

**VISIT NOTES OF V.SRINIVAS IAS CHAIRMAN BOARD OF REVENUE
FOR RAJASTHAN TO JODHPUR, BARMER, JALORE, SIROHI AND PALI
DISTRICTS DATED MAY 15-17, 2018**

I undertook a 3-day visit, covering the Districts of Jodhpur, Barmer, Jalore, Sirohi and Pali for inspections of Divisional Commissioner Office Jodhpur and District Collector offices at Barmer, Jalore, Sirohi and the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign in all the 5 districts. The visit had 2 night halts at Barmer and Sirohi and covered a road distance of 1050 kms.

DISTRICT JODHPUR

Inspection of Divisional Commissioner Office Jodhpur

My visit commenced with the inspection of Divisional Commissioner Jodhpur. Shri L.N.Gupta, IAS had joined as Divisional Commissioner Jodhpur on May 1, 2018. I welcomed him to the new job. I informed him of the high dignity and importance of the post of Divisional Commissioner Jodhpur which was coterminous with the Desert Development Commissioner and the largest Division in the State in terms of area. I advised him that he should visit the important SDO courts of Jodhpur, Mount Abu, Bali, Sojat, Bhinmal and Balotra and the important tehsils of Sumerpur – Shivganj, Osian, Bhopalgarh, Pachpadra, and Sanchore. I observed that the Additional Divisional Commissioner must decide more 1st appeals than the Divisional Commissioner and it was important to visit Pali to understand the magnitude of Section 91 Rajasthan Land Revenue Act cases being instituted every crop season. I briefed him about the success story of digitalization of Rajasthan's revenue courts and the workshop conducted by the Board of Revenue for the Additional Divisional Commissioners on improving their functioning. I reiterated the high focus accorded by Government to Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign.

Address to Rajasthan High Court Bar Association

The District Collector Jodhpur Dr. Ravi Surpur, IAS and Divisional Commissioner Shri L.N.Gupta IAS along with senior officers of Jodhpur District accompanied me for the meeting with the Rajasthan High Court Bar Association. I addressed the President and Senior Advocates of the Rajasthan High Court Bar Association on "Improving Functioning of Revenue Courts of Rajasthan". The response of the Rajasthan High Court Bar Association Members to the initiatives taken by the Board of Revenue was overwhelmingly supportive. The Bar requested for enhancing the number of sitting days of the Single Bench and for having a circuit double bench of the Board of Revenue at Jodhpur.

VILLAGE DUNDADA, TEHSIL LUNI

I visited the Nyay Aapke Dwar Campaign at village Dundada in Luni Tehsil. It is a remote Gram Panchayat 80 kms from Jodhpur. The Additional District Collector Bundi Shri Manaram Patel accompanied me to the camp. The District Collector Jodhpur Dr. Ravi Surpur had visited the camp in the morning. I had visited the Gram Panchayat 20 years ago as District Collector Jodhpur, in the midst of severe drought

in 1999 and water supply was by tankers. The transformation of village Dhundada to New Age India was visible with digital penetration, piped water supply schemes, 24 hours power supply and a number of gas connections being distributed. There were a lot of requests for Abadi Pattas, but the Sarpanch – a graduate, indicated that most of the land was encroached and abadi pattas needed more work lest it result in further litigation. Health department was provided with a separate space for conducting OPD check-up for women patients. One of the older villagers who received benefits said that his Jan Dhan account was not being retrieved, as his finger identification was not being recorded on the POS machine. The camp environment had a positive atmosphere to it and people's grievances were being redressed. It was very heartening to note that even in temperatures of 46 C, the Government officials and the village community worked for 7 hours under a tent to find solutions to pressing developmental issues.

VILLAGE KANNANA TEHSIL PACHPADRA

I visited Village Kannana Tehsil Pachpadra at 5 pm in the concluding stages of the revenue camp. The District Collector Barmer Shiv Prasad Nakate received me at the camp. A large village population was attending the camp in the evening hours. I was briefed about the work undertaken by each of the 15 participating departments. The focus was on distributing abadi pattas, mutations, partition of holdings by mutual agreement, LPG gas connections, old age pensions and scholarships. Power supply was adequate, water supply schemes were being implemented. The District Collector had personally supervised the successful implementation of Government programs in the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 Campaign.

After an hour at the camp site, I left for Barmer. Night halt at Circuit House Barmer.

Dated May 16, 2018 Wednesday

INSPECTION OF COLLECTOR OFFICE, BARMER

I inspected the District Collector Office at Barmer on May 16, 2018. The Board of Revenue records indicated that this was the first inspection conducted by a Chairman Board of Revenue since 1985. Barmer – a high litigation district with significant revenue department's presence with 15 SDO/ Assistant Collector Courts, demands greater attention from the Board of Revenue. I briefed the District Collector Barmer Shiv Prasad Nakate on the legacy of the District Collectors of Barmer – men of the stature of Shri T.V.Ramanan, Shri I.C.Srivastava and Shri C.K.Mathew who rose to the highest positions in State government. I also shared Shri I.C.Srivastava's memoirs that he has served as District Collector in the 1971 was period and had the opportunity to administer certain parts of Pakistan during his tenure.

For strengthening Revenue Administration in the District, I advised the District Collector to convene 3 meetings – the Revenue Officers Meeting, the BDO's meeting and the Vigilance Committee Meetings on a monthly basis with a specific agenda. I also advised him on the importance of a strong functional Revenue Section, a Land Records Section and the Judicial Section. Given the high case-loads in almost all the sub-divisional officer courts, it is important that the revenue courts maintain a predictability and consistency of court sittings, cordial relations between Bar and

Bench and focus on quality of judgment writing. I visited the various sections of the District Collector's office and recognized the very high work loads of file work that District Collector Barmer had to contend with in administering the district. The District Collector was also requested to submit a list of building construction proposals for the newly created Tehsil offices/ SDO offices.

Meeting with District Revenue Bar Association Barmer

I met 150 advocates of the Barmer District Revenue Bar association for 60 minutes. The Bar association requested that the RAA Jodhpur may conduct sittings in Barmer in-addition to Balotra for atleast 2 days in a month. They also requested for not deciding contested suits in the revenue campaign – which the District Collector Barmer promised action.

The Bar Association raised important legal issues relevant for the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign. The issues raised included (a) Timely Rectification of settlement errors in Barmer district which were resulting in huge number of Suits for Declaratory Rights; (b) A campaign to be launched for S.251 Rajasthan Tenancy Act cases on right of easement; (c) Copies of Tarmim by Patwaris to be done in duplicate with a copy being maintained at the Tehsil office; (d) Greater opportunity of hearing in Reference cases u/s 82 Rajasthan Land Revenue Act by the Court of District Collector; (e) Expediting judgment writing in cases for judgment and decrees in SDO Courts; (f) timely updation of RCMS portal for placing judgments and decrees online by the Board of Revenue and Subordinate Courts.

Village Revtada, Tehsil Sayla, District Jalore

I visited the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign. The District Collector Jalore Shri Babulal Kothari accompanied me to the camp. The MLA Jalore Smt. Amrita Meghwal attended the camp. The disposal of applications in all 15 Departments was satisfactory. I spent an hour at the camp.

Inspection of Collector Office, Jalore

I inspected the District Collector Office Jalore and discussed the challenges faced by the District with the District Collector, the Additional Collector and the SDO Headquarters. I also met the Members of the District Bar Association in a separate meeting. Some of the Sub-Divisional Courts in the District like Sanchore are facing high litigation. The advocates expressed concerns on the disposal of contested Section 88 suits in Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign without adhering to the due judicial processes. I reassured them that the Revenue Courts would adhere to the judicial processes of the Civil Procedure Code 1908. Further the advocates also sought certain procedural improvements in the functioning of appellate courts – these included (a) 1st appellate courts should not remand cases but must give issue-based judgments as the objective of justice is not being served; (b) interlocutory orders should not be appealed against u/s 9 Land Revenue Act; (c) admissibility of appeals should be more stringent; (d) introduction of an online app for RCMS which makes it easier to access data; (e)

RAA Jalore to conduct an additional day of camp court in the District. They also requested for online mutations to be commenced in Jalore and effective linkage between mutations and registration documents. Over the discussions were cordial and constructive.

Village Vrada, Tehsil Sirohi

I attended the Nyay Aapke Dwar camp at Village Vrada Tehsil Sirohi. The District Collector Shri Babulal Meena accompanied me to the camp site. The camp was well attended with over 150 villagers. The District Collector reviewed the progress of the Camp department wise. The villagers expressed concerns about the OPD hospital services being provided by the local PHC. This was brought to the notice of the NGO Chitransh which was administering the PHC on PPP basis. There was no water or electricity shortage reported. The other departments performance was satisfactory.

Night Halt at Sirohi.

May 17, 2017 Thursday

Inspection of Collector Office, Sirohi

The Collector Office Sirohi is one of the most scenic buildings in which a Collector office has been housed in Rajasthan. It was the first inspection of the District Collector Sirohi's office in 25 years. I briefed Shri Babulal Meena District Collector Sirohi on strengthening administration of the district. There are a lot of vacant posts in Sirohi district with many patwar circles, Naib Tehsildars/ Tehsildars posts being vacant. I assured the District Collector to fill the vacancies at Tehsildar level at the earliest. I also addressed the District Bar Association. The advocates requested for the following interventions (a) As Sirohi District has a number of Gramdan villages, the revenue administration in the district needs to be strengthened by effective coordination between the Board of Revenue and the Bhoodan Board; (b) Streamlining the Court of Work of District Collector by a separate cadre of Readers to be considered; (c) Correction of entries u/s 136 may be taken up on priority in the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign given the large number of settlement errors that exist in revenue records; (d) Contested cases should not be taken up in the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign; (e) Copies of the Digital Cadastral maps being prepared under the DILRMP project to be made available to tenants on payment of fees; (f) A major campaign for Rights of Easement u/s 251 A of the Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1955 to be taken up following the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign given the massive pendency in demarcation.

Meeting with District Collector Pali and District Bar Association Pali

I met the District Collector Pali and the District Bar Association Pali on the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign. Pali district has some of the most complex revenue litigation in the State, and a very distinguished Revenue Bar. The District Bar Association Pali suggested the following improvements in the Nyay Aapke Dwar

2018 campaign – (a) Section 91 Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1956 cases must be accompanied by patwari reports on the land status of the tenants; (b) Convene Land Allotment Committee meetings in the Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign; (c) verify factual status in the reference cases filed in BOR in pursuance of the Hon'ble High Court judgment in Abdul Rehman vs State of Rajasthan by partial amendment of the BOR LB judgment in State of Rajasthan vs Ali Sher; (d) Seek a physical report on Temple lands where alienation has taken place; (e) take steps to protect common lands from land mafia; (f) stronger measures to combat corruption at field level in mutation cases; (g) timely judgments and decrees after arguments are completed; (h) stringent monitoring of data being reported from the revenue campaign without inflating numbers; (i) Contested cases not to be taken up in the revenue campaign.

Village Chandaval Station, Tehsil Sojat

It was one of the hottest days of summer with temperatures touching 45 C when I reached Chandaval station at 3 pm. The MLA Sojat Smt. Sanjana Agri along with District Collector Pali Shri Sudhir Kumar Sharma attended the Camp. The progress of the departments was reviewed and was satisfactory.

Conclusion

In the past 3 weeks of the revenue campaign, I have travelled 2750 kms covering 16 districts with 7 night halts. The Nyay Aapke Dwar 2018 campaign at the conclusion of 3 weeks has gained considerable momentum and benefitted lacs of people.

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