

PRIs empowered, transparency brought through decentralised planning, effective monitoring: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that greater devolution of funds, functions and functionalities has empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and brought transparency through decentralised planning and effective monitoring.

Sinha was interacting with PRI representatives and members of Civil Society from Ganderbal, at Raj Bhawan here.

Around 130 members, comprising DDC Chairperson and members, Chairman Municipal Council, BDC Chairpersons, Sarpanches, Panches, heads of religious, social and business organizations and associations were present on the occasion.

Acknowledging the efforts of PRIs, Civil Society Groups during Shri Amarnath ji pilgrimage, the Lt Governor said that the



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with PRI representatives and members of Civil Society from Ganderbal.

administration will be ever grateful for their stellar contribution in hassle-free, smooth conduct of the yatra. The Lt Governor further said that the genuine demands and issues put forth for the development of various areas of Ganderbal would be addressed promptly.

On the occasion, former MLA Ishfaq Jabbar expressed gratitude towards LG led UT administration for addressing several public centric issues which were

hanging fire for many years.

He also put forth demands regarding job opportunities for locals in Zojila Tunnel Project and at the newly established Central University Kashmir in Ganderbal, appointing specialist doctors and strengthening of staff at district hospital Ganderbal, veterinary dispensaries in rural areas, four laning of Ganderbal roads, development of Manasbal lake with avenues of watersports and paragliding, besides other issues of

public welfare.

Several other speakers also put forth issues and demands of their respective areas including removal of encroachments, installation of street lights, establishing a Degree College and SBI Branch at Lar etc.

The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to all the issues and demands put forth by various speakers on the occasion.

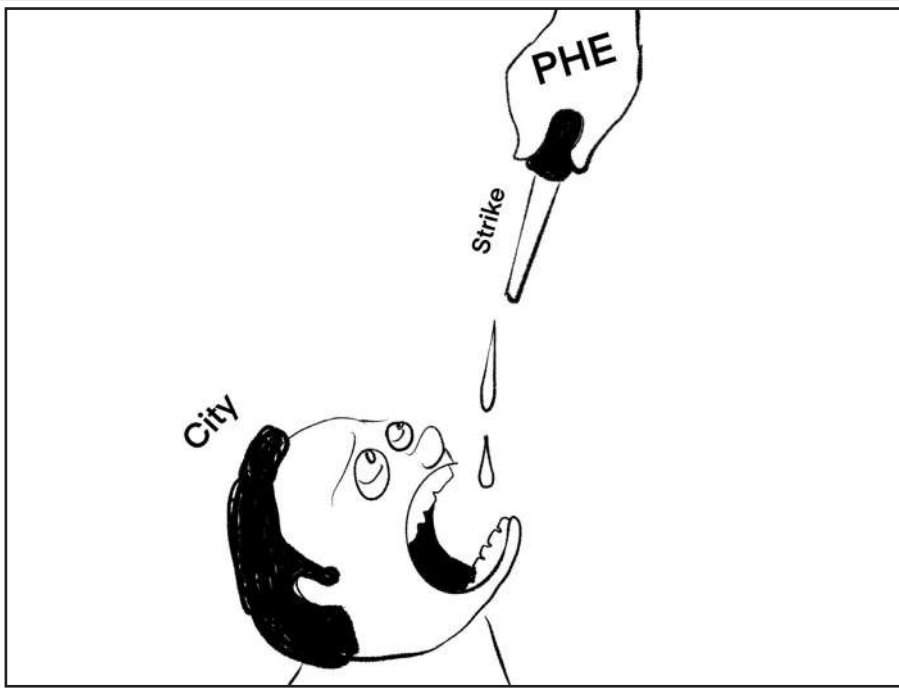
The Lt Governor observed that the UT administration is steadfast in ensuring holis-

tic, equitable and balanced development of each and every region of Jammu and Kashmir and assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned sections of the administration for redressal.

The Lt Governor called for maximum awareness among masses regarding various training and financial assistance programs and initiatives started under Mission Youth which offers livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities.

He also appealed to the members of delegation to join the fight against drug abuse in the society.

Nuzhat Ishfaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal; Hilal Ahmad Tantray, Chairman Municipal Council, Ganderbal; Badrinath Bhat, President Sanatan Dharm Sabha Ganderbal, besides several other PRI representatives and members of civil society were present on the occasion.



75 Technology Hubs being set up for SCs, STs: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as Chief Guest, addressing the inaugural session of 2-day International Conference on "Significance of Technology in Empowering Tribal Community of India" at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said that Ministry of Science and Technology is setting up 75 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country, exclusively for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to promote scientific talent and uplift the socio-economic status of these communities. Addressing, as Chief Guest, the inaugural session of 2-day International Conference on "Significance of Technology in Empowering Tribal Community of India" at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Convention Centre here, Dr Jitendra informed that 33 such STI Hubs have already been established and 7 are going to become operational soon by DST.

The Minister said that these Hubs will directly benefit over 30,000 SC and ST population through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm, other allied livelihood sectors and various livelihood assets like energy, water, health, education, etc.

Dr Jitendra also said that the Science for Equity

Empowerment and Development (SEED) division of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is providing grant-in-aid support to several Knowledge Institutions (KIs), and Science and Technology (S&T) based Non - Government Organisations (NGOs) for the holistic development of SC and ST communities.

Dr Jitendra said that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed charge in May, 2014, the Tribal Community was given a "New Deal" and efforts were made in the last 8 years not only to give them more representation in government, but also to empower them through different schemes and interventions including in the areas of Education and Skill Development. The Minister also pointed out that during the UPA, only Rs 21,000 crore were provided for the welfare of tribal people, but under Modi, it has been enhanced to Rs 78,000 crore.

Dr Singh also quoted Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day Address this 15th August, wherein he said, "When we talk about the freedom struggle, we cannot forget to acknowl-

edge our tribal society living in forests. There are countless names like Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Sidhu-Kanhu, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Govind Guru, who became the voice of freedom movement and inspired my tribal brothers and sisters, mothers and youth in the remotest jungles to live and die for the motherland".

Dr Jitendra also said that it was the Modi Government which decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda every year on 15th November as Tribal Gaurav Diwas, coinciding with the Amrit Mahotsav

Dr Singh said, for the first time in the country after independence, on such a large scale, the art-culture of the entire country's tribal society, their contribution to the freedom movement and nation building is being remembered and honoured with pride.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded that when India will take the high pedestal on the world map in 2047, during the 100th Independence Day celebrations, the role of more than 25 percent SC/ST Communities will have their own golden history to tell in the Amrit Kaal of next 25 years.

YRS activists on hunger strike demanding holiday on birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh



Yuva Rajput Sabha members raising slogans during hunger strike at Jammu on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Some activists of the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) on Tuesday sat on a hunger strike here to press their demand for declaring a holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, on September 23.

The YRS activists led by their president Rajan Singh Happy assembled in front of Maharaja Hari Singh's statue at the Tawi bridge in the heart of the city and began the hunger strike.

They were joined by leaders of various social and political organisations, including the

IkkJutt Jammu, Shiv Sena and PDP. Team Jammu chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal also joined the protest.

IkkJutt Jammu President Advocate Ankur Sharma along with his cadre today joined the 'Dharna' in support & solidarity of the just demand. "This movement will spiral out into a gigantic movement and will ultimately now end up getting Separate Statehood for Jammu," he added.

Among present were General Secretary Ashwani Sharma, Ajay Saini, Vir Vikram, Manik Jamwal and many others.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had formed a four-member committee in January this year to look into their long-standing demand.

"We do not know the fate of the committee formed by the government on our demand for a public holiday as a tribute to our great Maharaja who was the one who made J&K the crown of India by signing the instrument of accession," Happy told reporters.

"We will decide whether to continue or end the protest hunger strike later in the day. We are prepared to fight till our last breath to compel the government to announce a holiday on September 23 on the birth anniversary of the Maharaja," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Shiv Sena president Manish Sahni said the demand is linked to people's sentiments.

"We have always stood shoulder to shoulder with YRS in support of the demand, he said and accused the BJP of betraying the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Commissioner CGST Chandigarh Zone chairs 2nd meeting of GRC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Commissioner, CGST Chandigarh Zone, Aruna N Gupta and Commissioner State Taxes J&K, Dr Rashmi Singh on Tuesday co-chaired the 2nd meeting of the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh constituted for the purpose of tackling the taxpayer grievances on GST relat-



Chief Commissioner, CGST Chandigarh Zone, Aruna N Gupta chairing a meeting.

ed issues at Excise & Taxation Complex, Solina here.

Various stakeholders and representatives of trade and industry participated in the meeting.

The Grievance Redressal Committees (GRC) have been constituted at Zonal/State level with both CGST and SGST officers and representatives of trade and industry and other GST stakeholders in order to address grievances of specific general nature of taxpayers at the Zonal/ State level.

The grievances and suggestions given by the stakeholders were discussed by the Committee. The issues requiring immediate redressal were resolved by the Committee and those pertaining to policy matters were taken note of. The committee also stressed upon the stakeholders to come up with specific instances so that the issues can be taken up for quick redressal.

Div Com Jammu reviews implementation of I&C Deptt schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday reviewed the implementation of schemes and programmes of Industries and Commerce Department here at a meeting with concerned officers.

Director Industries and Commerce Department, Anoo Malhotra; Managing Director SIDCO, Samita Sethi; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; besides General Managers of District Industries Centres were present in the meeting.

The Director Industries gave a powerpoint presentation and apprised the Div Com that the department acts as the nodal agency for development of industrial sector and to implement Central and UT industrial policies through District Industrial Centres (DICs) and facilitates entrepreneurs in setting-up and running their industrial units. "The main focus is on the promotion and Development of



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

Industries to encourage new investments in Jammu Division and sustain existing ones" she said.

It was informed that there are 24 industrial estates in Jammu division, 19 managed by SICOP and 5 by SIDCO. While giving details of registered industrial units, it was informed that 13550 including 2397 organised sector and 11153 un-organized sector units have been registered with the department with a potential to generate employment for 87678 persons.

It was further informed that 182 units including 164

in organised sector and 18 in unorganized sector were registered during the current financial year 2022-23 ending 07/ 2022, generating 2006 jobs.

The meeting was informed that development of 7 new industrial estates has been proposed in the districts of Division.

The Div Com also took stock of the land acquisition issues for new Industrial Estates. He asked the Industries department to take up the matter with the concerned Deputy Commissioners for timely acquisition and demarcation

of land for newly developed industries estates.

The Div Com passed directions for resolving land issues and expediting development of Industrial estates in the region. He emphasized on streamlining the Single Window Clearance and ensuring smooth and hassle free services under all the schemes, besides ensuring facilities like road connectivity, water, power supply etc to facilitate investors.

About the land allotment and investment status, the meeting was informed that 521 entrepreneurs, including 406 of SIDCO and 115 of SICOP, proposing 44150 jobs, have been allotted 4647 Kanal.

It was further informed that main schemes implemented by the Department focus on promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), setting-up new or up-gradation of existing Industrial Growth Centres or Industrial Estates or Industrial Parks,

providing incentives under Central and UT packages to industrial units under manufacturing and service sectors, besides implementation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

Reviewing performance under PMEGP, it was informed that 1619 cases have been forwarded to banks in the current financial year ending July 2022 by all the DICs of the division.

Threadbare discussion was held on a range of important issues like delayed payment cases filed in MSEFC, identification of land patches for establishment of new Industrial Estates, change of land use and other related issues.

The Div Com called for further strengthening the Industries Department and asked the officials to work with added zeal and devotion to implement different Government schemes on the ground. He also stressed on facilitating CLUs.

Dr Ashu Jamwal takes over as Head Neonatology Deptt, SMGS Hospital

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Subsequent to the permission by government and thereafter official announcement of Creation of Super Speciality Department of Neonatology, a felicitation programme was organized on Tuesday in SMGS Hospital, here.

Principal & Dean Government Medical College, Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion. She congratulated Professor & Head Department of Pediatrics Dr. Ghanshyam Saini, for his dedication and overwhelming efforts towards creation of a Super

Speciality facility for the people of UT.

She also congratulated Dr. Ashu Jamwal, Professor Pediatrics for taking charge of Head of Department of Neonatology.

Further, she said that Department of Pediatrics was continuously providing the best health care facilities to the children and newborns and with the creation of a separate Super Speciality Department of Neonatology the team of doctors will dedicatedly look after these areas and the newborn care and Neonatal Intensive Care will be strengthened.



Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma and other doctors at a programme.

Dr. Ghanshyam Saini thanked the Administrative Department and Principal GMC Jammu for their sup-

port and commitment towards improvement and strengthening of Health Care Facilities and conveyed

that GMC, Jammu has achieved another first in the UT of J&K with the creation of Super Speciality

Department of Neonatology. He mentioned that the Doctors going to manage this new Department are well experienced and qualified and their services will be best utilized in this Department.

Assuming the charge of Head of Super Speciality Department of Neonatology, Prof Dr. Ashu Jamwal expressed her gratitude to the administration for having faith on her and putting responsibility of heading this newly created Department.

Dr. Ashu Jamwal is well experienced in the field of Neonatology and has been

managing the Neonatology areas in the Department of Pediatrics since its beginning. Dr. Anuj Bhatti, Associate Professor and Dr. Anumodan Gupta are the other Faculty Members of the Department.

Dr. Ashu Jamwal presented a PowerPoint presentation depicting the journey of establishment of Neonatology facilities in Government Medical College, Jammu.

She conveyed that initially one SCNU was set up in the Department as an eight bedded facility.

The programme was attended by all the Faculty

members/Staff of Department of Pediatrics including Professor: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Digra, Dr. Sunil Dutt, Dr. Mohd. Razaq and others.

Also HoD's of various Departments i.e. Dr. Subhash Bhardwaj HoD Pathology, Dr. Parmod Kalsotra HoD ENT, Dr. Amita Gupta HoD Gynae & Obst., Dr. Rajeev Gupta HoD PSM, Dr. Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent and Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Dy. Medical Superintendent, SMGS Hospital, Jammu, Dr. Kailash Singh, Assistant Professor, Surgery were present on this occasion.