

LG interacts with Gaddi-Sippi Community delegation

# Govt to roll out handing over of rights under Forest Rights Act on Monday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To take a firsthand appraisal of the various ongoing schemes and initiatives for the development of tribal communities of J&K and to discuss their concerning issues, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday interacted with a delegation of the Gujjar-Bakerwal community along with members of the Gaddi-Sippi Community, at Raj Bhavan.

While addressing the members of the delegation the Lt Governor noted that the UT administration is committed to make development of tribal population a key element of the overall development agenda.

"With the commitment of social equality, we have taken a slew of decisions in the last few months to bestow the due rights to all the tribal communities of J&K", he added.

Development of Tribal communities of J&K is one of the top priorities of the government and for the first time in the history of J&K, we are going to roll out the handing over of rights under the Forest Rights Act from the coming Monday, the Lt Governor announced.

Recalling his previous interaction with a 70 member delegation of the tribal community in which detailed discussions were held on development, education and other issues of tribal population, the Lt Governor observed that the government has taken many unprecedented decisions for the development and upliftment of the tribal population, besides contemplating a host of other initiatives in that direction.

"To implement an overarching plan for development of tribal communities, a two-month long survey has been conducted for effective policy-making based on ground realities", he noted.

The Lt Governor informed that the UT government has decided to develop transit accommodations at 8 places at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore for accommodating seasonal transitory population, besides provisions for medical camps, animal yards, veterinary care, and adequate security. The holding capacity and other requirements will be as per the assessments derived from the recent Migratory population survey.

He added that the government has



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha interacting with members of the Gaddi-Sippi Community.

decided to build Tribal Bhavans in Jammu, Srinagar and Rajouri. Project report is under preparation and the process will be started to construct the same.

To provide better healthcare facilities and to cater the needs of migratory population, the UT administration has come up with a Tribal Health Plan for which Rs 15 crore has been set aside, noted the Lt Governor.

"Government will create health sub-centre for the static population and mobile medical care units for the migratory population. It will be completely modern with good doctors and machinery and shall run with the collaboration of National Health Mission, Health Department, and the Tribal Affairs Department", he added.

On the issue of ensuring sustainable livelihood for the youth belonging to the tribal communities, the Lt Governor announced the establishment of 1500 mini sheep farms, which will provide employment opportunities to 3000 youth in this financial year. The program will not be a one-time initiative and every year 33% new sheep farms will be established.

The Lt Governor noted that 'Mission Youth' along with Tribal Department have started the process of setting up 16 Milk Villages to connect at least 2000 youth to the dairy sector at the cost of Rs 16 crore, besides providing training, branding, marketing and transport facilities to the youth.

Highest ever allocation of Rs 73 crore has been allocated for Cluster Tribal Model Village this year by combining the Central Government and UT Capex Budget components and the tendering process for the same has been initiated without delay, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said the UT

administration has decided to link children belonging to tribal community with skill development programmes from among the identified 300 skill sets. Initially, 500 youth will be selected and trained in specialist courses like commercial pilot, robotics, management, etc, he added.

Scholarships worth Rs 30 crore have been given to tribal children and this year 42,000 additional children will be provided this scholarship as compared to last year. 1521 Seasonal Schools for Migratory Children, two Residential Schools on the Migratory Route, 8000 e-learning tablets for children of class 7th and 8th and the salary of seasonal teachers has been increased from Rs 4000 to Rs 10000, he added.

The Lt Governor informed that the 7 new hostels which were under construction for the youth of tribal community are near completion and the UT administration has already proposed to the Union government to build 79 additional hostels.

"We have also decided to build Tribal Tourist Villages and in the first phase, 15 such villages will be selected and this work will be started with an amount of Rs 3 crore. Apart from this, if any youth from the community wants to start their tourism business, the government will provide them training and an easy financial assistance of up to Rs 10 lakh. We have not fixed a limit on this and the government will provide handholding to each and every youth who wants to go for it", announced the Lt Governor.

Informing about the hike in funds for Eklavya Model Residential School at Gurez and Rajouri to Rs 32 crore, the Lt Governor said that we have submitted a proposal to build 5 more such model schools in the UT of J&K.

Observing that full rights were not

extended to tribals of J&K earlier; the Lt Governor said that for the first time we have tried to bring the light of development in the lives of lakhs of tribal families by implementing the Forest Rights Act.

The Lt Governor said that the tribal communities will be getting rights over minor forest produce. The UT government in coordination with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) will establish infrastructure for collection, value addition, packaging and distribution. Further, to empower the youth and women a cluster of 15 tribal SHGs will be established and Rs 15 lakh will be provided per group", he added.

Ch Haroon Khatana, on behalf of the Gujjar-Bakerwal community expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for fulfilling the commitments made during the earlier interaction held at Jammu in the month of April.

Various members of the Gujjar-Bakerwal and Gaddi-Sippi communities and Anwar Choudhary Phambra raised their concerns and submitted a Memoranda of demands to the Lt Governor, on the occasion.

Our community has been kept away from development and prosperity for more than 70 years. Now, under the present dispensation, we are hopeful of a better future, said Sh Javaid Khatana, member of Gujjar-Bakerwal community.

Praveen Jaryal, representative of Gaddi-Sippi community, conveyed his gratitude to the UT administration for providing a common platform to the members of the tribal communities to project their concerns issues.

DDC members-Shaista Aslam; Peer Shahbaz Ahmad, G H Mustafa also spoke on the occasion and thanked the Lt Governor led J&K Administration for working for the welfare and interest of the tribal communities. They termed the Implementation of Forest Rights Act and Political reservation to the tribal community historic.

Sajida Begum, DDC member Larnoo; Bilal Ahmad Deva, DDC member Qazigund; BDC members; Surpanchs were present among other prominent representatives of tribal communities.



## Congress, NC, PDP failed to satiate aspirations of people of J&K people: Koul

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: BJP J&K General Secretary, Ashok Koul has said that only BJP is the real voice of Jammu region as the National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the Congress failed to satiate the aspirations of the people of Jammu.

Accusing the successive regimes in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir of following Kashmir Centric policies during the last over seven decades, Ashok Koul asserted that it was because of such policies that Jammu people were deprived of their due share in every sphere.

The senior BJP leader expressed this during a special programme organized at Karan Palace, Mandal Raipur Domana, District Jammu Rural, under the chairmanship of Ashok Koul and State Vice President and Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma.

Many people from Raipur Domana, Marh and Chhamb Vidhan Sabha witnessed joining of Bharatiya Janata Party by over hundred people mostly those belonging to Sikh Community led by former Sarpanch Panchayat Misriwala Sardar Gurbachan Singh.

President BJP District Jammu Rural, Rajendra Singh, Karan Singh, Baba Chanchal Singh, General Secretary of the District and many senior workers were



Newly joined members posing with BJP leaders.

also present on the occasion. Ashok Koul and Sham Lal Sharma welcomed the new entrants into the party fold.

Ashok Koul, while welcoming the new entrants, said that their joining has enhanced the party's strength and advised them to work with great zeal and enthusiasm in their respective areas to further strengthen the party. He also asked them to conduct awareness campaigns for highlighting the pro-people policies of the party and its Govt led by PM Narendra Modi at the Centre.

Taking a dig at Congress, Koul asked Rahul Gandhi to apologize from the people of Jammu and Kashmir for terming the Holy Pindis of Maa Vaishno Devi as symbol. He said the whole cadre of J&K Congress should apologize for such ill-mannered remark of Rahul Gandhi.

While welcoming the newcomers into the party fold, former Minister Sham Lal said that having become part of the BJP cadre they are

expected to work relentlessly at the ground level especially to fulfill the aspiration of people of Jammu who had been deprived of their due rights for long and have now started feeling drift on ground with restoration of rights to refugees and empowerment of women.

He said that BJP led Govt is committed to the overall development of all the areas and the party having full confidence in its workers and activists working on ground will ensure the implementation of its people centric policies in true letter and spirit.

Former Sarpanch Sardar Gurbachan Singh said that we are impressed by the crystal clear ideology and the people centric policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party and last but not the least by the hard work and dedication with which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking the country forward in every sphere especially in making India a nation to reckon with at the international level.

## IAS Mussoorie Academy curriculum must suit India's changing scenario: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUSOORIE: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Saturday that the curriculum for IAS/Civil Services at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) must suit India's changing scenario and therefore, needs to be accordingly modified constantly and from time to time.

This is also important to re-orient present and future administrators for the visionary roadmap that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid down before us for the next 25 years till independent India turns 100.

Addressing the valedictory session of Joint Civil-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh posing for photograph with awardee officers during Joint Civil-Military Program at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie, on Saturday. Also seen is Director LBSNAA, K. Srinivas.

Military Program (JCM) at the Academy today, Dr Jitendra called for joint programmes by institutes which are devoted to capacity building for good governance like, for example, LBSNAA, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Institute of Secretarial Training and Management (ISTM) etc., so that instead of working in silos, there could be synergistic programmes which would

supplement the individual efforts made by these institutes. He also suggested widening the range of the visiting faculty at the Mussoorie Academy and making Guest faculty more inclusive of scientific experts, industrial entrepreneurs, successful Startups and women achievers.

One major step taken by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) in the direction of major reforms, the Minister said, was instituting

"Mission Karmayogi", which when defined would be the emphasis on shift of functioning from 'Rule to Role'.

Congratulating the Course Coordinator and the staff of the Academy for successfully conducting the one-week Joint Civil-Military Programme, Dr Jitendra also complemented the officers who attended the programme, which is intended to provide structural interface between Civil Service officers and Armed Forces officers for a better and

shared understanding, coordination and collaboration during joint duties and for the purpose of serving the national security of the country.

The Minister said, this programme was initiated in 2001 in the aftermath of Kargil War and has gone a long way in familiarizing the participants with the challenges of external and internal security and plays a wider role in exposing the participating officers to the imperative Civil-Military synergy.

As India enters 75 years of its independence, said Dr Jitendra Singh, and plans for the next 25 years, such programmes enable us to prepare the Civil and the Military authorities to jointly work in different conflict situations internally as well externally.

Earlier Director LBSNAA, K Srinivas gave an outline about the Civil-Military programme and its objectives.

Traditional hydrotherapy resumes at hot spring in Ladakh's Demchok

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Army and the Ladakh Hill Development Council (LAHDC) jointly restarted the traditional medicinal hydrotherapy in the immediate vicinity of the hot spring in Ladakh's Demchok sector; a defence spokesman said.

The activity being resumed by the Fire and Fury Corps in coordination with the LAHDC and the civil administration was suspended due to the pandemic, he said.

The hot spring in Demchok has healing properties and offers great help in dealing with health issues related to migraine, backache, joint pain, gastric issues, skin diseases, blood pressure and ENT, he said.

Traditionally, the hot spring hydrotherapy is expected to be undertaken till October end.

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## JK Kissan Council calls on Union Agri Minister, seeks timely release of CSSs funds

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of J&K Kissan Council led by its President, Tajinder Singh Wazir called on the Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Narinder Singh Tomar at SKUAST Jammu on Saturday and sought special attention towards the agriculture sector of J&K UT.

While interacting with the Union Minister, Wazir lauded efforts of J&K Agriculture Production Department under stewardship of Principal Secretary, Navin Kumar Choudhary for initiating all possible efforts to double the farmers' income in the UT.

He further said that although a number of schemes are already in place for helping farmers in purchasing farm-machinery and bovine animals, that too on sub-



J&K Kissan Council President, Tajinder Singh Wazir speaking at a programme.

sided rates but the major hurdle being faced by the farming community is non-availability of funds from Centre under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) well in time.

"Agriculture is a time-bound activity. Last year, there were no funds in schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (National Food Security

Mission). Although, the UT administration created a special fund under Capex Budget for farmers' welfare in J&K UT, which is really appreciable, but main benefits were not provided," he asserted.

He urged the Union Minister to give special focus to the Agriculture sector besides setting-up Innovation & Agri Entrepreneurs Centres

and Agriculture Technology Centre to provide technological advancements to the farmers of J&K.

"Special funds should also be granted to SKUAST-Jammu for opening a world-class Veterinary Hospital in R S Pura to meet the growing needs of dairy farmers regarding timely treatment of milking animals," said Wazir, adding, "If Government wants to achieve target of Atmanirbhar Bharat, it should also focus on flower-bulb production in Nunnar, Ganderbal to cater the demand of flower-bulbs, which is presently being fulfilled by importing the same from countries like Holland."

The Ministers gave a patient hearing to the highlighted demands and assured for immediate necessary action.

## Ex-MLC Ravinder discusses POJK refugees issues with Rahul Gandhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC chief spokesperson and Former MLC Ravinder Sharma discussed the issues of displaced persons from POJK, Chhamb with Shri Rahul Gandhi during a lunch on meeting yesterday.

Sharma discussed the issues of the displaced community especially the pending financial package and it's other components with the Former Congress President during the lunch on meeting.

He apprised the National leadership of the Congress that the financial and other components of the package worked out by the UPA govt and recommended by the then state government in 2014, was not sanctioned due to change of guard at the centre resulting into only a meager amount having been sanctioned by the BJP government.

He expressed gratitude to him for referring to the Rs 25 lakh financial package recommended by the state government which was enhanced to 30 lac by the parlia-



mentary committee on Home Affairs.

He told Gandhi that the package included reservation for the wards of displaced community in the central para forces and in the technical institutes of the country in the pattern West Pakistan refugees.

However neither full ex gratia relief at the rate of Rs 30 lakh per family was sanctioned nor the other important components were sanctioned by the Modi led BJP government.

He also apprised him about the demand of the displaced community regarding reservation of seats in the legislature including allocation of share out of reserved seats of POJK.

Gandhi patiently heard the suggestions and demands of the refugee leader.

He also told him that entire displaced community is pahari speaking and the demand for ST status to them is pending consideration with the centre government, which needs to be pressed.