

J&K's medical education, public health transformed in last 5 years: LG

'500 MBBS seats created in almost 7 decades; we created 800 additional seats within 4 years'



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at the Valedictory Ceremony of SKIMS Annual Festival Week in Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday appreciated the unwavering dedication, compassion, and personal sacrifice of the medical community to care for others and contributing to the nation's growth.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Valedictory Ceremony of SKIMS Annual Festival Week in Srinagar. The event also marked the commencement of 29th Post-Graduate Research Presentation Programme (PGRP-2025) and felicitation of PGRP Awardees, Doctors, Nursing Staffs and Employees of SKIMS by the Lieutenant Governor.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that J&K has witnessed a massive infrastructure expansion and innovative solutions in healthcare post 2019.

"Accessible and affordable quality healthcare has turned into a reality under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

We have brought transformative change to J&K's medical education and public

health landscape in the last 5 years. It took almost seven decades to create 500 MBBS seats. We have created 800 additional MBBS seats within 4 years," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that major issues like lack of government medical colleges, unaffordable private institutions are a thing of the past.

"With bold and systemic reforms between 2020 to 2024, we have made quality healthcare education more accessible," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his commitment to ensure quality healthcare is accessible and affordable to all the citizens especially the underprivileged and those living in far-flung areas.

Guided by the vision of 'Health for All', the Lieutenant Governor called upon the healthcare fraternity to ensure inclusive, resilient, and people-centric healthcare.

"We must enrich the healthcare sector through knowledge, innovation, and research. A multidisciplinary approach that goes beyond treating illness should be adopted to address the phys-

ical, mental, and social well-being of individuals," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the transformation of SKIMS in the last 4-5 years and its significant contribution to public health and medical education. He observed that over 1,100 long-pending promotions were executed and around 1,300 paramedical and ministerial posts were revived and referred, including 120 faculty positions. Clearance given to over 1,800 DPC promotions and additional 367 Non-Gazetted and 159 Gazetted posts were referred to recruiting agencies.

SKIMS is also planning to set up Future-Centres of Excellence in transplant services, emergency & trauma care, neurosciences, cardiac sciences, renal medicine, and pulmonary diseases, endocrine and metabolic disorders.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated various projects for SKIMS including commissioning of Emergency S.M.A.R.T Lab; ICU-VII, Heavy Duty Lift and a new Firefighting System.

Foundation stones were laid by the Lieutenant Governor for several projects

- ▶ Attends Valedictory Ceremony of SKIMS Annual Festival Week
- ▶ Felicitates Doctors, Nursing Staffs and Employees of SKIMS, appreciates medical community's unwavering dedication, compassion, and personal sacrifice to care for others and contributing to nation's growth
- ▶ Says, accessible and affordable quality healthcare has turned into reality under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi
- ▶ Major issues like lack of government medical colleges, unaffordable private institutions are a thing of the past. With bold and systemic reforms between 2020 to 2024, we have made quality healthcare education more accessible
- ▶ J&K witnessed massive infrastructure expansion and innovative solutions in healthcare post 2019. We are guided by the vision of 'Health for All' and I call upon healthcare fraternity to ensure inclusive, resilient, and people-centric healthcare

for SKIMS. These projects include Centre for One Health, 3 MLD sewage treatment plant, Multi-level Car Parking, Attendant Inn-Phase II and Shopping Complex for Hostels. New digital initiatives at SKIMS were also launched on the occasion.

The Lieutenant Governor called for adopting a multi-faceted approach leveraging cutting-edge technology to develop new healthcare models and enhance accessibility. He also sets Five Goals for Healthcare Transformation.

"Data-driven care should be our first goal for personalized treatment and precision medicine. The second goal is to implement a robust system for auditing patient treatment and outcomes. Third, to ensure 100% digital records for better treatment and foster a sense of empowerment for patients.

The fourth goal is to develop a decentralized healthcare system that enables doctors in remote villages to provide timely treatment, specifically tailored to patient needs.

Fifth, the medical community must collaborate to promote preventive health and wellness in society", the Lieutenant Governor said.

Prof. Mohd Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS; Prof. Vivek Lal, Director, PGIMER Chandigarh; Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor Central University of Kashmir; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, senior officials, medical professionals, Heads of Departments, faculty, students and staff of SKIMS attended the valedictory ceremony.



Blacktopping at 4th Tawi Bridge: Authorities issue Traffic Advisory

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To facilitate execution of blacktopping work at 4th Bridge Bhagwati Nagar Jammu by PWD (R&B) Jammu, the general public especially motorists have been advised to generally avoid the use of 4th Tawi Bridge Bhagwati Nagar on 14th December, 2025 and

instead use Main Tawi Bridges for convenient movement.

Further, the two-way traffic movement from City North to City South Jammu and vice versa via 4th Tawi Bridge Bhagwati Nagar will be allowed in a regulated manner for better traffic management.

The general public is

requested to cooperate with Traffic Police to ensure smooth traffic flow and better traffic management in the area.

For any traffic-related assistance, please contact the following numbers: - TCU Jammu: 0191-2459048, Whats-App: 94191-47732 and Toll Free: 103.

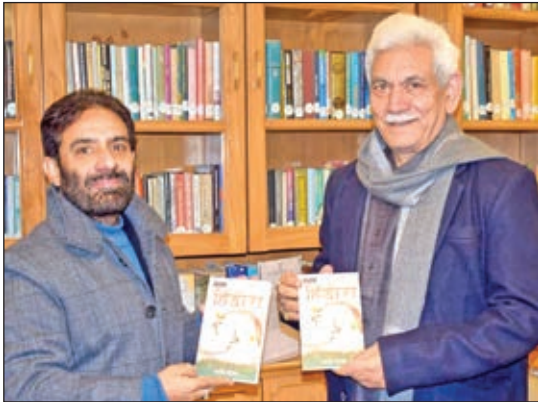
LG releases Dr Satish's Hindi poetry book 'Hindora'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday released the Hindi Poetry Book "Hindora" by noted writer Dr. Satish Vimal, at Lok Bhavan.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Dr Vimal and complimented him on his contribution to the literary world.

This publication is 33rd book of Dr Satish Vimal and his thirteenth poetry collection that carries the philosophical and artistic essence of Jammu Kashmir.



CS visits Jagti; distributes sanction orders under SSSs, allotment orders among migrant beneficiaries



Chief Secretary Atal Duloo honouring a student.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Duloo on Saturday visited the mini-township Jagti Nagrota to inspect development works besides inaugurating vital projects.

The Chief Secretary inspected the Sub District Hospital and Government Higher Secondary School, Jagti, the ongoing work on multi purpose community hall being constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 6.5 crore and other development works. He also inaugurated five bore wells and visited the NFSA integration centre.

Later, the Chief Secretary distributed sanction orders under various Social Security Schemes like Old Age Pension, Widow Pension and Disability Pension among about 125 migrant beneficiaries. He also handed over allotment orders to the eligible migrant beneficiaries for 48 government shops and 12 residential quarters.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary also felicitated the meritorious girl students of Government Higher Secondary School, Jagti and distributed digital ration cards among the beneficiaries. Besides, regularization orders were also handed over to some employees of the School Education Department.

Commissioner Secretary, FCS & CA, Saurav Bhagat; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez; IGP Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti; Commissioner, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Dr Arvind Karwani; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Rakesh

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Devyansh Yadav; Director School Education Jammu; Director FCS& CA besides other Heads of Departments and district officers accompanied the Chief Secretary. A sizeable gathering of migrants from Nagrota, Purkhoo and Muthi camps was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of historic moment of extending social sector schemes benefit to the Kashmiri and Jammu Migrants, who were earlier deprived of these benefits since the ration cards were non-digitized and not integrated with the national database. He appealed all the migrants to avail the benefits of various government schemes by getting their ration cards integrated on the national portal.

He directed all the government departments to keep budgetary provisions for operation and maintenance of services pertaining to their department in migrant camps and transit accommodations in Jammu and Kashmir in line with the recent directions issued through the General Administration Department on the subject.

The Chief Secretary directed the Science and Technology Department to install solar lights in the Mini Township Jagti. He directed the Public Works Department to ensure time bound completion of repair and renovation works, with emphasis on maintaining all the quality parameters. The Chief Secretary asserted that strenuous efforts are being made by

the administration to sort out the issues and concerns of the migrant population. The latest initiatives included maintenance of old and damaged residential quarters, proper sanitation by the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Transit accommodations in the Kashmir Valley. Besides, issues of PM Package employees are also being addressed. He conveyed that under the Mission Youth of J&K government, several young people are given opportunities to become entrepreneurs.

The Chief Secretary urged the migrant youth to avail the benefits of self-employment schemes. He directed the Employment Department to create maximum awareness among the migrant youth about the self-employment and entrepreneurship schemes.

The Chief Secretary directed the Culture Department to draft a proposal for utilizing the upcoming Multi-Purpose Community Hall at Jagti for showcasing rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary further said that religious places of the migrant community are also being renovated in Kashmir.

Earlier, Commissioner, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, Dr Arvind Karwani, presented a detailed overview of steps being taken by the Relief Organization. These inter alia included upkeep of infrastructure, major repair and renovation works, yearly maintenance, development of playground, integration of migrant community with Social Security Schemes, digitization of migrant records and outreach initiatives for Ayushman Bharat and other schemes.

Vishwa Samvad Kendra Jammu Kashmir hosts 'Creators' Summit 2025' at JU Announces Digital Poster-Making & Short Film Competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vishwa Samvad Kendra, Jammu Kashmir organised "Creators' Summit 2025" on Saturday at the Convention Hall, The Business School, University of Jammu. The summit brought together content creators, students and social-media influencers for deliberations on responsible content creation and positive social messaging.

The programme formally commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and the Keynote Speaker.

The dignitaries present included Kuldeep Khoda (Former Director General of Police, J&K Police) as Chief Guest, Dr Ankur Gupta (Director, MIET) as Guest of



Narendra Thakur (Akhil Bhartiya Seh Prachar Pramukh, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh) speaking at a programme.

Honour, and Narendra Thakur (Akhil Bhartiya Seh Prachar Pramukh, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh) as the Keynote Speaker.

The programme began with a floral offering to Bharat Mata. This was followed by the

Welcome Address by Rajeev Nargotra. In his address Chief Guest Kuldeep Khoda spoke on the importance of civic responsibility and social discipline, especially in the context of contemporary information ecosystems and public life.

Newly established meditation hall opened for pilgrims at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In a significant initiative aimed at further enriching the spiritual ambience and facilitating deeper devotional engagement among devotees, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has established and dedicated a 'Sadhana Kaksh' (Meditation Hall) amidst Vedic chanting at Bhawan area.

The 'Sadhana Kaksh' established as per the directions of Manoj Sinha, Chairman, SMVDSB- Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir- was dedicated to the devotees under the supervision of Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB.

Located in the lower basement of the Ram Mandir along the exit cave route at Bhawan, the 'Sadhana Kaksh' has been developed with emphasis on simplicity and devotional sanctity. Spread over an area of approximately 1,500 square feet, the facility can accommodate about 160-170 devotees at a time. Special care has been taken to maintain silence and sanctity within the Kaksh (hall), ensuring an atmosphere of calm and spiritual focus.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the establishment of a dedicated 'Sadhana Kaksh' in close proximity to the sanctum



of Maa Vaishno Devi Ji forms part of the Shrine Board's broader endeavour to strengthen the spiritual infrastructure at Bhawan. He exhorted that as lakhs of devotees undertake the Yatra every month with deep faith and devotion, the provision of a serene space for meditation significantly enhances the overall pilgrimage experience.

The Shrine Board has issued detailed operational guidelines for the 'Sadhana Kaksh'. As per these guidelines, the Shrine Board shall provide basic materials for use by devotees including prayer beads (malas), cloth pouches (guthis) and other essential accessories. However, mobile phones and all electronic devices shall not be permitted inside the Kaksh. The 'Sadhana Kaksh' will remain open daily from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM throughout the year. Noteworthy that in recent

years, the Shrine Board has undertaken several pilgrim-centric initiatives, including the establishment of a new Yagyashala, the expansion and remodeling of the Atka area and the beautification of the exit cave zone, all aimed at providing devotees with a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching Yatra experience.

Senior officers of the Shrine Board, including Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. Chief Executive Officer; Satish Kumar Sharma, Jt. Chief Executive Officer; Pawan Kumar Goswami, Dy. Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Gopal Sharma, Asstt. Chief Executive Officer; Mukesh Kumar Thapa, Tehsildar Bhawan and Gopal Shastri, Mukhya Pujari, along with the team of Pujaris, besides, other officers, members of the Shrine Board's engineering team and a large number of devotees were present on the occasion.

Congress's ECI lies exposed: Gaurav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K UT Spokesperson and Union of India Convener, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta, on Friday strongly rebutted what he called a misleading campaign by the Congress regarding the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs). He accused senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, of deliberately distorting constitutional facts to undermine public confidence in India's democratic institutions. Gupta clarified that since the Election Commission of India was established in 1950 under Article 324, appointments of the CEC and ECs have been made by the President on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister. He noted that this practice continued for over 73 years, including during long periods of Congress rule, and that no permanent selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Chief Justice

of India ever existed. Referring to the Supreme Court judgment in Anoop Baramwal vs Union of India (March 2023), Gupta said the court stated that the interim mechanism involving the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and Chief Justice was temporary, to remain until Parliament legislated. He accused Congress of suppressing this key aspect to mislead the public. Gupta highlighted that Parliament enacted the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, providing a statutory framework fully aligned with the Constitution and separation of powers. He dismissed allegations of "institutional capture" as politically motivated, stressing that attacks on independent bodies undermine democratic discourse. He asserted that the 2023 Act strengthens transparency, accountability, and parliamentary supremacy while safeguarding the Election Commission's independence.

