rs 135 crore, has already missed several deadlines for becoming fully operational. The last deadline was fixed as May 31 but (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

HC Judges to carry out inspections of courts CJ sets new targets for disposal of cases by each court in J&K

* All cases pending for 5 yr & above being decided this yr

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, June 21: Keeping in view the encouraging results of the first Action Plan, Chief Justice of State High Court, Justice M M Kumar, has set new targets for each and every court across Jammu and Kashmir in order to ensure disposal of all those cases which have been pending for the last five year and above by the end of the current financial year.

Authoritative sources told EXCELSIOR that enthused over the remarkable achievement vis-à-vis disposal of pending cases during the first Action Plan period (from September 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012), the High Court on the directions of Chief

Justice M M Kumar has circulated 2nd Action Plan to each and every court across the State for the current financial year.

"In the 2nd Action Plan the targets have been fixed for disposal of all those civil and criminal cases which have been pending for the last five years and above", they said. During the first Action Plan the figures of pending cases were consolidated at the level of Principal District and Sessions Judge of each district but this year the figures have been called for and collected directly from each and every court in the State.

"This has been done to make it possible for the Chief Justice and the concerned Administrative Judges to keep a close eye on the disposal rate

of every court", sources said, adding "in order to facilitate the Presiding Officers of these courts to achieve the set goal, the Chief Justice in coordination with the Administrative Judges has held video conferencing with the Principal District and Sessions Judges, Additional District and Sessions Judges and Sub-Judges/Chief Judicial Magistrates of Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Jammu, Kupawara, Leh, Poonch, Pulwama, Rajouri and Ramban districts.

Apart from holding video conferencing, the Judges of the High Court, who also happen to be Administrative Judges, are likely to make extensive touring and inspections of the courts

As per the High Court data, (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Ministers got works executed without approval

Financial crisis leads to Rs 700 cr liabilities

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, June 21: With State reeling under severe financial crunch, the liabilities of contractors in various Engineering Departments have accumulated to Rs 700 crore since 2008 in the State and the Government has so far failed to clear them due to paucity of funds.

According to highly placed sources, the main reason for accumulation of the liabilities in Engineering Departments was construction of works by the ministers in their respective constituencies without proper approval and plan.

Admitting that liabilities have accumulated in

Engineering Departments, Tanveer Jahan, Commissioner cum Secretary Works told Excelsior that the delay in release of funds has been due to lack of plan approval and accounting changes. She said in R&B Department liabilities were worth Rs 200 crore to Rs 300 crore and the department is in the process of releasing the funds after the plan approval.

Meanwhile, official sources told Excelsior that liabilities accumulating to Rs 700 crore are lying in various Engineering Departments including R&B, Irrigation & Flood Control, Tourism, UEED, PHE etc and

The non clearance of bills of contractors for years together has led to a lot of resentment among them and they are left with no alternative but to come to streets in protest against it.

The J&K Contractors Coordination Committee which has already given an ultimatum to Government will resort to one day protest in front of the Lok Nirman Bhawan here tomorrow which will be followed by another massive protest at Srinagar on June 26 or 27, said Jeelani Purza president of the Coordination Committee of the Contractors.

Admitting that liabilities have accumulated in other places. "After demolition of some building on the way to Rambagh crossing, we started work from Sericulture Department near Tulsibagh to Rambagh crossing," he said adding that the area has no structures coming under the project.

The shopkeepers also said that after their meeting with ADB team, they wrote an e-mail to the ADB team, and the team in reply assured them of proper rehabilitation and full compensation.

"After our meeting with ADB team, we wrote to them and asked them for our promised rehabilitation, they replied that their shops will be shifted to back at the make the road wide at their proposed location," said Abdul Rouf, one of the shopkeepers.

He said that the ADB team has also directed ERA officials

to inform the displaced shopkeepers before one month about the demolition of their shops. "The ADB team in reply to said that if their genuine demands are not met, they will again appear before the court to get stay on the work, until their proper rehabilitation.

The ERA officials said that they have raised the amount from Rs 100 crore to Rs 150 crore (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

Post ADB visit, work starts on Rambagh flyover

Mir Iqbal

SRINAGAR, June 21: Weeks after a two members team of Asian Development Bank (ADB) held talks with shopkeepers over the construction of flyover from Jahangir Chowk to Rambagh junction, the Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) has started its work on 2.4 kilometer long project.

The officials of ERA said that the work began with demolition of a portion of Shergarhi police station building then followed by some other building, which was coming under the flyover.

He said shopkeepers at Magarmal Bagh crossing and Jahangir Chowk had gone to court demanding their proper rehabilitation or full compensation for which he said the area is sub-judice, but can start work at

other places. "After demolition of some building on the way to Rambagh crossing, we started work from Sericulture Department near Tulsibagh to Rambagh crossing," he said adding that the area has no structures coming under the project.

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INSIDE	WEATHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ * Unrest among the cops ...Page 8 ↳ Changing infiltration strategy ...Page 8 ↳ Governor reviews Yatra arrangements at Sheshnag, Chandanwari, Nunwan Camps ...Page 3 ↳ Security alarm on yatra damaging Kashmir image: Mufti ...Page 3 ↳ BJP holds preparatory meets for Modi's rally ...Page 5 ↳ Last date for submission of admission forms in City colleges extended ...Page 7 ↳ President XI Sunderbani to lock horns with Friends Club in final tomorrow ...Page 14 	<p>JAMMU</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 40.5 Degree C Min: 29.3 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 51.0 per cent Lowest: 37.0 per cent Sunset on Saturday: 07.42 p.m. Sunrise on Sunday: 05.26 a.m.</p> <p>KASHMIR</p> <p>TEMPERATURE Max: 32.7 Degree C Min: 16.6 Degree C</p> <p>RELATIVE HUMIDITY Highest: 54.0 per cent Lowest: 27.0 per cent</p>