

Dy CM reviews key road connectivity projects in Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Tuesday convened a comprehensive review meeting in Rajouri to assess progress on major road connectivity projects being executed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Public Works Department (PWD) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The meeting aimed to examine the ongoing work and ensure timely and quality execution of infrastructure projects in the district.

MLAs Javed Choudhary and Iftekhar Ahmed participated and highlighted the significance of these road connectivity initiatives for their constituencies.

Chairman District

Development Council, Chowdhary Naseem Liaqat, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Engineer PWD Rajouri-Poonch, Chief Engineer PMGSY, SE PWD and officers from BRO and engineering department attended the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Minister underscored the importance of each project's quality and timely completion. He directed all the concerned officials to perform their tasks with honesty and a high level of dedication, focusing on improving performance metrics across all connectivity projects. He encouraged officials to actively identify and over-



Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary chairing a meeting.

come bottlenecks affecting project timelines and quality standards.

Surinder Choudhary instructed the engineering and field staff to ensure strict adherence to technical specifications and safety standards, with an added emphasis on sustainable construction practices that

will benefit the district in the long term. "Road connectivity is vital for socio-economic development of Rajouri, and all stakeholders must work with sincerity to meet the people's expectations," he stated.

The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed each project in detail, soliciting updates

from the Chief Engineers of PWD and PMGSY as well as BRO representatives. Each department provided updates on project status, anticipated challenges and action plans for acceleration.

Surinder Choudhary directed the PMGSY teams to expedite road works in

rural and remote areas to enhance accessibility. He stressed the importance of connecting the unconnected habitations by prioritizing works that have faced delays.

For the PWD-led projects, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Chief Engineer to focus on timely completion while maintaining quality standards. He encouraged adoption of modern technology and efficient project management practices to avoid delays.

Special attention was given to roads of strategic importance under the purview of

BRO. The Deputy Chief Minister instructed the BRO officials to maintain close coordination with district administration, especially in areas prone to weather-related disruptions, to ensure all-weather connectivity.

DDC Chairman, Naseem Liaqat, MLAs Javed Choudhary and Iftekhar Ahmed underscored the importance of these projects for improving residents' quality of life and boosting the local economy. They advocated for resolving land acquisition and compensation issues that often slow down infrastructure projects, promising their

support to ensure smooth progress.

The Deputy Chief Minister concluded the meeting with a strong message of accountability, directing all engineers and field officers to ensure daily progress tracking and reporting.

He advised the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri to hold weekly progress reviews and instructed officials to promptly address any challenges encountered during project implementation. He assured that regular inspections would be conducted, emphasizing that delays due to negligence would not be tolerated.

Eviction of over-staying ex-Ministers/ex-Legislators DB directs personal appearance of Comm/Secy Estates Deptt

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant order in the much publicised Public Interest Litigation (PIL No. 17/2020) seeking eviction of over-staying Ex-Ministers/Ex-Legislators from Government Accommodation, a Division Bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu comprising the Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M. A. Chowdhary, after expressing its deep anguish/displeasure over the lackadaisical approach of the Estates Department in not initiating Eviction Proceedings against the illegal occupants, directed the personal appearance of the Commissioner/Secretary, Estates Department on the next date of hearing to explain the position with regard to dilatory tactics adopted by the Department for not initiating Eviction Proceedings against the Ex-Ministers/Ex-Legislators occupying Government accommodation at Jammu/Srinagar.

The Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan after hearing Advocate S. S. Ahmed with Advocates Rahul Raina, Supriya Chouhan and M. Zulkarnain Chowdhary appearing for the petitioner and Senior AAG S.S. Nanda appearing for UT Administration/Estates Department directed filing of latest Status Report indicating therein, whether the Estates Department has taken steps for eviction of the unauthorised occupants in accordance with law, as per the list that has been furnished to the Designated Committee, how many unauthorised occupants in the list that had been submitted by the Estates Department to the High Court have been issued Eviction Notices and Evicted, and why the Commercial Rental Charges have not

been ordered to be paid by the unauthorised occupants for the period when they were not entitled to hold the official accommodation.

Advocate S.S. Ahmed vociferously argued that the Estates Department has double standards and two yardsticks as it evicted two former Chief Ministers and more than 180 politicians belonging to different Political Parties but extended undue favour to 48 politicians (23 in Jammu and 25 in Srinagar).

The said politicians were not issued Eviction Notices despite having lost their entitlement to retain the Government Accommodation and are also having their own Residential Houses in the capital Cities.

Advocate Ahmed specifically pointed out in the open Court the name of former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta who is having a Palatial Double-Storeyed Residential House at Excelsior Lane, Janipur, Jammu but Estates Department is not willing to evict the High-Profile Politician for obvious reasons whereas a Z-Category Protectee Former Minister/MP Ch. Lal Singh was evicted from the Govt. Accommodation and even this Court held in his petition that Security and Accommodation are two distinct factors.

The Division Bench taking note of the submissions made by Advocate S.S. Ahmed observed that this PIL has been sub-judice before this Court since the year 2020 and the Estates Department has been proceeding in the matter at snail's pace.

The Division Bench also expressed its concern that the Estates Department has not clearly filed response with regard to the direction passed by this Court on April 3rd, 2024 to explain as to why it has not

charged rental of the accommodations held by the unauthorised occupants at commercial rates for holding the same without any office as of now.

The Division Bench further observed that the Estates Department in their status report dated August 20th, 2024 have stated that after seeking requisite details from the Deputy Director(Estates), Jammu/Kashmir four thirty three (33) occupants/political persons whose requisite details were sought to be placed before the Designated Committee. The Designated Committee which met under the Chairmanship of IGP (Security) recommended eviction of the thirty-three occupants except two occupants figuring at Serial No. 19 and 23 and on the said recommendation the thirty-one occupants were asked to vacate the bungalows/houses immediately after the conclusion of the election process so that the accommodations occupied by them will be made available for allotment in terms of the regulations for the allotment of accommodation.

At this stage Advocate S.S. Ahmed appearing for the petitioner submitted at the Bar that despite filing of the aforesaid Status Report dated September 11th, 2024 wherein it was divulged that thirty-one occupants have been asked to vacate the accommodations on completion of the election process, no steps have been taken by the Estates Department to evict the unauthorised occupants who have been holding the Estates accommodations without being entitled to retain the same for the years now.

On being questioned by the Division Bench, the Senior AAG S.S. Nanda appearing for the Estates

Department submitted in rebuttal that four of the aforesaid occupants on a request made by the Estates Department have vacated their accommodations and others have also been requested to do the needful.

Upon this the Division Bench came down heavily upon the Estates Department and while expressing its serious displeasure observed, "It is very strange that only a request is being made to the occupants, who have been shown as unauthorised occupants after their no legal entitlement to hold the accommodations they have been holding. The Estates Department has not come forward clearly as to why it had not issued eviction orders even after conclusion of the assembly elections in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and formation of a new Government, so as to evict the unauthorised occupants from the accommodations that they are holding without any legal authority. It has been brought to our notice that the Ex-Ministers who had been allotted the VIP bungalows at the time when they were ministers have been holding the same accommodation even after ceasing to be ministers or even legislators."

With these observations and directions, the Division Bench with anguish directed the personal appearance of Commissioner/Secretary to Government of J&K Incharge Estates Department on the next date of hearing to explain whole of the matter along with the latest Status Report about the three issues formulated by the Division Bench.

Looking into the importance and public interest involved in the matter, the Division Bench directed the Registry to re-notify the instant PIL on December 12th, 2024 for further consideration.

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PIL regarding infrastructure facilities in Schools of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh DB grants last and final opportunity to file latest affidavit

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation pertains to improvement of infrastructure facilities in respect of Primary and Secondary Schools in urban and rural areas of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as well as for proper maintenance of students-teachers ratio in these schools, a Division Bench (DB) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Oswal granted four weeks' time as last and final opportunity to file latest affidavit in terms of order dated August 12, 2024.

It is worthwhile to mention here that earlier DB observed that in compliance to the said

direction, Director School Education, Ladakh filed an affidavit on November 24, 2023 highlighting the major steps taken for improvement of Schools in respect of School Education Department, UT of Ladakh from 2020-21 up to July 31, 2023. In the aforesaid affidavit it has been deposed that for drinking water facility for Classes IX & X, 8 works were sanctioned in the financial year 2021-22, out of which only 2 stands completed and the remaining 6 has not yet taken up. For girls toilets for Classes IX & X, 2 works were sanctioned, out of which one stands completed and the remaining one has not yet taken up. Similarly, for boundary walls of schools, 195 works were sanctioned

for the financial year 2022-23, out of which only 9 stands completed, whereas 90 are under progress and 96 have not yet taken up. As regards dilapidated buildings, one work was sanctioned and the same is under progress.

Strange enough that many of the works sanctioned during the financial year 2021-22 and 2022-23, more particularly the toilet and drinking water facilities for girls students, have not yet taken up. Accordingly, Director School Education, Ladakh is directed to file a fresh affidavit indicating the number of works completed as on today, how many are under progress and how many have not yet been started. While filing the affidavit,

Director School Education, Ladakh shall also taken into consideration the directions passed in paragraph-9 of order dated July 26, 2023.

DB further observed that this Court vide order dated December 18, 2013 had requested the Commissioner/Secretary, School Education Department, Jammu to examine the issue relating to the hygiene of the girls students and other issues be also given priority. On the said date the Commissioner/Secretary, School Education Department also assured the Court that he would personally monitor these activities so

that the grievances are addressed to the satisfaction of the concerned. He also assured that by the end of this financial year most of the issues would be resolved. Accordingly, Commissioner/Secretary, School Education Department, Jammu to file the latest action taken report in terms of order dated December 18, 2023 well before the next date of hearing. Commissioner/Secretary to also convene a virtual meeting in terms of the said order and apprise the Court on the next date with regard to the outcome of said meeting and the action taken thereon.

DB set-aside imprisonment of Nepal resident in NDPSA

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Division Bench of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, comprising Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Sanjay Dhar, recently set aside the 11-year imprisonment awarded by the trial court to one Prem Kumar, a resident of Nepal, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPSA).

The prosecution's case, as presented, was that on September 24, 2014, Prem Kumar entered India via Manali and made his way to Leh. Upon encountering a police party, he allegedly attempted to conceal himself. The police claimed to have recovered a substance, later identified as Charas, from a blue bag he was carrying.

After hearing arguments from

both the prosecution and defense, the Division Bench noted several contradictions in the prosecution's case. In particular, there were discrepancies in the testimony of prosecution witnesses regarding how the search and seizure were conducted.

The bench further observed issues related to the safe custody of the seized substance and concluded that these inconsistencies could not be ignored. It emphasized that, based on these contradictions, the benefit of the doubt must be given to the accused, as per established legal principles.

In light of these contradictions, the Division Bench ruled to set aside the trial court's judgment, and directed the immediate release of Prem Kumar. The appeal was allowed, and the conviction was quashed.

OFFICE OF THE EXCISE INSPECTOR WHOLESALE TRADES JAMMU PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that Smt. Chhavi Daluja Licensee of M/s Ikon Wine Traders situated at 71 East Extn., Trikuta Nagar, Jammu has applied in the Excise Department for shifting of Wholesale Trade license (License No. 03/JKEL-1B) from 71 East Extn., Trikuta Nagar, Jammu to Trikuta Nagar Greater Kailash Link Road, Marble Market Jammu (J&K). The undersigned has already affixed the notice at the said premises calling to the objections from the residents of the area. It is therefore notified to the general public that anybody having any objection to the shifting of said license premises should approach in the office of the Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Jammu or the Excise & Taxation Officer, Trade, Jammu at 3rd Floor, Excise and Taxation Complex, Rail Head, Panama Chowk, Jammu within 30 days from the date of issuance of this notice. After expiry of this period, the objections, if any shall not be entertained.

Sd/-
Excise Inspector
Wholesale Trades
Jammu

No:-IWT/CRS/99
Dated:- 12-11-2024

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE CITY JAMMU
 Tele/FAX NO. =01912578774 EMAIL ID: ssptf@jmu@jkpolice.gov.in

TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR JHIRI MELA 2024

The Annual Jhiri Mela shall start w.e.f. 14-11-2024, where a large gathering is expected to witness the Mela from outside the UT of J&K and within the UT of J&K. In order to ensure smooth flow of traffic from Jammu to Jhiri and vice-versa, the general public is requested to follow the following traffic diversions/restrictions for smooth plying of vehicles, so that no inconvenience to general public is caused:-

RESTRICTION/DIVERSIONS:-

- All the Inter-state buses/devotee vehicles coming from Punjab, Kathua, Samba, shall diversion from Raya Morh to Ring Road for Jhiri via Sua no. 01 and back via same route.
- The vehicles of devotees from Gandhi Nagar area, R.S Pura and adjoining areas shall take Ring road from Miran Sahib for Jhiri and shall return back via same route.
- All Buses /Mini buses/commercial vehicles plying from Bus Stand Jammu will adopt Bus Stand-Maheshpora Chowk-Bakshi Nagar Pulli to adopt Akhnoor Road and will take left turn from Sua No. 1 for Jhiri.
- All private LMVs and Medium Vehicles (Mini Buses) will take left turn from main Jammu -Akhnoor Road at Simbliwalla & Chak Mani to Jhiri.
- All the heavy vehicles viz passenger buses, trucks & load carriers of other States on Jammu-Akhnoor road meant for Jhiri will adopt route from Sua No.1 - Chack Soodian - Chak Kranti.
- The entire internal local route PSVs/ LMVs shall be diverted from the Cutoff point at Hari Singh Gharat .
- No heavy vehicle shall be allowed to ply on the road from Mishriwala Chowk(NHW) to Jhiri .
- "One way Traffic" will be implemented on road from Mishriwala (NHW) to Jhiri. Only LMVs/ 2 wheelers shall be allowed to ply back from Jhiri to Mishriwala & no vehicle in any case shall move/ply on the road from Mishriwala Chowk to Jhiri.
- All the vehicles of the devotees/participants shall remain parked in the designated parking slots around the Venue and approaching roads shall be kept free for vehicular movement.
- No vehicle shall be allowed to be parked on either side of the road. Action under the provisions of M.V.Act/rule shall be taken against the violators by the officer Incharge.
- All the motorists/vehicle operators shall follow the Traffic diversions made in connection with Jhiri Mela in the jurisdiction of Traffic City Jammu.
- Public in general and devotees in particular are requested to co-operate with Traffic Police for their convenience during the Mela period and park their vehicles in parking slots not on road side.

PARKING ARRANGEMENTS:-

- Shama Chak Parking near Hari Singh Gharat (LMV's).
- Parking near Steel Bridge (LMV's).
- Chak Mani Parking for Mini Buses (Simblewalla side).
- Kalyanpur side parking near Ram Ditta Sharma House.
- Parking behind Jhiri Temple (HMV's/ LMV's).
- VIP Parking near Naib Tehsildar Office (LMV's).
- Parking near Bawa Talab (LMV's).

For any traffic related assistance, Traffic Control Unit (TCU) Jammu may please be contacted on 0191-2459048 & 94191-47732.

No: TPOJ/PA/Press/2024/25080-83
 Dated: 12.11.2024
 DIP/J-6852/24
 Dated:- 12/11/2024

Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Jammu

Office of the General Manager West Circle, Jammu
 J&K Forest Development Corporation Limited

ABBREVIATED e-AUCTION NOTICE OF STANDING TREES

e-NIA No. 10 of 2024-25/West Dated: 09.11.2024.

For and on behalf of Managing Director J&K Forest Development Corporation, it is notified for information of Public of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in General and Timber Traders, in particular, that J&K FDC Extraction Circle West, Jammu intends to conduct e-auction of Standing Eucalyptus, Shisham, Chir, Poplar and others B/Leaved trees along with 'C' Class Chir Logs available at different Sites / Locations in Jammu Province on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS AND IN WHAT-SO-EVER CONDITION IT IS" basis as detailed in the Annexure-II to the e-Auction Notice No. 10 of 2024-25/West dated: 09.11.2024 issued under endt. No: 767-86/A/GM/W/FDC/J Dated: 09.11.2024. Interested persons/firms can participate in online bidding at <http://oya.auction> which shall be held from 11.00 am to 01.00 pm on 14th of November 2024.

Detailed auction documents (NIA) with terms and conditions are available on <http://oya.auction> and on J&K State Forest Corporation portal www.jksfc.jk.gov.in.

Time Schedule and Key details of the e-Auction

#	Activity	Date & Time/ particulars
1	e-Auction Publishing Date	09.11.2024 at 1800 Hrs
2	CDR/FDR Instrument Deposit End Date	12.11.2024 by or before 1600 hrs
3	Approval Start Date	13.11.2024 from 1200 Hrs
4	Approval End Date	13.11.2024 at 1600 Hrs
5	Auction Start Date	14.11.2024 at 1100 Hrs
6	Auction End Date	14.11.2024 at 1300 Hrs
7	Declaration of Result	14.11.2024
8	Deposit of 25 % Down Payment/Security Deposit by H1 Bidder	By or before 18.11.2024
9	Type of e-Auction	Forward Auction
10	Lot Types	Multi Lot species-wise
11	e-Auction Place	https://oya.auction
12	e-Auction Fee	Nil
13	Security Deposit	Rs.10,000/per bidder (Refundable)
14	Payment Instrument (security deposit)	CDR/FDR/Online Payment Mode (NEFT/RTGS)
15	Security Deposit Exemption Allowed to:	Only Govt. Deptt./PSUs/Autonomous bodies

The Bank instrument w. r .t depositing the security deposit in the form of (FDR/CDR/Bank Challan), as the case may be must be deposited in the office of the General Manager, West Extraction Circle Jammu, situated on Jammu University Road, near Bikram Chowk, Jammu by or before the document submission end date.

In case the Security Deposit is transferred online, particulars of online transaction (UTR number, Date, Bank and Branch, Amount) must be emailed at fdwestcircle202@gmail.com with copy to jkfdcl2021@gmail.com.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in e-auction notice issued by this office under endorsement No: 767-86/A/GM/W/FDC/J Dated: 09.11.2024 shall be part of this e-auction.

Sd/-
No: 787-806 /A /GM/A/FDC/W/J
Dated: 09.11.2024.
DIP/J-2753-P/24
Dated:- 12/11/2024

(Khalid Amin Mehta) SFS
General Manager
J&K Forest Development Corporation
West Extraction Circle Jammu