

# Sinha reviews developmental scenario in Poonch

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on his visit to Poonch, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the development projects in the district and the overall functioning of the District Administration.

Taking stock of the implementation and progress of the development works and the saturation of welfare schemes in the District, the Lt Governor directed the officials for speedy implementation of the schemes and execution of the projects.

Work in a cohesive manner for ensuring the prompt delivery of public services, especially to the underprivileged, tribals, and those living in villages and border areas. People's grievances should be addressed promptly by all the departments, the Lt Governor directed the officials.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting at Poonch on Tuesday.

The Lt Governor reviewed the status of digitization of land records, Amrit Sarovar, Jal Jeevan Mission, e-services, One District One Product, PM Kisan, Power scenario, Mission Youth, entrepreneurship and employment generation programmes, Block & Thana Diwas. The Lt Governor also assessed the progress made on strengthening the connectivity of border villages.

The Lt Governor directed the officials for special emphasis on the education sector and dedicated efforts for increasing the

enrolment in schools. He further stressed on ensuring effective implementation of Youth-oriented schemes and programmes and directed for doubling the efforts for engaging youth in sports-related activities.

The Lt Governor also passed directions to organize Debates, Essay Writing & Painting Competitions on the theme of "Truth and Non-Violence" in educational institutions across the district in commemoration of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur

Shastri.

Stressing on developing agriculture and allied sectors, the Lt Governor called for giving special focus on improving farmers' income and strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations in the district.

While enquiring about the impact of lumpy skin disease in the district, the Lt Governor directed for conducting extensive vaccination campaign.

Inder Jeet, Deputy

Commissioner Poonch gave a detailed power point presentation on the overall developmental scenario in the district.

The district has taken up 1412 works under district capex and 80% projects are expected to be completed by 31st October, it was informed.

Tazeem Akther, DDC Chairperson Poonch; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to Government, Tribal Affairs Department and senior officials of District Administration and concerned departments attended the meeting at Dak Bungalow Poonch.



## MD J&K Bank felicitates staff member



MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash felicitating Rajeshwar Singh.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash on Tuesday felicitated a staff member of the organization for his contribution to art, culture and literature. The contribution of Rajeshwar Singh, working as a Senior Manager in the Bank, who recently received Bal Sahitya Puruskar-2022, from Sahitya Akademi New Delhi, was recognized at a function held here at Bank's Zonal Office Jammu.

Among others the function was also attended by Sunit Kumar, Bank's Divisional Head for jammu and Susheel Gupta, General Manager HR.

Baldev Prakash said that J&K Bank as an institution has a proud legacy of honoring its members for both

banking related performances as well as societal contributions. "While business and commerce is at the heart of J&K Bank, sports, arts, literature, theatre and other such activities that define spirit of a society are the soul of this great institution that has all along worked for peoples empowerment and well-being.

Appreciating Rajeshwar Singh for his works in the fields of literature, poetry, theatre and other art forms, Baldev Prakash said that we have gathered here today to honour an incredible member of our family who was able to contribute and inspire despite facing his own challenges as a banker.

Notably, Rajeshwar Singh, who writes in Hindi, English and Dogri languages has

dozens of short stories, street plays and poetic works to his credit. He has also written scores of articles and columns for vernacular, regional and national newspapers and magazines. Plays written by Rajeshwar Singh have been aired on All India radio stations of Jammu, kathua and Shimla. His contribution has been recognized at UT and national level with major accolades being Prof. Ram Nath Shastri Memorial award-2014 and Sahitya Academy Award-2022.

On the occasion, Rajeshwar Singh expressed his gratitude to MD & CEO and the entire J&K Bank family 'for valuing my works and recognizing my humble contributions to the field of art and literature'.

## BJP Govt insensitive towards problems of J&K people: Congress



JKPCC leaders during visit to Ramban on Tuesday.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Jammu and Kashmir Congress Chief Vikar Rasool Wani said that BJP government is deliberately delaying the holding of early assembly elections and restoration of full statehood to J&K and asked people to gear up for decisive fight.

Wani flanked by JKPCC Working Raman Bhalla addressing a gathering at Ramban.

JKPCC Chief regretted that instead of addressing grievances of the people, this government brazenly

participated in photo sessions to get cheap publicity and just to befool the people by making false promises.

Wani said due to lack of transparency and accountability, J&K has been pushed into a virtual whirlpool of corruption, maladministration and despair.

He said the development process was almost paralyzed while major initiatives taken by the previous Congress led coalition government have been almost abandoned.

Wani appealed gathering to give a strong signal to the centre that people are annoyed with the BJP's actions and failure of their leaders who were elected by the people with great expectations.

Bhalla urged people to support Congress as only Congress can fight the wrong policies and politics of diversion and hate of the BJP in the whole country. He said that unity in diversity is the basic strength of our nation and long settled principle of Congress party.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary refused to suspend the life-imprisonment and rejected the bail application of one Javed Ahmed Shah, who was convicted by Principal Sessions Judge Pulwama in the February 2022.

The case projected by the prosecution was that Sameer had administered fatal blow on head of victim Khursheed, who was a BA 2nd year student of Maxwell Public School Pulwama while accused Javid was holding his legs in a tinshed of accused-turned approver; Abdul Rashid Dar at Murran Pulwama on fatal day.

While rejecting plea of the petitioner, DB observed that the appeal which was filed on 04.02.2022 cannot be said to be pending for the last 4/5

years as required by the Apex Court. "Court is of the opinion that the Criminal Appeals of under-trials (life convicts) or the person, who are in custody for longer duration, will not take much of the time to be heard finally. There is no difficulty in hearing this appeal after ministerial formalities of preparing and furnishing of paper-book to the concerned parties are completed. Since there is a positive finding of the trial court that the case has been proved by the prosecution based on formidable, circumstantial as well as oral evidence supported by medical and forensic evidence, therefore, appellant on his conviction cannot raise a plea of being innocent as the presumption of innocence in the appeal is not available to the appellant as is available to an accused before the trial court," the Court observed and directed that appellant has failed to make out a prima facie case for suspension of sentence and grant of bail in his favour.

## Governors, CMs, Union Ministers, celebrities join Beach Cleaning Campaign: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The 75-day long ongoing Beach Cleaning or Coastal Clean Up Campaign is receiving a huge response from across the sections of society and besides others, Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, celebrities, film and sports personalities, civil society groups etc. are joining the campaign with overwhelming enthusiasm and pledging their support to the longest and largest beach cleaning campaign in the world titled "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar", coordinated by Union Ministry of Earth Sciences with collaboration from all the other Union Ministries, departments as



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference at National Media Centre, New Delhi on Tuesday.

well as governments of the coastal States.

Addressing a press conference today, three days ahead of "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said, he will join the campaign at Juhu beach in Mumbai on

17th September and informed that Governor Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnis, BJP MP Poonam Mahajan and several personalities as well as NGOs will also join at Juhu.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will take a lead in the clean-up campaign at world famous Puri beach, while Pratap Chandra Sarangi, former union minister will be at Chandipur. BJP MP from

Hooghly, West Bengal Ms Locket Chatterjee will be at Dighe on D-Day. R.K.Mission head will lead the campaign at Bakkhali in southern Bengal.

Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel will be at Porbandar (Madhavpur), while Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala will join the clean-up operation at Jafrabad, Amreli.

Governor of Goa P. S. Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will take part in beach cleaning campaign in South and North Goa beaches on 17th September.

## Power shutdown

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Jourian, Troti, Muthi Mara, Bakora, RakhMuthi, PHE, BSF, Border Migrant, Sohal, Shakti Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Canal Road, Rajpura, Bakshi Nagar, Shiv Nagar and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 14 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Janglote, PHE and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 14 and 15 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Amrit Vihar, Rishi Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kalibar, Shiva Nagar and PHE installations shall remain affected on

September 14 and 15 from 8 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Indira Colony, Krishna Colony, PHE installations of Krishna Colony, Happy Palace and Shaheedi Chowk shall remain affected on September 14 from 10 am to 11.30 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Nagri, Airma Morh and adjoining areas shall remain affected on September 14 and 16 from 8 am to 1 pm.

# J&K has not so far seen even any fair reorganisation of district administrative units

► Some people may still allege discrimination, will LG Sinha undo SRO 306 of 1979/SRO 185 of 2007 & prove them wrong ◀

► Let there be rationalisation of District Administrative units of UT of J&K, people looking at LG for that ◀

## ■ DAYA SAGAR

After a fair representation to people in Legislative Assembly the 2nd most important factor of greater public interest is carving out of the District Administrative units (commonly known as Districts) since at State Level-sectorised cum inter-district / inter-regional planning is done keeping District in immediate focus.

The erstwhile state of J&K had taken to a regular democratic system of governance only in 1957 when the J&K Constitution was adopted and was also enacted the J&K Representation of People Act 1957 for distribution of 75 members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) over the areas of J&K to be elected through direct election and thereafter the members of Legislative Assembly were to elect 14 members for Legislative Council (MLCs) from areas of Jammu Region, 12 members of Legislative Council for areas falling in Kashmir Valley and 2 MLCs for areas falling in Ladakh region in terms of Section-50 of J&K Constitution. Keeping in view the region wise allocation of elected MLCs under Section-50 of J&K Constitution and there then being 6 District Administrative units in Jammu Region and only 3 District Administrative units in Kashmir Valley

it was expected that after 1961 through a proper delimitation of segments of Legislative Assembly more MLAs will be distributed over the areas of State falling in the then six districts of Rajouri, Poonch Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Doda than over the three districts of Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla that constitutionally were to have lesser elected MLCs than those outside Kashmir Valley.

But those who held the first reigns of governance in Indian state of J&K on adhoc basis were mostly from Kashmir Valley and did set their priorities more on holding to power seats than common welfare and hence did not hold to the constitutional truths laid in Section-4 of J&K Representation of People's Act 1957 and instead first distributed 43 MLAs (later 42) out of 75 over 3 districts of Kashmir Valley and only 30 MLAs (later 31) over the 6 districts of Jammu Region.

People from districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda had been peacefully agitating agitated. Later on, as an attempted eye wash, after constitutionally getting increased the total MLA seats open for election to 76 in 1975 the seats outside Kashmir valley in Jammu region were arbitrarily made 32 with Kashmir Region 42 and

Ladakh Region 2 totally ignoring the fact that Jammu Region had constitutionally 14 elected MLCs and Kashmir region had only 12 elected MLCs. The process did not see a change even when delimitations commissions were appointed after that.

The process had not end there and the Valley centric government to create illusions, for an outside observer/ government of India agencies, arbitrarily increased (SRO 306 of 6/6/1979) the districts in Kashmir valley that had much lesser area, much better terrain, much better connectivity from 3 (Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramulla) to 6 (Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Badgam, Baramulla, Kupwara) there by making number equal (6) to Jammu Region

In late seventies the people of distant/backward areas of Jammu Region had agitated against the irrational reorganisation of districts done vide SRO 306 of 6/6/1979 increasing the districts in Kashmir valley from 3 to 6 forcing the then elected government of J&K State to appoint a Commission under justice J N Wazir (1981) which had recommended in 1984 that districts in Jammu Region be increased from 6 to 9 and that



A Look through the Mist

in Kashmir valley from 6 to only 7 but even that recommendation was not implemented even when people outside Kashmir valley demanded atleast 10 -11 districts in Jammu region keeping in view that Jammu Region already had 6 districts before June 1979..

People of Jammu Region kept on peacefully hoping that if not 10 to 11 atleast the Wazir Commission recommendations for increasing the districts to 9 in Jammu region shall be executed but so strangely in 2006-07 the Congress- PDP government headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad ji through SRO 185 of 22 May 2007 although increased the districts in Jammu Region from 6 to 10 (Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban against Wazir commission recommendation to increase from 6 to 9 but so irrationally at the same time the districts in Kashmir Valley were also increased from 6 to 10 (Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Badgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara) as against Wazir commission recommendation for increasing from 6 to 7. Once again the people of distant backward areas mostly outside Kashmir valley like

Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Udhampur and Doda were unfairly treated. Government in Delhi too did not send any corrective advice to the State Government. Kashmir region was given 300% more (4 against 1 recommended) than what Wazir Commission recommended in 1984 and Jammu region was given just 33% more than Wazir commission recommendations (4 against 3 recommended).

People of J&K have seen 6 Elected governments after 1979 and 2 more elected governments after 2007 but no government has extended justice to people outside Kashmir valley who surely deserved 4 to 6 more districts than Kashmir valley keeping in view that 3 districts of Kashmir valley had been reorganised after 1978 to increase number from 3 to 10 where as the districts of Jammu Region have been increased from 6 to only 10.

Some districts in Valley may be very small but it may not be possible to reverse faulty reorganisations so the correction can be applied only by increasing districts outside Kashmir Valley in UT of J&K..

People outside Kashmir valley have been surely looking at LG Manoj Sinha with great hopes for atleast undoing the unfair treatment meted to them in the

past, particularly as regards representation in the Legislative Assembly and positioning of district Administrative units.

Anyhow as regards the Legislature Manoj Sinha can notnow get applied any needed corrections regarding distribution of MLA in Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K since the Delimitation Commission 2020 has already issued final orders in 2022 again allocating lesser seats in the Legislative assembly of UT of J&K to areas that had constitutionally more elected MLCs in the Legislative council of J&K State which now is possible only after 2031.

Anyhow as regards rationalisation of District Administrative units Manoj Sinha can surely still do that. The unfair treatment that the areas outside Kashmir Valley have received after 1947 could well be seen by LG UT of J&K from the brief being quoted here in. Keeping in view the performance of elected governments of past and even the fate of agitations done in past by people of Rajouri district in 2017-18 hopes for justice still rest more in LG Manoj Sinha in whom the common man has started seeing signs of a 'caring and daring' person. Will He do ?

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