

AIIMS Jammu organizes award ceremony of 2-day live painting competition

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu on Thursday organized the Award Ceremony of the 2-Day Live Painting Competition at AIIMS Jammu, marking the successful culmination of a creative initiative aimed at promoting artistic expression, mental well-being and cultural engagement within the institute.

The programme was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, whose continued encouragement of cultural and wellness-oriented activities has played a significant role in fostering a holistic academic environment at the Institute.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of distinguished Guests of Honour, including Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Pawan Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly, Udhampur; Devyani Raina, Member of Legislative Assembly, Nagrota; and T. R. Raina, Former Professor and Head of the Department of Blood Transfusion Medicine, GMC Jammu. The dignitaries appreciated the initiative



ED & CEO AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta with other dignitaries at a ceremony.

tive taken by AIIMS Jammu to integrate creativity and art within the academic and professional ecosystem and encouraged participants for their artistic endeavours.

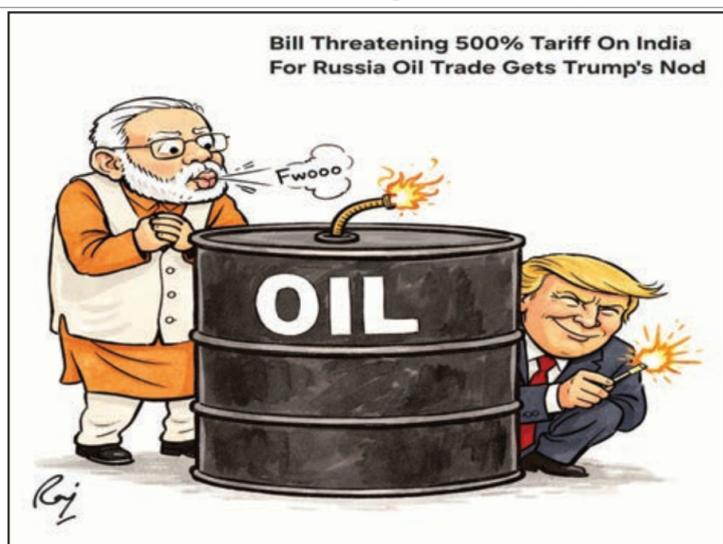
Renowned artist K. K. Gandhi conducted the 2-day live painting workshop and made a notable contribution through his artistic mentorship and creative guidance. He shared his experience, techniques and insights into the expressive and therapeutic value of art through live demonstrations during the workshop.

The live painting competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 40 participants across the institute and was conducted in three categories-Faculty, Staff and MBBS & B.Sc. Nursing Students.

On the occasion, AIIMS Jammu released key Institutional publications, including the AIIMS Jammu Telephone Directory, the Second Edition of the AIIMS Jammu Newsletter, and a Swachhata Booklet, reflecting the Institute's commitment towards transparency, effective communication and cleanliness initiatives.

Winners in each category were awarded prizes comprising a first prize of Rs 10,000, second prize of Rs 7,500, and third prize of Rs 5,000 along with certificates. The winners were felicitated during the award ceremony for their creativity, originality, and artistic excellence.

The event reaffirmed AIIMS Jammu's commitment to promoting creativity, cultural engagement and mental well-being, alongside excellence in healthcare.



Dy MS Dr. Shaista Ganai becomes 1st NABH Assessor from GMC Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Shaista Ganai, appointed as the youngest Deputy Medical Superintendent (Dy MS) in GMC Jammu brought laurels to the Dept. of Hospital Administration and Govt. Medical College by becoming NABH Assessor after qualifying the prestigious training and exam conducted by National Accreditation Board for Hospital and Health Care Providers (NABH), 50th NABH Course for 6th Edition Hospitals Assessor's Training Programme.

NABH is a Constituent Board of the Quality Council of India (QCI) which is an autonomous organization set up by Government of India. NABH is the highest benchmark standard for Hospital Quality in India. Dr. Shaista Ganai has embarked her journey on Quality Care for Hospitals in 2023 after becoming NQAS External Assessor (National Quality Assurance Standards). As, she is also a life member of Academy of Hospital Administration (AHA) India, her core interest towards introducing Quality in Hospitals made her realize the importance of becoming an NABH Assessor. Her unwavering dedication towards work, quality, training and patient care was duly recognized by the AHA Jammu Chapter by entrusting her with the prestigious role of General Secretary AHA Jammu Chapter to deliver her best as a trained Qualified Hospital Administrator. The combination of her professional Background, vast experience of working as Senior Resident in the Institute of National Importance PGMER Chandigarh, delivering as Medical Officer in JK Medical Supplies Corporation and role as a Nodal Officer in reviving the functioning of Sir Col. Chopra Nursing Home along with her keen interest in quality has finally made her achieve the Quality Assessor position in the Health Care system of India.



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Jugal, Slathia start Rs 21 Cr Sarian-Bupneragarh road in Samba constituency

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Surjeet Singh Slathia, of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), today highlighted the unprecedented thrust on infrastructure development across the country in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular since the abrogation of Article 370, saying that the historic decision has ushered in a visible and transformative change in the overall development landscape of the Union Territory.

Jointly kick-starting the construction and maintenance work of an 8.50-kilometre-long road from village Sarian to Bupneragarh in Block Nud of Samba Assembly Constituency under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), being executed at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 21 crore, the senior BJP leaders said the project would significantly improve connectivity and provide major relief to the people of the area and its surrounding villages.

Interacting with the people,



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Surjeet Singh Slathia starting Road project.

Jugal Kishore Sharma said that road connectivity is imperative for accelerating economic activity, improving access to essential services, and enhancing the quality of life of rural populations.

He emphasised that PMGSY has emerged as a true game changer over the years by connecting far-flung and previously neglected habitations with all-weather roads, thereby integrating them into the mainstream of development.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA and former minister Surjeet Singh Slathia said that since the abrogation of Article

370, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed focused, transparent, and inclusive development, especially in sectors like roads, power, water supply, healthcare, education, and digital connectivity.

Slathia said that the Bharatiya Janata Party remains steadfast in its resolve to work for the welfare of the people and to ensure that the benefits of development reach every section of society without discrimination. He said that the construction of the Sarian-Bupneragarh road under the centrally sponsored scheme will not only ease daily commuting

but also open new avenues for agriculture, and economic activity, especially for youth.

Slathia said that assuaging the urges and aspirations of all sections of society is at the top of the BJP's agenda and forms the core of the party's vision for Viksit Bharat. He stressed that development today is no longer confined to urban centres but is being taken to the grassroots through well-planned schemes and people-centric governance.

Slathia urged the local population to actively participate in development initiatives and to safeguard public assets for the collective good. The leaders also assured that more infrastructure and welfare projects will be taken up in the Samba Assembly Constituency in the coming times.

Both leaders reiterated that youth empowerment and economic emancipation of women and marginalised segments are receiving top priority under the BJP-led government at the Centre. They said that improved infrastructure, skill development initiatives, self-employment schemes, and tar-

geted welfare programmes are collectively contributing to building a strong foundation for sustainable growth and social justice.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were DDC Chairman Keshav Sharma, DDC Kartar Chand, Mandal President Surinder Singh, senior party workers, local representatives, and residents of the area, who expressed gratitude to the leadership for addressing long-pending demands and facilitating development to their doorstep.

VB-G Ram G scheme to create new opportunities for youth, women in rural areas: Yudhvir Sethi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), a proposed Indian government bill from 2025 aiming to replace and overhaul the existing MGNREGA (rural employment) scheme, offering 125 days of guaranteed work per household, linking it to national infrastructure goals, and creating a modernized framework for rural development and livelihoods. This was stated by BJP MLA from Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi today in a press conference. He was joined by BJP District President Advocate Rajesh Gupta, General Secretary Ravikant, and Vice President Ramesh Gupta. Addressing the media, Yudhvir Sethi said that the scheme has become a major topic of national discussion, especially after Congress started protests against it.

He stated that the Modi Government has replaced the old MGNREGA with a much stronger, transparent, and people-friendly system. He added that while Congress is opposing the reform, the new scheme is meant to give more benefits and security to the common people.

Sethi explained that MGNREGA had serious weaknesses.



MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi talking to reporters.

"Take job cards were common, illegal payments were made, and false attendance was recorded. Even people above 80 years had job cards, and nearly 33 percent of cards were issued to those above 60 years. Workers often waited six to eight months to receive their wages. Despite spending more than Rs 10 lakh crore, there were no permanent assets visible in villages, which showed the deep corruption in the old MGNREGA system" Yudhvir Sethi asserted. He said that the new VB-G RAM G Yojana has corrected all these faults.

The employment guarantee has been increased from 100 days to 125 days, giving workers more income security, he said adding that even though 60 days are reserved for farming activities like sowing and harvesting, workers will still get 125 days of paid employment. This will help both farmers and labourers. The MLA said that

water conservation is a key focus of the new scheme. "Old ponds, wells, and water bodies will be restored, and farmers can even build ponds in their own fields. This will strengthen irrigation and improve water availability in rural areas," he said. He added that permanent infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, dispensaries, panchayat buildings, playgrounds, community halls, and working sheds will be built. "Special provisions have been made for disaster-affected areas like Jammu, where recent natural calamities damaged homes and land. Under this scheme, houses, retaining walls, and other damaged structures will be repaired and rebuilt." Yudhvir sethi said. Sethi further said that decision-making has now been shifted to the grassroots. "Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat will jointly decide which works are needed, while district-level plans will prioritize

projects so that the most urgent needs are addressed first," he said. He also highlighted the strong wage protection system. If work is not provided within 15 days, the worker will receive an unemployment allowance, and the government will have to pay a penalty. This ensures that no poor worker is denied his or her rightful income.

Women will get 33 percent reservation, and through Self-Help Groups, they can work together and earn independently without any qualification barrier. Panchayats will be graded A, B, C, and D, and funds will be allocated based on performance and need, he said.

"To ensure transparency, every worker will be linked to Aadhaar, and all projects will be geo-tagged so that payments are made only for real work. Funding will be shared by the Centre and States, with the Centre providing 90 percent in Himalayan states and 100 percent in Union Territories," Yudhvir Sethi said.

The MLA added that youth will receive training in areas such as pond construction, check dams, water harvesting, environmental work, and technical skills. This will create skilled workers in villages and promote rural startups, reducing migration to cities.

Satish attends National Transport Ministers' meeting, meets Nitin Gadkari

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma on Thursday participated in the Meeting of Transport Ministers of all States and Union Territories and the 43rd Meeting of the Transport Development Council (TDC) held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The high-level meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari. The national-level deliberations focused on a wide range of critical issues concerning road safety, vehicular standards, accident response systems and comprehensive transport reforms. Key topics discussed included cashless treatment for road accident victims, enhanced compensation for hit-and-run cases, implementation of e-DAR, Zero Fatality Districts, Sadak Suraksha Mission, BN-CAP 2.0, bus body codes, accessibility for Divyangjan, and the introduction of advanced safety technologies in



buses and trucks. Earlier, Satish Sharma held a detailed interaction with Nitin Gadkari, during which he highlighted the pressing challenges faced by residents of border and far-flung areas of J&K, particularly regarding emergency medical services and public transport connectivity. He urged the Union Minister to provide ambulances and Border Passenger buses for border belts to ensure timely medical assistance and reliable transport facilities for the local population. The Minister also sought

Central Govt funding for the establishment of Automated Testing Stations in Srinagar and Jammu, emphasizing their importance for scientific vehicle fitness testing, pollution control and improved road safety. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari agreed to the proposal on the spot, assuring full support for setting up the ATS infrastructure in the Union Territory. The meeting further discussed safety standards, programme schedules and proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act, stressing strict compliance, time-bound implementation and quality execution of transport and highway projects. Later, Satish Sharma interacted with representatives of major travel and transport unions from across the country. He invited them to partner in the tourism and trade development of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting its vast potential in pilgrimage, leisure, adventure tourism, logistics and commercial transport, while assuring a secure and business-friendly environment.

Opportunity for J&K to focus on areas outside Valley for such a 'one state, one global standard tourist destination'

PM Modi has been the 1st to give idea of promoting a 'one state, one global standard tourist destination'

Omar Abdullah must take on call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Substantial unexploited potential around Shivaliks/Chenab /Pirpanchal for commercial summer/winter/Pilgrim tourism'

DAYA SAGAR

Let us have a very brief reference to the potential areas in UT of J&K for high potential summer/winter/pilgrim/adventure/health resort/sports tourism potential extending over Kathua/ Udhampur/Doda/ Kishtwar/Rajouri/Poonch districts where the project 'one state, one global tourist destination' could be possibly conceived for laying ..

Kishtwar and Doda Districts of J&K are relatively still more backward (economically and administratively) even after 77 years of Independence inspite of the fact that these areas have substantial potential for exploitable commercial summer/winter tourism as well as pilgrim tourism. No doubt areas in Rajouri & Poonch districts and outers of Udhampur & Kathua too have reason-

ably enough scope for summer & winter tourism. "One" may plead that the climate enroute to possible exploitable tourist spots/ areas in Jammu region is warm/ rough in summer unlike that in Kashmir valley but the governments cannot take excuse / shelter under such pleas keeping in view that even in deserts like Dubai and similarly situated areas in HP high potential commercial tourism has been promoted & sold successfully even abroad. Ghulam Nabi Azad , when he was inaugurating week long "Kailash Tourism festival" at Baderwah had said on 19-08-2006 that Doda, Poonch, Rajouri, some parts of Kathua, Udhampur , Kupwara and Baramulla are glaring example of discriminatory policies which were propagated by the successive Governments in the State.(J&K). Mr. Muzaffar



Hussain Baig too had then accused previous governments for discriminating with Jammu saying that Jammu region has huge tourism potential but Governments had not cared to explore the potential. Even after that only a few tiny tourist projects / circuits of values of just 5 to 20 crore INR have been talked of by the political leadership for these areas. To quote block Panchariearlier fell nearly in three assembly constituencies viz Reasi, Chenani and Udhampur but here to summer tourism potential has not been commercially exploited even when area

is so near to District HQ Udhampur and the Katra Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. Patnitop and Sanasar are so talked about spots but these too have not been properly looked after even after 1990.A just 18 Km road from Patni to Sana Sar speaks well of the attention with what tourism sector in Jammu region has been carried on. Commercial Tourism potential from Udhampur to Baderwah has been the victim of all round neglect.

Even the Greens and Valleys lying in and around Trikuta Hills, River Chenab and Natha Top hills have reasonably high potential for commercial and the pilgrim tourism with multi dimensions sites that could be developed to attract visitors . Around / in Pancheri/ Mougri area some Gandola Sites could be like from Mougri to Deber Thayar with 3

to 4 KM Span , Mougri to Achal (Ajjal) Dhabbar with another 3-5 KM Span, Dubey Gali to Khargali with upto 4 KM Span and Laki (Badsar/Devta) to Basnote Top about 3 KM Span.

The Sankhri Devta Shrine is situated on a beautiful and sloppy hill top called "Sankhri Dabbar" about 3 kilometer from Panchari in Tehsil Udhampur. Large meadow of 3 to 4 Acre , Pine forest, Deodar forest, springs and Bowalies are in and around the small cool and beautiful hill of Pancheri. Pancheri is about 7 Km from Kanth Gali, 30 Kilometer from Kainthgali is the Mongri Cave of Shiv Parvati, Bamhaal is a cool pine forest near Mongri, about 5 Km from Mongri is about 2 acre Jalsar, nearby spots like Saroli Dhar are nearly as beautiful as is Gulmarg and with a height as large as Natha Top; Two cave

shrines of Lord-Shiv-Parvati have around 9½ ft high exquisite self-carved rock Shivalingam . Sar Dabbar, Sanara, Tibba Kandroo, Ajjal in Mongri and Cheman Mata in Basnote could attract tourist& pilgrims to this area. To add lush green Deodar forest stretches at Damnote and Panchar too are there around along with breath-taking green slopes, ancient Devasthans at Bariot/ Badsar Devta at Laki ;theSankhriDevsthan there is a uphill nearly kacha path of about 2 Km from Village Mir. On way to Pancheri are Kirmachi historical temples claimed as built by Pandwa from where Kainthgali is just 25Km.

To be continued (The writer is Senior Journalist and analyst J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com 9419796096)