

# Dr Jitendra announces 75 Technology Hubs for SCs, STs

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday announced setting up of 75 Science Technology & Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country, exclusively for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), which will not only promote scientific talent but also contribute to socio-economic development of these communities.

He said that in the last two years, 20 STI Hubs (13 for SCs and 7 for STs) have already been established which will directly benefit 20,000 SC and ST population through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm, other allied livelihood sectors and various livelihoods assets like energy, water, health, education, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the decision has been taken in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and resolve to handhold the weaker sections and raise them at par with other sections of society, so that all could collectively contribute to take India to new heights in the next 25 years.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh briefing the media about exclusive technology initiatives for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes , at New Delhi on Wednesday.

Referring to Prime Minister's address from the Red Fort on 75th Independence Day, the Minister said that along with the concern of fulfilling the basic needs, reservation is being ensured for the Dalits, Backward classes, Adivasis and also the poor people from general category. More recently, in the field of medical education, reservation has also been ensured for the OBC category in the All India quota and by

formulating a law in Parliament, the right to make their own list of OBC has been given to the States, he added.

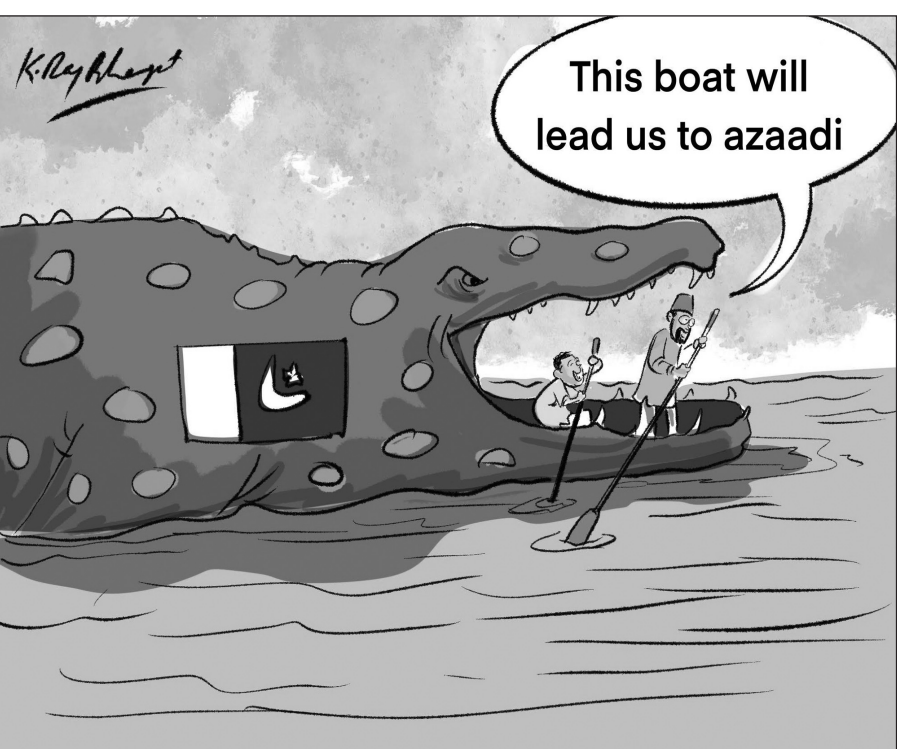
Dr Jitendra said that Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs being established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) will develop, nurture and ensure the delivery of appropriate and relevant technologies for inclusive socio-economic development through creation of sustainable livelihoods for the SC and ST population in tune to their growing aspirations. The Minister said, the training and skill development programmes under the STI Hubs will build the Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Capacities and Capabilities among SC/ST population. The STI Hubs also improve the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) through inputs of S&T and converting them to appropriate technologies for creating better livelihood options, he added.

The Minister said, STI hubs will have mainly threefold objectives: a) To address the weakest linkages in the predominant livelihood systems through Science & Technology (S&T) interventions b) Creation of social enterprises based on the strengths in livelihood systems c) To improve the

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) through inputs of S&T for strengthening the livelihoods.

The STI Hub established by CSIR - Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) in Union Territory of Ladakh is integrating Information Technology (IT) with health diagnostics and developing the skill of ST youth in IT. The Center is developing IoT based Point of Care Devices (PoCD), E-diagnostics and Smart Diagnostic Technologies for transmitting real-time observations to medical experts which will largely benefit the ST population of the region.

The STI Hub established in Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, West Bengal is catering to the needs of ST population belonging to 34 villages in 15 blocks of 7 districts of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. The interventions include development of water filters using nano materials, production of aromatic oils, establishment of germplasm of various medicinal plants to develop niche products and development of social enterprises. 2296 persons now have access to clean and safe drinking water and 1410 persons have access to health care facilities and improved nutrition.



# Delegation calls on LG; resents over debarring Mahajans, Khattris, Sikhs from buying agri land

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation comprising members of various communities have urged Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately rescind the discriminatory order debarring Mahajans, Khattris and Sikhs from buying agricultural land chunks in the UT of J&K.

In this regard, a delegation submitted a memorandum, projecting this burning demand of the community members, stating that the aforesaid order is not in line with the spirit of constitution of India.

The delegation comprised, J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Arun Kumar Gupta and Ramesh Arora urged the Lt Governor to notify the list of "category of persons" (agriculturalists/ Non-Agriculturalists) under Section 133-II of J&K Land Revenue Act and direct the Director General of Registration not to deny the registration of agricultural land to Mahajans, Khattris & Sikhs of J&K, by wrongly applying Order No. 546-C of 1939 issued under section 6 of the obsolete J&K Alienation of Land Act ( No V of 1995 Samvat) made in Maharaja Hari Singh's time and repealed on October 26, 2020 along with half a dozen other land laws.

They said that when Constitution of India debars discrimination on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex etc how can the bureaucracy deprive any person from doing agriculture business on the ground of his caste? He expressed concern on the fact that the Registration



Various communities delegation members presenting memorandum to LG, Manoj Sinha.

Territory whereas there is no such bar on other communities. They said that the restriction is discriminatory especially after the abrogation of Article 370.

They said that the amended State Land Law has created a new case of inequality by axing three major sections of population- Mahajans, Khattris and Sikhs for certain rights of sale purchase of agriculture land and taking up farming as a profession as these communities falls in the list of "non- agriculturalists" under Section 6 of the obsolete J&K Alienation of Land Act (No V of 1995 Samvat) made in Maharaja Hari Singh's time and repealed on October 26, 2020 along with half a dozen other land laws.

They said that when Constitution of India debars discrimination on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex etc how can the bureaucracy deprive any person from doing agriculture business on the ground of his caste? He expressed concern on the fact that the Registration

Authority has started rejecting registration of sale deeds in respect of Mahajans, Khattris & Sikhs by applying the definition of "Agriculturists" from Section 6 of 1939 repealed Act.

They claimed that this move is unfair and calls for immediate amendment of Revenue Act, Samvat 1996 in-order to do away with this utter discrimination denying the rights to aforesaid communities. He also appealed to LG to notify the list of "category of persons" (agriculturalists/ Non-Agriculturists) under Section 133-II of J&K Land Revenue Act to do away this anomaly.

After listening to the plight of the delegation, the Lt Governor assured that soon action will be taken to do away with this discriminatory clause giving the rightful opportunity to the communities presently deprived of their due right. He appreciated the delegation for enlightening the administration about this crucial issue.

# Jammu Bar Association organises get-together

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu organized a get-together function followed by lunch in the honour of Chief Justice, Pankaj Mithal, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

The function started with the presentation of bouquets to Judges who participated in the function, namely Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur; Justice Sanjeev Kumar; Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal and Justice Puneet Gupta.

While addressing the gathering, M.K Bhardwaj, Senior Advocate & President, JKHCBAJ said that the Bar has organized this second get-together function within a span of one month.

Bhardwaj apprised the gath-



Jammu Bar President M.K Bhardwaj presenting bouquet to Chief Justice, Pankaj Mithal, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

ering that the office bearers of the Bar have met the Chief Justice and brought all the problems being faced by the legal fraternity at Jammu and that the Chief Justice give patient hearing and assured to consider the same in time bound manner.

Bhardwaj further raised the issue of transfer of registration power to Revenue Authorities instead of Judicial

officers whereby the lawyers and public are facing inconvenience.

Bhardwaj apprised the gathering that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) is not presently located at a proper place.

There is no proper parking facility and even the infrastructure is not enough to cater the needs of litigant public, he said adding that for the

last two years no consumer commission is established besides the Tribunals are being located at far of places from the court complex due to which both the lawyers as well as litigants suffer.

Bhardwaj also appealed to Senior Advocate D.C Raina, Advocate General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to bring all the problems being faced by the Advocates to the notice of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir for their solution/redressal.

Bhardwaj thanked the Chief Justice and all other Judges of High Court and subordinate court for gracing the occasion.

Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, while addressing the gathering conveyed that he is feeling happy in participating in the function organized by J&K High Court Bar Association,

Jammu.

He said that "I am one amongst all of you".

The Chief Justice assured to look into the matters at appropriate time while taking into confidence the stakeholders.

The Chief Justice shared his experiences both before and after joining of the legal profession.

The Chief Justice encouraged the young members of the Bar and motivated them to excel in the profession. He further suggested that if we continue to work hard, honestly, sincerely and dedicatedly then all the problems would become automatically solved/ resolved.

Surjeet Singh Andotra, General Secretary conducted the proceedings of the function. Aditya Sharma, Joint Secretary presented the vote of thanks.

# Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of Cooperative Deptt

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the working of Cooperative Department.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing the progress made in the issues like liquidation of JAKFED, Yuva Sahakar Scheme, modernization of Super Bazaars, and other allied issues related to working of the department so as to induce more enthusiasm among the officers of the Department.

At the outset, the Secretary directed the officers to work with honesty and dedication so that the Department is taken to new heights and regains the glory like past times.

The Secretary expressed that the cooperative institutions, particularly, Super Bazaars, have a vital role to play and these institutions can prove to be a game changer with focussed attention.

She expressed that the liqui-



Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

dation of JAKFED is to be finalized after addressing all the issues including completion and authentication of records so that the process is taken to its logical conclusion.

The meeting was informed that the matter has been taken up by liquidator with the concerned departments who have defaulted in making payments to JAKFED and accordingly figures shall be worked out by the liquidator for recovery of

the amount.

The Secretary directed the concerned officers to submit the details of employees against whom cases are pending with ACB or Crime Branch so that the action on their claims is taken accordingly. She also directed the committee for submitting the records pertaining to retirees upto 20th of this month. While reviewing the progress on proposals of new registrations, the Secretary

emphasized that the registration of new cooperatives and cooperative societies should be completed within two months and weekly reports be submitted about the progress made therein.

Yasha further desired to ensure disposal of pending registration cases on fast track basis so that the backlog is cleared. Similarly, it was impressed upon the participating officers to pay focussed attention on pending audit paras so that all the paras are dropped within this month .

Progress on modernization of Super Bazaars was discussed in detail and it was directed that the General Managers should make efforts to complete the work within the specified time frame. The Secretary directed that the Super Bazaars need to launch an advertisement campaign for attracting more foot-fall of customers apart from participating in making supplies through GeM portal so

that the volume of their business and profitability gets a boost. Regarding bar coding, instructions were given that all the Super Bazaars should ensure that bar coded pattern of billing is in place as the same is transparent and time saving.

While reviewing the Yuva Sahakar Scheme, the chair directed that the salient features of the scheme may be shared with the field officers of the department who can give better suggestions based on the experience in the field.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K, Additional Registrars of both the divisions, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars. The meeting was also attended by Shaifqat Iqbal, Special Secretary Cooperatives, FACAQ, Additional Secretary and Deputy Secretary Cooperative apart from other senior officers of the Co-operative Department.

# Undo doubts about GoI having interest only in 'Kashmir' by prioritising interest outside Valley

► Areas in & around Bhadarwah, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Basohli continue to face neglect

► Areas outside Kashmir Valley need a High Power Dev Board for Tourism & Surface Transport

Suggestions have been made at occasions that route to Anantnag from Pathankot via Basohli, Bhaderwah, Doda, Kishtwar would more yielding from socio-commercial angles, for the local population, would be a cheaper and better than the over all for development of backward areas of J&K since a very large unexploited commercial summer / winter/ adventure / pilgrim tourism will also be exploited but the proposals & promises thrown by the governments in power/ local leaders have only provided news stories / newlines to political leader one after the other all these years with Basohli-Bhaderwah still in 2021 remaining an unsafe fair weather road.

The then Minister in PDP-Congress Government Muzaffar Hussain Baig had proposed for development of a tourist circuit from Lakhampur to Simthan via Basohli, Bani, Bhaderwahand Kishtwar and but had kept only Rs 8 crore in 2005-2006 budget. No doubt amount of just Rs 8 Cr: was not more than a symbolic humble beginning but even that pinch of salt was not taken beyond. Such projects / circuits if drawn on real value basis that has to be atleast in a few thousand crores to

startwith would have surely improved the economy of J&K ( Jammu Region in particular ) by exposing the tourist spots to the visitors (ofcourse may be some tourist to Kashmir Valley would reduce ). But there has been nothing more than simple press releases.

Similalry conducting the tourist to Kashmir via Rajouri and like areas of Jammu region would have boosted the economy of the region and would have also checked the militant safe hides in this area had the 'work' been done by the government earlier to 1990s. The Mughal Road of pre 1947 times was a fair weather road (bridal path got constructed by Jahangir for moving his Darwar from Lahore to Srinagar) which is also a short route via Buzfiyaz through to Shopian connecting Rajouri & Poonch with valley.

Defence authorities had taken up the work of a motorable road in hand upto Hill Kala from Buzfiyaz in 2004 where as State Government had practically stopped the work on this project ( started even in 1979/1980 ). Ghulam Hassan Mir the then Tourism Minister had accused GoI in 2005 for not providing the needed Rs100 Crs for its reconstruction and had said that over Rs.1500 Crs

had already been spent on this road . Where had the money gone ? B.A.Naz had suggested- ed during the same period that the government should recast the lay out plan of Mughal Road as was going through high altitude passes ( may be 10000ft above MSL) of Pir Panjal ranges . Provision of tunnels should be kept to keep the road open during winters was suggested repeatedly .In modern times even tens of kilometer long tunnel could be constructed with out much difficulty. Cost should not matter much here when we are spending a few hundred crores even in cities like Delhi for one flyover.

As claimed Asia's then largest under ground tunnel ( 2809.16 meter long and 7.3 meter high ) was started in 2000 and completed in August 2004 ( Larji Hydro electric project in Mandi District). In June 2008 the Kashmir centric leadership instead did try to draw political benefits in the name of construction of Mughal road by dubbing the road as a link between muslim majority areas of Jammu region and Kashmir Valley and even some people from Jammu Region started raising



A Look through the Mist

objections on this route to Valley where as the Jammu leadership should have simultaneously generated more pressures on government of India to take the 4- Lane Jammu Poonch Highway proposals and Mughal Road project to their logical ends without wasting any more time .People around are still hopefully hoping from the present Union Government that Jammu Poonch road will be one day sanctioned as atleast a four lane ( if not six lane ) regular national highway but inspite of regular efforts of the Jugal Kishore Sharma local MP road sanctions / executions even in 2021 have not moved beyond just remodelling / upgradation of a segment beyond Jammu towards Akhnoor.

Imagine what a large economic benefit would have flown to people of Rajouri and Poonch districts had the 4 laning been done by 1990 and the Mughal road also completed ?

Where as atleast for last more than 40 years this road had remained neglected and the Kashmir Centric leaders from all streams who is accused by some for being Kashmiri majority community biased did not bother even for the

majority community of these areas. Even mugals used Mugal Road from visiting Kashmir Valley but even in independent India with high speed road construction / material handling equipment available this just around 80 KM road has not been made worth promoting commercial tourism though Poonch Rajouri ( Pir Panchal areas ) and motivating the tourist for approaching Kashmir Valley via Mugal Road even the year 2021 on its last legs.

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Had the much needed road network been created also through the districts of Jammu Province leading to Kashmir/ Ladakh ( Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Bhaderwah ) it would have provided immediate employment to the local poorest of the poor, promoted tourism ,promoted local industry, horti-

culture, local economy and over all income of the State.

Areas in and around Bhaderwah, Kishtwar,Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur ,Basohli reaches and like need be cared for commercial tourism taking leads from Himachal Pradesh. Let no body allege that GOI has only geographical interest in J&K and for that local interests out side Kashmir valley too should be prioritised . People of backward areas of Jammu region expected atleast BJP lead NDA-II/III to provide J&K with "Priority Projects" and extra special funds to undo the neglect ( of over last 6 decades ) of areas outside Kashmir Valley but !!!!!!!.

To make good the loss due to unfair neglect metted over the years and handle the magnitude of the jobs to be undertaken a High Power Board for Development of Tourism and Communication Infrastructure in Jammu Division could be appointed. Why not rework on such like projects atleast in 2021 on priority to the gain the lost time and even seek loan assistance from WB/ADB?

(Daya Sagar is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).

