High-Level Meeting in Raipur Reviews Comprehensive Development Plan for Bastar Region

Focus on tribal livelihoods, health, education, infrastructure, forest rights and cultural heritage

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A high-level meeting to deliberate upon the Comprehensive Development Plan for Bastar Region was held in Raipur today under the chairpersonship of Shri Vikas Sheel, Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh. The deliberations focused on developing Bastar as a model tribal region through coordinated, locally responsive and outcome-oriented interventions.



The delegation from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was led by Shri Manish Thakur, Additional Secretary, MoTA along with Ms. Samidha Singh, Director, MoTA, Mr. Akhila Biharia Ota and Ms. Sweta Mishra, Senior Advisors MoTA and Shri Subhash Kumar, DAJGUA Division MoTA.

Attendees from Govt. of Chhattisgarh included Shri Vikas Sheel, Chief Secretary; Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua, Forest and Climate Change Department; Smt. Shahla Nigar, Women and Child Development Department; Dr. Kamal Preet Singh, School Education Department; Shri Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Agriculture Development, Farmers Welfare and Biotechnology Department; Shri Amit Kataria, Health and Family Welfare Department; Shri Solid Bharati Dasan, Tourism and Culture Department; Shri Basavaraju S., Technical Education,

Employment and Skill Development Department; Shri Rajesh Singh Rana, Rural Industries Department; Dr. Saransh Mittar, Energy Department; and Shri D. Rahul Venkat, Commissioner, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development.



The Development Plan covers the seven districts of Bastar Division—Bastar, Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma. Building upon the Ministry's engagement with the State and district administration, the meeting provided a platform to examine developmental gaps, identify implementation priorities and strengthen convergence among Central schemes, State departments and district-level institutions, including ITDAs/ITDPs.

Key interventions discussed included community-managed crèches in vulnerable tribal areas; a proposed Sickle Cell Disease Centre of Competence at Jagdalpur; targeted malaria and tuberculosis elimination; mother-tongue-based multilingual education; and adult, digital and financial literacy. Livelihood priorities encompassed tamarind and mahua value-addition clusters, agriculture and horticulture, livestock and fisheries, tribal entrepreneurship, traditional craft clusters, the proposed TRIFOOD Park at Jagdalpur and community-led eco-tourism.



The Plan also envisages conservation of sacred groves and indigenous medicinal plants, promotion of tribal music and crafts, strengthening of the BADAL Academy, recognition of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group habitat rights and community forest resource

management. Proposals for village electrification and other basic amenities were also highlighted. The Ministry's presentation outlined interventions at different stages of approval, proposal development and implementation.

The meeting underscored the importance of community participation, district-specific planning, time-bound follow-up and effective institutional coordination to translate proposed interventions into measurable improvements in the quality of life and livelihood opportunities of tribal communities across Bastar.

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