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Govt inserts new provisions for more transparency in APRs writing process

to the Referral Board.
As per the new provisions, the full Annual Performance Report (APR) including the overall grade and assessment of integrity shall be disclosed to the officer reported upon after finalization by the Accepting Authority to enable the officer to represent his case.

The officer reported upon will have the option to give his comments on the Annual Performance Report in writing to the Accepting Authority within 15 days of the receipt of the Annual Performance Report and the comments shall be restricted to the specific factual observations contained in the APR leading to the assessment of the officer in terms of attributes, work output and competency.

Thereafter, the Accepting Authority within 15 days forward the same to the Reviewing and Initiating Authority and call for their views on the comments and Initiating Authority within 15 days forward his own views on the comments to the Reviewing Authority failing it shall be presumed that he has no views thereon.

The Accepting Authority will consider the comments of the officer reported upon, the views of the Initiating Authority and after due consideration may accept them and modify the APR accordingly. Thereafter, the decision and final grading will be communicated to the officer reported upon within 15 days of receipt of the views of the Reviewing Authority.

In case the officer reported

upon chooses to represent against the final assessment conveyed to him according to this procedure, he may represent his case through General Administration Department for a decision by the Referral Board, within one month, provided that such representation shall be confined to errors of facts.

"In case an entry or assessment is upgraded or down-graded, reasons for the same shall be recorded in the Annual Performance Report and the entire APR including the overall grade will thereafter be communicated to the officer reported upon which shall conclude the process of assessment and no further representation of any kind shall be entertained thereafter", read the new provisions.

The Referral Board for the Junior Scale KAS officers will be headed by Administrative Secretary of the General Administration Department while as Chief Secretary will head the Referral Board for Time Scale and above officers.

Even timelines for disclosure of APRs, representation, forwarding of the representation to the competent authority, disposal of the representation by the competent authority and communication of the decision of the competent authority to officer reported upon have been fixed by the Government.

The process will begin with the disclosure of APRs to the officer reported upon by August 31 of the year and will culminate on March 31 every year when APR will be finally taken on record.

Court vacates stay on NIT for construction of GMC Udhampur

Director (Coordinator) New Medical College, J&K Jammu, Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Udhampur, Principal Government Medical College Jammu and Superintendent Engineer, PWD(R&B), circle, Udhampur.

The defendants, through their counsel Advocate Adarsh Kumar Bhagat, resisted the suit on preliminary and factual grounds and submitted that the plaintiff is not an owner of the copyright in the subsisting work in question. "Work of the plaintiff is a Government work and there is no contract between the plaintiff and defendants for the execution of the work and designs were prepared by the plaintiff on the direction and control of the Department of Health and Medical Education of Government of UT as well as Department of Health & Family Welfare of Government of India, which approved the project and he cannot avail remedy under section 55 of the copyright Act," said Advocate Bhagat.

After considering the rival submissions of both sides and material on record, Judge Virinder Singh Bhou observed that on going through the preface of the NIT impugned, it is specified that nature of work to be executed includes providing comprehensive consultancy services for establishment of New Medical College at Udhampur and the bid document nowhere depicts that DPR/Designs prepared by the

plaintiff have been ignored or displaced in the public domain, but it speaks of financial bid and technical bid through on line offers and further the said NIT also does not exclude the plaintiff from participation in the said bid.

"The plaintiff has no prima facie case at this stage to grant him relief of interim injunctive nature and also no balance of convenience exists in his favour and no irreparable loss shall be caused to him because he has remedy to claim cost/dues from the Government for the drawing/designs prepared by him and even it is fair offer of the defendants to the plaintiff to participate in the tender floated and even on legal premise there is a restriction to stall the construction of infrastructure projects, which are being constructed in for the welfare of the public at large," observed the Judge.

However, the court also directed that the respondent shall not offer the drawings and DPRs prepared by the plaintiff to any other consultancy services for the purpose of clarification, copying and using the design by any other consultancy firm viz-a-viz the NIT.

"Defendants are at liberty to go ahead with the online offers of NIT No. 01.2020-21 and plaintiff may also participate in the tender process and he may also claim dues, if any outstanding against the defendants for preparation of drawings/designs in accordance with law," said the court and vacated the interim direction.

Rajnath to visit Ladakh, tour LAC; inter-act with forward areas' people

Dokbuk Kakjung in Kyyl Nyoma area near Changthang in Leh district and tried to force the locals to go back from the area where they were grazing their cattle. However, they were forced to flee from the spot by local administration and people who gathered on spot in large numbers.

Meanwhile, the crucial meeting between apex body of Leh scheduled with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at 3 pm in New Delhi today was put off to 3 pm tomorrow due to preoccupation of the Home Minister.

"We will be meeting the Home Minister tomorrow now," Chhewang said.

Ladakh Autonomous Hill

Development Council (LAHDC) Leh Chief Executive Councilor (CEC) Tashi Gyalson told the Excelsior from New Delhi that meeting has been rescheduled for tomorrow. Gyalson said he and Ladakh Lok Sabha member of BJP Janyang Tsering Namgyal yesterday met BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda and briefed him on political and other aspects of situation in Ladakh.

The people of Ladakh are demanding safeguards for their land, jobs, culture, identity, language, geography etc which has been assured by the Union Home Ministry.

Sources said since the Union Home Ministry is concerned about issues raised by the apex body of

Ladakh, a solution is likely to be worked out in tomorrow's meeting between leaders of Leh and the Union Home Minister.

It may be mentioned here that the People's Movement, comprising leaders of all political parties and religious organizations of Leh had given call for boycott of LAHDC Leh elections soon after they were announced in September. No candidate had filed nomination papers for elections after the boycott call.

Home Minister Amit Shah had later called the Movement leaders for talks in New Delhi and assured to address their concerns including Sixth Schedule like status for Ladakh after election process for the LAHDC Leh is over. The BJP had

won clear majority in the LAHDC Leh securing 15 out of 26 seats leaving Congress at second spot with nine seats.

The Union Home Ministry had promised all Constitutional safeguards to the people of Ladakh enshrined in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India either by implementing the Sixth Schedule or in any other form. It had said the decision will be taken in consultations with representatives from Leh and Kargil.

The Home Ministry had also agreed to empowerment of Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil, which was one of the demands projected by the delegation.

NH closed for 3rd day, 6000 vehicles stranded

Banihal while many have been stranded in Qazigund and Anantnag areas of Kashmir. The highway in Ramban and Nashri sectors has turned very vulnerable as frequent falling of boulders/stones continues around the clock amidst heavy rain. Two light passenger vehicles were trapped and got damaged in Panthyal area of Ramsu while a tanker was trapped in the mud-slide near Ramban today. The passengers however, escaped unhurt.

SSP Traffic, National Highway, J S Johar said that Jammu-Srinagar highway remained totally closed due to heavy snowfall in Jawahar Tunnel, Banihal and Lower Munda areas. Scores of landslides have taken place between Udhampur and Banihal. He said Samroli landslide was cleared during this afternoon and Batote-Doda-Kishtwar road was restored. But continuous rain in Ramban sector hampered the restoration work, he added.

Johar further said some vehicles stuck at vulnerable places were allowed to move to the safer areas but many were still stuck at some isolated places. There was no chance of early opening of the road and if the weather improves tomorrow, the restoration operation would be launched. All possible help was being provided to the stranded truckers and other passengers, through local administration, Johar maintained.

Even in many Jammu city localities and major towns in the region, there was total blackout during last night. The people mostly affected by PDD staff avoids to attend their distress phone calls. In several localities of Janipur/ Indira Colony area of Jammu city, the power supply remained suspended for 16 long hours. Similar reports were received from many other city localities and adjoining Raipur, Domana and Kot Bhalwal areas.

Scores of electric transformers and towers were reported to have been damaged due to rain, thunderstorm and snowfall. The PDD officials said the restoration work was going on but rain was hampering the task.

In Jammu city, rain created havoc since last night. Many roads were waterlogged and Nallahs were flooded. The attendance in the offices also remained thin. The rain forced many people to stay indoors throughout the day today.

Jammu recorded 32.8 mm of rains during the past 24 hours ending 8.30 am Tuesday, a Met spokesman said, adding the city recorded a minimum of 11.9 degrees Celsius which was 4.6 degrees above normal during this part of the season.

Bhadervah in Doda district, Banihal and Batote in Ramban district experienced 4 cm, 3.2 cm and 0.5 cm of rainfall respectively during the same period, the spokesman said.

The Meteorological department has predicted improvement in the weather from Wednesday morning. "The prevailing weather condition is likely to continue till late tonight or early tomorrow (Wednesday). We are expecting a significant improvement in weather from Wednesday across J&K," a spokesman of the Met department said, predicting cold wave conditions from January 7.

Authorities in Kashmir today ordered rationing of petrol and diesel for vehicles to overcome any shortage of fuel due to closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway amid heavy snowfall.

According to the order



Heavy snowfall damages house in Zoonimar Dagdarhar area of Srinagar.

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improvement from tomorrow afternoon," he said.

The MET office said that minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 0.8 degree Celsius last night while at world famous ski-resort Gulmarg, it was recorded minus 4.0 degree Celsius.

The low visibility and accumulation of snow at the Srinagar airport led to the cancellation of all 27 flights today. And in fact for the last three days no flight has landed or taken off from Srinagar Airport.

The normal life came to standstill today due to snowfall as maximum roads and streets wore a deserted look today.

The vehicular movement was off the roads today due to slippery conditions of the roads triggered by the fresh snowfall. Snow remained accumulated on most of the roads and thus left the people to lurch at large.

Although snow was cleared from main roads in Srinagar but they were slippery forcing people to stay indoors. Some of the main roads including 90-foot road that connects Soura with Ganderbal was covered with snow till this evening.

The residents said that there was no snow clearance from lanes and bylanes of Srinagar city forcing people to stay indoors. Power was restored to certain areas of Srinagar but majority of the areas are groping in darkness.

Altaf Ahmad, a resident of Barber Shah said that after many years no snow clearance was conducted in his area which is near the city centre Lal Chowk. He said that the power is playing hide and seek despite claims of restoration of feeders. "Feeders may be restored but we are not getting electricity supply for last three days," he said.

Vehicular connectivity in several parts of the Kashmir remained affected, with administrations failing to clear snow even from main roads in majority parts of Kashmir. Peer Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Shangus in district Anantnag said that the area is disconnected for last three days as no road clearance has taken place in their area. He said that electricity is down for last 5 days in the area.

Abdul Gani, a resident of Dhammuna in district Budgam said that neither there has been snow clearance in their area nor power supply has been restored. "We have had 2 hours of power supply for last three days. The claims made by administration are hoax," he said.

However, officials said that men and machinery were pressed in few areas to clear main roads.

An official, however, said that in Srinagar men and machinery was pressed into service to clear the roads and also made all the 38 feeders operational after some among them had developed technical snag.

"A fleet of 25 machines with a target of nearly 1300KM road was started. Apart from this, PWD and PMGSY machinery was also deputed for respective areas of operation," the official said.

They said by evening, 3915 KM road length was cleared involving three to four rounds of road clearance.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, along with ADC, Joint Director Planning and senior officers of PWD Power MED PHD visited Khanmoh, Lasjan, Dhara, Theed, Shalteng, Qamarwari, Zainakote, Anchar, Karan Nagar, Srikidafar, Ali Jan Road, Aiwa Bridgida, Soura, Owanta Bhawan, Buchpora, Anchar, Zaidal, Mallabagh, Habbak, 90ft, Zakura, Hazratbal, Foreshore, Nishat, Hyderpora Rawalpura and to review snow clearance and essential services.

"Out of 6500 transformers in city, nine transformers were reported damaged during the day for which alternative transformers have been dispatched," they said.

"23 out of 258 11KV feeders reported damage for which KPDCI teams responded promptly and the work on many of these continued post evening. All 36 of 33KV feeders were operational," the official said.

6 die of COVID in J&K

are from Pulwama, 4,828 including 4,639 recoveries and 83 deaths are from Anantnag, 4,662 cases including 4,549 and 60 deaths are from Bandipora, 4,511 including 4,375 recoveries and 44 deaths are from Ganderbal, 2,666 including 2,556 recoveries and 53 deaths are from Kulgam and 2,524 including 2,378 recoveries and 39 deaths are from Shopian.

The number of cases in Kashmir have reached 71,540 including 68,944 recoveries and

1,191 deaths.

The number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 2,600 including 1,405 from Kashmir division.

With 215 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached to 117,426 which is 96.31 percent of the total cases.

Meanwhile, 16 Corona positive cases were today reported in the Union Territory of Ladakh including 14 in Leh and two in Kargil district.

NIA files charge sheet in narco-terror case

The NDPS Act and Sections 17, 18 and 20 of the UA (P) Act.

Both the accused were involved in collection, distribution and selling of heroin smuggled from Pakistan, as also in collection and channelisation of 'proceeds of crime,' so generated for furthering the activities of HM.

The NIA officials said that accused Gursant was one of the important members of terrorist gang and as a close associate of prime accused Iqbal Singh aka SHERA, he was responsible for safe movement of the contraband and proceeds to various places and unknown persons.

Investigation also revealed that Gursant had purchased many immovable properties and luxury cars to be used as hide outs and for transportation of drugs and proceeds, they added.

Earlier, a charge sheet was filed on October 20 last year against 10 accused persons.

These included Hilal Ahmed Shergoiji of Pulwama (J&K);

Bikram Singh, Aaninder Singh Ranjit Singh, Gagandeep Singh and Iqbal Singh of Amritsar, who has been absconding; Ranjit Singh and Jaswant Singh of Gurdaspur, Zafar Hussain Bhat of Anantnag (J&K) and presently hiding in Pakistan and Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo, of Pulwama (killed in police encounter).

The charge sheet was filed under Sections 120B, 419, 471, 489C of IPC, Sections 8, 21, 23, 12, 24, 25, 27, 27A, 29 and 31 of the NDPS Act, Sections 17, 18, 20, 38 and 40 of the UA(P) Act and Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Passport Act in the Special NIA Court, Mohali, Punjab.

Except Iqbal Singh and Zafar Hussain, all have been arrested in this case.

This case arose out of an FIR registered at PS Sadar Amritsar on April last year, pertaining to the arrest of one Hilal Ahmed Shergoiji and recovery of Rs 29 lakh from his possession by Punjab Police on April 25, 2020.(PTI)

India's response to China was firm: MoD

Indian Army is prepared for any eventuality, adding talks are also progressing to resolve the issue in an amicable manner.

Referring to the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 that marked one of the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades, the defence ministry said the Chinese side also suffered "significant casualties".

Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in the clashes.

"Unilateral and provocative actions by the Chinese to change the status quo by force, in more than one area on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), were responded to in a firm and non-escalatory way, ensuring the sanctity of our claims in Eastern Ladakh," it said.

"Indian Army has maintained all protocols and agreements between the two countries while the PLA escalated the situation by utilisation of unorthodox weapons and amassing a large number of troops," it added.

India and China are locked in an eight-month-long bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has significantly strained their ties.

Both sides held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the row. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to end the standoff.

The Defence Ministry said the Indian Army, with assistance from IAF, mobilised troops including action forces in a very short duration including heavy equipment like guns, tanks as also

Govt forms panels for compulsory retirement

while considering the cases of non-gazetted officials under Article 226(2), the Government has not kept the concerned Administrative Secretary as head of the department-wise Review Committees except in case of Finance, Health and Medical Education and Home Departments.

Financial Commissioner Finance Department Dr Arun Kumar Mehta has been made Chairman of Review Committees of six departments—Administrative Reforms, Inspections, Trainings and Grievance; Higher Education; Election; Finance; Floriculture and Hospitality and Protocol.

Similarly, Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education Department Atal Dillo has been made Chairman of Review Committees of nine departments namely—Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare; Animal/ Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries; Cooperative; Health and Medical Education Department; Industries and Commerce, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Geology and Mining; Revenue and Horticulture.

Principal Secretary Home Department Shaleen Kabra has been made Chairman of 24 departments—Civil Aviation; Culture; School Education; Youth Services and Sports; Skill Development; Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Forest, Ecology and Environment; General Administration; Home; Housing and Urban Development Department; Information Technology; Labour and Employment; Planning, Development and Monitoring; Power Development; Public Works (R&B); Jal Shakti; Rural Development and Panchayati Raj; Science and Technology; Social Welfare; Tourism; Transport; Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Tribal Affairs.

Finance Deptt releases remaining 50 pc funds under District Capex for DDCs

Capex release orders issued by the DDCs/ Controlling Officers shall invariably have the condition that the Departments shall refrain from making fresh engagements under projects/ schemes, the Finance Department directed.

It said there shall be no expenditure on revenue or revenue-like components out of District Capex Budget. The expenditure shall be debited to the appropriate Head of Account as provided in the Demand for Grants and available on the BEAMS portal.

"All DDCs/ Controlling Officers/ DDOs shall ensure uniform pace of expenditure during the financial year so as to avoid rush of expenditure at the end of the financial year 2020-21. The executing agencies while preferring bills to Treasurers shall invariably ensure photographic evidence of all works pre, during and post execution alongwith latitude-longitude coordinate/geo-tagging of the project location for its uploading into

3 family members die due to suffocation

We are ascertaining the actual cause of death," a senior police officer told Excelsior.

The deceased trio was identified as Mohammed Maqbool Lone, 50, his wife Hasena Begum, 45, their son Talib Maqbool, 4.

As per the neighbors, the family members including the head of the family Mohammad Maqbool Lone along with his wife and son had kept a gas heater on while sleeping in a room at their newly constructed residential house in Nehalpora Pattan. "It seems the LPG gas heater has caused suffocation in the room causing their death.

Lowest daily cases in 6 months

stands at 1.45 per cent.

The COVID-19 active caseload remained below 3 lakh for the 15th consecutive day.

There are 2,31,036 active Coronavirus infections in the country which comprises 2.23 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40

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In just 6 months, Mehbooba made Rs 82 lakh worth purchases as CM

Mufti was the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

It may be mentioned here that PDP-BJP had formed coalition Government in March 2015 which was headed by PDP patron Mufti

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WEATHER

JAMMU :
Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
TEMPERATURE
Max: 16.9 Degree C
Min: 11.9 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 89.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 95.0 per cent
Sunset on Wednesday: 05.41 p.m.
Sunrise on Thursday: 07.34 a.m.
SRINAGAR:
Rain/snow
TEMPERATURE
Max: 2.6 Degree C
Min: -0.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 93.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 97.0 per cent
LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: -8.0 Degree C
Min: -10.3 Degree C

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Budget session from Jan 29

would be held from January 29 to February 15, and Part 2 from March 8 to April 8.

President Ram Nath Kovind would address the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament on January 29, a Friday, and the Union Budget would be presented on February 1, sources said citing the CCPA recommendations.

The Economic Survey would be tabled in the Lok Sabha on February 29 after the President's address, the sources said.

All COVID-related protocols would be followed during the session. Like the Monsoon session, the

Budget session from Jan 29

upcoming Budget session is also likely to be held in two shifts – morning and evening – with each House sitting in one shift using both the chambers.

Each House is likely to sit for 5 hours on a working day during the Budget session, according to sources. The Lok Sabha is likely to sit in the evenings (3 pm to 8 pm) and the Rajya Sabha in the mornings (9 am to 2 pm).

However, for the Presidential address and on budget day, the Lok Sabha is likely to be held during the first part of the session and on other days it will be the Rajya Sabha first.(PTI)