

# Hirdesh reviews progress of power sector schemes

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To review the progress of the ongoing centrally sponsored schemes of power sector in the State, a meeting of officers was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Commissioner Secretary Power Development Department, Hirdesh Kumar, here.

The meeting was attended by Development Commissioner (Power), Secretary Technical PDD, Chief Engineers of EMRE Wing, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, Chief Engineers S&O Wing Kashmir and Jammu, Chief Engineers Project Wing Kashmir and Jammu, Nodal Officer 24x7 PFA, JKPDD, other senior officers of the Department.

Hirdesh Kumar congratulated the officers of the Department for their extraordinary contribution in accomplishing the herculean task of 100% household electrification in the State under Saubhagya scheme in such a short timeframe which enabled the State to bag the 'Saubhagya Award'.

He further said that since "we are visioning 24x7 power for all, system strengthening works shall be expedited at a



Commissioner Secretary PDD, Hirdesh Kumar chairing a meeting at Jammu.

rapid pace in line with the roadmap furnished for the same."

The Commissioner Secretary took an extensive review of all the power sector schemes launched by the Union Government and held threadbare discussions to address the issues hampering their progress.

Expressing his concern over the slow progress of distribution strengthening works in urban areas due to land acquisition problems, he took note of the respective locations and said that the same shall be addressed separately while he directed the officers to accelerate the progress in the remaining areas where land has already been acquired.

In addition, individual targets were given to the officers of the Department by devising PERT

Charts so that the said schemes are completed well in time.

Hirdesh also asked the officers of the Department to identify locations and explore the possibility/ feasibility of laying underground electrical cabling in parts of Jammu city. He further stressed on the early installation of smart meters/pre-paid

meters in the State to put a check on power pilferage and directed the officers to complete the tendering process before April 2019.

He also reviewed the revenue progress and directed the officers to put in all-out efforts towards maximum revenue realization. He further stressed

upon the concerned to accomplish their revenue targets in full and immediately disconnect power supply of the defaulters/ non-payers of electricity bills.

While reviewing the progress of transmission projects, it was informed that by the month of May 2019, capacity addition of 50 MVA each at Janipur, Pounichak and Kathua Grid Stations will be completed, which is expected to provide heavy respite to the consumers of Jammu region even during the peak period of the forthcoming summer season.

Earlier, Nodal Officer 24x7 PFA, JKPDD gave a power point presentation of targets vis-a-vis achievements as on date under various schemes.



# 4,050 Kg poppy straw seized, two drug peddlers held

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Thursday arrested two narco smugglers and recovered 4,050 Kg poppy straw from their possession.

Briefing media persons here, SSP Jammu Tejinder Singh informed "Based on specific information, a police party led by SDPO Nagrota, DySP, Mohan Sharma and SHO Nagrota, Inspector Deepak Pathania during a Naka at Ban Toll Plaza, Nagrota intercepted one vehicle bearing No PB06G 5345."

"On search of the aforesaid vehicle in presence of a Magistrate, police recovers 183 bags containing Bhukki (poppy straw) like substance found loaded in



SSP Jammu Tejinder Singh briefing media persons.

the vehicle. On weighing, the total quantity of the Bhukki like substance was found to be 4,050 Kg," SSP Jammu informed.

The driver of the vehicle identified as Malkeet Singh, son of Bhuta Singh, resident of Talbandi Pain, Kapurthala and the co-

accused Kulwinder Singh, son of Puran Singh, resident of Billakothi, Kapurthala, have been arrested. A case FIR No 92/19 under Section 8/15 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Nagrota and investigation has been initiated.

# Court rejects bail of two JEl members

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sub Judge Special Mobile Magistrate Jammu S.S Bali on Thursday rejected the bail applications of Abdul Karim Nadiw and Jameel Ahmed, son of Bashir Ahmed, resident of Bell Charana Bashir Gujjar Basti, Jammu alleged members of banned organisation Jamat-e-Islami who were booked by the Police Station Peermitha under Unlawful Activities Act.

After hearing CPO Ashish Rathore with senior Prosecuting Officer Raj Kumar appearing for the State whereas Advocates A.K Razdan and A.R Bhat for the accused persons, the court observed that prosecution has invited the attention of the Court that since the accused are involved in case FIR No. 14/2019 under Section 10 of Unlawful Activities Act as such, this Court lacks jurisdiction to decide the instant bail application in view of SRO 149 of 2019 dated March 1, 2019 whereby Law Secretary has issued notification that in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section 1 of Section 22 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2006, Government hereby notifies the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, TADA/POTA Srinagar and 3rd Additional District and Sessions Judge TADA/POTA Jammu as special courts for Kashmir and Jammu Provinces respectively for the purpose of trial of offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. With these observations, Court rejected the bail application.

# Seven years RI to Patwari

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Sessions Judge Samba M.K Sharma on Thursday awarded seven years rigorous Imprisonment to Yashvir Singh Patwari who was facing trial in culpable homicide not amounting to murder case.

According to the police case, on July 19, 2013, an information was received in Police Station Vijaypur that Yashvir Singh along with his two associates in furtherance of common criminal intention to kill Romesh Singh, son of Karnail Singh, resident of Mandi Rajgarh, Gurah Salathia had wrangle with the deceased in the course of which Yashvir Singh fired upon the deceased, who was injured and died while being shifted to hospital at Vijaypur. On the strength of this Report Crime No. 100/2013 for the commission of offence under Section 302 and 34 RPC and 3 and 27 Arms Act was reg-

istered in Police Station Vijaypur.

After hearing Public Prosecutor Bhupinder Singh Charak for the State whereas Rahul Singh Sambyal for the accused person, the court observed that in the instant case, the convict took life of a person by firing upon him with a gun. "Considering the circumstances in which the offence has been committed and the nature of offence warrant awarding of sentence instead of giving the benefit of probation and in this view of the matter, the application of the convict for his release on probation merits dismissal and is accordingly dismissed. However, in view of the long trial that the convict has faced and other circumstances highlighted by the counsel of the convict, a lenient view is taken in imposing sentence. The convict is sentenced to RI for seven years for the commission of offence under Section 304-II RPC", the court held.

# Modi surrendered to China on Masood Azhar: Omar

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said on Thursday the BJP cannot claim to have been tough on terror as Prime Minister Narendra Modi "surrendered" to China on Masood Azhar.

He also said the NDA government had given Pakistan a "big victory" by not conducting the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir simultaneously with parliamentary polls.

"PM Modi surrendered to China on Azhar and surrendered to Pakistan & its proxies by delaying elections in J&K. How can the BJP claim to have been tough on internal security



and tough against terror?" Omar, the vice-president of the NC, wrote on Twitter.

He targeted Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad over his remarks on Congress president Rahul Gandhi who had criticised the prime minister for being "scared" of Chinese President Xi Jinping. "Mantri jee, your Government gave Pakistan

# Passport Office cautions applicants against fake websites

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Regional Passport Officer Srinagar (POS) on Thursday informed all passport applicants applying for the Indian passport to apply online only on registered passport website www.passportindia.gov.in as there is no other website authorizing applicants to apply for passport.

In an official handout issued here, the Passport Office said that some applicants applying for passport online have observed and informed their office that some fictitious and fake website have been opened, where applicants are made to update their details and make online payments and are losing their money.

The officer further informed that passport fee for fresh /re-issue normal passport is Rs 1500 and for lost/damage fee is Rs 3000 only.

To know more about applicable fee and other details for passport services, interested persons are requested to visit their official website mentioned above.

# Smuggling attempt foiled, 120 bottles of IMFL seized at Lakanpur

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Excise Department on Thursday foiled an attempt to smuggle 120 bottles of Indian-Made Foreign Liqueur (IMFL) foiled at Toll Post Lakanpur.

According to reports, Excise officials intercepted a Toyota Innova Car bearing registration No PB 11 AK-9962 at Toll Post Lakanpur. During checking, the vehicle was found loaded with 120 bottles of Rum (Crazy Romeo Brand) labeled 'meant for sale in Arunachal Pradesh only'. The vehicle was being driven by one Sonu Ram, son of Om Parkash, resident of Badli Kallan, Tehsil and District, Pathankot (Punjab) accompanied by Balbir Singh, son of Om Parkash, resident of Kotli Muglan, Pathankot.

The driver along with vehicle and seized consignment was handed over to

Inspector Excise, Range Kathua for further proceedings under J&K Excise Act Samvat 1958. The catch assumes great significance in view of ensuing Lok Sabha election in the State.

The whole operation was supervised by Ashish Kumar Gupta, Deputy Excise Commissioner, Toll Post, Lakanpur and carried out by Excise and Taxation Officers Sandeep Gupta and Rafie Naik, along with team of Excise Inspector Kathua, Arun Kumar, Inspector Adarsh Sharma, Sub-Inspector Bilal Kripak, Raghunandan Mishra and Excise Guard, Mohinder Kumar.

M. Raju, Excise Commissioner J&K applauded the sustained enforcement efforts of the Toll Post and enjoined the excise officials to work with same zeal and enthusiasm in future also.

# Municipal Corporation seizes 5 qtl poly-bags, recovers Rs 14,000 fine

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Thursday seized about five quintal polythene carry-bags and realised a sum of Rs 14,000 as fine from erring traders here.

According to reports, a team of Health and Sanitation Wing of JMC launched an extensive drive under the supervision of Health Officer against the menace of polythene carry-bags in various areas including Narwal, Sabzi Mandi and Narwal Chowk. During the drive, the team confiscated about five quintals of banned polythene carry-bags and other allied material besides imposing penalties to the tune of Rs 14,000.

The drive was initiated on the directions of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Commissioner JMC, in which a team of officials from Health and Sanitation Wing was constituted by Health Officer JMC for implementation of SRO 45 of 2017 to restrict the use of banned polythene carry bags and other allied material besides keeping proper check /seizing polythene carry-bags



JMC officials along with seized polythene carry bags.

found in markets within the limits of Jammu Municipal Corporation under the provisions of said SRO."JMC initiated this drive after a huge mass of plastic bags were found obstructing free flow of rain-water during recent spell of torrential rains. Roads and colonies were inundated due to reckless dumping of plastic stuff into drains, Nallahs and on roads. Out of a total of 350 tonnes garbage generated daily within the limits of Jammu Municipal

Corporation, about 20 per cent is plastic only," a JMC official informed.

The Health Officer issued strict instructions to the defaulters to desist from illegal storage and sale of banned polythene material. He appealed to all Jammuites to cooperate with Jammu Municipal Corporation to safeguard deteriorating environmental health and beauty of Jammu by not using banned polythene carry-bags and other allied material.

# It is time for reorganisation of district administrative units and delimitation of seats in LA

## BY DAYA SAGAR

The J&K Representation of People Act 1957 was surely drafted in a very very special manner for delimitation of single member assembly segments (MLAs) when we look at the contents of Clause - a (i) to a (v) of Sub Section (2) of Section- (4). But even after over six decades of having pledged for ensuring legislative and administrative opportunities without any religious or/and regional bias J&K People living in far flung areas have not been given fair representation in the Legislative Assembly by the Delimitation Commissions since at least seven to nine MLAs have been allocated less to the far flung / backward areas ( most of which fall in Jammu province i.e. Doda, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Reasi, Poonch, and the like ). And to add to that there has been a very very unfair restructuring of even the District Administrative Units after 1947 there by additionally also putting the people living in distant / backward areas to more of disadvantages as regards their day to day local administrative issues as well as affairs with respect to allocation / fixing of funds at the national level macro

planning where surely a District / Community Development Block is taken into consideration. It will not be wrong to say that unfair "allocations of voices" ( MLAs) in the legislative assembly by violating the norms / directions as laid down in the J&K Representation of People Act 1957 ( drafted in a very very special manner for delimitation of single member segments in the Legislative Assembly) surely has been prime tool for unfair restructuring of district administrative units ( Districts) after 1947 i.e. raising the number of districts from Kashmir region from 3 before 1979 to 10 in 2006-2007 and for Jammu Region from 6 before 1979 to only 10 in 2006-07.

With the passage of time the awareness among the common masses of J&K living in the under privileged areas had started growing about their legislative / administrative rights (in view of the exercises like that of "delimitation" done by people like the writer in 1993-94). But that could be sensed by those who holding the reins of governance and hence the 'conventional' Valley / local leaders had been occasionally drafting preventive plans /actions to meet the

# Unfortunately the people of Jammu region could not understand the designs and some people became ambitious hoping for some position in 'new' regional councils by the names like Chenab Valley, Pir Panchal as and when they are installed in Jammu region.

future challenges in case the remotely placed people get united for greater cause cutting across the religion/region centric webs. The J&K Government after 1996 elections appointed a Regional Autonomy Committee on 29 November 1996 with Balraj Puri as working chairman (who was later "removed") 'pretending' it to be in view of Jammu Regional Council demands but when the report came ( 13 April 1999) the real intentions emerged in the shape of an 'effort' to divide the people of Jammu region to weaken any demand that one day may come more unitedly for Jammu Regional Council or even Jammu State since the Regional Autonomy Committee instead made recommendations for 8 Regional Councils in J&K.

As regards demand for one regional council for the distant / far flung areas of



A Look Through The Mist

J&K that mostly fall in Jammu Region (26293 sq km ) the committee recommended 3 regional / provincial councils i.e Jammu District: Jammu plus Kathua district and Udhampur District excluding Mahore Tehsil : Chenab Valley: Doda district and Mahore Tehsil : Pir Panchal Rajouri plus Punch districts . Similarly three regional provinces/ councils recommended for Kashmir region ( 15948 sq km) 1. (<Nundabab> Srinagar plus Badgam: 2. <Maraz> Anantnag plus Pulwama : 3.(Kamraz) Baramulla plus Kupwara. And two existing regional councils in Ladakh region i.e Leh and Kargil.

The report was not implemented but by making it public the 'conventional' Valley leadership succeeded in raising some 'particularly in locals', dividing the people of Jammu region some what also

on communal lines and there by attempting to weaken the unity of the people of Jammu region. The terms like Chenab Valley and Pir Panchal region have come into use more prominently (even at administrative level by some and in some 'media') only after 1999. Had the intentions been pious / truthful , the J&K Governments would have ordered 6 new Regional Councils in the year 2000 itself where as it was not been done even up to June 2018. So, it is quite evident that the 'exercise- Regional councils' was simply done just to weaken the voice of remotely placed people of J&K (Doda, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Reasi, Poonch, and the like).

Had the people of Jammu region been a little vigilant the number of MLAs in Jammu region would have been increased by 7 to 9 ( from present 37 to 46). Not only that there would have been at least 5 to 6 more Districts in Jammu Region i.e at least 15 to 16 districts in Jammu region ( 26293 sq km) as against only 10 in Kashmir region ( 15948 sq km) going by the scale under which districts like Ganderbal ( 259 sq km) , Shopian ( 312 sq km and only one tehsil) , Bandipora ( 345sq km)

and Kulgam ( 410 sq km) were created in 2006-07 in Kashmir valley where as a district like Rajouri that had an area of 2630 sq .kms and 7 tehsils in 2006 itself was not split even in two districts. No one had asked why?

How unfair have been the governments to the remotely placed population of the state could well be seen from the fact that people of Rajouri district did demand in 2018 that Rajouri district be split into atleast 2 districts but the same was not accepted even by PDP- BJP government .

Damage being done to the cause of affected people is irrespective of the political party one votes , may it be Congress, NC, PDP, BJP, Panthers , CPM, BSP. If not done now during Governor / President Rule six more years will be lost. Since elections to J&K Legislature are not being done in April/ May 2019 submissions must be made with 'forceful & humble' submissions to the Government of "the Day", as is in place, to take corrective action without any more delay.

\*( Daya Sagar is a Sr Journalist and can be reached dayasagr45@yahoo.com)