



सत्यमेव जयते

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राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

Visit report of Shri Nirupam Chakma, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi to the Udham Singh Nagar District of Uttarakhand State to review the implementation of Constitutional safeguards, welfare and development schemes for Scheduled Tribes on 26.05.2025.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a constitutional body set up under Article 338A of the Constitution of India to investigate and monitor all matters relating to protection, welfare and socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the country. As per constitutional provisions, the Union and every State Govt. shall consult the Commission on all major policy decisions affecting Scheduled Tribes. The Commission is required to present to the Hon'ble President of India reports upon working of those safeguards and all such reports are to be laid before each House of Parliament along with Memorandum explaining the Action Taken or propose to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for non- acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

The Hon'ble National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, in accordance with its mandate under Article 338A of the Constitution of India, had scheduled a District-Level Review meeting with the District Magistrate in Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, on 26 May 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of constitutional safeguards and development and welfare schemes pertaining to Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the district.

However, it was brought to the notice of the Commission that the District Magistrate failed to remain present during the said review meeting and did not seek any prior exemption or communicate any official reason for such absence. This act represents a serious administrative lapse and reflects disregard for the constitutional authority vested in the Hon'ble Commission under Article 338A. The Commission takes strong exception to this dereliction of official duty. Consequently, due to the non-cooperation of the District Magistrate, the Hon'ble Member was constrained to cancel the proposed review meeting. The Commission recommends that the matter be formally recorded, and appropriate directions may be issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, to ensure strict compliance with the constitutional provisions and full accountability of district-level officers in all future engagements with the Commission.


निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma
सदस्य / Member
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Government of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

Jan Aushadi Kendra

As part of the field visit, the Hon'ble Member visited a Jan Aushadhi Kendra situated in Rudrapur city to assess the functioning and outreach of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP). The Jan Aushadhi Kendra was found to be operating in an efficient and organized manner. Two young women pharmacists, Ms. Anjali Goel and Ms. Preeti Goel, were managing the service counter and attending to beneficiaries. The centre operates under the active supervision of Mr. Krishna Pal Rai, a full-time pharmacist who manages the centre round-the-clock with the financial and logistics support from the Red Cross Society.

The Kendra was observed to be well-stocked with a wide array of essential generic medicines and health supplies, available at substantially subsidized prices. Specific examples included Metformin, a diabetes medication, priced at ₹32 per strip, compared to ₹150 in the open market. Newborn diapers were available for ₹5 per unit and sanitary pads for ₹1 per piece, making critical health and hygiene products highly accessible to the underserved. The Kendra also stocked medicines for ailments such as vitamin deficiencies, blood pressure, and respiratory infections. The Hon'ble Member noted that 5-6 Jan AushadhiKendras are functional within Rudrapur city, reflecting strong urban implementation of the PMBJP scheme.

The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadhiPariyojana (PMBJP), implemented by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, is a major public health initiative aimed at increasing access to affordable and quality generic medicines. The scheme significantly reduces the financial burden on citizens, particularly those from economically weaker and tribal communities, while also generating employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth and women. The scheme is a strategic intervention towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and aligns with the goal of equitable access to healthcare.

In addition to the visit to the Jan Aushadhi Kendra, the Hon'ble Member also was informed about a health outreach initiative conducted in Gadarpur block under the 'NayiUmeed NayiPehal' scheme. The camp, designed to address key healthcare concerns in rural and tribal areas, focused on tuberculosis (TB) screening, cataract detection, and general medical consultations. The initiative was found to be well-received by the local population and served as a meaningful model for preventive and diagnostic healthcare delivery. It reflects a proactive public health approach, addressing both disease surveillance and health awareness in vulnerable communities.



निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma
सदस्य / Member
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
भारत सरकार / Government of India
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi



Figure 1: Hon'ble Member Shri Nirupam Chakma visited the Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Rudrapur, where he interacted with pharmacists and reviewed affordable medicine access under PMBJP.

Based on the field-level findings, the Commission makes the following recommendations:-

1. The Jan Aushadhi Scheme may be further expanded to cover remote and tribal-dominated blocks within the district to ensure deeper healthcare penetration.
2. The 'Nayi Umeed Nayi Pehal' initiative may be institutionalized and replicated in other blocks with high Scheduled Tribe population to enhance preventive healthcare access.
3. The State Government of Uttarakhand, through its administrative machinery, must ensure the presence of district-level officers, including the District Magistrate, in all future review meetings of the Commission, in strict adherence to Article 338A obligations.


 निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma
 सदस्य / Member
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 भारत सरकार / Government of India
 नई दिल्ली / New Delhi



Figure 2: Organization of "Nayi Umeed Nayi Pehal" Program by District Administration – Udham Singh Nagar in Gadarpur on 26.05.2025

EMRS SCHOOL BAZPUR

The Hon'ble National Commission for Scheduled Tribes visited Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Bazpur, on 26 May 2025 as part of its district-level review in Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand. The district houses two EMRS institutions, namely EMRS Bazpur and EMRS Khatima. EMRS Bazpur was established in the year 2020 and currently has a student strength of 265. During the field inspection, the Hon'ble Commission noted the following critical issues adversely affecting the academic and residential environment of the school:-

1) Inadequate Infrastructure and Learning Conditions

Findings:-

It has been observed that the EMRS, Bazpur, currently operates from a rented premise lacking even the most basic infrastructure. The classrooms are devoid of furniture, compelling students to sit on the floor. The rooms are neither adequately ventilated nor spacious, rendering the environment unsuitable for academic pursuits. Furthermore, due to inadequate accommodation capacity, students of Class VI and Class XI cannot be properly housed within the existing infrastructure, leading to the relocation of 60 students to EMRS, Khatima.


 निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma
 सदस्य / Member
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 भारत सरकार / Government of India
 नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

Recommendation:

The Hon'ble Commission recommends that interim measures may be undertaken by the State Government and NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students), Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide minimum academic infrastructure, including classroom furniture and proper ventilation facilities, without delay. The State Education Department may also consider procuring or leasing additional space to accommodate all sanctioned classes until the permanent building is fully functional.

2) Non-Reimbursement of Rental Expenditure**Findings:**

It is submitted that the school pays a monthly rent of ₹1,44,090/-, aggregating to ₹17,29,080/- per annum for the use of the private building in which the school is housed. It is further noted that the said amount is not being reimbursed by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), thereby placing considerable financial strain on the school's ability to provide essential amenities to tribal students.

Recommendation:

The Hon'ble Commission recommends that the NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students), in consultation with the State Government, may take immediate steps to either reimburse the aforementioned rental expenditure or ensure a separate dedicated allocation under an appropriate budget head to meet this unavoidable cost. The Commission considers such reimbursement essential to safeguarding the welfare of Scheduled Tribe students.

3) Delay in Construction of the Permanent School Complex**Findings:**

The Commission is informed that while construction of the permanent school campus has commenced, the pace of work being undertaken by the executing agency, Peyjal Nirman Nigam, is not satisfactory. Moreover, tenders for essential facilities such as hostels and gas installations within the school complex have not yet been floated, despite the passage of considerable time.

Recommendation:

The Hon'ble Commission recommends that the concerned agency—Peyjal Nirman Nigam—expedite all pending construction works, particularly hostels and kitchen-related facilities. The State Government is advised to monitor progress on a monthly basis and furnish a compliance report to the Commission within 60 days from the date of this receipt of this report.

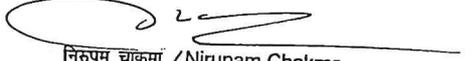
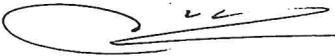

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 सदस्य / Member
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
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Figure 3: Visit of Hon'ble Member Shri Nirupam Chakma, NCST to EMRS Bazpur on 26 May 2025 – Review of Infrastructure and Interaction with School Authorities Government Adivasi Higher Secondary School, Gadarpur and Village Khempur, Udham Singh Nagar

On 27.05.2025, Shri Nirupam Chakma, Hon'ble Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), conducted an inspection visit to the Government Adivasi Higher Secondary School, Gopalnagar, where he held discussions with the Principal, Dr. Manohar Chand Gururani, regarding the academic functioning, infrastructure, and challenges faced by the institution in delivering quality education to Scheduled Tribe students. Later, the Hon'ble Member visited Khempur village and interacted with members of the Buksa Primitive Tribe Upliftment Committee at the residence of its President, Shri Govind Singh. During the visit, community members including Sanjay Singh, Madan Singh, Jogendra Singh, Kanhaiya Singh, Ramchandra Singh, Bishan Singh, Laxmi Devi, and Sharda Devi raised critical issues pertaining to land alienation, lack of livelihood support, educational backwardness, and exclusion from welfare schemes. The Hon'ble Member assured the community that the Commission would take cognizance of their concerns and pursue appropriate remedial measures with the relevant authorities.

The Buksa tribe, recognized as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Uttarakhand, traces its lineage to Raja Jagat Deo, a prominent Rajput ruler of Rajasthan. According to Buksa oral traditions and historical accounts, Raja Jagat Deo and his followers sought refuge in the Terai region after being defeated by the Mughals. This migration led to the settlement of the Buksa community in the fertile tracts of the Terai, particularly in districts such as Udham Singh Nagar—including areas like Gadarpur and Bazpur—where they established their presence and distinct cultural identity. The Buksa are one of the marginalized tribal groups characterized by unique cultural practices, language, and traditional livelihoods, with their lineage proudly linked to Raja Jagat Deo.


 निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma
 सदस्य / Member
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 भारत सरकार / Government of India
 नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

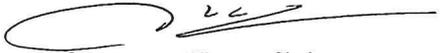
As a PVTG, the Buksa tribe faces multiple challenges that threaten their survival and development. These include widespread land alienation due to illegal encroachments, educational backwardness with limited access to quality schooling and vocational training, livelihood insecurity stemming from lack of state support for traditional occupations, and cultural neglect with little recognition or preservation of their heritage. Their socio-economic condition remains fragile, largely due to historic neglect and insufficient implementation of targeted welfare schemes. Addressing these issues is critical to safeguarding the Buksa tribe's identity and ensuring their sustainable development within Uttarakhand.



Figure 4: Inspection Visit of Hon'ble Member Shri Nirupam Chakma, NCST to Govt. Adivasi Higher Secondary School, Gopalnagar, Block Gadarpur, District Udham Singh Nagar.



Figure 5: Hon'ble Member Shri Nirupam Chakma, NCST Interaction with Buksa PVTG Community Members at Khempur village on 27 May 2025.


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 सदस्य / Member
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग
 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 भारत सरकार / Government of India
 नया दिल्ली / New Delhi

Land Alienation and Legal Dispossession

The Buksa tribe in Khempur village and adjoining areas face rampant land alienation. Tribal lands have been illegally transferred to non-tribals through forged documents on nominal stamp papers of ₹5 or ₹10. Despite existing legal safeguards under the U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, enforcement remains weak. Revenue officials often neglect their duties or facilitate such dispossession by not cancelling illegal mutations or auctioning of tribal land in violation of the 2005 state order.]

This issue is particularly prevalent in Gadarpur and Bajpur tehsils.

Recommendations:

- A district-level task force may be constituted under the District Magistrate with members from the ST Welfare Department and legal experts to review all land transactions involving Buksa families.
- All fraudulent land transfers and illegal mutations may be identified, cancelled, and land restored.
- Strict penal action may be initiated against officials complicit in these violations.
- The Tribal Land Restoration Cell may be empowered to take suo-motu cognizance and provide free legal aid to dispossessed tribals.

Educational Backwardness and Institutional Gaps

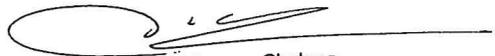
Government Ashram schools like the Adivasi Higher Secondary School, Gopalnagar, do not provide education beyond Class 10. Buksa students face hurdles due to lack of senior secondary classes, inadequate infrastructure, shortage of subject teachers, absence of tribal language inclusion, and non-availability of digital resources, libraries, or career counselling.

Recommendations:

- Immediate up gradation of existing Ashram schools to senior secondary level and appointment of trained teaching staff.
- Introduction of tribal-friendly curricula incorporating Buksa language, history, and culture.
- Establish digital libraries, e-learning tools, and career guidance cells with counseling for scholarships and higher education.
- Provision for remedial classes and coaching centers for competitive exams under EMRS/Ministry of Tribal Affairs schemes.

Vocational Training Gaps and Youth Unemployment

Youth from the Buksa tribe lack access to skill training centers. Modern trades such as electrician work, tailoring, bamboo craft, plumbing, and electronics are not taught locally. There is no support system for apprenticeships, placements, or self-employment.


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Recommendations:

- Set up a Multi-Skilled Tribal Vocational Training Centre in Gadarpur block with mobile training units for villages like Khempur.
- Introduce traditional skills like Dalia (Buxsa handcraft), basket weaving, and herbal product making as certified trades.
- Link Buxsa women to Lakhpati Didi-style SHG programs through NRLM and provide seed funding for tribal enterprises.
- Integrate with Skill India Mission and launch tribal entrepreneurship hubs with mentoring and market tie-ups.

Livelihood Insecurity and Welfare Exclusion

Traditional Buxsa livelihoods such as goat rearing, mushroom cultivation, poultry, and piggyery remain unsupported. Many families are wrongly excluded from BPL lists, thereby denied access to PMAY housing, Ujjwala LPG, Ayushman Bharat, and food security schemes. Tribal women, despite engaging in SHGs, lack institutional marketing support.

Recommendations:

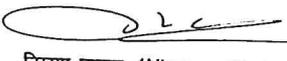
- Conduct a fresh door-to-door socio-economic survey in Khempur and surrounding villages to ensure eligible Buxsa families are included in BPL and SECC databases.
- Provide timely and full release of PMAY housing assistance with technical support.
- Encourage SHGs of Buxsa women under Lakhpati Didi Yojana and promote their traditional products via TRIFED and GI tagging of Dalia baskets.
- Establish livelihood convergence camps offering working capital, animal kits, and linkage to horticulture, fisheries, and dairy boards.

Cultural Neglect and Administrative Apathy

The Buxsa tribe's cultural identity—including their oral traditions, festivals, and spiritual practices—is not institutionally recognized or preserved. There are no cultural centers or language preservation initiatives. Grievances go unaddressed due to lack of monitoring and administrative indifference.

Recommendations:

- Establish a Buxsa Tribal Cultural Centre in Udham Singh Nagar district with a language documentation wing and museum of tribal heritage.
- Initiate cultural education programs and inter-generational storytelling projects in schools.
- Launch regular Tribal Grievance Redressal Days at the block level with a tracking mechanism.
- Conduct sensitization workshops for district and revenue officers to improve responsiveness and inclusivity in tribal affairs.


 निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma
 सदस्य / Member
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
 National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 भारत सरकार / Government of India
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