LG for developing comprehensive, transparent land records management system

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday emphasized on developing comprehensive and transparent land records management system and to ensure seamless extension of various services being provided to the citizens.

Chairing a review meet-Revenue Department with senior officials Civil atSecretariat, Governor said effective land governance for efficient service delivery, drone survey and generation of property cards, accessibility of land records for implementation of schemes and infrastruc-



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a review meeting of Revenue Department.

ture development for ease of living for citizens and quality and speedy delivery of services is our top prior-

He directed the Revenue Department, Divisional Commissioners and all the Deputy Commissioners to

streamline the online services with regard to mutations, change of land use, legal heir certificates, SC, ST, and OBC certificates.

He also asked the officers ensure hassle-free access of land records and necessary certificates to all

the citizens. The chair was briefed on the progress achieved in scanning, uploading and digitization of data, status of properties pertaining to Evacuee, Waqf assets and transfer of

land for various public pur-

poses. The meeting also

Survey of Villages Abadi Mapping Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITrealization of Revenue collection, services provided on Revenue Plus and computerization of Revenue Courts. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar,

Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner Revenue; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary, Divisional Revenue: Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officials attended the

sectors are adding to the

job opportunities for the

youth here", said Andrabi

in her address to the gath-

Minister Modiji for usher-

ing in permanent peace in

Kashmir and to Manoj

Sinha led UT administra-

tion for creating a business

friendly environment in

Appreciating the new

venture by Barooj Group of

Darakhshan said that the

support to the new busi-

ness by local business lead-

"I am pleased to see the

business bodies extending

their support and encour-

agement to the new initia-

tive. We need to strengthen

this business friendly envi-

ron in J&K for our collec-

tive good", said Dr

ers is a welcome step.

J&K.

Companies,

Darakhshan.

thanked Prime



ICDS leads voter awareness campaign in Kashmir

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: In a coordinated effort to promote voter awareness and participation in the electoral process, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) has launched a series of special voter enrolment and electoral participation (SVEEP) programs

The initiative aims to educate and mobilize the populace, particularly women, to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

across the Kashmir Valley.

According to a senior ICDS official, numerous SVEEP programs have been organized at various locations, including a recent Townhall Handwara, where hundreds of ICDS workers clad in pink attire actively participated. During these sessions, attendees were urged not only to visit their homes

and spread information about voting but they were also enlightened about the significance of their vote in shaping the democratic

The pivotal role of these ICDS workers as "pink ambassadors" was underscored by the official, highlighting their important task of educating and mobilizing their communities. The success of these initiatives has been evident, with positive responses and increased awareness witnessed among the populace.

ICDS worker Masarat Nissar, expressed satisfaction with the Election Commission of India's decision to establish separate polling stations for women, which she hailed as a significant step towards promoting gender inclusivity in the electoral process. She highlighted the historical struggle for women's suffrage,

that Pak occupied Jammu &

highlighting the importance of not squandering this hard-earned right.

"We have no right to waste our votes," she asserted, highlighting the responsibility of every citizen, regardless of gender, to participate in the democratic process. She underscored the equality between men and women in today's society, stressing the need for equal participation in shaping the nation's future.

The SVEEP programmes, ongoing for the past two months, have been instrumental in fostering a culture of informed and active citizenship throughout the Kashmir Valley. With a focus on achieving a robust voter turnout, these initiatives serve as a cornerstone in promoting democratic values and empowering particularly women to actively engage in the electoral

J&K is land of possibilities for business development: Andrabi Chairs product and services launching event of Tesla Power USA

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday attended Launch Event of the products and services of Tesla Power USA as the Chief Guest at a glittering function held at Nigeen Club Srinagar which was attended by a galaxy of businessman and promoters from whole of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was organised by the Barooj Group of Companies. Mushtaq Chaya, Chairman of Hotelier's Club along with Tariq Ghani, Chairman Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kashmir & Rohit Karan, Executive Director Tesla Power USA & Pooja Sharma National Business Head of Tesla Power were the Guests of Honor.



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi speaking at a programme.

Electric Auto varieties, to batteries, solar power appliances and panels etc were launched. A detailed video demo of the new innovative technological products and services available now in Srinagar was given by Tesla. Bilal Parray briefed the gather-

ing about the new facilities and products and schemes of business in Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that this new technological global platform will surely add to the development story of business sector in Kashmir.

"In the peaceful Kashmir,

global platforms are anxious in extending their business chains to the paradise on earth and our brilliant minds are exhibiting their innovative skills to associate themselves with the new businesses. J&K has now become the land of possibilities and new initiatives in the development

Congress underplaying unanimous Parliament resolution on PoJK: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS KOLKATA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Wednesday that the Congress Party is consciously underplaying the unanimous Parliament resolution on Pak occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) which was passed in 1994, precisely on the 22nd of February, and ironically at that time it was none other than the Congress government headed

by the then Prime Minister P V

Narsimha Rao. In an exclusive elaborate interview to national channel TV9 Network, Dr. Jitendra alleged that this was a part of the appeasement policy of the Congress Party. At a time when elections are going on, the Congress leaders feel that any statement claiming that PoJK is a part of India may not go down well with the certain sections of their vote bank, and, therefore, they are ready to go to any extent to polarise the electorate even if it is at the cost



of national integration, he said. Dr. Jitendra expressed surprise that when the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other Senior BJP leaders reiterated that PoJK is a part of Jammu & Kashmir and thus that of India, it is the Congress Party which finds fault with such statements and tries to either ignore these or underplay these. Dr. Singh recalled that on February 22nd, 1994, both the Houses of the Indian Parliament had unanimously adopted a resolution which was also supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and which clearly stated

Kashmir (PoJK) was a part of the State of Jammu & Kashmir and was under illegal occupation of Pakistan. It was also stated that if at all there is an outstanding issue between India and Pakistan, it is only as to how to retrieve the part of Jammu & Kashmir which continues to be under illegal occupation of Pakistan and to restore it back to India as a part of the territory of Jammu & Kashmir as it existed in 1947, he said. Commenting on the West Bengal situation, Dr. Jitendra said, people have become wary of corruption and violence let loose by the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government and they wish to get rid of it. He recalled the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during one of his recent public rallies in West Bengal, where he had referred to the State Education Department scam in the

expressed concern that the State government was playing with the future of youth.

It is a matter of shame and disgrace, said Dr. Singh, that once upon a time, Bengal was

known to have produced India's youngest Vice Chancellor of that time namely Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee who was appointed Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University when he was in his early 30s in recognition of his extraordinary capabilities and talent. Today in the land of the great teachers like Svama Prasad Mookeriee teachers are being appointed through corrupt practices and the malice is so deep that the Supreme Court in its judgement was constrained to describe it as a "Systemic fraud", he said.

Dr. Jitendra exuded confidence that the Lok Sabha results on June 4 will turn the tables and the extraordinary performance by the BJP will

Defeating traditional parties is essential for greater interest of people: Bukhari fake promises. We always

STATE TIMES NEWS

URI: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Wednesday, asserted that ensuring electoral defeat for traditional parties is in the larger interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "Ensuring electoral defeat for the traditional parties is important for the sake of the larger interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. These parties are hell-bent on continuing to push this region and its people into miseries and violence for the sake of their own political advantages, as they have been doing for the past seven decades."

Bukhari made these remarks on Wednesday while addressing a workers' convention at Uri in Kashmir's



JKAP President, S.M.A Bukhari chairing party workers

port and vote for People's the April Party will ensure Conference leader Sajjad a lead in favour of Sajjad Gani Lone in the LS polls Lone." in Baramulla constituency. scheduled for May 20.

He said, "As you are aware, we have chosen to leave this constituency vacant in support of Sajjad Lone for the broader public good. It is now our duty to secure Sajjad's victory. His triumph will symbolize our success, and

He urged people to sup- I am fully confident that

"You must ber that unlike the traditional political parties, especially those led by political families, April Party's policies and agenda are rooted in the politics of truthfulness and integrity. We are committed not to allure people through misleading narratives and

tell the truth to the people. And I am sure that people realize that Apri Party is not there to misguide them or provoke them through emotional sloganeering," he added. Talking about the importance of elections, Bukhari

"Jammu said. and Kashmir is connected to the rest of the country through democracy, and democracy is the only option for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to grow and thrive. I am pleased to see that people recently turned out in large numbers to vote in the Lok Sabha polls for the Srinagar constituency. The significant participation in the voting process is a response to those who claimed that there would be no one to even raise the country's flag after August

appointment of teachers and Politicians trumpet slogans on reservations for Muslims but not that 'Truthfully' "Castes" from amongst the Muslims who too are socially & educationally oppressed amongst them be included in SC

ashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav on This 7th May while speaking to reporters created agitating flares in the political circles when he said <" Reservation Toe Milna Chahiye Musalmano Ko, Poora"> and it being election season he was condemned by his political opponents for suggesting grant of reservation on the basis of 'religion'. 7th May also being a polling day for 2024 Lok Sabha polls and sensing likely damages due to his statement, immediately the same day, Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav issued another video statement saying < "Aarakshan Samajik Aadhar Hota Hai, Dharma Adhar Nahin Hota Hai" >. This has not happened only once, such things often happen where in the politicians keep on disturbing communal harmony.

So there is utmost need to snatch the issue of reservations in Legislature and in services for religious minorities (particularly Muslims which is very large majority for vote bank purposes) from the Politicians who use 'such' subjects/ demands more for exploiting the communities for political purposes rather than using the same for their benefit for which muslim/ christian community people should impress upon their religious leaders to accept that their communities too still have caste system / oppressed segments like Hindu and the socially suffering castes should be plainly named for the pur-

in SC schedule like H i n d u / Bhudhist/Sikh . By

doing so the discriminated / suffering sects/ 'castes' from amongst the Muslims too could be propped for further progress and one tool used by politicians to make innocent hindu stand against innocent muslim would be snatched by providing reservations as member of 'SC' to Muslims / Christians too on the basis of social & education backwardness in case there too social oppression / discrimination (like it existed in Hindu

society) exists. Government of India had in a submission made before the Supreme Court of India in 2022 pleaded that the exclusion of Indian citizens belonging to Christianity and Islam in the category of Scheduled Caste (SC) was due to the reason that the "oppressive system" of untouchability was not prevalent in either of these two religions which is why C.O 19 The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 as amended from time to time, says no person professing a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste (SC). The government had opined that the report of the Justice Ranganath Misra Commission, which had recommended inclusion of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims in the Scheduled Castes, was hence not

A look through the mist Part IV

been alleged by activists opinion makers that Constitution

(Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 is discriminatory and violative of Articles 14 (equality before law) and 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste etc) of the Constitution as it discriminates against Scheduled Caste converts to religions other than Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. On face of it while taking first notice of such argument they do appear having some logic but that needs to be tested to the basic concept before the framers of constitution of India who constitutionally provisioned reservation in the Parliament/ Legislatures (Part XVI Special Provisions Relating To Certain Classes :Art 330 of constitution : Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and Art 332. Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States. 334. Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after seventy*years. National Commission for Scheduled Castes.- 340. Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes. -(1) The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes ...)- and Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts (Art 335) :.-The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration.....) for propping the socially & educationally backwards from amongst the Indian citizens (SC) & ST. And to add to that in directive principles Art 44 says < 46. Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.-The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

As regards the 'socially & educationally backwards' (SC) attention was conceptually and pointedly focused on the prevailing social discrimination against some sections/ groups extended by other groups of society like the prevailing practices of "untouchability" for which it was only the Hindu society which was accused of inheriting and carrying such bad traditions (social oppressions like commonly known as untouchability), where as other 'religious' communities had been claiming that there was no social discrimination based on any caste classifications amongst them. So w.r.t reservations to be kept for socially and educationally backward classes in terms of Art 341 of constitution of India only depressed 'persons'/ groups from amongst the castes those practicing Hinduism/ no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu (Clause - 3 of un amended C.O 19 of 1950) as per the prevailing caste system were named & kept in the schedule of castes (SC) for the purposes of reservations in the legislature.

No doubt later on those professing Sikhism or Bhudhism (the Sikh or the Buddhist) too said that the caste system exists in them also where in there too exist socially & educationally backward classes and so later castes from among the Sikhs (C.O 19 Clause 3 amended in 1956) and Bhudist were also included (C.O 19 Clause 3 Subs. by Act 15 of 1990, s. 2,) in SC. It has to be noted that reservations / benefits to Sikhs/Bhudhist were not given separately as Bhudhist or Sikh but as member of SC like any one from the

So in case Muslims and Christians too accept that social and educational backwardness existed in their society also worth making some people practicing Islam or Christianity still to suffer from 'social discrimination'/ 'oppression' then such castes groups too could be included in the SC (Art 341). Such reservation benefits will not be specifically for religious community but all socially and educationally depressed

classes/people irrespective of their religion would be grouped as one segment as SC for which present level of 15 %reservation could be raised to 18 % or so depending upon total volume of the depressed classes from amongst Hindu, Muslim, Bhudhist, Sikh.

True there is no provision as regards providing reservations based on religion in constitution of India and hence the reservations in legislature on that basis can not provided to Muslims or Christians as are provided presently to SC from amongst the religious communities other than Christians and Muslims.

As regards the Scheduled Tribe (ST) the reservations in the Legislature (Article 342 of the Constitution of India) are provided to all Indian citizens including Muslim/Christian {C.O 22 . Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 } irrespective of the social caste / sect/ religion / one being Hindu/ one being Muslim/ one being Christian/one being Brahmin/ orone being Kshatriye.

Similarly the reservations in services that are provided in terms of Art 335 to Backward Classes/ Other Backward classes are open to all religious communities and hence there too the Muslims/ Christians/ Sikh/ Bhudhist/ can take benefit where ever social backwardness

To be continued.....

(The writer is Sr Journalist and social activist & analyst J&K affairs)