

Dr Jitendra allocates Rs 1.77 cr MP Fund for Kishtwar

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is Lok Sabha MP from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda issued a fresh letter directing allocation of additional Rs 77 lakh from his MP-LAD Fund for district Kishtwar which, including the allocations made recently, amounts to a total of over Rs 1.77 crore MP Fund for Kishtwar.

As per the letter issued on Wednesday to the District Development Commissioner Kathua, who is also the Nodal Officer for this Lok Sabha Constituency, Rs.52 lakh MP Fund is earmarked for Panchayat Bhattan, Block Nagsani in Kishtwar



A delegation of officers from Department of Official Languages, Government of India, holding a meeting with Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, at New Delhi.

and Rs 25 lakh as support for building around 124 toilets in various areas including Hamori in Block Padder. This is in addition to the MP Fund allocation already made to the tune of Rs 30 lakh for solar electrification

of schools in Paddar and elsewhere, Rs 25 lakh for toilet complex at Gompa, Paddar, Rs 10 lakh for toilet complex at Machhail Mata, Rs.20 lakh for construction of Park at Galigad Village, Kishtwar and Rs 15 lakh for

lift water supply scheme.

The Degree College at Paddar, Kishtwar, Dr Jitendra Singh said, has been allotted through Central RUSA (Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyan) Fund, while there are two other, recently allotted, important nationally funded projects, which include AYUSH Hospital at Kishtwar funded by the Union Ministry of AYUSH and 1000 MW Pakkal-Dul Project through Union Ministry of Power. Keru and Kawar Power Projects are also about to start the final stage of work, he said. The airstrip at Kishtwar has been included in the Central plan for upgradation to

enable landing of aircrafts and an MoU is being finalised to acquire the extra land for the same, he added.

Meanwhile, a delegation of officers from the Department of Official Languages, Government of India, sought a meeting with Dr Jitendra Singh and explained to him various issues related to delay in their promotions. Some of the senior officers among them, who are about to superannuate in next few months, requested for an early response in the matter.

Dr Jitendra Singh called the concerned officers in the DoPT and issued instructions for a speedy disposal of their case.



Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq bags Sahitya Akademi award

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Kashmiri writer and broadcaster, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, has bagged the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award for literature in Kashmiri language.

Sahitya Akademi awards were announced in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Mushtaq was given this year's award for his collection of short stories titled 'Aalkh'.

'Aalkh' is a collection of 18 short stories that was chosen from the 13 books in Kashmiri language.

The writer is presently posted as head of the regional news

unit at Radio Kashmir Srinagar.

He has served in Doordarshan news unit at Srinagar Kendra for nine years apart from having worked in other media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as an Indian Information Service (IIS) officer.

Meanwhile, Governor Satya Pal Malik, Advisor to Governor, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, Secretary Information, Sarmad Hafeez and Director Information, Tariq Ahmad Zargar have felicitated Mushtaq for being conferred with the prestigious literary award.



Repeal of Roshni Act: Eminent citizens comment



Prof (Retd) R.K Gupta, said the crusade of Governor, Satya Pal Malik in fighting corruption

would always be remembered by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said repealing of Roshni Act is an appreciable step as the scheme has hugely damaged the interested of the State. Only influential people have benefited from this Act, he added.

Expressing concern over growing corruption, Gupta said that J&K being the crown of country, strenuous steps should be initiated to bring down corruption. "Basically, our political system is very bad that's why most of the government officials indulge in corrupt practices as they know that there is nobody to ask," he said. Gupta said Governor Malik is the only hope for the people of the State and urged him to intensify his crusade against corruption so that the social menace could be brought down.

Repealing of Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, commonly known as Roshni Act, has generated a huge debate with people, by and large, hailing the decision of Governor Satya Pal Malik, describing it as yet another landmark move to contain corruption.

Here is how people reacted to the Governor's decision.



Jaideep Sharma, Corporator Ward 22 said that Roshni Act gave nothing to the common masses. Members of elite sections of the society were the major beneficiaries who knew the loopholes of this Act. Repealing of Roshni Act is a commendable step, which is being welcomed by all sections of society, he added.

Sharma also appreciated Governor Malik's move against corruption which will give respite to the people. He said the people of J&K are the victim of corruption for the last 70 years. Finally, the wheels of the administration seem to be moving towards right direction, as the agenda to combat corruption has been set at the top, he added.



Advocate Chaman Lal from Poonch said Governor Satya Pal Malik is doing a commendable job in Jammu and Kashmir since he took over the reins of the State.

He said the recent decision of the Governor regarding repealing of Roshni Act will check encroachment of State land. He said the administration must make the people aware as to how much land has been amassed by unscrupulous elements, politicians and bureaucrats, under the garb of this scheme.

"The people of the State are appreciative of the working of Governor Malik and wish him to succeed in his mission in bringing peace and prosperity in the State," Chaman Lal said while hoping corruption to be wiped out, which is one of the factors of unrest among people, especially the youth.



Raman Gupta, social activist claimed that the Roshni scheme has caused a loss of Rs 25,000 crore to J&K besides giving impetus to demographic changes in the Jammu region.

The Roshni Scheme was a conspiracy against the State hatched by Kashmir-centric leadership, he said and urged the Governor to order a probe against the allotment of land and take back the land acquired by the encroachers by misusing the Act.

He also appreciated the Governor for exposing the misdeeds of the previous government and said a mechanism should be put in place to bring transparency in the recruitment process so that the hardworking and deserving candidates get their due share.

Man injured in assault

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A man was injured after being assaulted on an issue in Gangval area.

As per the details, Om Parkash, son of Sadhu Ram, resident of Seora was injured in an assault in his area. He was shifted to hospital by his family members. Police has taken cognizance in the matter and started investigation.

DGP reviews functioning of police hospital



DGP Dilbag Singh reviewing functioning of Police Hospital, Jammu, at Police Headquarters.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh on Wednesday reviewed the functioning of Police Hospital, Jammu, here at Police Headquarters.

The meeting was attended by IGP Personnel PHQ J.P Singh, IGP Headquarter PHQ Anand Jain, AISGP PHQ Mubassir Latifi, Rajeshwar Singh, Shailender Singh, Manoj Kumar Pandith, SO to IGP Technical Services Sanjay Kumar Bhagat and

Superintendent Police Hospital Jammu, Dr Kirti Bhushan Sharma. At the outset of the meeting, DGP sought report from Superintendent Police Hospital, Jammu regarding functioning of different units of hospital and availability of facilities.

Dr Kirti briefed the meeting about the working of hospital. He apprised the DGP regarding the work done by the hospital in the field of surgery and medicine.

DGP directed the officers to identify the areas where improvements are needed. He said that we should be in a mission mode to tackle all issues of the hospital and impressed for availability of quality medicines in the hospital.

DGP further impressed upon the officers to make sure that supplies are provided to the hospital smoothly for police personnel and their families.

He directed to take up the upgradation including creation of labour room and face lifting of hospital buildings. He said that facilities in medicines and machinery should be enhanced for the health care of police personnel and their families.

DGP said that the demands put forth by Superintendent for upgradation of hospital infrastructure will be looked into.

Govt to develop network of STPs to save water bodies

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As a long-term strategy to for conservation of prominent water bodies in the State, including Dal Lake, Jhelum, Chenab and Tawi rivers from pollution hazards, and for the restoration of pristine glory of twin capital cities viz; Jammu and Srinagar, the Government will develop Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of adequate capacities. Such STPs will also be developed in all major towns and prominent tourist resorts across the State.

Besides, Government will also develop more multitier ultra-modern parking lots in two capital cities and Katra town in order to ensure efficient traffic management. Presently these cities are witnessing huge quantum of traffic flow from within and outside the State, and there is great need for more such facilities to cope with the prevailing situation.

These decisions were taken during the pre-budget consultation meetings of the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Tourism, Culture, PWD (R&B), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs chaired by Principal Secretary Finance, Navin K Choudhary here on Wednesday. To immediately start with the exercise for these projects, the necessary token money is earmarked for the current financial year and rest will be projected in the next year's budget.

Financial Commissioner, Housing & Urban Development, K.B. Agarwal, Commissioner/Secretary R&B, Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Commissioner/Secretary FCS&CA, Dr Abdul Rashid, Commissioner Secretary Culture, Mohammad Saleem Shishgar along with their team of officers attended the meetings.

In order to address the prob-

lem of accommodation for the government departments, the Principal Secretary urged the VCs, JDA and SDA to identify suitable land at some prominent locations to construct multi-storey accommodation to house maximum number of government offices. He also called for judicious use of land and resources.

During the discussions of Tourism and Culture, the Principal Secretary emphasized the need for strengthening the existing infrastructural facilities for the tourists in all prominent tourist destinations to increase the footfall of domestic as well as foreign tourists. He also asked for identification of unexplored tourist destinations, heritage places in all three regions of the State so that these are brought at the tourist map. He said tourism is foremost identity and mainstay of State's economy and every possible effort must be made

for its promotion. He called upon the Tourism Secretary to workout prospective proposals for the development of this vital sector and asked for evolving new concepts for the promotion of tourism worldwide and launching a massive publicity campaign in the potential States. He also suggested to bring out some credible tourism publicity material in the form of pamphlets, booklets highlighting the significance of various tourist destinations and facilities across the State and arranging their distribution at centres of attraction like airports, railway stations, inter-state bus stands and prominent tourist locations in other States to attract tourists towards Jammu and Kashmir. He also called for promoting adventure, religious, heritage and eco-tourism for which there is great potential in the State. He laid stress on strict adherence of environment

norms while undertaking new ventures, adding that degradation of environment and ecology is the cause of concern for everyone and it must be protected at all costs.

The budget proposals of PWD (R&B), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs were also discussed threadbare and concerned Administrative Secretaries presented their view points on the futuristic requirements to run the affairs of their respective departments.

Issuing common instructions to all departments for curtailing the unfruitful expenditures under various heads, Navin called for generating own revenue for meeting their internal expenditures. He suggested for imposing minor charges on various kinds of services being rendered by the departments.

Declare Sept 23 as State holiday to uphold Dogra honour: Harsh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Exhorting the Governor to honour the resolution adopted by the State's Legislative Council last year regarding announcement of September 23 as a State holiday to commemorate Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday, a strong contingent of Panther activists spearheaded by Harsh Dev Singh Chairman JKNPP and other leaders staged a vociferous protest demonstration at Exhibition Ground Jammu against the erstwhile



JKNPP activists staging protest at Jammu.

BJP-PDP Government for keeping the announcement of most coveted holiday in abeyance. While addressing the media, Harsh questioned the double standards of successive regimes in endorsing the holiday on the Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah while denying the same on Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday.

He said that the revered Maharaja shall always be remembered for showcasing his nationalistic ethos when he acceded the State of J&K to the Union of India by signing the historic Instrument

of Accession of 26th October, 1947. He wondered that if Sheikh Abdullah's birthday could be observed as State holiday then why the same on Maharaja's Birthday was denied whose colossal contributions made millions of nationalist people of the State to call themselves as proud Indians.

"Maharaja Hari Singh was the icon of secularism and modern democracy who introduced several social reforms in the fields of Judiciary, Education, Revenue, Finance etc. His contribution towards women empowerment, alleviation of racial discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and colour was impeccable and visionary. It was ironical that December 5 was being observed as a State holiday but September 23 was despicably ignored with a sectarian motive to disparage the achievements of the Maharaja and to hurt the sentiments of the Dogras", Harsh rued.

Lambasting the Congress, NC and PDP as well for maintaining criminal silence to endorse the policy of delay and deny over the subject, Singh rued that the opposition to the holiday despite resolution to the effect having been passed in Legislative Council during the previous government only exposed the communal psyche of the Kashmir centric leaders.

He further deplored in particular the servile posturing of the then BJP ministers who failed to get the same implemented while in power.

Asserting that all the nationalist people of the State and the country were eagerly waiting for the announcement of the Govt.'s decision on holiday, Singh urged upon the Governor to immediately come up with the announcement of 23 Sept as gazetted holiday in the State. He further maintained that the declaration of Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday as State holiday would be a befitting tribute to the legendary ruler who was the symbol of pristine Dogra culture and heritage.

Among those who spoke on the occasion included Rajesh Padgotra, Gagan Partap Singh, Parshotam Parihar, Rajiv Mahajan, Ch. Surinder Chouhan, Bhavishan Singh, Shankar Singh Sanju, Rashpal Singh, Udhayveer Sambyal, Man Singh, Bachan Dass, Joginder Singh, Bittu Choudhary, Gurdeep Singh and Jeevan Sharma.

CEC LAHDC Leh seeks divisional status for Ladakh region



CEC, LAHDC Leh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal speaking to media persons at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: CEC, LAHDC Leh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal on Wednesday demanded divisional status for Ladakh region.

Briefing media persons here, Namgyal said that the demand of granting divisional status for Ladakh region has been taken up with the Governor and his Advisors and memorandums were also submitted in this regard.

"LAHDC Leh delegation held a meeting with Governor Satya Pal Malik Singh to reiterate the demand of the people of Ladakh for Union Territory status for

Ladakh region," he said. "We have not diluted our demand for a UT status to Ladakh. We will continue to fight for it till our last breath. In the general house of the Council, we unanimously passed a resolution to demand a divisional status to Ladakh to have a better administrative set-up in the region. Like Kashmir and Jammu divisions, we will have our own separate identity in the form of Ladakh division," Namgyal said.

"Carving out a separate division for Ladakh would in no case dilute the demand of the people of Ladakh region," he said. "We have not diluted our demand for a UT status to Ladakh. We will continue to fight for it till our last breath. In the general house of the Council, we unanimously passed a resolution to demand a divisional status to Ladakh to have a better administrative set-up in the region. Like Kashmir and Jammu divisions, we will have our own separate identity in the form of Ladakh division," Namgyal said.

"Ladakh is distinct from Kashmir in all respects culturally, ethnically, linguistically and geographically. Ladakh remains cut off from rest of the country for more than six months in a year. Besides, Ladakh occupies 70 per cent geographical area of whole of J&K. Ladakh deserves special attention and treatment in infrastructural development as it borders with two unfriendly countries. It will provide space for promotion of its rich language, script and to preserve, promote the unique art and cultural heritage of Ladakh," he added.

"The major demands projected by the delegation included a UT status to Ladakh, restoration of the post of executive councillor in the Leh Council, opening of the Kailash Mansarovar route from Ladakh, inclusion of Bhoti language in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and setting up of medical college," Namgyal added.

Girl kidnapped

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: A girl was kidnapped from Doman area on Wednesday.

As per the details, a family of Gurha Brahmana lodged a complaint with police that his daughter didn't turned back home. After reaching her with all the relatives, they found no clue of her; on the basis of their complaint, police has registered a case and launched manhunt to trace her.

MR among three injured in clashes

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: A medical representative among three persons got injured in separate incidents of clashes in city on Wednesday.

As per the details, Subahs Koul, working as MR in a company in Bahu Plaza lodged a complaint with police that he was assaulted by a shopkeeper named Ravinder Singh at Jogi Gate, but police did not take action. He approached Court and on its direction, police registered a case and started investigation. In another case, Satwari Police lodged an assault case against Pathania on the complaint Harjot Kour resident of Digiana. While, Bakshi Nagar Police lodged an assault case against Surinder Singh and others on the complaint of Manpreet Singh.