

Yudhvir Sethi inaugurates Tutian upgradation work at Nabha Dass Community Hall



MLA Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating Tutian upgradation work at Nabha Dass Community Hall.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, today inaugurated the Tutian upgradation work at Nabha Dass Community Hall at Dogra Hall in Ward No. 8, Jammu East.

The development project has been undertaken by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) at an estimated cost of Rs 6 lakh with the objective of improving civic amenities and strengthening local infrastructure.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi said that the inauguration of Tutian upgradation work at the Nabha Dass Community Hall has been taken up keeping in view the welfare, safety and convenience of women of the locality.

He stated that the community hall serves as an important social space, especially for meetings and community programmes, and improved infrastructure will make it more accessible and functional for all.

He said that development of basic infrastructure remains a top priority.

"Our aim is to ensure that every ward in Jammu East receives quality civic facilities. Upgradation works like these directly improve the quality of life of residents and reflect our commitment to making Jammu East a model constituency," he said.

Sethi added that public welfare works would continue to be executed in a time-bound and transparent manner, in close coordination with municipal authorities, to address long-pending local issues.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Swati Sharma, Amphalla Mandal President; Dr Akshay Sharma, former Corporator; Raman Sharma, Jammu District Spokesperson; Arun Rajwal, Bishan Dass, Prithivi Duggal, Vijay Anand Gill, Ashok Salgotra, Chaman Angral, Ram Lal, Puneet Chavla, Sharda Devi, Pooja Sharma, Karan Sharma, Kamaljeet Kour, along with several party karyakartas and local residents.

The MLA also extended special thanks to XEN Rajesh, JE Rakesh and AEE Sahil Arora for their support and on-ground efforts in ensuring the smooth execution of the project.

Western Singing, Rangoli, Clay Modelling mark 2nd day of 'Inter Zonal Display Your Talent' at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the second day of 'Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25' being organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu (JU), the events of Western Singing, Rangoli and Clay Modelling were conducted.

Dr. Neeraj Sharma (Registrar) Prof. Prakash C. Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas, (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee) and other dignitaries were present at the occasion.

The special attraction of today's event was the Cultural Presentation by the students of Shivaji University, Kolhapur who have specially come from Kolhapur to Jammu for Cultural Exchange programme.

The 30 member contingent was headed by Dr. Tanaji Chougule, Director, Students Development Department, Shivaji University Kolhapur, Dr. Raghunath Dhamakale, Management Council Member, Shivaji University



Students of Shivaji University, Kolhapur at Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent 2024-25' at JU.

Kolhapur, Swagat Parulekar, Management Council Member, Shivaji University Kolhapur, Pramod Shankar Patil, Surekha Adake, Vijay Ingavle and Sujeet Mundhe.

The results of the events so far are; One Act Play 1st, GCW, Udhampur, 2nd, PG Integrated, University of Jammu, 3rd, GCW, Parade, Skit, 1st-GDC R.S. Pura, 2nd- GCW, Udhampur, 3rd- CD & OE, University of Jammu, Mime, Certificate of Merit (COM)-GCW, Udhampur, Eloction, 1st, Rahul Thakur, GDC Kathua, 2nd Ojeswi Rajput, GCW Parade, 3rd-Anshika Gandhi,

The Law School, Com-Braniya Singh, Bhartiya College of Education, Debate, 1st-Ojeswi Rajput, GCW Parade, 2nd- Samiya Sharma, GCW Parade, 3rd-Anshika Chambyal, Kathua Campus, Com Mohd. Aman Zari, GDC Rajouri, COM-Parth Raina, The Law School, JU, Painting, 1st-Pankaj Kumar, Udhampur Campus, 2nd-Richa Raina, IMFA, 3rd-Ritish Sharma, GDC Akhnoor, Com-Rupinder Singh, GDC R.S. Pura, COM- Manvi Rathore, GWC, Udhampur, Cartooning , 1st-Rahul, GDC Udhampur, 2nd-

Amandeep, Udhampur Campus, 3rd- Tanish Kumari, GDC R.S. Pura, Poster Making, 1st-Rupinder Singh, GDC R.S. Pura, 2nd-Abuzar Ali, IMFA, 3rd-Mohit Sharma, GLDM Hiranagar, Western Group Singing, 1st- IMFA, 2nd - GCW Udhampur, 3rd- GCW Parade. Western Singing Solo, 1st- Manyu Verma, GDC Udhampur, 2nd-Kunwar Langer, The Law School, JU, 3rd- Preeti from CD & OE, JU. Quiz, 1st-Dept. of Political Science, JU, 2nd- MIER, 3rd- GDC Rajouri, Rangoli- 1st-Shagun Kapoor, KC Law

College, 2nd-Gurleen Kaur, Department of Journalism, JU, 3rd- Sughandita Pandita, Bhartiya College of Education. Clay Modelling- 1st- Versha Kumari, IMFA, 2nd, Gurleen Kaur, Department of Journalism, JU, 3rd, GDC Hiranagar, COM, Nancy Verma, GCW Parade. The adjudicators of the events included (Music) Ajay Chaurasiya, Ravi Gautam, Tanya Gupta, Anish Mattoo, (Fine Arts) Reecha Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Sharma and Suresh Sharma. Teacher Incharges of the events included Dr. Jasleen Kaur, Dr. Ankit Mahajan, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Tarun Chauhan, Dr. Sandeep Dubey and Dr. P.P. Singh.

The hall was managed by Iylen Kaur, Dilpreet Kaur, Ananya, Purvi, Sunaina, Ranjeet, Naresh, Jhanvi and Adnan. Sachin Sharma, Gagandeep Singh & R.P. Singh. The sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul. The winners of First Positions would be felicitated on 19th December at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, JU.

Punjabi essay collection 'Mittar Asaadre Sei' by Dr. Monojit released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A collection of Punjabi essays titled 'Mittar Asaadre Sei', authored by renowned Jammu-based writer Dr. Monojit, was released today by Punjabi Lekhak Sabha (PLS), Jammu, at a well-attended function held at the K. L. Saigal Auditorium, Writers' Club, Cultural Academy, Jammu. The programme witnessed the presence of eminent literary figures, scholars, and intellectuals from across the region.

The event was presided over by Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, former Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, while Dr. Baljit Kour, former Head of the PG Department of Punjabi, University of Jammu, was the Chief Guest. Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina, President, PLS-



Dignitaries releasing collection of Punjabi essays titled 'Mittar Asaadre Sei'.

Jammu, and Popinder Singh Paras, Chief Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, also shared the dais.

Welcoming the guests and audience, Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina highlighted the literary significance of the book and the consistent contribution of Dr. Monojit to Punjabi literature. A scholarly paper critically evaluating the contents of 'Mittar Asaadre Sei' was presented by Dr. Harsimran Singh,

Assistant Professor, PG Department of Punjabi, University of Jammu.

The book comprises seventeen essays focusing on the lives of prominent writers of Jammu and Kashmir; Dr. Monojit's personal experiences with them, and their role in enriching the region's multilingual literary traditions. Dr. Monojit, who has so far authored nineteen books spanning poetry, fiction, and essays, has dedicat-

ed this book to his younger brother.

In his presidential address, Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn lauded Dr. Monojit's sincerity, wisdom, and commitment as a writer and satirist. He emphasized the importance of documenting literary contributions and noted that the book would prove beneficial for scholars and researchers. He also appreciated the critical paper presented during the programme.

Chief Guest Dr. Baljit Kour praised Dr. Monojit's significant contribution to Punjabi satire, describing it as a powerful and expressive genre. She announced that the Punjabi Department of the University of Jammu would soon initiate a programme to honour senior Punjabi writers for their contributions.

Dr. Monojit, while sharing his experiences, spoke about his close association with the writers featured in the book. Several noted writers, including Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Harjit Singh Uppal, Bhupinder Singh Raina, and Devinder Singh Vishavmagrik, also expressed their views. The proceedings were conducted by Popinder Singh Paras, while the vote of thanks was presented by Jang S. Verma, Press Secretary, PLS Jammu.

SDHS Kanya Vidyalaya organizes educational trip for students to Amritsar



SDHS Kanya Vidyalaya, Jullaka Mohalla students and faculty at Amritsar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sanatan Dharam Higher Secondary (SDHS) Kanya Vidyalaya, Jullaka Mohalla, here organised an educational trip for the students to Amritsar in Punjab.

Part of their educational tour, the students of the Vidyalaya visited Attari Border, Ram Tirth Temple, Golden Temple,

Durgiana Temple, Jallianwala Bagh and other places of historic and religious importance.

The main objective, as per a handout issued by the Vidyalaya, was to provide students with practical exposure and enhance their understanding beyond classroom learning.

During the visit, students

gained valuable knowledge about history, science, technology and patriotism. Teachers accompanying the students ensured discipline and guided them at every stage.

The educational trip concluded successfully leaving students with memorable experiences and enhanced knowledge.

Carmel Convent School hosts Inter-House Debate on Bal Vivah



Carmel Convent School Kunjwani students at a event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Carmel Convent School, Kunjwani, began

the day with a brief prayer on Wednesday, seeking God's blessings and set-

ting a reflective tone for academic engagement.

The school organized an Inter-House Debate Competition on the theme "Bal Vivah: A Violation of Girls' Rights." Students showcased impressive eloquence, sharp reasoning, and deep awareness of the issue.

Principal Sister Suzette appreciated the guests and applauded the participants for their confident expression and commendable linguistic skills.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUCHETGARH: Reiterating the BJP's firm commitment to safeguarding the sanctity of India's democratic process, BJP State Spokesperson Advocate Purnima Sharma on Wednesday asserted that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is a constitutional responsibility and not a political instrument, as being falsely portrayed by the opposition.

Addressing a Special Intensive Revision awareness workshop organised by the BJP at border village Suchetgarh under the chair-



BJP Spokesperson Adv Purnima Sharma speaking at a programme.

manship of Zila Adhyakshya Rinku Choudhary, Adv. Sharma accused the Congress of deliberately spreading confusion and fear among voters to derail a lawful and time-

tested electoral exercise. She said that such tactics expose the opposition's desperation and disregard for democratic norms. Adv. Purnima categorically stated that SIR is not a new initiative but a regular democratic process conducted since 1952 under both Congress and non-Congress governments. "From Jawaharlal Nehru to Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira

Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr. Manmohan Singh, every government has carried out SIR whenever required. Questioning its constitutionality today reflects Congress' double standards," she remarked.

Explaining the purpose of SIR, Sharma said the exercise ensures Matdata Suchi Shuddhikaran by verifying voter details, removing duplicate entries, deleting names of deceased persons, and identifying ineligible voters, including illegal infiltrators. She stressed that the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and lawmakers must be elected only by Indian citizens, adding that allowing illegal names on electoral rolls is a direct betrayal of democracy.

Accusing Congress of politi-

cising electoral reforms after repeatedly losing public trust, Sharma said the party habitually targets democratic institutions whenever it faces defeat. "First it was the Election Commission, then EVMS, and now SIR. This pattern shows its inability to accept the people's mandate," she said. Calling electoral integrity the backbone of democracy, Adv. Sharma urged BJP workers to actively participate in the awareness drive, assist voters during verification, and counter misinformation. She assured that no genuine voter would be deleted, as SIR protects the rights of legitimate voters.

MLA Rajeev Bhagat, Prabhari Rajinder Chibb, Seh Prabhari Arti Jasrotia and other leaders also addressed the gathering.

Divisive 'insider-outsider' narrative must be put to end: LG "Those fuelling such narrative creating hurdles in development process"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday addressed the Strategic Management Forum Conference on Policy Making and Strategic Planning for achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047, at IIM Jammu.

The 3-day conference is being organised by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, in collaboration with Strategic Management Forum (SMF), and the NITI Aayog. In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the challenges and opportunities for India in a rapidly evolving world and the critical role of policy makers and business leaders.

"Our focus should be on macroeconomic stability and high investment in education and health. Digital tools, participatory governance, transparency, accountability, speedy project implementation and effective public services for growing population will be key for all round development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the core values, principles, ideals of our forefathers and values of good governance will



LG Manoj Sinha felicitating artist at IIM Jammu.

guide us to navigate the present challenges to build a prosperous future. He emphasized that the policies must be formulated in accordance with the needs of the people, industry, trade, and business, and it must be ensured that their voices are heard. There is also a need to maintain the balance between industrial growth and social welfare initiatives, he further said. The Lieutenant Governor stated that the rapid growth, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is unprecedented in Indian history.

"Wherever I go, I see that our great nation is on the move towards progress and prosperity. Our manufacturing and services sectors are showing impressive growth and there is a renewed confidence among

industry leaders to take on the challenge of the rest of the world. I also see our village industries, Handloom and Handicraft sector competing with the best. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call for Swadeshi has given fresh impetus to this sector.

Inclusive and equitable growth lies at the core of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision. The government policies have focused on job creation, support for small businesses, increased public investment, and financial empowerment of the middle class and entrepreneurs, ensuring that the economic progress benefits every citizen," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his resolve to ensure that the benefits of

programs like Modern India and Digital India reach the citizens on the last ladder of development. "Decentralized governance has brought about significant positive change, and continuous efforts are being made to ensure that policies are not merely on paper but are responsive, morally sound, and action-oriented, thereby shaping the commitment to a people-first approach," the Lieutenant Governor said. "J&K holds immense potential in Limestone, Sapphire, Lithium and other minerals. With strategic planning, in the next 5-7 years, we can generate an additional annual revenue of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore," the Lieutenant Governor said. He also called for maximizing the Hydro Power sector; and suggested necessary amendments to the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) to ensure it meets evolving economic needs. The Lieutenant Governor stated that the divisive "insider-outsider" narrative must be put to an end.

"Those spreading such narrative are creating hurdles in the development process," he said. The Lieutenant Governor

also said that the terrorists hiding in rugged terrains, mountains and dense forests will be eliminated soon. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor unveiled the Basohli Painting Exhibition. The event also marked the valedictory session of Basohli Painting workshop and felicitation of Basohli Painting artists by the Lieutenant Governor.

"Basohli Painting is our priceless artistic heritage which holds immense value for present and future generations. I commend IIM Jammu and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) for the unique initiative," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; R K Chaudhary, Chairman, Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, J&K and Ladakh; Subash Chandra Meena, Economic Advisor NITI Aayog; Prof. Arunaditya Sahay, Founding Chairman, Strategic Management Forum (SMF); Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director; IGNC; academicians, artists and students attended the inaugural session.

Cooperatives linking to global markets ensuring farmer welfare: Sat flags exports, govt reforms



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Jammu & Kashmir BJP President and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Sat Sharma, on Tuesday raised an important starred question in the Rajya Sabha regarding cooperative exports and market linkages, highlighting the crucial role of cooperatives in strengthening agriculture and enhancing farmers' incomes across India.

Calling it his maiden question in the Upper House, Sat Sharma expressed gratitude for the opportunity and congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Cooperation for taking decisive and result-oriented steps to revive and strengthen the cooperative sector. He observed that while several agencies are engaged in agricultural development, it is essential to understand how the government's collective efforts are translating into tangible benefits for farmers and citizens, particularly through improved market access and cooperative-led

exports. Responding on behalf of the government, Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol informed the House that the Centre is working with commitment to strengthen cooperatives in key sectors such as dairy, fisheries, fertilizers, sugar, and milk production. He stated that cooperatives currently account for nearly 30 percent of fertilizer production, 30 percent of sugar production, and 18 percent of milk production in the country, with many of these products witnessing increasing demand in international markets.

The Minister noted that the earlier absence of multi-state cooperative societies had constrained India's ability to meet global demand. To address this, the Modi government established three new multi-state cooperative societies in 2023, focusing on high-quality seed production, organic farming, and export-oriented activities. He added that the National Cooperative Logistics (NCL) is promoting around 40 products, with about 13,900 cooperative committees across 31 states now associated with the initiative, ensuring fair value and direct profit-sharing for farmers.

Raising a supplementary question, Sat Sharma emphasized the pivotal role of NCL in ensuring farmers receive rightful profits and sought clarification on whether individual farmers could directly join NCL and the mechanisms for their inclusion.