

Dr Jitendra for promoting Udhampur 'Kalhari', Lavender StartUps, MP Fund for Medical College

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: While chairing the DISHA (District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee) meeting here on Sunday, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh made out a strong case of promoting the Udhampur "Kalhari", a local Milk Food product which was also mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his recent public rally here, through value addition and fusion options.

The Minister also noted that after the Bhaderwah success story, Lavender cultivation had also been undertaken in the upper reaches of Latti area and required more involvement of the elected representatives to raise it to the next level and turn into an avenue of StartUps and livelihood.

In response to certain observations made by the Principal of the newly set up Government Medical College here, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that process has been initiated to provide extra land for the Medical College and he has also directed the Deputy Commissioner to meet the requirement of upgraded Ambulance and other needs from his personal MP fund (MPLAD).

At the meeting, Dr Jitendra Singh reviewed the



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing the (District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee) meeting at Udhampur on Sunday.

status of implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with the district administration and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Union Minister was given a detailed presentation on schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) PM-Kisan, MGNREGA, and SAMAGRA Shiksha. During the meeting, he was also apprised about the implementation of schemes related to Health, Education and Employment.

In his address, Dr Jitendra affirmed that the Government of India has embarked on a mission aimed at enhancing the quality of life of citizens through improvements in delivery of essential services and infrastructure. He reiterated that effective delivery of services and facilities aimed at reducing public inconvenience must be ensured by the con-

cerned departments. He said the government is committed to ensuring Ease of Living and improving level of satisfaction of citizens.

The Union Minister called for improving the quality of roads built under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

He said ensuring connectivity to habitations which are yet to be covered under the scheme should be prioritised, and steps be taken to initiate work as soon as possible.

On shortage of ambulances in hospitals, Dr Jitendra suggested that these emergency and life-saving vehicles can be procured, utilising funds provided under MPLAD scheme. He directed the district administration to formulate a proposal in this regard for consideration.

Dr Jitendra also called for hiring trained technicians to operate diagnostic machines which require specialised expertise.

Taking a serious note of the

dearth of teachers in government schools of rural areas in the district, the Union Minister recommended adopting the policy of rationalisation, adding that students cannot suffer in the current scenario. Describing the students as architects of a Viksit Bharat, he said their time, energy and talent must be tapped.

Dr Singh also called for launching a campaign to confront the issue of illegal mining in the district. He said the practice poses a serious threat to both ecology of the region and public health.

The Union Minister suggested that a dedicated portal should be created through which public representatives can bring public issues to the notice of the concerned, and seek their solution in a time-bound manner.

Dr Jitendra also appealed to the district administration and the members of PRIs to organise awareness camps to encourage cultiva-

tion of lavender, value addition of kaladi product, and availing benefits under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Dr Jitendra Singh also urged the local MLAs and representatives of PRIs to highlight the salient features of PM Vishwakarma and PM SVANidhi, saying that awareness camps should be organised in rural areas to create awareness about the two schemes.

The DISHA meeting was attended by DDC, Chairperson, Udhampur, Lal Chand; Member, Legislative Assembly, Udhampur West, Pawan Kumar Gupta; Member, Legislative Assembly, Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania; Member, Legislative Assembly, Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj; DDC, Vice Chairperson, Jubi Manhas Pathania; DDC members Amit Sharma, Parikshat Singh, Puran Chand Rakesh Sharma, Pinki Singh.

The administration team was led by Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai; Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure; DDCs and other District heads of various departments.

Shah turned Delhi into jungle raj: Kejriwal



Yudhvir, JMC Commissioner unveil unique exhibition showcasing local artisans products

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A special exhibition celebrating the exceptional craftsmanship of local artisans was inaugurated today by Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, alongside Devansh Yadav, Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

The event took place at the picturesque Wild Sapiens Station (Homestay) in Sidhra, Jammu, and offered a remarkable platform for showcasing the creative talents of local artists.

The exhibition, filled with cultural vibrancy, saw the participation of numerous promising artists who displayed their unique products.

The event not only highlighted the exceptional craftsmanship but also provided an invaluable opportunity for networking and exposure.

Visitors had the chance to engage with the artists and appreciate the intricacy of their work, which ranged from handmade accessories and paintings to traditional crafts that represent the rich culture of Jammu.

Among the many talented artisans, the exhibition featured works by Pavani Gandotra, Shourya Aggarwal, Monika Chouhan, Shreeanshi Sumbria, Asha Mahajan, Ilyas Latief, Renu Billoria, Naina Saini, Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua, Urvasi, Neelofer Shujat, Ekta Sharma, Dhervi



MLA, Yudhvir Sethi and JMC Commissioner, Devansh Yadav visiting an exhibition.

Kashyap, Simmi Dhar, Bhawna, Raavi Sharma, Priya Gupta, Deepali Handa, Sakshi Katal, Rajni, and Kalpana Vinay.

The event was hosted by Monika Mitter and Puneet Gupta, who expressed their appreciation for the artisans' dedication and creativity.

They also took the opportunity to thank the Chief Guest, MLA Yudhvir Sethi, and the Guest of Honor, Sh. Devansh Yadav, for their presence and continued support for local initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi expressed his immense pride in the artistry and talent of the local community.

He emphasized the importance of promoting and preserving local craftsmanship, stating, "Jammu's artisans are an essential part of our rich cultural heritage. It is our responsibility to provide them with the right platform and opportunities to showcase their work. This exhibition is not just about

art; it is a celebration of the skills and creativity that define our region."

Yudhvir further added, "Such events are crucial in connecting artisans with a wider audience, offering them exposure and networking opportunities that can help them grow and thrive. I am committed to supporting our local artists and ensuring their work gets the recognition it truly deserves."

As a gesture of gratitude, the dignitaries were presented with mementos in recognition of their contribution to promoting the local artisan community. Additionally, both Sethi and Yadav presented participation certificates to the artisans, acknowledging their hard work and commitment to preserving and promoting local craft.

The exhibition concluded on a positive note, with both dignitaries and organizers expressing their commitment to hosting similar events in the future, further supporting the growth of local artisans and their products.

Gaurav lauds LG Sinha's push for Rs 75,000 Cr Industrial Package to fuel J&K's growth

Seeks capping of package for local traders, industrialists to empower regional growth

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and industry, Jammu on Sunday lauded the proactive steps taken by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in seeking the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Department for Promotion of Industrial and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to raise the industrial package granted to Jammu and Kashmir.

With the exhaustion of initial industrial package of Rs 28,400 crore following the registration of 971 units, Gaurav Gupta expressed his strong support for the Lt Governor's request to escalate the package to Rs 75,000 crore. He emphasized that this move is crucial to sustaining the momentum of industrial development in the region and addressing

the growing demand from prospective entrepreneurs.

In a press statement issued here today, the former General Secretary pointed out that nearly 300 proposals are currently awaiting approval, underscoring the urgent need for the expanded financial package to facilitate further registrations and investments.

"This decisive step by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha highlights the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir administration to foster industrial growth and create a robust business environment. By seeking a Rs 75,000 crore industrial package, the government is ensuring that the momentum gained over the past few years continues and that Jammu and Kashmir remains a top investment destination," he added.

Gaurav emphasized the need to ensure that some portion of this enhanced

industrial package should be reserved specifically for the local traders and industrialists of Jammu and Kashmir.

He pointed out that the local business community often struggles to compete with large-scale industrialists from across the country due to resource constraints and the topography of the region.

He also emphasized that the reserved portion of the industrial package should be time-bound in its usage to ensure optimal and efficient utilization.

"It is crucial that local entrepreneurs and industrialists are given their fair share of opportunities under this package. By capping a portion of the package for local stakeholders will not only boost their morale but also enable them to grow and contribute more effectively to the region's economy," he said.

The former General Secretary further

appealed to all trade and industrialist organizations in Jammu and Kashmir to unite on a single platform and collectively approach the Lt. Governor to advocate for this reservation.

Highlighting the importance of solidarity, he stated that a unified effort would strengthen their voice and ensure that the local "sons of the soil" are empowered and motivated to actively participate in the region's industrial resurgence.

Gaurav reiterated his confidence in the Lt. Governor's leadership and commitment to the welfare of the region.

"Lt. Governor Sinha's timely initiative to seek an enhanced industrial pack-

age demonstrates his vision for a progressive Jammu and Kashmir. Capping a portion of the upcoming package for local stakeholders will further ensure that the fruits of development reach everyone, fostering inclusive growth," he added.

Gaurav asserted that the Rs. 75,000 crore industrial package, if approved, will be a game-changer for Jammu and Kashmir, boosting employment, encouraging entrepreneurship, and cementing the region's position as a hub for industrial innovation.

He called for continued collaboration between the government and local stakeholders to achieve this shared vision.

PM Modi steers India to highest pinnacles of progress: Slathia

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia on Sunday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for steering the nation to highest pinnacles of progress and development with focus on ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes percolate down to last person in the society.

"The Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar (self-reliant) Bharat is Sashaktikaran (empowerment) of all, irrespective of religion, region or caste, as per his cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas", Slathia said while interacting with the people at the sidelines of launching macadamisation of road from S.C Ward Kamila to Utter Behni



MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia inaugurating macadamisation of road.

Road Kamila under City Town Scheme.

He said it is with this mantra that every BJP Karyakarta is reaching out to the people, aware them about the schemes tailored for their welfare, listen to their problems and make every effort in getting

these resolved by taking up the grievances or issues with appropriate forums in the administration. Slathia said the commitment of the Prime Minister to public welfare keeps every worker on mission mode to be amid them like a family. This inspiring ethos of the BJP is a

major irritant for the INDI Alliance especially the Congress and its allies National Conference and the PDP, which is why they are channeling all their negative energies towards maligning the BJP.

Now that the NC-Congress have come together, they have to fulfill all the promises made during elections as mere rhetoric will not be enough, he said adding that the people are keenly watching the government's performance on every front.

Slathia, who is also BJP Pradesh Vice President, referred in detail to the path-breaking initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, OneNation-One Ration Card, StartUp, Digital Bharat, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jan Dhan Yojana, Izzat Ghar programme

and much more, saying these schemes have changed the lives of the people.

He said the health cover of Rs 5 lakh each is available to over 50 crore families across the country apart from senior citizens above 70 years, irrespective of their financial status. Under this scheme, the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir is covered, as a special dispensation, he added.

Earlier, Slathia kick started the macadamisation of road from S.C Ward Kamila To Utter Behni Road Kamila under City Town Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 20 lakhs. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Ex Sarpanch Mukhytyar Singh, Onkaar Nath Sharma and other senior others.

MP Khatana, DDC Jammu Chairman meet LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Sunday and discussed various issues of public importance.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Suraj Singh, Vice Chairman, DDC Jammu.



Chairman DDC Jammu, Bharat Bhushan calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Later, representatives of Lalitaditya Organization called on Sports Organization called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Dy CM holds Public Darbar at Ganiya Nowshera

STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Sunday held a Public Darbar at Ganiya here.

He received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from a large gathering of locals. The event witnessed active participation from residents, prominent citizens, and officials, reflecting the public's eagerness to engage on development issues.

During the Darbar, the general public raised pressing concerns, including the construction of link roads, installation of electricity poles and transformers, provision of water supply to unconnected households under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), and other development-related matters. The Deputy Chief Minister attentively listened to the grievances and assured the public of swift action. He directed the concerned departments to resolve the issues in a time-bound manner, emphasizing the



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary addressing Public Darbar at Ganiya.

government's commitment to the region's overall development.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotha, who also holds additional charge of Nowshera, Tehsildar Nowshera, and other district and sectoral officers. The presence of key officials ensured that immediate instructions could be issued for the redressal of public concerns. The

Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's resolve to address developmental challenges and urged officials to prioritize the welfare of the people. The event concluded with the public expressing gratitude for the Deputy CM's proactive approach to resolving their issues. The administration has assured consistent follow-ups to ensure timely implementation of the directions issued during the Darbar.

Sakeena conducts surprise inspection of DH Kulgam

STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Sunday conducted surprise inspection of District Hospital Kulgam and took onspot assessment of medical care services being provided at the facility.

During the inspection, the Minister took round of different sections of the hospital including emergency unit, surgical ward, general wards and other facilities. She also interacted with staff of

hospital and took detailed appraisal from them about the services being provided to the public at this facility.

The Minister took note of several issues of the hospital and assured the staff that the facilities at this hospital would be further strengthened by improving staffing levels and ensuring that medical professionals are always available to meet the needs of the people.

During the inspection, the Minister found three doctors absent from duties and suspended

them immediately for dereliction of assigned duties.

Taking strong note of this irresponsible and unprofessional behaviour of doctors, the Minister maintained that absenteeism and neglect of duties would not be tolerated at all, adding that healthcare staff, particularly doctors, must uphold their commitment to patient welfare and adhere to their professional responsibilities.

During the visit, the Minister also interacted with patients and their

attendants. She took onspot feedback from them about the status of medical care facilities being provided at the hospital.

During the interaction with public at hospital, Sakeena Itoo underlined that the Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to provide world class healthcare services to the people in their vicinities. She assured them the medical facilities and infrastructure at this hospital will be upgraded so that the people are not forced to move outside for treatment.