

# DC Jammu reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget, BDC, DDC, PRI grants

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg on Friday reviewed the ongoing/new works proposed under District Capex Budget including DDC, BDC, PRI grants here at a meeting of the Rural Development Department.

The meeting discussed the works proposed for meeting the developmental needs in the rural areas with focus on strengthening grass-roots level democracy.

Threadbare discussions were held on the status of Administrative approval of identified works, tendering of new works, allotment of approved works besides ongoing and new works proposed under the District Capex Budget.



Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anshul Garg chairing a meeting.

The status of B2V- 3 works and sector wise detail of DDC, BDC and PRI works was also deliberated upon. The issues and bottlenecks

impeding the completion of projects were also highlighted by the concerned officers. Speaking on the occasion, the

Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to make all out efforts for early completion of works so that the benefits reach to common people at the earliest. He also stressed to clear all bottlenecks so that works could be started and completed as per timeline

The Deputy Commissioner exhorted for mobilizing men and machinery for completing the projects in stipulated time frame and urged to ensure productive and fruitful utilization of the available resources.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Satish Sharma; CPO; BDOs and other officers of RDD were also present in the meeting.



Tomatoes price hiked

## NC, PDP should read writings on wall: Abhijeet

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) leaders are still making statements against abrogation of Article 370, its restoration and assuring people to continue fight till restoration of 'Special Status'. Even a layman understands it very well that Article 370 has gone and has become a part of the history. It is a hard reality but regional political parties are not ready to read the writing on the wall which clearly says that Article 370 is no more. It was stated by Jammu & Kashmir BJP Spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia, in a statement issued here, while reacting to repeated utterances of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in particular; who are left with no task but to speak on Special Status to play emotional card for their own political survival. These leaders are aware of the fact that Article 370 was a temporary provision and it would be better for them to first explain as to what their parties did to strengthen and



make it permanent one, he asked.

Abhijeet Jasrotia reminded these leaders that both of them too, have been MPs under oath of the Constitution to respect the Parliament and they need to honour the abrogation of Article 370 as it has been repealed by the same Parliament. "To the height of befooling innocent public these parties have crossed all limits because on 5th August, 2019; there were 5 MPs in the parliament who could have collectively resigned in protest but on the contrary they were seen running from shop to shop, a day before, looking for a worn-out Kurta which they can easily torn in front of media. This shows bigotry of such parties who have nothing to show people of J&K on their report card of 5 decades and that is why they are chanting Raga of Art-370," said Jasrotia, and hoped that good sense may prevail on them and they work to support the Union Government in its initiatives for establishing peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

## PIL against drug abuse: DB grants three weeks time to file compliance report

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking initiation of a special drive by J&K police in entire Union Territory for checking the growing menace of drugs amongst youth and low conviction in NDPS cases, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sanjay Dhar granted three weeks time to AAG for filling compliance report in pursuance of an order dated October 10, 2021.

It is worthwhile to mention here that on October 10, 2021, the Division Bench directed to file fresh status report with regard to disposal of seized contraband in NDPS cases from 2016 to till date along with fresh status report with regard to functioning of Forensic Science Laboratory in the UT of J&K.

When the PIL came-up for hearing, Division Bench observed that from time to time, different status reports have been filed by the respondents and latest being an affi-

davit dated June 16, 2021 filed by the Union Territory of J&K by the Special Director General of Police, Crime Branch J&K pursuant to the direction of this Court dated April 22, 2021. A perusal of affidavit revealed that by the each passing year, there is increase in registration of FIRs in NDPS cases consequently leading to increase in seizure of contraband. In the affidavit, details have also been mentioned with regard to the Poppy/Bhang crops having been destroyed from the year 2016 till 2021. Further, UT Government of J&K has constituted a separate wing i.e. Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) in the Union Territory of J&K. Besides, various steps those have been taken by the Government for creating awareness about the drug menace, has also been mentioned.

In view of status report filed, it cannot be said that the respondents are not taking any steps for controlling/curbing the drug menace prevalent in the society.

Deepika Mahajan sub-

mitted that despite various efforts having been undertaken by the Government, drug menace is yet on the rise and there are certain hubs those are known for promoting the drug culture. She further submits that no report has been furnished by the respondents with regard to the disposal of the seized contraband.

DB observed that it needs to be noted that continuous efforts are required to be made to check the menace of drugs and for that purpose role of the Police is very important and directed the respondents shall resort to the provisions contained in Section 52-A of NDPS Act with regard to the disposal of the seized contraband.

DB further directed AAG shall file fresh status report with regard to the disposal of seized contraband in NDPS cases from year 2016 to till date and further he shall also file fresh status report with regard to functioning of Forensic Science Laboratory in the UT of J&K, well before the next date of hearing.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge CBI Jammu, Sanjeev Gupta has rejected bail applications of Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, Superintendent Engineer and Predhiman Krishan Koul, Assistant Executive Engineer who were arrested by CBI in a corruption case.

The case was registered on basis of a complaint made by complainant Mohd Adiem Parihar alleging demand of amount of bribe of Rs 3 lakh at hands of petitioner No.1 Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, serving as Superintendent Engineer, PWD (R&B), Circle Udhampur-Reasi for processing file related to technical sanction of the project awarded to complainant through tender for construction of Medical Sub-Centre in District Reasi in 2017-2018, of which complainant had executed some part of project. Reportedly, CBI laid trap at PWD Guest House at Udhampur on December 2, 2021 and graft amount of Rs. 40,000 in cash and a cheque of Rs 1,10,000 totaling to Rs 1.5 lakh, lying in an envelope

## EPFO Jammu holds 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat' programme



Regional PF Commissioner-I, Rizwan Uddin interacting with policy holders.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: EPFO Jammu organised its outreach programme 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat' for the month of December 2021 for stakeholders of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Thursday at office premises. EPFO Jammu providing service to both Union Territories (J&K and Ladakh) from Jammu, Srinagar and Ladakh with regard to settlement of claims. Considering a large number of grievances and to ensure service delivery at doorstep, various online initiatives of EPFO such as balance enquiry, filing of online claims including transfer and COVID-19 advance claims and members basic details were explained with hands-on demonstration. Rizwan Uddin, Regional PF Commissioner-I; Ajit Mishra, RPFC-II and Harinder Singh, RPFC-II attended the visitors personally. On the occasion, a number of grievances of participants were addressed on the spot while various other matters were resolved. The endeavour of 'Nidhi Apke Nikat' programme has always been to redress the maximum number of cases/grievances on the same day or at the earliest.

## DB seeks status of progress in student-teacher ratio in urban, rural areas

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation filed by All Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Teacher Federation seeking directions to Union Territory for framing policy for maintaining student-teacher ratio in the schools without any discrimination and implement the same in true letter and spirit, a Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sanjay Dhar after

hearing Senior Advocate Pranav Kohli with Adv Farhan Mirza for PIL where-as AAG Ravinder Gupta for the UT, directed to file status report in respect of various infrastructure projects mentioned therein, as it is not clear whether those projects have been completed. DB further directed AAG to file status report indicating progress in the student-teacher ratio, both in urban and rural areas.

In the PIL, it has been submitted that issues regarding transfers of the

teachers, which are made so casually by Head of the Department that sometimes, a school having a meager strength of children gets teachers whose number exceeds children studying in schools. On the other hand, the schools which are situated at a far off distance remained deprived of adequate number of teachers with; the result the next generation remains deprived of its fundamental right, i.e. Right to Education merely because of corrupt, vested interest of some of the

officers. As per petitioner's information, the student-teacher ratio in schools, which are located in the cities is much more than the ratio in villages. Moreover, the infrastructure of majority of the schools is in depilated conditions, and no steps are being taken by the concerned authorities in this regard, by siphoning off funds sanctioned for the said purpose. The Petitioner has raised its concern before concerned authorities time and again but action has been taken till date.

which was kept in a bag by co-accused Sanjay Koul, Junior Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Lander was recovered, which was accepted by him from the complainant on behalf of Sheikh on instructions of Predhiman Krishan Koul. Presently, petitioners are on judicial remand.

Special Judge CBI Sanjeev Gupta, after hearing both the sides, observed that in the instant case the transcript of recorded conversation at the time of verification of complaint and on the day of trap between the complainant and petitioners ex-facie suggests to be a case of demanding illegal gratification in pursuance of a criminal conspiracy between petitioners in pursuance of which co-accused Sanjay

Koul was made to accept the bribe amount from the complainant which was allegedly recovered from him. The bribe amount is alleged to have been exhorting to demanding and accepting the same as consideration for processing the file with regard to giving technical sanction of construction work allotted to the firm of complainant. Abuse of official position is attributed to the petitioners who as officials of PWD Department are admittedly governed by a set of rules regarding their conduct. "The offences under PC Act have far reaching consequences which affects the society. The individual liberty cannot be accentuated to such an extent or elevated to such a high pedestal which would

bring in anarchy or disorder in the society. In other words the societal concern has to be kept in view in juxtaposition of individual liberty. Furthermore, given the status and position of petitioners, influencing of material witnesses cannot be ruled out, in case concession of bail is extended to them," the Court observed. Court further observed that in so far as case law cited at bar by the Counsel for the petitioner, it is of no avail as proposition of law laid down with regard to the provisions of section 7 of the PC Act in the said authorities was dealt with by Apex Court at the stage of appeal after post trial of the trap cases of graft. With these observations, the Court rejected bail applications.

## ASSOCHAM delegation meets DGFT, submits suggestions for promotion of exports from J&K

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K council of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) today submitted suggestions to Amit Yadav, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for promotion of exports from Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation led by Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council today met DGFT in Jammu. In the representation shared by ASSOCHAM, the industry body suggested Rail corridor from J&K to the nearest port in Gujarat.

ASSOCHAM also suggested Subsidy/ Concession on Freight, Import-Export Exposition Centres for

Jammu and Srinagar cities, Subsidy on horticulture produce and Short-term course of Import Exports for Locals.

"Jammu and Kashmir has number of products which can be exported to other countries. Suggestions submitted to DGFT" can boost the exports from J&K," said Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council.

Amit Yadav, DGFT was on his visit to Jammu to chair the Export Promotion through Quality seminar organised by the Ministry of Commerce with Jammu Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO). Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce,

Ankita Kar, MD JKTPPO among senior officers of DGFT and Industry and Commerce department of J&K were also present in the meeting.

"Such seminars organised by JKTPPO and DGFT encourages the local exporters to focus more on products of export potential. It also clears their doubts about the government policies," Batra said.

The ASSOCHAM delegation led by Chairman Manik Batra was comprised of Siddharth Gupta, Managing Partner, Lotus trading, Bisham Batra, CEO, Pegasus Business Solution and Amit Khajuria, Assistant Director, ASSOCHAM J&K.

# Why observe J&K Accession Day only & not of other Princely states that acceded to India Dominion, ask 'some'?

Government of India in fair wisdom has initiated some actions in August 2019 which were in a way never priorities of the earlier governments but had become the must need for setting some routes for treading the paths for bringing peace and stability in J&K for medicating the ideological pollutions by eradicating the myths about 'Kashmir' being constitutionally total India and uprooting the separatist ideologies that had been also helping the foreign players in their designs against India since nearly all J&K questioning tones were raised by the leaders having roots in Kashmir Valley and those professing all identities only in Kashmiri at where as Kashmir valley is a very small region in comparison to even Jammu region what to talk of Ladakh Region. Ladakh region not even reflected from the name of the erstwhile State of J&K. But the political cadres need to work with much more care and commitment ( rising above petty

political interests ) since the at social level much need be done and that can better be done by non governmental agencies. The gauge for the 'success' would be no other than return of the 'migrants' to Kashmir valley on their own.

With the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 NO. 34 OF 2019 in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India (received assent of President of India on 9th August 2019 ) atleast now a message has gone to the people 'outside' that the real dimensions of Bharat Varsh should be gauged from Ladakh to Kanayakumari. (i) Union territory of Ladakh comprising of territories of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir, namely- "Kargil and Leh districts" (ii) Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir comprising the territories of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir other than those specified for UT of Ladakh.. Earlier also suggestions



A Look through the Mist Part-V

had been made to also show the areas occupied by Pakistan /China in the Jurisdictions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/ Divisional Commissioner Jammu/ Deputy Commissioner Leh/ Kargil. But still there are some occupied areas that need be formally mentioned under the jurisdictions of Divisional Commissioner Jammu / Divisional Commissioner Kashmir .

No doubt some people in J&K have expressed unhappiness over the enactment of THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANISATION ACT, 2019 NO. 34 OF 2019 that reorganised the then existing Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Objections have more come from the people of Jammu Region and that of Kashmir region where as the people of

- ▶▶ Many unfair myths about the 'accession' & state of J&K have been allowed survive for 7 decades
- ▶▶ 'Koyi Bhi Duniyaan Ka Aadmi Nahin Hai Jo Jammu Kashmir Ko Kashmir State Ke Naam Se Nahin Janta: Azad
- ▶▶ Ladakh region not even reflected from the name of the erstwhile State of J&K.
- ▶▶ It was the right of the Prince of a Princely State only & not of 'his subjects to Decide Accession
- ▶▶ Those who have been cultivating myth of no merger have taken advantage of term 'Vilay' used for Accession
- ▶▶ 'Valley leaders' were not checked for wrongly projecting Art 35A & Art 370 as 'distancing' symbols
- ▶▶ Government of India (GOI) must atleast now draw clear line between Separatist & Mainstream ideologies
- ▶▶ J&K Accession Day (Adhimilan Divas) is observed to undo otherwise myths about J&K being 'total' India
- ▶▶ Once the myths are washed away there will be no need to observe J&K Accession day

Ladakh Region are in general happy with the status of a Union Territory ( rather they are often found expressing thanks to present government of India for having presented the reorganisation bill in the Parliament ). Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been regularly assuring ,both inside as well as outside the Parliament, that at appropriate opportunity Government of India will approach the Parliament for according the status of a State to the present UT of J&K and people should have no otherwise opinion on that.

The facts, needs and the references that have been discussed here will have to be taken among the common masses in well meaning way and with minimum possible off colours and dimensions of streams of political gamesmanship rising above any regional and religious controversies.

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