

Yudhvir Sethi honoured by Brahman Sabha for contributions towards public welfare

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a gesture of appreciation and recognition, MLA of Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, was honoured by the Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha Committee today for his contributions towards public welfare and regional development during his tenure as MLA from the last one year.

The event witnessed participation from members of the Sabha including President Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha, Ved Parkash Sharma, Pt Shiv Ram Sharma, ex-Corporator Anil Masoom, Soujanya Sharma, Krishan Lal Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Ritish Khajuria and local dignitaries, highlighting the cordial relationship between the MLA and the community.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi expressed his



Members of Brahmin Sabha honouring MLA Yudhvir Sethi.

heartfelt gratitude, saying, "Today, I received a warm and heartfelt welcome from the Brahman Sabha Committee. I am deeply thankful for this affection and recognition. The committee's appreciation of the work done for the welfare of the people and the development of the region is a source of encouragement for me. I pledge to continue working

tirelessly for public service, development, and social upliftment in the times to come. The faith and trust of the people remain my greatest strength."

Members of the Brahman Sabha lauded the MLA's efforts in initiating and supporting developmental projects across Jammu East, particularly in areas of infrastructure, education, and

social welfare during his tenure as MLA from the last one year. They acknowledged his accessibility to the public and his proactive approach in addressing citizens' concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, Sabha members emphasized the importance of sustained engagement between elected representatives and community organizations, noting that such interactions foster

trust, transparency, and collaborative progress.

They expressed confidence that Yudhvir Sethi's leadership would continue to positively impact the region and strengthen public welfare initiatives.

The felicitation ceremony included the presentation of mementos and bouquets as tokens of appreciation. Attendees highlighted that the event reflects a growing trend of community-driven recognition, encouraging leaders to remain committed to people-centric governance and social development.

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of mutual commitment towards developmental initiatives, social harmony, and active public engagement, strengthening the bond between the MLA and the Brahman Sabha community in Jammu East.

CLUJ signs MoU with Rapture Biotech Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rapture Biotech Jammu (J&K) under Sarv Shakti Innovation and Technology to foster academic collaboration, research advancement, and skill enhancement in the field of life sciences and biotechnology.

The MoU aims to provide structured internship programs, hands-on training, placement opportunities, and research support to undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. students of CLUJ.

It also envisions technical skill exchange through workshops, guest lectures, and training sessions to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Furthermore, Rapture Biotech will facilitate discounted workshops, seminars, and research opportu-



Officials of CLUJ and Rapture Biotech exchanging MoU.

nities for scholars and faculty members of the University, along with career counseling and start-up incubation support.

The agreement was signed by Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, CLUJ and Ambika Slathia, Director, Rapture Biotech Jammu.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. D.S. Manhas, Dean Students Welfare, and Dr. Meenakshi Bandral, Director, IQAC, CLUJ, along with Surbhi Sharma,

Scientific and Technical Advisor, Rapture Biotech J&K.

This collaboration, under the guidance of Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, CLUJ, marks another step toward enhancing experiential learning and industry-academia partnerships, thereby empowering students with practical exposure and entrepreneurial opportunities in the biotechnology sector.

Kashmiri Pandits appeal for enhancement of monthly cash assistance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Even after thirty-seven years of forced migration from their homeland in Kashmir, the Kashmiri Pandit community continues to live in distressing conditions in various camps and non-camp locations across Jammu and other parts of the country. A large section of these displaced families, comprising mostly poor and unemployed migrants, remain entirely dependent on the monthly cash assistance provided by the government, which they say has not been revised for several years. In a joint statement, prominent social activists of the community, Vinod Pandita and Vishal Jotshi, expressed deep concern over the plight of these families, stating that the current

monthly relief amount of Rs 13,000 is grossly inadequate in view of the sharp rise in prices of essential commodities. They have urged the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister to take a personal and sympathetic review of the issue and enhance the cash assistance to Rs 25,000 per month to ensure basic sustenance for migrant families. Highlighting the hardships faced by the displaced community, the activists said that despite decades of exile, many families continue to struggle for survival under challenging economic conditions. They emphasized that it has become increasingly difficult for the migrants to manage household expenses, education, and healthcare within the meager relief

amount currently provided. Further, Pandita and Jotshi called for the formulation of a comprehensive and time-bound rehabilitation policy to ensure the honourable and secure return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

They stressed that any such plan must take into account the security, livelihood, and social integration aspects, and be drafted in consultation with Kashmiri Pandit leaders and genuine stakeholders of the community.

The activists reiterated that only through a tangible and inclusive approach can the long-pending issues of Kashmiri Pandit migrants be addressed, restoring their rightful place in the Valley with dignity and assurance.

Dr. Varinder seeks crackdown on unprescribed drug sales in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Expressing his grave concern over the recent deaths of about 15 children mostly under five in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan reportedly after consuming contaminated cough syrup, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Co-Convenor, Health Cell, J&K BJP, Dr. Varinder Sharma has said that many chemists in Jammu and Kashmir are continuing to sell medicines without any proper prescriptions issued from doctors be it in private sector of government run hospitals. This practice, he said must immediately be ceased for the safety of patients especially children. Jammu and Kashmir, he said, had already witnessed deaths of about 12 children in 2020 in

Ramnagar area of district Udhampur when they were administered cough syrups.

The children had died from acute kidney failure after consuming a cough syrup called Coldbest-PC. Medical investigation had confirmed that the children were poisoned by diethylene glycol (DEG), which was found in a faulty batch of the cough syrup Coldbest-PC. The toxic substance that they consumed had caused acute kidney failure, and in some cases, damaged multiple organs including the brain and liver.

Dr Varinder Sharma said although the government of Jammu and Kashmir is believed to have taken cognizance of the matter and issued necessary instructions yet there is a dire need



of launching a campaign to ensure that no one purchases or sells medicines without proper prescriptions. The government must ensure that such substandard medicines or those manufactured in illegally established pharmaceutical companies do not find their way in the market. A proper investigation and an in-depth survey is also required to be conducted by the health depart-

ment as well as drug controllers to ensure that illegally produced and substandard medicine do not sneak into markets.

He said that Food & Drugs Administration, Heads of Paediatrics Departments of all Government Medical Colleges, Drugs Control Organisation at all levels, private hospitals, drug stores and medical supplies department in GMC must all be issued advisories for the safety of patients and especially children. The situation had become so alarming that even the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued advisories about cough and cold medications wherein strict instructions have been issued to not to prescribe such wrong medicines to

children of all age groups especially below two years of age.

Dr Varinder also added that usage of medicines must also be regulated and all clinical evaluations assessed before recommending dosage on prescriptions duly written on letterheads and signed by concerned doctors. He asked the government to ask their Drugs Control Officers to launch a checking on the ground and ensure that no pone sells or buys medicines over-the-counter (OTC) without prescription. These officials must also be asked to conduct regular sampling and testing under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and punish the guilty if any under law which goes up to cancelling their licenses as well.

Western Railway launches 'Sugamrail' - smart digital monitoring system for lifts, escalators & earthing pits

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Western Railway has taken a pioneering leap in digital governance and passenger safety with the launch of Sugamrail, a first-of-its-kind software-based platform on Indian Railways designed for real-time monitoring of lifts, escalators and earthing pits.

According to a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the application has



Vineet Abhishek, CPRO Western Railway briefing media.

been developed under the leadership of Vivek Kumar Gupta, General Manager/WR, with the objective of integrating technology into core safety and maintenance systems.

Earlier, the supervision of

lifts, escalators and earthing infrastructure was dependent on manual registers maintained at multiple depots, which led to delays in fault detection, fragmented reporting and limited accountability.

With the implementation of Sugamrail, more than 470 lifts / escalators and around 21,500 earthing pits across Western Railway have now been brought under a unified digital dashboard accessible to officers at both divisional and headquarters level.

The system ensures round-the-clock visibility of equipment health, automatically flags repeated failures or overdue inspections and enables timely intervention with high compliance. It provides detailed asset-wise and cause-wise failure analysis, while Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) such as Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) and Maintenance Compliance Rate are used to assess asset reliability. Beyond its operational

advantages, the initiative significantly enhances passenger convenience and safety. The digital tracking of lift and escalator performance ensures faster attention to breakdowns, benefitting senior citizens, Divyangjan passengers and women travelling with children. Simultaneously, the structured monitoring of earthing resistance helps prevent electrical hazards and ensures strict adherence to safety standards at stations and railway establishments. By replacing physical registers with a digitised, analytics-backed mechanism, Western Railway has set a new benchmark in railway infrastructure management.

With the commissioning of Sugamrail, Western Railway has reaffirmed its commitment to adopting intelligent digital solutions for safer, smarter and accountable railway operations. The platform stands as a model of innovation designed to address evolving demands in public service delivery.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a significant meeting aimed at strengthening organizational activities, Ved Sharma, Incharge of All Cells, called on Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary and Prabhari J&K BJP, in New Delhi.

The meeting focused on reviewing recent initiatives and strategizing future programs for the party in the region.

During the discussion, Ved Sharma briefed Tarun Chugh on the activities conducted during the recently concluded Seva Pakhwara, held from 17th September to 2nd October 2025.

He highlighted the various outreach programs and initiatives implemented by all cells across the J&K UT, emphasizing their impact on strengthening the party's connect with the public and addressing local issues.

The meeting also covered a detailed review of the state executive members of all cells, discussing their performance, roles, and responsibilities.



Ved Sharma, Incharge of All Cells, calling on Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary.

Ved Sharma stressed the importance of coordination among various cells to ensure seamless execution of programs and effective public engagement.

Tarun Chugh appreciated the efforts of Ved Sharma and the entire team for their dedication during Seva Pakhwara and encouraged them to maintain the momentum in future initiatives. He emphasized the need for efficient planning, transparent execution, and continued outreach to consolidate organizational strength in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting underscored the BJP's commitment to organizational development, people-centric programs, and strengthening party structure at the grassroots level.

It also provided an opportunity for senior leaders to interact, share feedback, and chart strategies for upcoming programs and campaigns.

This interaction reflects the ongoing efforts of BJP leaders to enhance organizational efficiency, strengthen governance outreach, and maintain active engagement with the public in Jammu & Kashmir.

Special Smile & Health Screening Initiative for special athletes organized by SOB



Doctors examining patients during the camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Special Smile & Health screening of Special Athletes organized by Special Olympics Bharat (SOB), JKUT, which was inaugurated by Director Social Welfare Jammu Ranjit Singh along with dignitaries as Dy. Director Health Services, Jammu Sanjay Sharma, Adv. Poornima Sharma, Former Dy. Mayor, Jammu & Dr. Bhupinder Singh, President State Dental Council.

The program was presided over by Dr. Ashwani Jotra, Founding President & Area Director, Special Olympics Bharat, JKUT.

About 45 Special Athletes were treated under Oral Health with special training and techniques of brushing teeth by Dentists under guidance of Dr. Aseem

Sharma, Clinical Director, SOB, JKUT with assistance of Dr. Varun Sharma & Dr. Tanushree.

In his inaugural address, Director Social Welfare lauded the role of SOB since two decades in enhancing the glory in the lives of Special Athletes and all stakeholders concerned with the disability sector.

"I wish a glorious future to SOB & SAHYOG INDIA for dedication and devotion since five decades especially the tireless voluntary initiatives of Dr. Ashwani Jotra, Founder SAHYOG INDIA & Area Director, SOB, JKUT. I extend my whole hearted support to this mission," he said.

In his Presidential address, Dr. Ashwani Jotra appealed to all dignitaries, administration & society to support this

Nobel Mission to reach the unattended and neglected Special Athletes.

The parents, caretakers and guardians also attended/ participated in the program. Everyone was served with Breakfast, Lunch & Tea. All got delighted and motivated to enhance honour and dignity of Special Athletes to make their lives worth living.

Sahil Badial, Program Manager, Special Olympics Bharat, JKUT coordinated this event. The prominent personalities who graced this event are Dr. Ajay K. Choudhary, Jagbeer Singh, Sudarshan S. Chib, Dr. Aneet Sudan, Nischint Panchnanda, Rajeev Tomar, Rajkumar. Alka Singh conducted all the proceedings and managed the whole show along with Hari Vishwas & Sharun Badial.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson J&K UT, Gaurav Gupta said that India's march toward Atmanirbhar Bharat has received a powerful boost with the phenomenal success of Zoho's Swadeshi messaging platform-Arattai, which has recently crossed 7.5 million downloads. This achievement, he said, marks a moment of national pride and reflects India's growing technological confidence and innovation capability.

He stated that Arattai-developed entirely on Zoho's indigenous R&D frameworks-is a living example of how Indian minds and Indian technology can together build world-class digital solutions that ensure both efficiency and sovereignty.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bharat is no longer dependent on global technologies; we are creating and defining them. Zoho's Arattai stands as a shining symbol of Swadeshi innovation and perfectly embodies the spirit of Digital India and Viksit Bharat," Gupta said.

He praised Zoho Founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu for his foresight and unwavering commitment to building indigenous technology, describing him as "a true Swadeshi visionary who has redefined Indian innovation by building world-class products rooted in our own soil and spirit."

Gupta explained that Arattai-which means "chat" in Tamil-may



appear simple on the surface, but it is powered by deep engineering excellence and advanced in-house frameworks perfected over nearly two decades. With no ads, no forced AI integration, and a complete focus on user privacy, Arattai offers a secure, distraction-free, and sovereign communication experience - all built by Indian talent, for Indian users.

"This is the true spirit of

Swadeshi - building with our own strength, securing our own data, and setting our own standards of excellence. I appeal to every Indian to proudly download, use, and promote Zoho's Arattai - a truly Swadeshi app that represents India's digital self-respect and self-reliance. Let's together strengthen our own home-grown innovation and make Arattai India's voice to the world," he urged.

Gupta added that the wide endorsements from Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Piyush Goyal, and Dharmendra Pradhan have amplified the visibility and credibility of Arattai, giving a strong push to India's Swadeshi Tech Revolution.

He further emphasized that Arattai's rise fits seamlessly with the BJP-

led government's commitment to Digital Sovereignty, Cyber Security, and Indigenous Innovation, which are the core pillars of India's journey toward technological independence.

"India's growing reliance on indigenous digital platforms like Zoho's Arattai reflects the changing mindset of a confident, self-reliant nation. In a world dominated by foreign tech giants, Arattai is a reminder that we have the strength, talent, and vision to build our own digital future," he added.

Gupta remarked that the success of Arattai comes at a very significant time when global economic challenges and shifting trade policies, including recent U.S. tariff measures, are reshaping technology markets worldwide.