



Chief Minister Secretariat

Press Release

Ranchi, Date: 20/02/2021

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★ Chief Minister Mr Hemant Soren joined Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of various states in a virtual meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council 2021

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There should be provision for a separate column in the census data for the tribal population

The old-age pension should be universal

The minimum labour wage of MGNREGA should be increased, Mining operation should be partnership-based...Hemant Soren, Chief Minister

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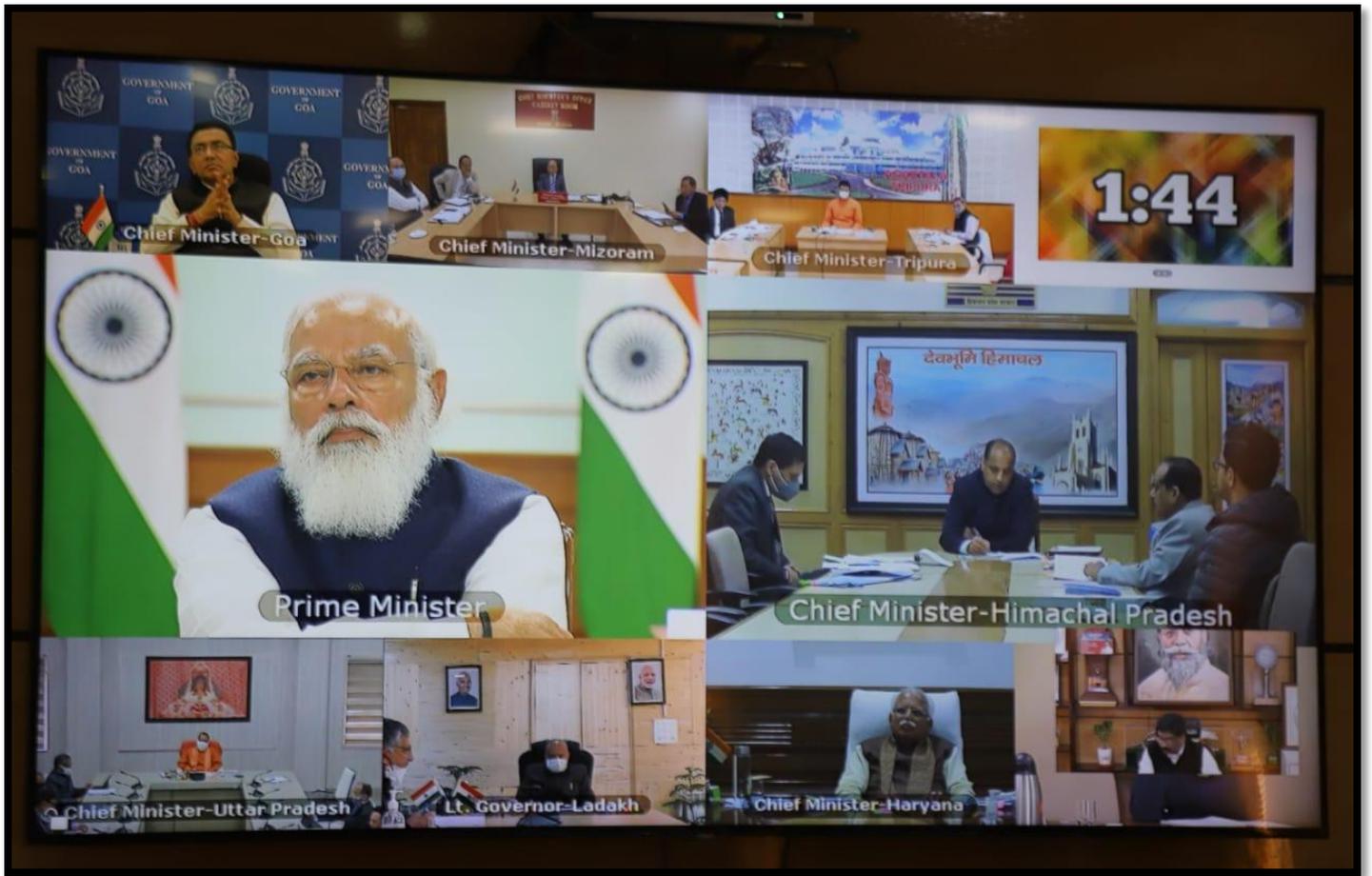
Ranchi



The tribal ministry was created to protect tribal interests. The Fifth and Sixth Schedule have also been made for tribal interest. Adivasi society is a society whose civilization, culture and system are completely different. Demand has been kept for years to establish a place for tribals in the census. We have sent a proposal related to the demand for Sarna Adivasi Dharma Code, passed from Jharkhand Legislative Assembly. We believe that the Government of India will consider it sympathetically. Separate columns should be arranged for them in the census as well, Chief Minister Mr Hemant Soren said while speaking at the virtual meeting of the Governing Council 2021 of NITI Aayog.

***Universal pension applicable ***

The Chief Minister said that often during field visits, we get the opportunity to interact with the senior citizens. They often complain about not getting pension benefits. When enquired, concerned officials say that the target has been completed. Can we not benefit this population by giving them a universal pension? The pension amount has not been increased by the central government since 2007, although the state government has increased it from the state fund. The central government should consider universalizing the pension.



Empowerment of rural areas will make the country self-reliant

The Chief Minister further added that the State Government wants to increase the purchasing power of the villagers. For this, special attention is being given to agriculture, social security, health, education and infrastructure development in the rural areas of the state. The state government is working towards giving agriculture status to lacquer and silk. I think India will become a self-reliant country only when we work towards the empowerment of the rural population. It is necessary to focus on increasing the financial resources of the villagers.

Increase in the daily wage of MGNREGA workers

The Chief Minister said that Jharkhand is a labour-intensive state. There is a need to consider creating employment opportunities for them. The central government has marked a wage rate of Rs 202, which is lower than other

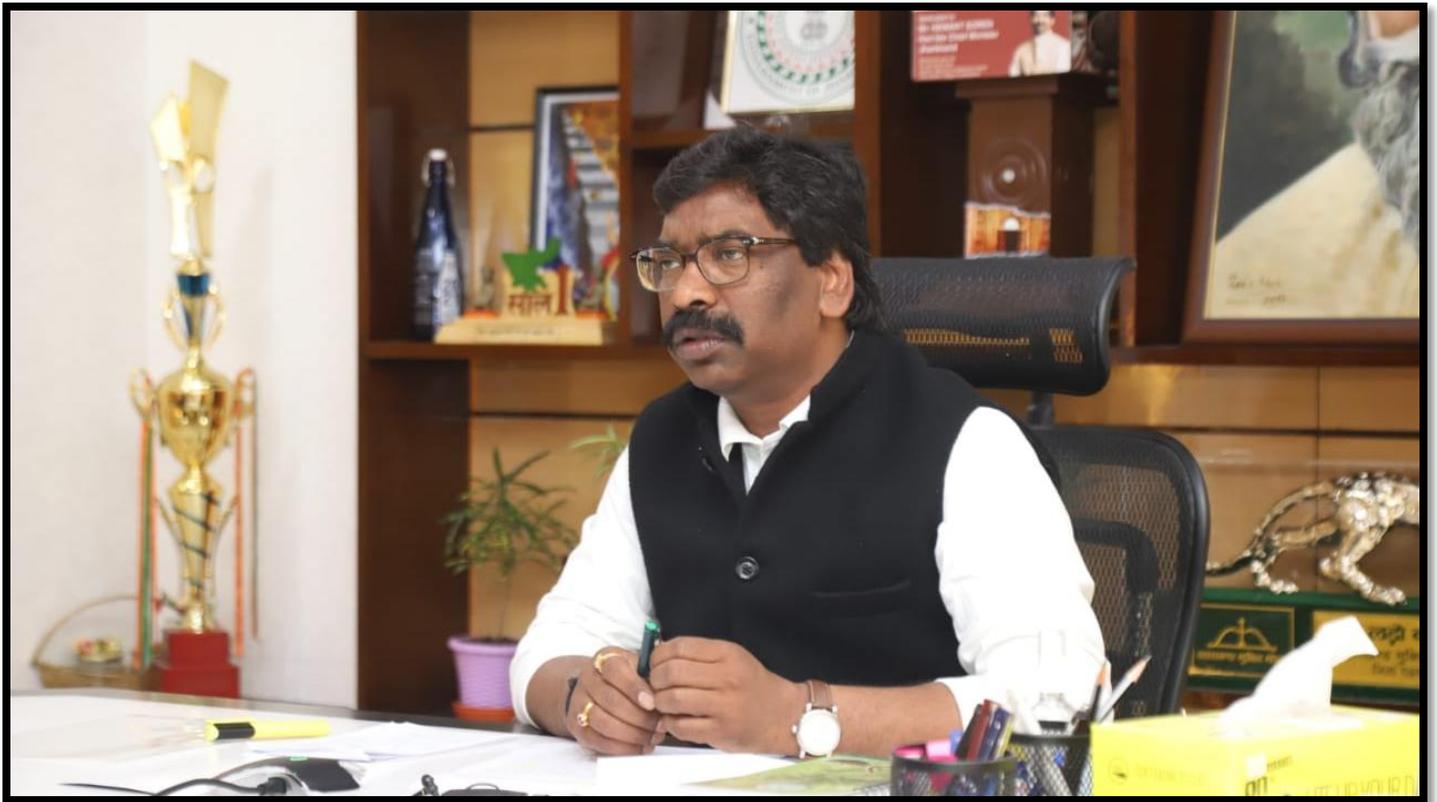
states of the country. At present, the workers of Jharkhand are not able to reap optimum benefits from the MGNREGA. The central government should increase the minimum wage rate. Also, there is a need to rethink the law made for workers. In the absence of strong legislation, middlemen and central government undertakings also ignore the interests of workers. Recently, the workers who went to work for NTPC in Uttarakhand and BRO have faced difficulties due to this.

Work in partnership mode in mining sector

The Chief Minister said that Jharkhand is also a mineral-intensive state. These issues have been discussed many times between the state and the centre. But it is not proving worthwhile. In addition to DMFT, the royalty of mining, the central government should think about the partnership model of mining operations. This will help provide opportunities for growth to the residents of Jharkhand. Because people here not only have to suffer financially but they also go through mental suffer due to dislocation, which needs to be understood.

Fund cut during the time of pandemic

The Chief Minister said that any state must be financially strong. We are working out the upcoming budget. The share given by the central government to Jharkhand is 1750 crores. But it has been reduced to 1200 crores. Due to this, the state is losing crores. Also, during the Corona transition period, DVC deducted Rs 2131 crore from the state government account. This was done for the first time with any state in the country. Being a labour-intensive state, this fund was necessary for Jharkhand to control the spread of the pandemic.



Forest clearance should be flexible

The Chief Minister said that 50 per cent of the land of Jharkhand is covered with forest and bush. It is difficult to get forest clearance for the state government's industries and entrepreneurs during setting up any type of industry. Whereas the central government undertakings easily get forest clearance. Also, there is difficulty in providing equivalent land instead of the acquired land. If the central government works towards making it flexible while considering these subjects, then a state like Jharkhand will also be able to establish industries.

On this occasion, Chief Secretary Mr Sukhdev Singh, Principal Secretary Mrs Himani Pandey, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Mr Rajiv Arun Ekka and others were present.

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#Team PRD (CMO)