

Modi Govt changed face of Udhampur: Dr Jitendra

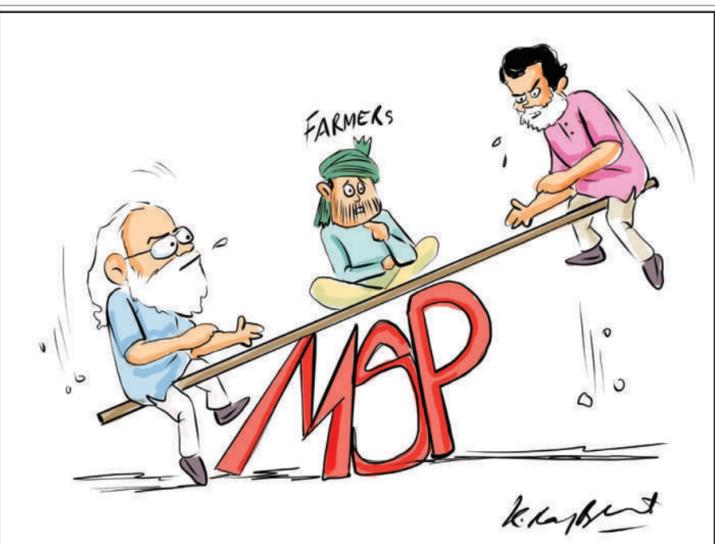
STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: "Modi government has changed the face of Udhampur which has emerged as one of the most developed constituencies of the country in last 10 years", said Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh here on Friday.
 Dr Jitendra said, there are certain critics and cynics who say they cannot see any development in 10 years but at the same time shamelessly avail the utility of all the new projects set up in the last 10 years.
 Dr Jitendra took a dig at the Opposition, saying that if according to them there has been no development in this constituency, they should neither send their wards to the Medical Colleges established here nor should they use the Mukerjee tunnel from Chenani to Nashri to shorten their travel time by road nor draw benefits of numerous development schemes



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a massive public rally at Udhampur.

and initiatives undertaken by the Modi government in the last decade.
 Dr Jitendra was addressing a massive public rally this afternoon.
 The Minister said that earlier Udhampur was known to be a "place of pedestrians" and there were Dogri folk songs written on "Udhampur diyan Takkiyan" but under the Modi government, Udhampur has emerged as country's top three districts in PMGSY road construction even in remotest areas.
 He said, "Among over 700 districts in the country, Udhampur has become one of the top three districts which has the most number of roads built under PMGSY".
 Dr Singh informed that the district has now its own radio station for which a demand was raised in 1965, but this genuine demand was never fulfilled by the earlier government. Not only this, Udhampur has a passport office now, he said.
 "For the first time, a 9.5 kilometre national tunnel named after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee has been constructed in this district, and North India's first river rejuvenation project undertaken at River Devika undertaken here", the minister said.
 Dr Jitendra said this constituency is in near future all set to become a tourist-cum-religious pilgrim destination as well as a centre for learning.
 Dr Singh underlined that rising above narrow considerations of caste, creed and region, Narendra Modi gov-

ernment's first term was focused on overcoming the shortcomings of the previous governments. In the second term, the government dedicated itself to laying the foundation of a developed India. Now, in its third, the government will solidify its gains and march ahead in the journey of realising Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.
 The Minister exuded confidence that while in the upcoming general elections, Narendra Modi will return to power; with 400 seats, the voters of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha seat are going to script a new record by bestowing a 5 lakh plus record margin on Dr Jitendra Singh, and tumble the previous record voter turnout here. In the last election, this constituency had a record victory margin since the Independence, which was the highest in the history of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019", Dr Singh said.



Representatives of Kashmiri Pandit organisations call on Lt Governor



Representatives of several displaced KP organisations calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Representatives of several displaced Kashmiri Pandit organisations called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Friday.
 The members of the delegation apprised the Lt Governor of various welfare issues of the community. They also presented several publications to Lt Governor including a book titled "Kashmir After Kalhana" written by Dr R L Bhat and 'Pavak' magazine of Jonaraja Institute of Genocide & Atrocities Studies.
 Members of Lalitaditya

Sports Organization, led by its President Sh Anil Bhat expressed gratitude to Lt Governor for the support extended to the organisation for promotion of sports among the community youth.
 Meanwhile, Mohd Syed Akhoun and Ishfaq Jabbar - former Legislators called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.
 Murtaza Khan, former MLC also called on the Lt Governor and put forth various issues concerning the Pahari community particularly the youth and students across the UT.

Subsequently, Thakur Fallail Singh, senior political leader and Sh Sheikh Muzaffar, President, J&K Nationalist People's Front (JKNPF) also called on the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan today.
 A delegation of Bazigar community called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of several welfare issues of their community.
 The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegations of appropriate redressal of the genuine issues projected by them during the interaction.

Div Com Jammu attends Exhibition and Symposium on Iconic Women of India

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar attended the Exhibition and Symposium on iconic women of India as the Chief Guest at Abhinav Theater on Friday.
 The Exhibition featuring numerous women icons from ancient times to modern day India was put up by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, in the K L Sehgal Hall of Abhinav Theatre Jammu.
 Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significant role of Indian women icons in the social, educational and other fields.
 The Div Com cited examples of towering women per-



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar attending the Exhibition and Symposium.

sonalities from pre Independence India like Rani Laxmi Bai and other women icons and enumerated their supreme contribution towards upliftment and enlightenment of the Indian society. He further said women continue to be on the forefront in diverse professional fields.
 "Since ancient times, women in our country have reached high positions in every field. Today, the world is witnessing their role in building a developed India in the 21st century. From Mission Gaganyaan to Chandrayaan, female scientists are not only playing a crucial role but also providing leadership. This showcases the strength of Indian women", he said.
 The topic of the symposium

was Viksit Bharat Mein Mahilaon Ki Bhagidari. A number of speakers presented their views on the role of women in achieving the target of Atma Nirbhar and developed India by 2047.
 Earlier, the Div Com went round the exhibition 'Empowered in Form' and praised it. The Exhibition showcased the life and role of 75 women who made significant contributions in the socio-economic history of India.
 The Div Com commended Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts for organising such events to celebrate the International Women Day and assured support from the UT administration in such endeavours of highlighting the role of women.
 Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director IGNCIA, DIG Shakti Pathak, Dr Garima Gupta, from Jammu University and other dignitaries and students were present.

Dr Rashmi Singh reviews progress of upgradation works at Tara Niwas in Udhampur



Com Secy H&P Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Commissioner Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol (H&P) department, Dr. Rashmi Singh on Friday undertook a comprehensive tour of Udhampur district to assess the progress on upgradation works of department's Tara Niwas here.
 Director, H&P, Tariq Hussain Ganai, Joint Director H&P, Naresh Kumar and other senior officers of the department accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the visit.
 During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary also convened a meeting with offi-

cers to evaluate existing facilities at Tara Niwas. She emphasized on the need for continuous improvement in service standards and benchmark setting.
 Dr. Rashmi urged the explore various avenues for making this place more visible on the ground for better uti-

lization.
 Highlighting the pivotal role of Hospitality and Protocol department in extending courtesies to VVIPs, dignitaries, and State Guests, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the department's commitment to delivering quality hospitality services and promoting the J&K brand of hospitality.
 Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Saloni Rai and SSP, Udhampur also participated in the meeting. They spoke in length about the potential of complex and assured full co-operation to the department.

Most workable solution could be according legal status to MSP & calculation of C2 cost could be deliberated

Swaminathan Commission (NCF) too pinned Agrarian Distress in no assured immediate 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
 One would ask why do farmers sell their agriculture produce/food grains etc below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) notified by government for procurement? Simple answer is government can purchase only buffer stocks and food grains required for public distribution system but needy farmers (over 85 percent of the total community is of landless/marginal farmers/ small farmers having lands less than two hectares) have no choice to hold stocks after harvest so they immediately run to sell their produce, thereby flooding market, and the traders exploit their requirements against cash sales. So there lies all fair cause in Indian conditions to accord a status in law to Minimum Support Price for cereal/ non cereal/ other crops where ever MSP is announced. The next question is how much and how to fix MSP?
 Let us have a brief look on the MSPs (without legal status) fixed over the years: Govt of India has posted on facebook that Paddy MSP was 1310/ qtl in 2013-14 and that has increased to 2180/ qtl in 2023-24 which is 118 percent increase over 2010-2011 MSP.
 RBI Hand Book on statistics of Indian economy 2023 mentions that governments Direct plus Indirect Tax revenue from 1994 - 1995 to 2022-2023 has increased from INR 146286 Cr to INR 4551271Cr i.e. 31.11 times.(Direct plus Indirect Tax Revenue 1994-1995 to 2022-2023 budget estimate for Centre from INR 92294 Cr to INR 2751420 Cr and for States from INR 53992 Cr to INR 1799851 cr; Total INR 146286 Cr to INR 4551271Cr) whereas MSP s for Paddy increased (MSP Rs 340 per qtl in 1994-95 increased by 2022-23 to Rs.2040/ qtl) 6 times only and MSPs for wheat increased (Rs 380 to Rs 2125) 5.6 times only.
 In the case of legumes or pulses, the MSP increased over 20 times in 33 years (1984-85 to 2016-17).
 The MSP per quintal in the case of Urad, Tur & Moong was Rs 275 each in 1984-85 by 2017-18 the MSP for Tur reached Rs 5450 per quintal, Rs 5575 per quintal for Moong and Rs 5400 per quintal for Urad.
 In the case of a cash crop like Cotton the MSP per quintal was Rs 535 in 1984-85 and in 2016-17, the MSP increased to Rs 4160 per quintal. The non Agriculturist consumer population may feel disturbed even with this data and contest that increase in the prices of food grains / food items directly affects their budget and



A Look through the Mist Part-IV

many do not get that increase in their earnings (no doubt those who are in fixed income group would contest that with the provision of DA government employees are compensated with increasing prices where as that is not the case with those working in private sector).
 Government may like to use the food grain consumer segment's objections to counter the MSP increase demands when the MSP announced is named low by farming community. But at the same time some may come with the data that the tax income of the government had increased much more over a period like the disclosures from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Hand Book of Statistics on Indian Economy for 2016-17 which indicated that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Paddy increased just over 10.7 times, from Rs 137 per quintal in 1984-85 to Rs 1470 per quintal in 2016-17. During the same period, the tax revenue of the Government of India increased by even over 50 times (INR 176.51 Billion to 10887.93 Billion).
 Now comes the question of method / procedure for fixation of MSP and acceptance of MSP by the farmer community. Reference of demands for fixation of MSP as per recommendations of The National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under the chairmanship of Professor M.S. Swaminathan are being made these days. With the present system and pricing policy as regards procurement/ purchase of agri produce from farmers MSP is the minimum price at which the government procures crops from farmers. The actual amount for MSP depends on the method used to calculate cost of production (CoP). Fixing MSP based on the Swaminathan report has been a long demand of farmer groups and was a major demand during the year-long farmers' protest in 2021-22.
 Brief on the methods/ procedure for cost calculation could be mentioned here for ready reference The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), suggests MSPs for specific crops on all-India average levels considering cost segments of class A2 (Costs incurred by the farmer in production of a particular crop including inputs such as expenditure on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, leased-in land, hired labour, machinery and fuel, Class A2+ FL (A2 + the value of family labour and

Class C2 (A2 + the value of family labour+ imputed rental value of owned land plus interest on fixed capital, rent paid for leased-in land).Demands are for fixing MSP as C2 plus 50 percent on C2. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Post of 24 MAR 2023 4:42PM by PIB Delhi as regards fixing of Minimum Support Price (MSP) said < i. Government has increased the MSP for all mandated Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of at least 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from 2018-19. ii. MSP for Paddy (common) has increased to Rs 2040 per quintal in 2022-23 from Rs 1310 per quintal in 2013-14. iii. MSP for Wheat increased from Rs 1400 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs 2125 per quintal in 2022-23>. Some people have said that MSP for wheat etc is not fixed as C2 plus 50 percent.
 This question could be left for answer by Government since government has to consider the effect of MSP on the consumers also and that too when in a country like India a very large population is in low income group, belongs to non agri families, belongs to farm labour: If we go by the reports received about distress sales by the needy farmers, who mostly are landless cultivators, and those belonging to small & marginal farmer category < who constitute more than 85 to 87 percent of the farmer community > the distress sales have been at occasions at 70 percent (even lower) of the announced MSP, so in case even the MSP that some people say is less is ensured by law to farmers that too will be of great benefit worth improving the economic condition.
 So all efforts need be made to settle the issues of farmers without losing more time and without allowing some people to drag the issue in political games. The most workable immediate solution could be giving legal status to MSP announced by Government and as regards calculating C2 cost the objections that some may have could be deliberated. The trade if does not purchase at MSP let the government buy, the food grains will be needed for consumption, and when government sells the produce in the market the money will come back. But the traders cannot afford to stop total purchase since then they would be jobless, so government need not worry. May be even the numbers to be supported by Rs.6000 per year too will come down.
 (The author is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist).

MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024
 It is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to run following additional Holi Special Trains as per details given below :-

09003/09004 Mumbai Central-Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Mumbai Central Super-Fast Holi Special Train					
Train No. 09003	STATIONS	Train No. 09004			
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.			
- 16:00	Mumbai Central	15:25 -			
14:25 -	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	- 17:25			
Date of run :- 09003 Ex. Mumbai Central on 22.03.2024 & 29.03.2024 and 09004 Ex. Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 23.03.2024 & 30.03.2024.					
Accommodation: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.					
Stoppages: Borivali, Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Abu Road, Marwar Jn., Ajmer, Phulera, Ringas, Rewari, Gurgaon & Delhi Cantt Stations.					
04022/04021 Anand Vihar (T) - Muzaffarpur - Anand Vihar (T) Holi Special Train					
Train No. 04022	STATIONS	Train No. 04021			
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.			
- 23:55	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30 -			
21:30 -	Muzaffarpur	- 23:00			
Date of run :- 04022 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 21.03.2024 and 04021 Ex. Muzaffarpur on 22.03.2024.					
Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.					
Stoppages: Moradabad, Chandausi, Lucknow Jn., Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Chhapra Gramin & Hajipur Stations.					
04731/04732 Sri Ganganagar - Agra Cantt - Sri Ganganagar Holi Special Train					
Train No. 04731	STATIONS	Train No. 04732			
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.			
- 14:30	Sri Ganganagar	00:50 -			
04:50 -	Agra Cantt.	- 07:05			
Date of run :- 04731 Ex. Sri Ganganagar on 20.03.2024 & 27.03.2024 and 04732 Ex. Agra Cantt. on 21.03.2024 & 26.03.2024.					
Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.					
Stoppages: Abohar, Malout, Giddarbaha, Bathinda, Sirsa, Mandi Adampur, Hisar, Hansi, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadr, Rewari, Alwar & Mathura Jn. Stations.					
09603/09604 Udaipur City - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Udaipur City Holi Special Train					
Train No. 09603	STATIONS	Train No. 09604			
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.			
- 23:00	Udaipur City	15:10 -			
03:20 -	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	- 10:50			
Date of run :- 09603 Ex. Udaipur City on 19.03.2024 & 26.03.2024 and 09604 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 21.03.2024 & 28.03.2024.					
Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.					
Stoppages: Rana Pratap Nagar, Mavli Jn., Chanderiya, Bhilwara, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur Jn., Dausa, Bandikui, Alwar, Riwar, Charkhi Dadr, Bhiwani, Hansi, Hisar, Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt & Jammu Tawi Stations.					
01431/01432 Pune - Gorakhpur Jn. - Pune Super-Fast Holi Special Train					
Train No. 01431	STATIONS	Train No. 01432			
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.			
- 16:15	Pune	06:25 -			
15:38	Lucknow	04:00			
21:00 -	Gorakhpur Jn.	- 23:25			
Date of run :- 01431 Ex. Pune on 22.03.2024 and 01432 Ex. Gorakhpur Jn. on 23.03.2024.					
Accommodation: 3 Tier AC & Sleeper.					
Stoppages: Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Belapur, Kopergaon, Manmad, Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal, Bina, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Gonda, Mankapur, Basti & Khallabad Stations.					
01083/01084 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus - Gorakhpur Jn. - Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Holi Special Train					
Train No. 01083	STATIONS	Train No. 01084			
ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.			
- 22:35	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus	00:40 -			
04:20	Lucknow	19:45			
09:30 -	Gorakhpur Jn.	- 15:30			
Date of run :- 01083 Ex. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus on 22.03.2024 and 01084 Ex. Gorakhpur Jn. on 24.03.2024.					
Accommodation: 3 Tier AC & Sleeper.					
Stoppages: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi, Bhopal Jn., Bina, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Gonda & Basti Stations.					

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854/24
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