

# I for early completion of projects

# H for early signs with National Innovation Foundation

Work on MGSY projects is being personally monitored by the Secretary R&B Mr. Shalinder Kumar, Chief Engineer PMGSY, Mr. Mohammad Shafi and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

to personally monitor the execution of work in all the districts so the funds allotted to the schemes could be utilized judiciously.

The meeting also reviewed the execution of road projects under 5th and directed the concerned engineers to complete these projects at the earliest.

Referring to the projects taken up under fast track programme, Minister directed the concerned agencies to speed up the work and called for monitoring at all levels.

Secretary R&B Mr. Shalinder Kumar, Chief Engineer PMGSY, Mr. Mohammad Shafi and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

**Srinagar, July 02 :** The University of Kashmir has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Ahmadabad, to establish a technology incubation Cell named as "GIAN Cell, Jammu & Kashmir" with all the financial aid from NIF under the Grass-root Innovation and Augmentation Network (GIAN) programme of NIF. GIAN Cell J&K will be located at University Science Instrumentation Centre (USIC) and will function under the Chairmanship of Prof. G. Mohiuddm Bhat, Director USIC, a press release issued here confirmed.

Under the said MOU, the University of Kashmir has to provide the infrastructural facility including Science Workshop with necessary fixtures & equipment for prototype fabrication and office administration whereas NIF will provide all the funding for fabrication, patenting support and commercialization of innovative technologies developed by various inventors in Jammu & Kashmir.

National Innovation Foundation (NIF) is an organization set up by the Department of Science & Technology Government of India with a mission to make the country innovative and a global leader in sustainable technologies by building upon the genius of grassroots technological innovators and outstanding traditional knowledge experts. In order to make the country truly innovative and self-reliant, a complete value chain needs to be built around the indigenous knowledge system available in every corner of the country. The value addition in grassroots innovation and outstanding traditional knowledge will help in generating new models of poverty alleviation, rural development, employment generation and conservation of natural resources through generation of higher In-

comes for the innovators, improving efficiency of production in farm and

non-farm sectors without impairing the ecological balance and environment quality.

To Move the technologies generated at the grassroots up in the value chain NIF is setting up GIAN cells in different regions of the country. The GIANs have a mandate to provide hand holding Support to grassroots in converting their innovations into viable products and feasible enterprises. The GIAN Cell J&K is the fourth such platform established all over the country and the Cell has been established to support their innovators from Northern region especially the J&K State.

NIF will provide project-based support to the GIAN Cell. The cell will submit the project proposals, after getting them cleared by the Steering Committee of GIAN Cell. NIF will sanction the required funding for the projects, depending upon the merit of the project within a shortest period of time. Further a Venture Fund of Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakh), in the beginning, will be provided by the NIF to the J&K GIAN cell. This fund will be maintained under a separate account head called GIAN-VF in the Bank account of the Cell. The fund will be subsequently increased, over the time, as per the requirement.

The MOU was signed up Prof. Syed Fayaz Ahmad, Registrar, the University of Kashmir, on behalf of the University of Kashmir and Shri L. Chinzah, National Coordinator, NIF, Ahmadabad, on 25th of June, 2008 at 3 PM. Prof. G Mohiuddin Bhat Director USIC, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Bhat, Head Deptt. of Commerce, Prof. Mufteeh Ahmad, Deptt. of Management Studies, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Kaw of CCAS and other senior officials of the University were also present.

## atmosphere



quired infrastructure and providing full logistical support for making available various services with a view to fully ensure and facilitate the welfare, safety and security of the pilgrims during the entire Yatra. For this purpose, land would be made available to the Tourism Department, as per requirement, at various locations from Jammu onward to the Holy Cave via Baltal-Domail as well as Pahalgam Yatra route. Besides the government is fully committed not to interfere in the religious affairs of the Shri Amamathji Shrine Board.

They said that Tourism Department has been directed to make adequate provisions in its annual budget, keeping in view the ever increasing number of yatris, so that not only are the existing facilities for pilgrims properly maintained but also these are upgraded further from year to year.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu briefed the ministers about the arrangements made by the police and district administration during curfew hours.

apprised management is to ensure requirements of the the SAsB pursue its for forest ed for tempo he Yatris it governa ge all the of under- ion of re-