

Yudhvir Sethi commits to upgrading sports infrastructure in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi has reiterated his commitment to promoting sports and nurturing young talent in Jammu by creating better infrastructure and opportunities for athletes.

Yudhvir Sethi, while taking to reports after inaugurating the long-awaited renovation and development work at Parade Ground, said development marked a significant step toward restoring the iconic sports and community space to its full glory.

The project includes construction of a new practice pitch, installation of water coolers, and overall beautification of the ground for sports lover.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi expressed gratitude to the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for its cooperation and quick response in initiating the renovation. He emphasized that



MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating renovation work of Parade Ground on Friday.

sports not only build physical fitness but also instill discipline, teamwork, and leadership among the youth.

Sethi said the Central government, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is dedicated to uplifting the sports sector through various initiatives and modern facilities being developed across the Union Territory.

Sethi assured that every possible effort will be made to strengthen the sports culture in Jammu by upgrading playgrounds, and encouraging participation in national and international events.

He said that the ground holds immense historical and social importance for the people of Jammu, especially the youth and sports enthusiasts.

"We are committed to reviving Parade Ground as a hub of sporting activities.

I assure complete support from my Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for its development and maintenance," Sethi said.

He appreciated the dedicated efforts of Anil Masoom, Vikram, Vikrant, Adarsh Jatyal (Mandal President), Gaurav, and Chopra, who have been actively involved in ensuring the smooth execution of the work.

Meanwhile, Vijay Sabarwal, President of Parade Sports Association, expressed satisfaction over the commencement of the work. He mentioned that the association had obtained a court order ensuring that no commercial activities take place inside the Parade Ground, preserving it exclusively for sports events.

Sabarwal thanked MLA Yudhvir Sethi and JMC for their proactive efforts to restore the ground's original spirit and purpose.

DHS Jammu conducts inspection at PHC Ghou Manhasan to strengthen health services

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, Director Health Services Jammu, paid a visit to Primary Health Centre (PHC) Ghou Manhasan to review the functioning and overall healthcare delivery system of the institution.

During the visit, the Director interacted with the medical and paramedical staff and took a detailed review of patient care services, availability of essential drugs, diagnostic facilities, and cleanliness of the premises. He emphasized the importance of maintaining discipline, punctuality, and providing compassionate care to the patients.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar also inspected various sections of the PHC including OPD, Labour Room, Immunization Section, and Laboratory, and appreciat-



DHS Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, during visit to PHC Ghou Manhasan.

ed the efforts of the staff in maintaining healthcare services in the rural area. He directed the concerned officials to ensure effective implementation of all national health programmes and strengthen preventive and promotive healthcare measures at the grassroots level.

The Director reiterated the commitment of the Health Department to provide quality healthcare services to the people of Jammu Division and assured that all necessary support will be extended for further upgradation of facilities at PHC Ghou Manhasan.

BJP Industrial Cell submits memorandum to LoP seeks intervention on J&K industrial issues



Deepak Gupta, Convener BJP Industrial Cell, submitting a memorandum to LoP Sunil Sharma.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant move to address the growing concerns of Jammu & Kashmir's industrial sector, Deepak Gupta, Convener of the BJP Industrial Cell, submitted a comprehensive memorandum to Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma. The memorandum reflects extensive consultations with industrial associations and aims to push for corrective measures during the upcoming Assembly Session.

Gupta highlighted the absence of a current state-level Industrial Policy, following the lapse of the previous framework. While the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) 2021 is in place, the UT lacks a local mechanism aligned with regional needs. This policy vacuum, he

noted, has created confusion for investors and hindered smooth implementation of industrial schemes. Gupta urged the immediate formulation of a new Industrial Policy that integrates Startup Policy 2024, NCSS 2021, and addresses the needs of existing industries. He also raised concern over the pending disbursement of turnover incentives, stating that only 10% of claims for 2021-22 have been released, with subsequent years still pending-causing operational and financial strain on industrial units.

He flagged issues related to land allotment in industrial estates, where entrepreneurs have paid full premiums but have not received possession due to lack of development. He called for timely possession and 8% annual interest on premiums until allotment.

Gupta strongly advocated for the revival of SICOP, citing its infrastructure and potential to support small-scale industries and boost local procurement. He also proposed a local procurement policy with 60% purchase preference for J&K-based units and ownership rights in select industrial estates maintained by SICOP.

Other key recommendations included SGST refund release, research-based policy for region-specific sectors like tourism and food processing, and a cap on external investment to protect local interests.

Gupta expressed confidence that LoP Sunil Sharma will raise these concerns in the Assembly. He reiterated BJP Industrial Cell's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and economic self-reliance in J&K.



Organisers along with students and artists during the workshop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The 'Rang-e-Chinar' National Art Workshop continued its vibrant journey at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, where artists from across India engaged with students in a dynamic session of live painting, exhibition, and creative dialogue. The programme was organised by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust (MSCBMC) in association with Petronet LNG Limited, Government of India. Professor Monika Gupta, Director of NIFT Srinagar,

lauded the initiative and said, "Hosting 'Rang-e-Chinar' at NIFT Srinagar enriches our creative ecosystem.

It offers students an invaluable opportunity to experience the convergence of design, art, and innovation. Such initiatives inspire imagination and nurture cultural consciousness - essential for shaping holistic creative minds." Anuradha Rishi, President of the MSCBMC Trust, expressed her grati-

tude to NIFT Srinagar for its support and reaffirmed the Trust's mission to promote art and preserve the legacy of Master Sansar Chand Baru, the last exponent of Pahari miniature art. Rishi strongly advocated for introducing structured art education in Jammu & Kashmir, stating, "Art is not a luxury; it is a necessity for emotional, cultural, and intellectual development. We urge policymakers to include art education formally within

the academic framework so that every child in J&K can experience the power of creativity."

SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal, had earlier praised the Trust's sustained efforts in channelising youth energy through creative and constructive initiatives, describing such programmes as vital for promoting positivity and community engagement among young people.

The event brought together eminent artists - Taslima

Sona (Rajasthan), Dr. Rakhi Kumar (Delhi), Dr. Priti Samyukta (Hyderabad), Supriya Amber (Madhya Pradesh), Debashish Dutta (Gujarat), Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Deepu Kumar (Bihar), Kishan Kappari (Hyderabad), Apurba Karati (West Bengal), A.K. Douglas (Bengaluru) and Javid Iqbal (Sopore, J&K) - who conducted live painting demonstrations and engaged with students and faculty members. Their artworks reflected India's cultural diversity and showcased how creativity bridges heritage with modern expression.

The day concluded with an interactive exchange of ideas between artists and students, celebrating art as a universal language of expression, empathy, and learning. 'Rang-e-Chinar' continues to illuminate Jammu & Kashmir's cultural landscape - nurturing creativity, dialogue, and artistic excellence.

CloudTV Partners with Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT to bring India's cultural heritage, contemporary entertainment to Smart TVs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a landmark collaboration that bridges India's broadcasting legacy with the future of digital entertainment, CloudTV, India's first homegrown Smart TV Operating System, has partnered with Prasar Bharati's OTT platform - WAVES.

This partnership aims to make India's vast public service digital content easily accessible on connected TVs, reaching millions of households across the nation. Through this partnership, CloudTV's 12+ million users across many popular Smart TV brands will now enjoy access to WAVES OTT's extensive and diverse library- featuring content in over 20 languages across multiple genres. The catalogue brings together Doordarshan, Akashvani's timeless archives with new-age entertainment, news, music, cultural programs, and live events, ensuring that India's

stories-past and present-are available to every viewer, anytime and anywhere.

Abhijeet Rajpurohit, COO & Co-Founder, CloudTV, said, "Our partnership with Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT represents a milestone in making India's cultural and creative richness universally accessible. CloudTV is proud to power this digital bridge connecting nostalgia with innovation, heritage with technology, and the wisdom of the past with the imagination of the future. Together, we are reshaping how India watches, listens, and experiences its own story."

Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO, Prasar Bharati, added, "WAVES is a manifestation of India's self-reliant digital vision- a public service OTT platform that brings together Doordarshan, Akashvani, and India's vast creative ecosystem in one digital space. This partnership with CloudTV ensures that our content reaches audiences

across Smart TVs nationwide, allowing more citizens to engage with India's culture, knowledge, and entertainment seamlessly."

CloudTV, developed by CloudWalker Streaming Technologies, is India's first certified Smart TV Operating System, empowering millions of users across many leading television brands. With a growing network of content partners and its connected-TV advertising platform, CloudTV Ads, it continues to redefine India's Smart TV experience by making high-quality digital content accessible and affordable for all.

WAVES OTT, India's Public Service Digital Platform, serves as a one-stop destination for video, audio, live TV, radio, magazines, podcasts, and cultural content. It celebrates India's linguistic and cultural diversity with programming in over 20 languages, spanning national events, archival documentaries, regional

films, and digital originals. Alongside its rich nostalgic catalogue, WAVES also offers contemporary shows, lifestyle features, youth-centric programming, and exclusive premieres- blending the timeless with the trending.

Now featured prominently on CloudTV OS-powered Smart TVs, WAVES brings India's stories, sounds, and spirit straight to every living room- bridging tradition with technology and heritage with modernity. With CloudTV OS already powering Smart TVs from many popular brands such as Lloyd, Intex, Micromax, Croma, Sansui, Hyundai, and T-Series, this collaboration ensures a truly nationwide reach across millions of connected homes.

Look for the WAVES logo on your CloudTV OS-powered Smart TV home screen- open the app and explore a world of unlimited content, where India's heritage meets today's digital storytelling.

Recovery of adulterated paneer a matter of concern: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan has expressed deep concern over reports of adulterated paneer being recovered from various locations. He stated that during the wedding and festive seasons, such adulteration is not only a threat to public health but also a serious criminal act that cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that milk and dairy products like paneer, which are widely used in daily life, can have severe health impacts when adulterated. This is especial-

ly dangerous for children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. He urged the administration to intensify food inspection drives in markets and take strict action against those involved in the manufacture and sale of adulterated products.

"Festivals and weddings are times of joy, but the trend of selling adulterated goods by some greedy traders during this period is putting people's lives at risk", Balbir said, adding that this is a crime against humanity. Balbir also appealed to the general public not to purchase dairy products from cheap or unauthorized sources and to

immediately inform the concerned department or local administration if they suspect adulteration anywhere.

He further suggested that a public awareness campaign should be launched against adulteration so that consumers remain vigilant. He also appealed to the Food Safety Department to prioritize regular inspections, sampling, and action during this festive season.

Balbir added that food safety is essential for building a healthy society, and it is a shared responsibility of the administration, society, and the general public.

Bhalla launches signature drive, demands Statehood

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Working President Raman Bhalla on Friday spearheaded a large-scale signature campaign across multiple areas of Jammu to protest to press for the immediate restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing Congress workers and local citizens, Bhalla asserted that the continued denial of statehood is a politically driven move aimed at consolidating power, not an administrative necessity.

"The BJP has denied full statehood to J&K for political gain, leaving our people neglected and voiceless.



PCC Working President Raman Bhalla and others during the drive.

This is a grave injustice," Bhalla said. He also condemned the government's response to recent floods, stating that several affected regions were left without

timely relief or rescue efforts. According to Bhalla, this failure highlighted the urgent need for a responsive, elected local government.

The campaign witnessed active participation from senior Congress leaders including PCC General Secretary Satish Sharma, Sanjeev Katal, Sardar Rajender Singh, IP Singh, and Babu Singh. Local leaders led drives in various areas such as Sanjay Nagar (Dwarka Choudhary), Darp Panchayat (Kashmir Singh), Gandhi Nagar (Satpal Supolia), Simble Camp (Rajendra Singh Nathu), and Model Town (Inderjit Kaur).

Large numbers of citizens joined the initiative, signing the petition and voicing support for statehood and electoral integrity.

Minhas emphasised that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure the bye-polls are conducted in a free, fair, transparent and peaceful manner.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sher Singh; ADC Anshya Janwal; Deputy Director Information Ashu Kumari, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

The bye-election to the Nagrota Assembly Constituency is scheduled to be held on November 11, 2025.



DC Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas chairing meeting.

Rajesh Kumar would be the Returning Officer and oversee the overall conduct of the polls. Addressing the officers, Dr.



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting on Friday.

Dengue cases and the vulnerable spots.

Threadbare discussion was held on preparedness of District Administrations and the preventive measures to be implemented for prevention of Dengue. Readiness of hospitals, availability of medical equipment and staff were also reviewed.

The Divisional

Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare a plan with involvement of officials of Health ULB, BDO and District Malaria Officers, underlining points of action to control Dengue spread. He further asked for intensified IEC activities and publicity of Dos and Don'ts for protection against Dengue.

The Divisional

Commissioner directed the health officials to share the data of Dengue cases with Municipal authorities for timely implementation of anti Dengue measures.

Principal Government Medical College apprised the Divisional Commissioner on the readiness of GMC and Hospitals for Dengue patients.