

J&K Admn moving in right direction with expeditious pace: CCI

'Like musical fountain, also complete artificial lake project in record time'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu on Sunday appreciated J&K administration's endeavours to pace up development in the UT by realizing several development projects one after another.

In a statement issued here, CCI President Arun Gupta alongwith the office bearers Anil Gupta, Senior Vice President, Rajiv Gupta, Junior Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary-General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer applauded the efforts of LG Manoj Sinha for giving a fillip to development in Jammu by completing a number of development projects in record time.

He welcomed the installation and commissioning of the Musical Fountain in Bagh-E-Bahu Fort and relaying of stone for the artificial lake project.

Assuring full support to the govern-



CCI President Arun Gupta chairing a meeting of office bearers.

ment, he said that the exemplary pace with which the development is taking place in Jammu the days are not far when the tourist footfall in the region will cross all the previous records. He said that this was quite necessary to provide the required push to the local economy as there is no dearth of natural beauty in the vicinity of Jammu

City but due to lackadaisical approach of previous governments the region failed to pick up pace as far as development and improvement in places of tourist interest are concerned.

He anticipated that the interest shown by LG's administration towards improving the tourist edifice in Jammu region will bring tremendous changes

in socio-economic profile through creation of new livelihood opportunities and also by significant increase in the influx of tourists hailing from different parts of the country and abroad.

He however urged LG Sinha to make sure that the artificial lake project see the light of the day well in time because already much delay has been caused due to hiccups and lethargy of the successive governments that did only lip service but never paid any heed on ground thus leading to missing of deadlines one after another. He said that once completed, the Tawi Lake Project will help in making Jammu an independent tourist destination catering the aspirations of the visitors of this city of temples in a complete manner. He urged the LG to continue with the good work as this is necessary to bring Jammu on the country's tourist map and help people to lead a happy and contented life with no dearth of basic amenities and civic edifice.



People will never forget duplicity of BJP & its abject failure to protect interests of J&K people: JKPC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The work on the river Devika Rejuvenation project in Udhampur district will be completed by June, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences (Independent Charge) MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said on Sunday, asserting that various centrally-sponsored projects would give a new identity to his Lok Sabha constituency at the national level.

He also expressed hope that the academic session for MBBS courses in the newly set up medical colleges of Udhampur would commence from the next academic year.

The minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) to review the progress of the centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented in Udhampur.

"The status of national-level projects was reviewed and you will be glad to know that the historic Devika project will be completed by June," Singh said.

The Devika river holds religious significance as it is



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairing the DISHA district meeting at Udhampur on Sunday.

The work on the prestigious Rs 186.74 crore project, which has been included in Government of India's National River Conservation Project (NRCP), started in March 2019 and was scheduled to be completed in two years. However, the project missed the deadline due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project included the construction of three sewage treatment plants of 8 MLD, 4 MLD and 1.6 MLD capacity, a sewerage network of 129.27 km, the development of two cremation ghats, protection fencing and landscaping, small hydropower plants and three solar power plants.

Under the project, bathing "ghats" on the banks of the river will be developed, encroachments will be removed, natural water bodies will be restored and catchment areas will be developed.

The Devika river holds religious significance as it is

revered by Hindus as the sister of the Ganga. Also known as Devika Nagari, it originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan), where it merges with the Ravi river.

The minister said his Udhampur-Kathua-Doda is the only Lok Sabha constituency in the country that has got three medical colleges with active support of the Centre.

"We are planning to start the MBBS classes in Udhampur this year from a makeshift building, but it was not allowed by the authorities concerned due to already laid-down guidelines. The construction work on the buildings is in progress and we are hopeful that the MBBS courses will start from next year," he said.

Singh said Udhampur and Kathua districts were among the first to get included in the

list for development of highway villages, a concept of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under which the government intends to develop amenities projects to include helipads, motels, petrol pumps, food courts and parking lots on highways.

The highway village in Udhampur is nearing completion, while the work on such a project in Kathua was delayed due to the expansion of the highway from four to six lanes. Kathua has now got additional highway villages as well," he said.

"After the completion of various national-level projects, Udhampur will get a new identity at the national level and it will be visible on the national map," he added.

On widespread protests over the draft proposal of the delimitation commission for Jammu and Kashmir, the minister said it is an initial report and will pass through several other levels before

being finalised.

"It will be put in the public domain...the final report will take some more time," he said.

"The draft proposal was shared with the associate members. We are getting objections from people as per their aspirations and the same will be submitted to the delimitation commission, which will take cognisance as per the laid down parameters and guidelines," said Singh, who is one of the five parliamentarians from Jammu and Kashmir who are associate members of the commission.

The minister also talked about the "Sansad Khel Spardha" event and said it is aimed at identifying talent at the grass-roots level for honing their skills, which will benefit the youngsters of Udhampur district in a big way.

DDC Chairperson, Udhampur Lal Chand, DDC Vice Chairperson, Juli Manhas, Pathania, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib, SSP, Vinod Kumar, BDCs, President MC, Dr. Jogeshwar Gupta, MC Rambnagar, MC Chenani, DDCs and other nominated members of DISHA Committee i.e. PRIs, Women, representatives of ST, SC, NGO besides District/Sectoral Officers of different departments attended the meeting on the occasion.

Congress party stands for change and people will throw out BJP in next assembly elections, he claimed and said that party will go to the people with new slogan of "Aayo Chalein Congress Ke Saath, Badlein Pradesh Ke Halaat".

Earlier there were 9.5 lakh primary members in last elections but this time minimum 12 lakh primary members shall be enrolled in Jammu and Kashmir, he

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REASI: Continuing members drive with the slogan 'Aayo Chalein Congress Ke Sath, Badlein Pradesh Ke Halaat' in District Reasi, JKPC Chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir along with JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla claimed that people want change, as BJP has failed on all fronts of governance especially unchecked price rise, record unemployment besides other anti employments, in anti trade, anti poor polities.

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