

Modi Govt's focus on Gujjar welfare and development: Yudhvir Sethi

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency Yudhvir Sethi today attended a community interaction programme organized by the Gujjar community of Bajalta at Upper Majheen area of Jammu East Constituency.
The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, community leaders, and social activists who welcomed Sethi for his continued engagement with grassroots issues and welfare initiatives.
Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi lauded the Gujjar community for its vibrant cultural heritage, unity, and contribution to the social



MLA Jammu East Constituency Yudhvir Sethi hugging a Gujjar community member during a programme.

fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. He said, "The Gujjar community has always played a significant role in preserving the cultural diversity and harmony of our region. The government is

committed to ensuring their upliftment through education, infrastructure, and welfare schemes."
Sethi emphasized the importance of strengthening communal harmony and collective progress, adding that the development of rural and hilly areas like Bajalta remains a top priority. He assured the people that all pending projects related to road connectivity, electricity, water supply, and education would be expedited for the area's overall growth.
The MLA also interacted with the community elders and youth, listening to their grievances and suggestions regarding livestock support, and

improved access to government schemes. He assured that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for early redressal.
Local leaders and members of the Gujjar community expressed gratitude to Yudhvir Sethi for his proactive role and continued support. They appreciated his consistent efforts in reaching out to remote areas and ensuring that the benefits of government programs reach the deserving.
The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the organizers, who praised the MLA's vision for inclusive and equitable development across the constituency.

Shastri Judo Club shines at Jammu District Judo Championship

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Shastri Judo Club delivered an outstanding performance at the Jammu District Judo Championship held at the Judo Hall, MA Stadium, Jammu, clinching two gold and one silver medal in different weight categories.
In a remarkable display of skill and determination, Manya Chib bagged the gold medal in the 48 kg category, while Palak Sharma claimed another gold in the 52 kg category. Priya Sharma added to the club's glory by winning the silver medal in the 57 kg category, showcasing her resilience and sportsman-



Medal winner Shastri Judo Club players.

ship throughout the competition. The club's medal tally highlights its strong training program, disciplined coaching, and the consistent hard work of its athletes. The players expressed gratitude to their coaches and mentors for their continuous support and guidance.

Maintain high standards of discipline during duty: ADGP Armed asks DySPs



ADGP Armed J&K, Anand Jain chairing a meeting of DySPs.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Anand Jain, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed, J&K chaired a meeting with Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) who have recently been adjusted in Armed Zone. The meeting was also attended by Vinod Kumar, DIG IR Jammu & Commandants of Jammu based battalions and SSP APCR Jammu at Conference Hall, Armed Police Headquarters, Jammu.
At the outset, ADGP Armed welcomed all the officers and extended his best wishes to the officers who have recently been adjusted in Armed zone. He emphasized that the Armed Police play a pivotal role in maintaining law and order, assisting civil administration, and ensuring public safety during various operational and ceremonial duties.
During the interactive session, ADGP heard views, suggestions, and professional concerns raised by the posted officers, and assured that all genuine issues would be addressed appropriately

in a time-bound manner.
He appreciated their dedication and commitment towards the organization and encouraged them to maintain high standards of discipline, integrity, and professionalism while discharging their duties.
Addressing the DySPs, ADGP advised them to perform their duties with utmost zeal, enthusiasm, and sincerity.
He highlighted the importance of teamwork, leadership, and effective communication in managing battalion-level responsibilities.
He also elaborated on various administrative, operational, and welfare-related functions expected from DySPs at the battalion level, urging them to be proactive and efficient in office work as well as field assignments.
The meeting concluded with ADGP expressing confidence that the officers would continue to uphold the rich traditions of J&K Police and work collectively towards achieving organizational excellence and public trust.

IIIM to organise 3 days conference-cum-workshop on AI-Driven Innovations in Drug Discovery and Agriculture

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, is set to host a three-day national conference-cum-workshop titled "AI-Driven Innovations in Drug Discovery and Agriculture (AI-D2A 2025)" at BIRAC-BioNEST incubator, Kathua, from 12th to 14th November, 2025.
The three-day event is being jointly organised under the aegis of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, BIRAC-BioNEST Incubator, and CSIR-Jigyasa, with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. The conference will bring together scientists, researchers, startups, students, and industry professionals from across the country to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming two crucial sectors - healthcare and agriculture.
Organisers said that over 75 participants from across India will attend the event, which will include technical sessions, keynote talks, interactive discussions, and



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu speaking in a meeting.

hands-on workshops. The sessions will focus on the use of AI tools to accelerate drug discovery, enhance crop productivity, and develop data-driven agricultural models. They also informed that the entire event will be live-streamed on social media platforms to ensure that students, startups, and farmers from different regions can benefit from the discussions and demonstrations. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu while reviewing the arrangements of the event, said the conference is aimed at encouraging collaboration among scientists, innovators, and entrepreneurs.
"This is the era of Artificial Intelligence. We are involved and just getting into the dis-

covery process. AI-based tools are now becoming an integral part of drug discovery and agricultural practices, especially for the skill development and capacity building of all stakeholders," Dr. Ahmed said. He added that the event presents a unique opportunity for participants to learn and benefit from the latest AI-driven approaches being adopted globally. Dr. P. C. Panchariya, Director, CSIR-CEERI, Pilani, Rajasthan will be the Chief Guest and inaugurate the event. Earlier, the organisers shared that AI-D2A 2025 will offer a

dual experience - conceptual sessions on AI applications in biological research, along with practical training modules demonstrating how machine learning can assist in molecular design, compound screening, and agridata analytics. The event will also highlight ongoing initiatives at the BIRAC-BioNEST incubator, Kathua. The incubator serves as a hub for biotech startups, promoting innovation-led entrepreneurship and helping translate research into commercial ventures in areas such as agriculture, natural prod-

ucts, and industrial biotechnology. The CSIR-Jigyasa programme, one of the key collaborators, continues to bridge the gap between school students and scientists through educational outreach. As part of this initiative, selected students and young innovators will also participate in AI-D2A sessions to understand how AI is reshaping modern science.
The organisers said the conference aims to strengthen India's AI-based research ecosystem and open up new possibilities for sustainable development and livelihood creation through innovation.

J&K BJP expresses deep anguish over Delhi blast, vows zero tolerance towards terrorism

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) chaired a meeting at the Party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to express deep sorrow and outrage over the tragic explosion outside Gate Number 1 of the Red Fort Metro Station in Delhi, which claimed several innocent lives and left many injured.
The meeting was attended by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), and Gopal Mahajan, General Secretary, besides senior party functionaries. The leaders observed a two-minute silence in memory of the victims and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.
Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma said the entire nation stands united in this



BJP J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma chairing a meeting.

hour of grief. He said that this barbaric act has shaken the conscience of every Indian. He stressed that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, terrorism will find no refuge. Those behind this conspiracy will be crushed with iron hands.
This is not the UPA era where terror was met with words, this is the Modi gov-

ernment, which responds with decisive action. Operation Sindoor is already underway, and the conspirators will face the harshest punishment, he asserted.
Sat Sharma added that the Modi government's commitment to national security is absolute and uncompromising. He said that in the last eleven years, India has reduced terrorism to its

last breath. He said that the incidents have fallen drastically from an average of 3,600 per year under UPA to less than 1,900, and 620 so far this year. He added that the Modi government ensured the 2019 UAPA amendment, strengthened NIA powers, and succeeded in placing Pakistan on the FATF gray list to curb terrorism.
Ashok Koul stated that all

investigative agencies are working in close coordination to unearth the entire conspiracy. While he said that no angle will be ignored, and the guilty will not be spared, he pointed out that the appeasement politics gives oxygen to terrorism. National security must rise above party lines, he added.
Gopal Mahajan said that the BJP stands like a rock with the victims' families and with every security personnel committed to uprooting terrorism.
J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, District Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, District President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, senior leaders Parmod Kapahi, Surinder Bhagat, Hardeep Singh Mankotia, Sunil Raka, Satish Shastri and others are present.

J&K Bank opens new branch in Sangrama



Zonal Head (Baramulla) Tanvir Ahmad inaugurating the new J&K Bank branch.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Strengthening its presence and extending its banking convenience in North Kashmir, J&K Bank on Tuesday made its Sangrama Branch in Sopore operational to cater to the financial needs of people and businesses of the area.
Zonal Head (Baramulla) Tanvir Ahmad inaugurated the new branch premises in presence of Cluster Heads of Baramulla, Sopore, Kupwara and Bandipora amid a large gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens and local traders.
Speaking on the occasion, the Zonal Head said, "As we

continue to expand our footprint, every addition to J&K Bank's infrastructure is a step towards making banking more convenient, accessible, and customer-centric while strengthening our service outreach."
He further said that the Bank remains committed to improving its service delivery mechanisms both in the physical and digital domains, adding that such initiatives form part of the institution's ongoing efforts to enhance customer experience and deepen financial inclusion across Jammu and Kashmir.
Located conveniently near

the main road, the spacious and comfortably designed branch is equipped with state-of-the-art banking infrastructure, offering customers a pleasant ambience and efficient service delivery environment. With this addition, the total number of branches in North Kashmir reached 124.
Meanwhile, the participants present on the occasion welcomed the formal commissioning of the Branch and expressed appreciation for the Bank's continued efforts to bring modern banking facilities closer to the people's doorsteps.

Satish Sharma launches J&K Pickleball team jersey



Sports Minister Satish Sharma launching official jersey of J&K Pickleball Team.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a significant boost to rapidly growing sport of Pickleball in Jammu & Kashmir, the official jersey of the Jammu & Kashmir Pickleball Team was on Tuesday launched by Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science & Technology, Information Technology, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma ahead of IPA Pickleball Nationals 2025 to be held in Bengaluru.
Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sharma extended his best wishes to the players repre-

senting the Union Territory at the upcoming national event and expressed pride in the growing participation of J&K's youth in emerging sports disciplines. He commended the Jammu & Kashmir Pickleball Association for its consistent and committed efforts in promoting Pickleball across districts and building a strong sporting culture in the region.
"The rise of Pickleball in Jammu & Kashmir reflects our youth's enthusiasm to embrace new avenues of sports and fitness. The government remains committed to supporting such initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles, talent recognition, and sporting excellence," Minister Sharma maintained.
The launch event marks yet another step towards enhancing the sports infrastructure and opportunities for youth in Jammu & Kashmir, aligning with the government's broader vision of developing the Union Territory as a hub of sporting talent and excellence.
Pertinently, Jammu & Kashmir Pickleball Association has played a pivotal role in expanding the sport's footprint by establishing dedicated Pickleball venues, hosting tournaments, and encouraging players from diverse age groups and backgrounds to take up the sport.

MD reviews progress on implementation of JJM across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Khurshid Ahmad Shah on Tuesday held a virtual meeting to review progress on implementation of JJM across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Jammu, Technical Advisor JJM, Superintending Engineers (Hydraulic, Mechanical), Technical officers to Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers (Civil, Mechanical), Water Quality Monitoring Teams, and the Accounts Section of JJM.
During the meeting, the MD held detailed deliberations on important aspects of JJM implementation like creation of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (Out Village/In Village), Expenditure reconciliation in IMIS (90:10 ratio), Acceptance of new villages from SBM, Addition of "villages without PWS" to scheme scope, Updating phys-

ical progress Integrated Information Management System (IMIS), Functioning of Third Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs), Uploading of KML files on PM Gati Shakti Portal, Geo-tagging of assets and Har Ghar Jal reporting and certification and Water quality testing and on boarding of JJM 2.0 Dashboard. During the meeting, the MD enquired about the present status of Water Supply Schemes under JJM. He directed the Chief Engineers to commission the schemes on the verge of completion in the first instance, so that the beneficiaries of these villages are connected with tap water network being installed in the UT. The MD also took district wise review of agenda points. He directed the Superintending Engineers to assess the ground situation and review the progress of works fortnightly so that the timelines set for scheme completion are adhered in letter and spirit.

He emphasized on timely completion of ongoing works, accurate reporting of physical and financial progress and adherence to quality and transparency standards. He stressed upon Executive Engineers to ensure 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage

under Jal Jeevan Mission across all villages of J&K. Mission Director JJM discussed on-boarding of JJM 2.0 dashboard, uploading of KML files of pipe networks and assets on PM Gati Shakti portal, Geo tagging of JJM Assets created, working of Third party monitoring agen-

cies, updating of physical and financial progress on Integrated Information Management System (IMIS), Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages and water quality monitoring and surveillance being undertaken by the water testing laboratories in the UT.

Criminal loses hand in rival gang attack

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Police said a hardcore criminal, who was recently released after undergoing detention under the Public Safety Act, lost a hand in an alleged attack by members of a rival group here.
Kulbir Bhagat alias Rinku (27), a resident of Langotian village, was attacked by unidentified assailants armed with sharp-edged weapons in the Miran Sahib area on the outskirts of Jammu during the intervening night of November 10 and 11, they said.
Rinku sustained grievous injuries in the assault, with one of his hands severed, a police spokesperson said, adding that he was immediately shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital for treatment.
The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team collected scientific evidence from the scene, and preliminary investigation points towards assault by members of a rival group, the police said.
Rinku is also a hardcore criminal who was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in 2024, and he was released from jail only a few months ago, the spokesperson said.
"He was also wanted as one of the main accused in a couple of assault cases in the jurisdiction of R S Pura police station and one case in Arnia police station," he added.
The police said a case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the law, and further investigation is underway to identify and apprehend the accused.