

Free housing for Srimandir servitors

PNN/AGENCIES

Puri, August 26: The first meeting of the reconstituted Srimandir Managing Committee headed by Gajapati king Divyasingha Deb Thursday approved free of cost houses for the temple's servitors.

After the meeting, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Krishan Kumar said, "We have identified 8 acres of land for the purpose and each family will get a plot of around 600 sq ft and ₹2 lakh for the construction of house."

The selection will be made based on the financial condition of the beneficiary servitors and those who are engaged in the daily rituals of Srimandir, said Kumar.

Applications will be sought from the servitors and in the first phase 400 servitors are likely to be allotted houses, he said. The committee also approved establishment of an 'Adarsh Gurukul' in the Pilgrim town for overall development of students at an initial estimated investment of ₹20 crore.

A Srimandir Adarsh Gurukul Society will be formed to establish and manage the proposed institution. The Gajapati king will be the chairman or president of the proposed Gurukul, for which the SJTA has already identified 17 acres, Kumar said.

The proposed Gurukul will be registered under the Society Registration Act of the state government and efforts are on to start



The members of Srimandir Managing Committee with Puri king Divyasingha Deb

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THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN 'ADARSH GURUKUL' IN THE PILGRIM TOWN FOR OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AT AN INITIAL ESTIMATED INVESTMENT OF ₹20 CRORE

it from the 2022-23 academic year, said the SJTA chief.

A Gurukul Fund will be set up

for the purpose of establishment and management of the institution, he said, adding Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that the state government would provide ₹20 crore for the purpose.

"We had earlier received some money from Supreme Court to set up the Gurukul. The money will be used for the purpose," said Kumar.

He said the SJTA will transfer the land to the society and legal angles are being looked into before making any deal in this regard. Apart from the Gajapati Maharaja, the Chief Minister, Puri district Collector, SJTA administrator and some other prominent persons will be members of the society that will look after the setting up and running of the Gurukul.

A chartered accountant and member from the servitors' community will also be members of the society, he said adding that a non-profit organisation will be tagged for the running of the Gurukul and an MoU will be signed for the purpose.

Kumar said the 12th century shrine's repair, maintenance and conservation work will be done on a five-year restoration plan.

Work for Srimandir heritage corridor project would begin in September, said Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra after reviewing several developmental and beautification projects at the 12th century shrine here Thursday.