

Smart Metering project picks up speed, 15,000 meters being installed per month: Kansal

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: The Power Development Department is all set to achieve the highest ever capacity addition in both the distribution and transmission sectors in the UT this year. A total of 1420 MVA at 132 kV level and 1595 MVA at 220 kV level in the transmission sectors was set to be added this financial year.

In the distribution sector, over 100 sub stations were to be completed this year under various schemes adding over 500 MVA capacity to the system. This was revealed at a meeting chaired by Principal Secretary

Jammu and Kashmir in the coming three years', the Principal Secretary stated while addressing the officers of all Power Corporations and CPSUs.

Outlining in detail the vision of the department to provide uninterrupted quality power supply to entire Jammu & Kashmir by the year 2025, Rohit Kansal said, adding that to achieve this, we need to have a vision and a detailed plan for the coming three years. For this he stressed on the need for a detailed system study along with random simulations, IT interventions including unification of billing softwares, energy accounting and 100% metering and increasing

that the target of installation of 2 lakh smart meters by 2022 and 8 lakh meters by 2023 could be met well in time.

He also asked the executing agencies to aim at achieving feeder-wise saturation while installing smart meters. He also directed that the DISCOMS should install 100% DT meters also so that energy accounting could be accurately carried out as a first step towards eliminating losses.

He urged the DISCOMS to take advantage of this grant and carry out detailed studies to identify bottlenecks in the system. 'We have to address key issues which are at the root of seasonal power woes in Jammu and Kashmir regions', he said and pressed on the need for survey of existing as well as new schemes to decide on the areas and sectors which need to be addressed at once. He advised RECPDCL to do a feeder wise energy accounting on behalf of the distribution companies. He also asked them to do a detailed system study and suggest the need for new additions as well as improvement and maintenance of existing networks. He also called for suggesting measures to reduce high HT/LT ratio.

The Principal Secretary maintained that all the measures being taken by the government are aimed at eliminating power losses and removing bottlenecks to uninterrupted and efficient power distribution in the region. Rohit Kansal called for unification of various automatic metering and billing systems in use and their unification for seamless transition to more efficient billing methodology.



Principal Secretary Power Rohit Kansal chairing a meeting in Jammu on Wednesday.

Development Department, Rohit Kansal to review the progress of various ongoing schemes in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Executive Director and CEO REC PDCL, R Lakshamanan, Executive Director Power Grid Kailash Rathore and other senior officers from Central PSUs besides Managing Directors and Chief Engineers of Transmission and Distribution Corporations of J&K.

'Our collective objective should be to ensure 24x7 power supply to all the consumers of

billing and collection efficiencies through innovative solutions.

During the discussions, he stressed on system strengthening, financial stability of Corporations, resolving issues hampering the pace of projects, systematic improvements and augmentation of projects etc.

The Principal Secretary was apprised that the Smart Metering project in J&K has taken off well and nearly 15,000 meters are now being installed per month. He directed that the pace of installation be accelerated so



Faroq Khan, Advisor to LG, interacting with representatives of farmers in Jammu.

Farmers' delegation meets Advisor Khan, seeks compensation for damaged crops

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: A delegation of representatives of various farmer associations led by Daljit Chib (former vice chairman of Kissan Board) met Faroq Khan, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, and demanded maximum compensation for farmers for their crops damaged due to heavy rain and hailstorm, besides waiver for KCC loans.

Daljit Chib apprised the Advisor that around 55000 hectare of paddy crop has been damaged, thereby affecting around 1.80 lakh farmers. He told Advisor that the cultivation cost of paddy today is around 2800 rupees per kanal. He further informed Khan that vegetable crops including cabbage, potato etc along with maize in some pockets have also been damaged due to heavy rain and hailstorm.

He demanded special package for compensation of losses as the maximum farmers are not covered under crop insurance. He

emphasized that compensation should be given on the lines of Punjab and Delhi Government for the farmers. He further demanded that all the KCC loans of farmers be waived off and 100% subsidy be given on seeds of next crop.

Faroq Khan pertinently listened to the deputation members and assured best possible support from the Government to the farmers. He assured that all their genuine demands will be taken seriously and necessary steps will be taken to address them.

Those who were part of the delegation include Kulbhushan Khajuria (president, J&K Agri Entrepreneurship Development Association), Shiv Dev Singh (president, Rashtriya Kissan Sangathan), Kishore Kumar (president, Tehreek Ae Kissan J&K), Basant Saini (president, Potato Grower Association J&K), Raghunandan Khajuria (president, Bhartiya Krishak Samaj), Vijay Choudhary (vice president, Basmati Grower Association) and PN Padha (president, Vegetable Growers Association).

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

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CS reviews implementation of BRAP, Ease of Doing Business

*Directs end to end digitization of all schemes, services by first week of Nov

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan/ Ease of Doing Business reforms (EoDB) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Administrative Secretaries of Departments of Finance, Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, General Administration, Labour & Employment, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Industries & Commerce, School Education, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs along with the concerned sectoral heads participated in the meeting.

It was informed that while in the BRAP ranking released by DPIIT for the fiscal 2018-19, Jammu and Kashmir was ranked 21st, the UT is striving towards being amongst first ten performers in the country in EoDB ranking during the fiscal 2021-22.

The department informed that EoDB ranking for the fiscal year 2019-20 has not been released as yet and if and when it is released, the UT would be better placed corresponding to its rank in the fiscal year 2018-19.

It was informed that the department has made substantial progress on minimising regulatory compliance burden and that it is expecting a considerable jump in the MRCB ranking as and when it is announced.

It was further informed that J&K is amongst the leading 10 best MRCB complied States/UTs and that the UT has set the target of



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Wednesday.

achieving 750 and 1200 reform points under MRCB by December 2021 and March 2022 respectively. It was informed that 64 services under SBRAP have been integrated on the single window platform and work on bringing the remaining 62 onboard is underway.

The department further stated that out of 301 action points identified under SBRAP, 104 points have been implemented and that the remaining 197 reforms will be expeditiously implemented.

The Chief Secretary directed that end-to-end digitization of all services identified under (EoDB) should be completed by first week of November.

While stating that the UT of J&K has to be amongst the top five best performing States/UTs in the country on BRAP/EoDB, Dr Mehta stated that if the finalisation of vendor for carrying out IT related tasks for implementation of EoDB is holding up the progress in the matter, the department should immediately use the services of JKeG/NIC for implementing the EoDB in the UT.

"Applications/software/IT solutions for implementation of the BRAP/EoDB reforms have been developed by a few progressive States. They can be simply replicated with need based/localised customisation in J&K," He stated.

The Chief Secretary directed the I&C department to share the number of services /areas where full stack automation/reforms are pending and share the same with the concerned departments so that work on executing them is expedited.

"Consultant, I&C shall interact with the Nodal officers of all the departments and identify the areas where executive intervention on their end is required for urgent action," Dr Mehta added.

While announcing that another review of the progress made on his directions shall be taken in a week, the Chief Secretary directed the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department to coordinate with all the departments in expediting the implementation of BRAP/EoDB.



Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL and Director IIT-Jammu displaying copies of MoU signed between two institutions.

FICCI FLO JKL signs MoU with IIT Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the women chapter of the prominent National Industry Association signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu today.

The MoU was signed and exchanged between Ritu Singh, Founding Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL and Prof Manoj K Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu.

The MoU envisages cooperation on promoting entrepreneurship in the region, specifically providing the women incubates at IIT Jammu access to the FICCI FLO pan India network of women entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, and angel investors through its Startup Cell.

Several capacity building and mentoring programs are also proposed to be organized under the ambit of the MoU. Other areas include cooperating on social causes including solving rural issues in the region to help alleviate challenges and improve the overall quality of life by supporting rural startups.

Prominent from IIT Jammu present during the signing of the MoU, included Col Sanjay Dahiya, Registrar, Prof Vidya Ramadas, Prof. Ashok Khanna, Dr Dharitri Rath, Dr Amitash Ojha, Dr Vinit Jakhetiya, Dr Yogesh M Nimdeo, Dr Ashutosh Yadav and Dr Amit K Singh. And from FICCI FLO

JKL, the office bearers present included Varuna Anand (Senior Vice Chairperson), Esther William (Vice Chairperson) and Ruchika Gupta (Treasurer).

Speaking on the occasion, Ritu Singh, Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL said that the MoU with IIT Jammu is a landmark association which shall get the ball rolling for women entrepreneurs in the region. She described the combination of intellectual capital at IIT Jammu and the strong business network of FICCI FLO as a winning combination to bring about positive social change and impact in the region.

Prof Manoj Gaur outlined the vision of IIT Jammu in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through the newly created Institution Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (I2EDC) which will provide state-of-the-art facilities, training and mentoring to faculty, students, entrepreneurs and SMEs in the region. He expressed confidence that the MOU with FICCI FLO will strengthen the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.

The FICCI FLO JKL chapter is actively engaged in industrial promotion, policy advocacy, entrepreneurship promotion and skill development among women, assimilation of national best-practices and undertaking women-centric projects in the region.

DC Jammu visits rural areas to assess crop damage

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Anshul Garg today visited different villages of Arnia, Bishnah, RS Pura and Suchetgarh which have been impacted by recent incessant rains and hailstorms causing huge damages to standing crops especially paddy and vegetables.

Officers from Revenue and Agriculture Department and members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

Garg assured the farmers that compensation assessments are completed and every farmer who has been impacted will be compensated according to prevailing norms and rules. He directed the Revenue Department and agriculture department to sit with the PRI members for identification of the beneficiaries to ensure that no farmer is left behind and everyone is compensated.

The maximum crop damage has been reported up to land measuring 39101 hectares and approximately 98,750 beneficiaries have already been identified for compensation.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the villages of Mangaal, Majoa, Chak Chinnah in Bishnah Tehsil, Allah in Arnia, Moil in Suchetgarh and Kalayan in RS Pura Tehsil.



DC Jammu Anshul Garg inspecting damaged crops in Jammu on Wednesday.

Army observes Infantry Day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Oct 27: The Army today held wreath laying ceremonies at different formations across the Jammu and Kashmir and including the Northern Command headquarters at Udhampur, while observing the 75th Infantry Day.

The Infantry Day is observed as a remembrance of the first military operations carried out by independent India when the Indian army repelled the first attack on its soil on the October 27, 1947 in the Kashmir valley.

The army organised a traditional wreath laying ceremony at the Dhruva War Memorial in Udhampur, where Chief of Staff, Headquarters Northern Command, Lieutenant General S Harimohan Iyer participated on behalf of Army Commander, Northern Command, Lt Gen

Yogesh Kumar Joshi. Lt Gen Iyer appreciated all ranks and veterans of Infantry for their devotion to duty and indomitable spirit while working under trying and challenging conditions.

He saluted their contributions and sacrifices to protect the territorial integrity of the nation and fighting terrorism with unstinting resolve.

On this solemn day, the supreme sacrifices made by the Indian Army in defending the honour and integrity of the nation were remembered by all, the spokesman said.

He said GOC 'Rising Star Corps' Lt Gen P N Ananthanarayanan laid the wreath at the 'War Memorial' at a function which was attended by serving Infantry officers and all ranks of 'Rising Star Corps.

Similar events were also organised at Mamun and Pathankot, the spokesman said.

At a separate function, the spokesman said Jammu-based Tiger Division observed he Infantry Day with traditional solemnity.

Major General Neeraj Gosain, General Officer Commanding 'Tiger Division', laid a wreath at the 'War Memorial' in Satwari

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Missing Budhal villagers traced in Shopian

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Oct 27: The two villagers feared to have gone missing in snow affected upper reaches of Budhal in Rajouri have been traced from Shopian area of Kashmir today.



Missing Budhal villagers traced in Shopian area being helped by others to reach nearby hospital.

Official sources said that a missing report of duo was lodged on October 24, 2021 in Police Station Budhal by the family members, in which it came to fore that one person namely Javed Shah, son of Haneef Shah, resident of Targain in Budhal along with a relative namely- Khadam Shah, son of Muzamal Shah, resident of

communication could be established with them after massive snow fall at Pir Panjal.

After receiving this information, a police party from Police Station Budhal was dispatched to the upper reaches of snow bound mountains for search and rescue operation while army also assisted in this operation whereas a police team from Reasi district also joined them.

In the meantime, a specific technical exercise was initiated and Budhal Police Station gathered information based on technical evidence in order to trace the missing person. Based on these inputs, PS Budhal team led by SHO Mustaj Ahmed succeeded in tracking the said persons from Mony Mahal area of Shopian district.

In Shopian immediately swung into action and assisted in establishing contact with the missing persons who have been now safely traced. SP Rajouri, Sheema Nabi Qasba has appealed people not to venture on snow bound mountains and to move only on those tracks which are safe in winter season.

It's pertinent to mention here that SSP Rajouri's timely action brought relief to the family as after the matter brought into her notice, she immediately taken up matter with SSP Reasi, Shopian and with Army also and succeeded in tracing missing person.

Having evaded arrest by disguising and changing locations, Court of Additional Sessions Judge Reasi had issued a General Warrant of Arrest against them on 10/09/2004.

Justice Wani after having regard to the nature of controversy involved in the petition of one Mehrajud din Nagar said, the case in hand reflects a glaring and brazen example of abuse of power by those at the helm of affairs in the University at that relevant point of time.

The Court has expressed its strong displeasure against the state of affairs as noticed by the University while making appointment and selection on the post in question way back in 2010, instead of recommending a punitive action against all concerned involved in

the matter, cautioned University and its officers in this regard. Court recorded that law and law alone should be followed and adhered to while running the affairs of the University.

Court while accepting the plea of aggrieved-Najar quashed the selection and appointment of private respondent who was appointed on the post in question in 2010 with the direction to the University to offer to the petitioner-Najar appointment against the post of Workshop Assistant advertised vide advertisement notices 12 No. 06 of 2008 dated 04.06.2008 read with 3 of 2009 dated 22.08.2009, in view of his merit and extend him all consequential benefits thereof to which he becomes entitled thereto.

Court has also imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 upon the higher officials of varsity and directed the petitioner-Najar having regard to the manifest injustice suffered to him at the hands of the University.

Court said the position that emerges from the records of the case and the arguments advanced by the advocate T H Khawja appearing counsel for petitioner-Najar manifestly demonstrate that the selected employee has secured the appointment against the post in question in league and connivance