

Dr Jitendra hosts luncheon interaction for school children from Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday hosted a luncheon interaction for school children from some of the remote areas like Desha, Gandoh, Bhalla etc of hill district Doda of Jammu & Kashmir.

Incidentally, district Doda happens to be a part of the Lok Sabha parliament constituency represented by Dr Jitendra Singh.

The children today reached the national capital this morning on the first leg of their Bharat Darshan conducted tour.

These students are part of the 'Bharat Darshan Tour' under Civic Action programme organised by 33 Battalion, CRPF from March 13-17 with an aim to showcase the cultural and social diversity of the country to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Interacting with the students, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inspired the young minds to fulfil their dreams and aspire to make it big. This shift can be attributed to various factors, including increased administrative support, improved infrastructure, and a growing priority to youth and level playing field for jobs or admission to higher education institutions, etc he said.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh interacting with students from district Doda, currently on Bharat Darshan, at New Delhi on Thursday.

"Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, has made efforts in the last ten years to spur development. Various infrastructure projects including roads and highways have changed the face of hilly areas including its most peripheral parts. Hospitals and healthcare centres, schools and colleges and scores of institutes of higher learning including medical colleges have been set up in the region," he said.

The students openly praised the work done by their MP Dr Jitendra Singh in their area under the leadership of PM Modi. They were also aware of the 'purple revolution' born from Bhaderwah and some of them belonged to families which had

undertaken lavender cultivation for making lucrative earnings.

Thanking Dr Jitendra Singh for Government's support, the students cited development works being undertaken on ground level in the last few years like opening of new medical colleges, national highways, bank branches, schools etc. in remote areas of district Doda that were distant dreams earlier.

The students said that they now have more opportunities as recruitments are fair and transparent due to abolition of interviews and favouritism.

Dr Jitendra Singh, who represents Udhampur constituency in the Lok Sabha, appealed to the students to be

catalysts of Prime Minister Modi's reforms and help in their effective implementation in J&K.

Citing the stupendous success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in J&K, Dr Jitendra Singh encouraged the school children to look for opportunities in Agri-Startups such as Lavender cultivation, he said.

"Bhaderwah has emerged as the Lavender capital of India and Agri StartUp destination. Following the success of Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution in Bhaderwah and Gulmarg regions, over 3,000 Startups are now engaged in Lavender cultivation alone," he said.

PM Modi has pulled Jammu and Kashmir out of the long spell of darkness, gloom and misery, Dr Jitendra Singh said.

"PM Modi has changed the destiny of J&K and given the people hope to dream of a bright new future," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit J&K' campaign, IEC vans reached out to the remote villages of J&K in order to achieve saturation of Central Government welfare schemes and ensure none remains left out of 'Modi Sarkaar Ki Guarantee'.



New era of tribal development commences in J&K: Sukhnandan



Former Minister Ch Sukhnandan Kumar with group of members of Gujjars community.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Asserting that Gujjars who constitute a significant and sizeable proportion of the total population of the Jammu and Kashmir, are the symbols of patriotism and nationalism, senior BJP leader and former minister Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar said, "New era of tribal development commenced in J&K with the introduction of new laws after 2019, which empowers ST communities at large."

While talking to group of members of Gujjars community, Choudhary narrated a seven decades story of the struggle of J&K Gujjars for the recognition of their separate identity as a tribal. "Gujjars are nationalist by conviction and they have proved it in the past during extreme testing

times, the former minister further said and added, "New laws including Forest Rights Act, SC/ST Atrocities Act, Political Reservation to STs and other laws extended to J&K in 2019 will defiantly change the socio-economic profile of the Tribal Gujjars, Bakervals, Gaddis and Sippis."

Due to grant of the rights under Political Reservation now 102 Sarpanchs, 66 Block Chairman, 43 DDC Members and 3 Chairpersons of DDC were earlier under ST category across J&K, senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Kumar said adding that the Delimitation Commission has recently announced the reservation of 09 seats for STs in JK Assembly which is a great step towards tribal empowerment.

PGCIL signs MoU with District Administration Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a significant move aimed at enhancing healthcare facilities and cleanliness initiatives, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), a Government of India enterprise, has forged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the District Administration. Under this collaborative effort, PGCIL will supply TB Testing TrueNat Machines and five Garbage Collection Vehicles to the District Administration. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai emphasized the trans-

formative impact of this initiative. She highlighted that the deployment of TB Testing TrueNat Machines will revolutionize tuberculosis testing, enabling swift detection and diagnosis of cases. Moreover, the provision of Garbage Collection Vehicles will fortify waste management efforts, fostering a cleaner and healthier environment for residents. The collaboration between PGCIL and the District Administration signifies a pivotal advancement in healthcare and cleanliness infrastructure, underscoring their commitment to the community's well-being.

Transporters, passengers, general public paying heavy price for slow pace of Smart City works

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Smart City project is progressing at an alarmingly slow pace causing inconvenience to people of the Srinagar city, particularly in Shar-e-Khaas. Most of the city roads remain in a dilapidated condition and some are being dug up for the project. This has resulted in a multitude of issues, especially in the downtown areas and the stretch leading from Nowpora-Khanayar-Babadomb and Nowhatta to Gojwara Downtown. The condition of these roads has caused great inconvenience to the citizens, with dug-up drains, potholes and manholes posing threats to their safety.

The lack of progress is evident in various areas, including the renovation in old Srinagar. Initially, the restoration project showed promise, but it is now plagued by delays. The overall progress of the Srinagar Smart City Mission has been relatively slow - out of 137 projects only 66 projects completed till dates, while work continues on 71 more projects.

Dozens of deadlines for the beautification of Srinagar City under the Smart City Project were missed, with the project now expected to be completed by July 2024. The footpaths in most parts of Srinagar remain incomplete. Similarly, the pending works in the city have experienced a

slowdown. The drainage work on the Gojwara-Nowhatta-Khanayar Road is under progress, exacerbating the problems faced by the people.

Officials said pending works would be completed very soon.

"Separate deadlines have been set for different projects, such as Jahangir Chowk, the Batamalo market, and the downtown area," they said.

The other roads in Srinagar city are full of potholes and travelling has become very difficult. Some roads have not been macadamised in the last few years. Apart from causing problems for local commuters, bad roads in and around the city are maligning the image of Srinagar as one

of the top tourist destinations. The official apathy is quite visible as patches of several roads have been rendered unattended resulting in immense difficulties to the people passing through the spots.

Frustration among commuters is evident, especially regarding the authorities' failure to address the dismal condition of the Khanayar-Nowpora road and Nowhatta Khawabazar Road, which connects downtown and uptown areas. In most of the city areas, the road repair was abandoned after laying drainage pipes in the last six months.

The Executive Engineer, City Roads Division, SMC told the STATE TIMES that the

repair work, including internal roads in the downtown and other areas, is scheduled for April this year.

"Mostly, internal roads need macadamisation, once the work will be completed under Smart City. Subsequently all roads will be repaired. We have made a plan as well," he said.

Commuters are also displeased with the authorities' neglect of the downtown's major link routes. Local businesses are also feeling the impact, reporting a decline in customers due to the inconvenience caused by the deteriorating infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Commissioner SMC, CEO Srinagar Smart City Project took a serious note of displeasure of commuters and business establishments owners over slow pace of work while undertaking a visit to the downtown areas of Srinagar and reviewing the progress of the ongoing smart city projects there.

Swaminathan Commission (NCF) too pinned Agrarian Distress in no assured remunerative market

Why there is need for a legally dedicated Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Agri Produce in India? Under present system only Government is obliged to buy Farm Produce on MSP but Trader is Not

DAYA SAGAR

To be precise, while attending the issues/demands/solutions related to Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Agriculture produce & farmer protests, the farming community particularly that is landless/ falls in small & marginal category (less than 2 Hectare holding) needs to be kept more in focus. Going by reports and data in public domain as available from government / researcher sources/ Agri Census 2015-16/ Agri Census 2014 / 2010-11 & like for the working analysis representative information could be summed up as

(i) In India, small and marginal farmers' average size of holdings is only about 0.38 hectare (some studies quote it as 0.59) as compared to 17.37 hectare for large farmers (which too is not large enough worth lucrative income)

(ii) The holdings with small & marginal farmers cannot generate adequate employment and income from crop cultivation and they cultivate around 44 to 46 per cent of the cultivable area and produce 48 to 49% of rice, 38 to 40% of wheat, 28 to 29% of coarse cereals and 25 to 27% of pulses and may be even nearly half of the country's fruits and vegetables production

(iii) some researchers have even opined that some small and marginal farmers are more efficient than the large farmers in terms of cropping intensity and unit output

(iv) According to the Agricultural Census 2010-11 Indian small & marginal farmers held around 85 per cent of the operational holdings and the area operated by the marginal farmers (less than 1 Hect) was around 51 per cent in 1970-71 which had increased to 67 per cent by 2010 which shows that farmers with un lucrative holdings / low earnings are in much more prominent numbers in India.

Whereas, as per provisional numbers from the 10th Agriculture Census 2015-16 released in 01-10-2018 Small and Marginal farmers with less than two hectares of land account for 86.2% of all farmers in India, but own just 47.3% of the crop area (v) As was also informed in Lok Sabha in reply to a starred question in Feb by Government of India Ministry of Agriculture Farmers are classified as Marginal Farmer <less than 1 Hectare > <Small Farmer 1 to <2 Hectare> <Semi Medium 2 to <4 Hectare> <Medium 4 to 10 hectare> <Large 10 hectare and above> .



A Look through the Mist Part-III

(vi) As per the results (provisional) of latest Agriculture Census 2015-16, the State-wise average size of operational holdings in the country range from 0.18 Hectare (Kerala) to 3.62 Hectare (Punjab) with all India Average as 1.08 Hectare / Family where Bihar is 0.39 Hec UP is 0.73 Hect MP is 1.7 Hect J&K is 0.59 Hectare only. For all farmers put together, the size of average land holding declined from 1.15 hectares in 2010-11 to 1.08 hectares in 2015-16. Some studies have shown that Uttar Pradesh accounted for the largest number of operational holdings or farmers at 23.8 million followed by Bihar (16.4 million) and Maharashtra (14.7 million). Among operated or farmed areas, Rajasthan topped the list with 20.9 million hectares, followed by Maharashtra (19.9 million hectares) and Uttar Pradesh (17.45 million hectares).

The total area under farming, however, fell from 159.6 million hectares in 2010-11 to 157.14 million hectares in 2015-16. In comparison, semi-medium and medium land holding farmers owning between 2-10 hectares of land account for only 13.2% of all farmers, but own 43.6% of crop area, the survey showed.

(vii) The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) was constituted on November 18, 2004 under the chairmanship of Professor M.S. Swaminathan. The Terms of Reference reflected the priorities listed in the Common Minimum Programme of then government. The NCF submitted four reports in December 2004, August 2005, December 2005 and April 2006 respectively. The fifth and final report was submitted on October 4, 2006. The reports contained suggestions to achieve the goal of "faster and more inclusive growth" as envisaged in the Approach to 11th Five Year Plan.

(viii) Table 1 of the Fifth National Commission on Farmers (NCF) Report of 4 Oct 2006 (based on Some Aspects of Household Ownership Landholdings-1991-92. NSS Report-399) summarised the Land Holding /percentage of House Holds as Landless/11.24 per cent; Sub-margin holdings (0.01 - 0.99 acres) /40.11 per cent; Marginal holdings (1.00 - 2.49 acres) /20.1 per cent; Small holdings (2.50 - 4.99 acres) /13.42 per cent; Medium holdings (5 - 14.99

acres) /12.09 percent; Large holdings (15 acres + above) /2.2 percent where 1 Hectare = 2.5 Acres.

(ix) Among the findings and recommendations of NCF there also references like meaning that agrarian distress has led farmers to commit suicide in recent years, the major causes of the agrarian crisis lie in unfinished agenda in land reform, quantity and quality of water, technology fatigue, access, adequacy & timeliness of institutional credit, and opportunities for assured and remunerative marketing and adverse meteorological factors add to these problems.

(x) The NCF also recommended that "Agriculture" be inserted in the Concurrent List of the Constitution

(xi) the status of Indian farmer community and their issues is so widely pronged that the data of related reports/surveys / analysis may at places may not match but still it is not far away from giving a working platform.

There are large number of small and marginal farmers in India, close to 12.6 Cr owning around nearly 7.44 Cr hectares land which means it is also challenging for the extension machinery to reach the needy with new technology /support schemes which fingers towards the producers for not there being enough to produce surpluses which can financially sustain their families and the rising discontent/ distress in large number of Indian farmers who often run to sell their crop immediately on harvest flooding the mandies / markets where their pending financial needs force them to go far distress sales, so often much below the MSP announced by government since government agencies who purchase on MSP have limited requirement / area of operation. Keeping the economic status of large majority (nearly 85 to 87 percent) of Indian farmers who own lands from less than 0.3 hectares to less than 2 hectares and their capital reservelessness keeping them under pressure of local basic family needs for physical survival / social commitments / debts which puts them under pressure / compulsion to rush to mandies / market for selling their food grains / crops immediately on harvest thereby compelling them to sell at price offered by traders to meet their cash needs surely supports the doctrine of declaring a MSP for cereals / non cereal crops although majority of Indian people are agriculturist (Unlike USA).

To be continued (The author is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist).

HDFC BANK LTD

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FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrowers, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of gold ornaments / security pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted. The auction is of the gold ornaments / security of borrowers who have defaulted to pay, as per the terms of Loan Agreement signed & accepted by them, despite notices by HDFC Bank Limited (the "Bank") to clear the loan dues. The Bank had also issued a notice to the borrowers whereby, 7 days' time was given to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which Bank would be at liberty to auction the entire pledged gold security without issuing further notice. The borrowers have neglected and failed to make payment, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to enforce the pledge over gold security by selling the entire gold ornaments / security by way of auction and recover the dues owed by the borrowers to the Bank. The auction will be conducted at below mentioned branch/s on 25th Mar '2024 from 9:30 am onwards.

S.NO	LOAN NO	BORROWERS NAME	DATE OF LOAN	CLOSURE	BRANCH
1	74688143	JYOTI SHARMA	17-11-2023	474689.00	1356-TALAB TILLON-JAMMU-PRIME
2	74513942	SHOUKAT ALI	06-09-2023	311101.00	1356-TALAB TILLON-JAMMU-PRIME
3	74300262	ANIL KUMAR	19-06-2023	311297.00	1356-TALAB TILLON-JAMMU-PRIME
4	74778518	SUNIL CHIB	21-12-2023	243718.00	1356-TALAB TILLON-JAMMU-PRIME
5	74461695	RAJINDER GUPTA	17-08-2023	234259.00	1356-TALAB TILLON-JAMMU-PRIME
6	73762328	NEETU SHARMA	17-10-2022	232371.00	1356-TALAB TILLON-JAMMU-PRIME
7	74299378	RATINDER SINGH KATAL	19-06-2023	267043.00	2230-SAMBA-JAMMU-PBGL
8	74514141	MONIKA SAHIL SINGH	06-09-2023	233567.00	2230-SAMBA-JAMMU-PBGL
9	74354241	RAJAT GANDHOTRA	10-07-2023	180125.00	2344-KATRA-PBGL
10	74476695	ABDUL HAMID	22-08-2023	99023.00	2344-KATRA-PBGL
11	74139256	ROHIT SHARMA	24-04-2023	94962.00	2538-KATHUA-PRIME
12	73862448	MINTU KUMAR	12-12-2022	54057.00	2538-KATHUA-PRIME
13	73865816	JASBINDER SINGH	13-12-2022	54185.00	2538-KATHUA-PRIME
14	74239044	MAKHANA DEVI	30-05-2023	143277.00	2540-UDHAMPUR-JK-PRIME
15	74179335	SHIVAM SHARMA	09-05-2023	110798.00	2540-UDHAMPUR-JK-PRIME
16	74369795	HARI KRISHAN	14-07-2023	101101.00	2540-UDHAMPUR-JK-PRIME
17	74084390	POOJA DEVI	27-03-2023	63323.00	2540-UDHAMPUR-JK-PRIME
18	73454015	RAJINDER KUMAR	17-03-2022	411649.00	2558-BARI BRAHMANA-PRIME
19	73479603	SURINDER KUMAR	11-04-2022	52698.00	2558-BARI BRAHMANA-PRIME
20	74659384	UTTAM SINGH	06-11-2023	62874.00	2743-NARWAL-JAMMU-PBGL
21	458056497	SANJEEV KUMAR	09-05-2023	62100.00	2743-NARWAL-JAMMU-PBGL
22	74048496	SANJEEV KUMAR	10-03-2023	32322.00	2743-NARWAL-JAMMU-PBGL
23	74258975	SANJEEV KUMAR	05-06-2023	13756.00	2743-NARWAL-JAMMU-PBGL
24	74118690	ASHU RANI	13-04-2023	97337.00	2908-DODA-PRIME
25	74223365	DHARM PAUL	24-05-2023	250003.00	3282-SUNDERBANI-PRIME
26	73771170	SANDEEP SHARMA	21-10-2022	164192.00	3282-SUNDERBANI-PRIME
27	74451434	ABDUL HAMID	11-08-2023	77420.00	3282-SUNDERBANI-PRIME
28	73916800	SHIV OM	06-01-2023	89141.00	3554-BHATINDI-PBGL
29	74639744	AMIT KUMAR	27-10-2023	423784.00	6538-SHASTRI NAGAR JAMMU-PRIME
30	74409394	ADITYA BHANU	28-07-2023	70119.00	6538-SHASTRI NAGAR JAMMU-PRIME

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE IS" and the "AS IS WHAT IS" basis and the Bank is not making and shall not make any representations or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchasers to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bids and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out hereinabove, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All bids shall be subject to such minimum reserve price as the Bank may deem fit to fix in this regard. The auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subject to such further terms and conditions as the Bank may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the bank in terms of the Loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn by the bank from the said auction without any further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the Bank, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefore and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same.

Date: 15th Mar'24 Place: Jammu Sd/- Authorized Officer HDFC BANK LTD.