

Udhampur, Kathua, Doda get record number PMGSY roads, bridges: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Lok Sabha constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda has in the last eight years got a record number of PMGSY roads and bridges.

This was stated here on Saturday by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while reviewing a record number of 68 roads and 22 bridges completed recently under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

However, the formal inauguration ceremony was deferred today due to state mourning observed as a mark of respect to the passing away of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Dr Jitendra informed that built at a cost of over Rs 547 crore, all-weather roads measuring up to 526 kilometres is likely to benefit a population of over one lakh 20,000 people, most of them living in far-flung hilly areas.

He emphasised that despite challenges posed by pandemic, the country had not compromised with the pace of development and particularly the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also reviewed the completion work of 22 bridges constructed at a cost of Rs 29.50 crore and the same will also be dedicated to

National Lok Adalat: 24,982 cases settled in Courts of Jammu Distt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation to the National Calendar for Lok Adalat, a National Lok Adalat was held on Saturday under the command of Patron-in-Chief State Legal Services Authority Justice Pankaj Mithal and Ladakh High Court and under the guidance of Executive Chairman of State Legal Service Authority, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey in District Court Complex, Jammu and in the adjoining courts under the jurisdiction of District Court Jammu.

A total 26,540 cases of different nature were taken up of which 24,982 cases were settled on the spot.

An amount of 152,56,500 078 was also settled. A total 22 Benches were constituted for this Lok Adalat.

At the end, Chairman and Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu Sanjay Parihar and Yahaya Firdous briefed the media persons and highlighted the achievements of this National Lok Adalat.

The Secretary while briefing the media persons informed that the pre Lok Adalat benches for this National Lok Adalat were constituted on 19th of April 2022 which were 22 in number.

The programme was attended by senior leader and former MLC Surinder Ambardar, North President Mudasir Ahmed, senior BJP leader Rather Mehraj and Kisan Morcha district president Abdul Rashid Khan besides other leaders of the party.

Before starting the function, two-minute silence was observed to pray for the departed soul of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit who was martyred by terrorists.

BJP not scared of Pakistan & its stooges: Jasrotia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUMBAL: Spokesperson BJP, Abhijeet Jasrotia said that massive participation of locals in a convention at Sumbal in Sonawari area of Kashmir valley proved that BJP is not scared of Pakistan and its stooges.

Abhijeet Jasrotia, was addressing BJP convention at Irrigation Colony Sumbal in which thousands of workers from Sonawari joined the party and raised the slogans in favour of Bharatiya Janata Party.

The programme was attended by senior leader and former MLC Surinder Ambardar, North President Mudasir Ahmed, senior BJP leader Rather Mehraj and Kisan Morcha district president Abdul Rashid Khan besides other leaders of the party.

Before starting the function, two-minute silence was observed to pray for the departed soul of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit who was martyred by terrorists.

Stop killings of minorities, others in Kashmir: Congress to Centre

Denounces Centre for failure to check selective killings in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress on Saturday held a strong protest in Jammu against the selective killing of Rahul Bhat and other targeted killings in Kashmir, for the past quite some time and criticized the Govt. for its failure to check such killings of innocents.

A strong protest was held at Shahidi Chowk Jammu condemning Pakistan and terrorism and denouncing Centre Govt for its failure to stop targeted killings of innocents, especially Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities and outsiders in Kashmir day in & day out.

The protesters raised strong slogans against Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism and criticized BJP led NDA Govt. for failure to check rising incidents of targeted killings of innocents in Kashmir, especially Kashmiri migrants and others, during the past more than one year which is not only continuing but rising day in and day out and now Rahul Bhat killed inside Tehsil office.

The protesters were joined by Kashmiri migrants too, who criticized the hollow slogans of BJP led Centre Govt in ensuring the protection of Kashmiri migrants and other minorities in Kashmir.

The peaceful protest led by working



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviewing the completed roads and bridges projects of his Lok Sabha constituency under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), at Kathua on Saturday.

the people soon.

Dr Jitendra emphasised that in sanctioning of new road projects, the priority is given to views of Sarpanches and other local elected representatives rather than to request made by local MPs or MLAs.

Dr Singh also informed that his Parliamentary constituency of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda received the highest allocation of PMGSY grant since 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, out of the Rs 4,175 crore of the PMGSY central funds for new projects, about Rs 3,884 crore have been allocated, which is nearly two-thirds of the funds for the hilly and inhospitable terrain of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda.

At the review meeting, Dr Jitendra highlighted the government's initiatives towards strengthening road connectivity in the UT, and said that it is the firm commitment of present dispensation that every part of the Jammu and

Kashmir gets a durable road network for rapid growth and development.

He urged the officials of various departments to work in coordination with the PRI members and create SOPs for better coordination and synergy so that the goal of Inclusive development can be achieved.

DDC Chairperson Udhampur; Lal Chand, DDC Chairperson Doda, Dhanater Singh, DDC Chairperson, Kishtwar, Puja Thakur, DDC

Chairperson Ramban, Dr Shamshad Shan and DDC Chairperson Samba, Keshav Sharma also attended the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by DC Kathua, Rahul Pandey, DC Udhampur, Kritika Jyotsna, DC Samba, Anuradha Gupta, DC Ramban, Musarat Islam, DC Kishtwar, Ashok Kumar Sharma, DC Doda, Vikas Sharma and DC Reasi, Babila Rakhwal.

It may be recalled that in September, 2020, Dr Jitendra Singh unveiled 23 roads and bridges projects in Kathua, Doda, Udhampur and Reasi districts in the Jammu region. The projects costing about Rs 73 Crore and having length of 111 kilometres benefitted more than 35,000 people in the region. 23 Projects included 15 roads built under PMGSY for all weather connectivity and 8 bridges for better connectivity to the people.

Rahul Bhat's family sought his transfer but administration took no action, claim colleagues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHEIKHPURA: The family of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit staff who was shot dead by terrorists in Budgam district, had sought his transfer from Chadoora citing threat to his life, but the administration took no action, his colleagues claimed on Saturday.

Bhat, who had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 2010-11, was gunned down by terrorists inside the tehsil office in Chadoora town of central

Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday.

Protesting his killing, the Kashmiri Pandit migrant employees who were employed under the prime minister's package in 2008, said Bhat's wife had met the officials of the administration a few times to plead for his transfer.

"When Deepak Chand (another Kashmiri Pandit) was killed (in October last year), there was a threat perception. He (Bhat) thought that something may happen to him as well. His wife had gone to them

(officials) two to three times but there was no action," Sanjay Kumar, a Kashmiri Pandit employee, told PTI here.

He said Bhat's wife had pleaded that he be shifted to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Budgam.

"But the file with her plea was kept in the garbage. Now, he lost the life... she (Bhat's wife) had been pleading (with the authorities) that Chadoora is not a safe place," Kumar said.

Another employee, who requested anonymity, claimed that Rahul Bhat

was not provided with any security despite the issue being raised by his wife.

He said that he can be identified as another Rahul "as we all are Rahul Bhat".

"His wife had gone to the Deputy Commissioner. But, what security was provided to him or all of us? Did they not have intelligence inputs about the attack? the protesting employees questioned.

The Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, did not respond to calls for his comments.

Drug abuse bigger challenge, it funds terror networks: DGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Drug abuse is a big challenge as it not only provides oxygen to terrorism by means of funding terror networks but also targets the younger generation, Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbag Singh said on Saturday.

Singh, the Director-General of Police, chaired a high-level meeting with the officers of the force at the Police Headquarters and reviewed the working of the Anti-Narcotic Task Force, NDPS cases and the crime scenario in the Union Territory.

He stressed on adopting a zero-tolerance policy against the narcotics trade, saying drug abuse has emerged as a major threat and it can only be dealt with by adopting a proactive approach.

"Drug abuse is a bigger challenge as it not only is providing oxygen to the terrorism by means of funding terror networks, but also targeting our younger gen-

eration," Singh said.

He put emphasis on thoroughly investigating those involved in the drug trade on taking tough action against the guilty.

Stressing on establishing anti-narcotic units at the district level, the Jammu and Kashmir Police chief directed officials to analyse the workload at district levels and implement the action plans accordingly.

"The increasing trend of drugs have to be arrested as it is affecting the lives of people and family environment," he said.

Singh directed officials to launch a massive drive against the cultivation of such crops from which drugs are made and initiate stringent action against those involved.

Referring to the conviction rate, the DGP said though it has improved, "we need to work on it with all seriousness to ensure a higher percentage of conviction in drug-related cases".

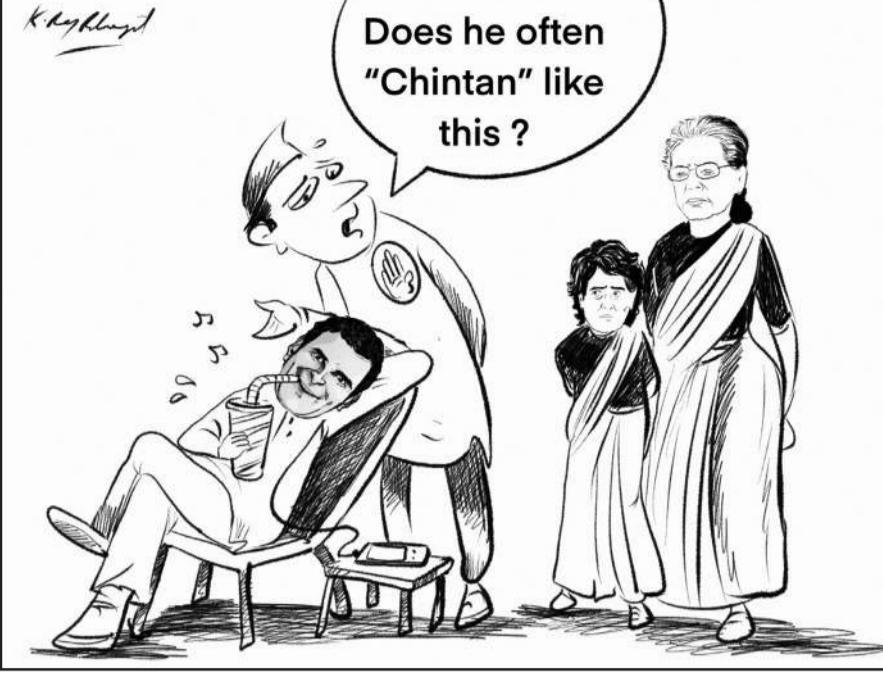
He demanded that Centre

should ensure the safety and security of innocents in Kashmir especially minorities in Kashmir and outside workers without further delay.

Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma termed the targeting killings of innocents especially minorities, a serious threat and nefarious design of Pakistan and terrorists and demanded the Centre take an immediate call to ensure safety of innocents in Kashmir.

Yogesh Sawhney criticized the Lt. Governor administration for resorting to strong lathi-charge upon fear struck migrant employees instead of listening their grievances.

The protesters demanded adequate step to ensure the sense of security and protection of minorities and others including outsiders working there and innocent becoming target of selective killings of terrorists.



Working of Co-operatives Deptt reviewed



Secretary Co-operatives Department, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary Co-operative Department, Yasha Mudgal on Saturday

chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the working of Cooperative Department besides action taken on the decisions made in the previous meetings here at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

He also briefed the chair about the progress made on revival plan of Cooperative Training Institutes, election of Cooperative Societies and status of Insurance cover of the members in the age group of 18 to 40 years under Atal Bima Yojana and other issues of Department.

The Deputy Commissioner

of Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, did not respond to calls for his comments.

Threadbare discussions were held on various issues pertaining to the Co-operative Department including progress made on Registration of new Cooperative Societies, revival of Defunct Cooperative Societies and progress on CAPEX expenditures.

Registrar, Co-operative Societies, J&K, Shafqat Iqbal briefed the Secretary Cooperative about present status of Super Bazaars/construction of new Super Bazaar at Kathua, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Kishtwar and Poonch, present status of Insurance cover of the members in the age group of 18 to 40 years under Atal Bima Yojana and other issues of Department.

The Secretary Co-operative exhorted upon the officers to expedite the process of working and revival of Cooperative Societies and status of Insurance cover of the members in the age group of 18 to 40 years under Atal Bima Yojana and other issues of Department.

He also directed the officers to clear all issues highlighted in the audit paras so that the same are settled as early as possible. She also asked the officers that any laxity in implementation and execution of work will not be tolerated.

Additional Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jammu, Dr Nirupa Rai, Additional Secretary Cooperative, Joint Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Special/Audit, Deputy Director, Planning Cooperative, Deputy Registrars/DAO and other concerned officers attended the meeting. Kashmir based Officers attended the meeting through virtual mode from the Srinagar Secretariat.

The Secretary Co-operative exhorted upon the Officers to take all necessary steps to prepare a road map for identification of revival of defunct Cooperative Societies. She also stressed upon them to make a strategy to achieve 100 percent saturation

regarding Insurance cover

of the members of Cooperative Societies under Atal Bima Yojana by ending of this year.

The Secretary also directed the officers to work with zeal and dedication so that the Department is taken to new heights and to become a profitable unit again as it was in the past.

She also directed the Deputy Registrars to give presentation with in 7 day for formation of Multi Societies models/business entities with forward and backward linkage.

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