

# Yudhvir Sethi starts Rs 66 lakh PHE Pipe laying works in Jammu East

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi today inaugurated a major Public Health Engineering (PHE) pipe laying project worth Rs 66 lakh in Wards 16, 17 and 18 of Jammu city, marking a significant step towards strengthening drinking water infrastructure in the area.

The project aims to replace old and damaged pipelines that have been causing water supply issues for residents for a long time.

The work was launched in the presence of senior PHE officials including XEN Tajender Pal Singh, AEE Shubham Singh Baloria and JE Vikas Manhas, along with BJP leaders and workers.

Those BJP workers present included Raman Sharma Jammu District Spokesperson, Rohit Gupta



MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating PHE pipe laying project.

Vice President Amphalla Mandal, former Corporator Ward 18 Dinesh Gupta, Omkar Bose, Ajay Mehra, Vicky Pandey, Karan Sharma, Pardeep and Rohit Kumar.

Addressing the gathering,

Yudhvir Sethi said, "For the last many days, residents of these wards were continuously demanding replacement of old and damaged PHE pipes. These pipelines had outlived their life and were the main reason behind frequent leak-

ages and water shortages. Today, along with PHE officials, I have started the Rs 66 lakh project to lay new pipelines in Wards 16, 17 and 18 so that people get clean and uninterrupted drinking water."

He further stated that providing basic amenities like safe drinking water remains his top priority.

"This project will not only improve water supply but also reduce wastage and prevent contamination. Our aim is to ensure that every household receives pure and sufficient water without disruption," Sethi added.

The MLA also appreciated the PHE department for their technical support and timely execution of the work. He assured residents that the project would be completed within the stipulated time frame and would bring long-term relief to the people of the area. Local residents welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude to the MLA and the department for responding to their long-pending demand.

# Shiv Sena demands permanent solution for SMVD Medical College dispute

Amendment to Act, granting minority status to Hindus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A permanent solution to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College dispute is possible through the joint efforts of the Central and Omar Abdullah governments, stated by Manish Sahni, head of the Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

While addressing a media persons at Indra Chowk, Jammu, State President Manish Sahni said that Once again, Jammu is being pushed towards agitation.

He said that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College dispute is a highly sensitive issue connected to religious sentiments. Those who are fanning the flames of agitation from behind the scenes are largely responsible for the dispute.

Even when Articles 370 and 35A were abrogated in Jammu and Kashmir in



2019, no interest was shown in amending the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Act to prioritize Hindus. Even during the formation of the Shrine Board, BJP leaders remained silent in the Legislative Assembly.

Sahni said that an immediate amendment to the University Act and granting minority status to Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir is the only permanent solution. Sahni demanded that the Lieutenant Governor of

Jammu and Kashmir immediately intervene and issue instructions to convene a Legislative Assembly session under his constitutional powers (Article 174) and pressure all BJP MLAs to pass a resolution granting Hindu status to the university and amending the Act.

He also demanded that the Central Government constitute a Minority Commission in Jammu and Kashmir and grant minority status to Hindus.

# JKESL honoured by White Knight Corps



White Knight Corps officers honouring JKESL team.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In recognition of outstanding contributions during Op Sindoor and Op Rahat, JKESL and its team members from Jammu, Udhampur and Kishtwar districts were honoured by White Knight Corps in a function organised at Corps HQ on 27 Dec 2025. Gandhi Global Family members, which worked in close coordination with JKESL, was also honoured on the occasion.

J&K Ex-Services League (JKESL) has always been in the forefront during natural

calamities and warlike situations. During OP Sindoor, launched post Pahalgam terror attack, JKESL extended full co-operation & assistance to the Civil Administration & the Indian Army. Volunteers from JKESL assisted the Army in the rear area security, dumping of Ammunition, digging of gun pits by providing JCB's, Tractor, Trolleys & other necessary stores. In addition, JKESL with assistance from Gandhi Global Family distributed Rations, medicines, Utility items in Jourian, Khour, Pallanwala,

Rajouri, Mendhar & Poonch sectors badly hit by enemy shelling during Op Sindoor.

After OP Sindoor, heavy rains, cloudbursts, flash floods & landslides played havoc in the entire state of J&K. This natural calamity had brought total destruction to roads, bridges, water points & paddy crops. Many houses were damaged / washed away rendering hundreds of people homeless. JKESL once again took the initiative & actively participated in search, rescue & relief operations at Chishoti in Kishtwar, Kathua & Ramban districts. Approx 300 families in Distt Jammu and 295 families in Distt Udhampur were provided with relief material.

In addition 75 clean drinking bowsters with assistance from Tiger Division were supplied to the different parts of Jammu. JKESL in conjunction with Gandhi Global Family also provided relief material & financial assistance to the flood affected victims of Jammu & Kathua districts.

# 359th Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh celebrated at Digiana Ashram

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 359th Parkash Purab of the Tenth Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, was celebrated with devotion and spiritual fervour at Gurdwara Digiana Ashram, Jammu, under the supervision of Shriman Mahant Manjeet Singh of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib, Poonch.

Thousands of devotees participated in the Gurdwarab Samagam along with various Sikh organisations from across Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent Sikh bodies including Sikh United Front J&K, Bhai Kanhaiya Nishkam Sewa Society J&K, Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Sikh Naujwan Sabha, local Gurdwara committees and



members of DGPC Jammu took part with deep reverence and enthusiasm.

The religious programme featured soulful Shabad Kirtan by eminent Ragi Jathas, including Bhai Satwant Singh, Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Harbans Singh Ragi Jatha Jammu, Bhai Harbhinder Singh

(Incharge Sikh Mission J&K), Bhai Bachan Singh and Bhai Ranjeet Singh, Hazoori Ragi Digiana Ashram, and Fateh Singh. The Ragis highlighted the life, teachings and supreme sacrifices of Dashmesh Pita Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj.

Sudershan Singh Wazir, Chairman Sikh United Front

# PMU of MCAD scheme conducts inspection, public interaction in Samba's Patyari Cluster



PMU of MCAD scheme conducting inspection at Patyari Cluster in Samba district.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards efficient water management, the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Modernization Command Area Development (MCAD) Scheme, also known as SAMRIDDIHI today conducted an extensive inspection and public interaction programme at Patyari Cluster in Samba district.

The team, led by Pankaj Magotra, Director, Command Area Development (CAD) Jammu and comprising officials from the Central Water Commission and allied departments, assessed the water feasibility aspects. They engaged with the Water User Society members and community representatives to understand ground-level issues, gather feedback and ensure participatory planning for effective water resource management.

The inspection aimed to strengthen the inter-departmental coordination and promote sustainable water utilization strategies for enhanced agricultural productivity in the region.

This ambitious irrigation project envisages covering an area of 401.3 ha spread across 7 villages with Ravi Main Canal as the source. These villages included Radial, Muthi Kalan, Muthi Khurd, Naran, Gangeeth, Patyari and Patyari Katlan of Block-Ghagwal in Samba district. The key features included a pressurized piped irrigation network, solar backup and SCADA/IoT automation. It envisages conversion from open canals to Pressurized Piped Irrigation Network (PPIN) with Pump house, primary-tertiary pipelines, valves, filtration and surge protection.

The project promises numerous benefits, including 75% water-use efficiency, 20-30% increase in crop productivity and reduced water and energy losses. It also empowers the farmers, promotes women empowerment and ensures long-term sustainability.

The initiative aligns with the vision of "Har Khet Ko Pani + Per Drop More Crop", making irrigation measurable, accountable and financially sustainable.

# DBPS condemns anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) Parade, Jammu in its meetings on Saturday strongly condemned the Anti Hindu violence in Bangladesh and asked the NDA Government at the centre to the firm with Bangladesh Government in curbing the routs, if the situation is not brought under control the decisive action should be taken as it was in 1971.

The meeting was presided over by DBPS President Ved Parkash Sharma and others said that the Government of India must issue a firm warning to Dhaka on the continuous violence against Hindu by the Bangladeshi fundamentalist misdirected youth.



Speaking on the occasion DBPS Chairman Advocate P.C. Sharma, Former Dy. Commissioner B.S. Jamwal, NMC President Subash Shastri, ABDPSS Convenor Sunil Sharma and Baba Bhairdev Sathan Trust General Secretary Ramesh Sharma said "The Killing of innocent Hindu Minority members for no fault of them speaks low morality the collapse

of the attributes of sobriety.

Continue news of attack on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh is not only condemnable but there is ration able behind the ugliest and shameful acts of naked vandalism by the Bangla Youth, they added.

Among other who were present in the meeting included Tawi Andolan Chief Chander Mohan, Former JMC Commissioner Soutjanya Sharma, N.C Sharma, M.L Sharma, Shiv Ram Sharma, Barita Ram Sharma, Anil Sharma, Chander Shekher Sharma, Gurdas Sharma, Sat Paul Sharma, Ritiz Khajuria, M.L.Padha, Rajesh Sharma, K.L Sharma, Jagan Nath Sharma, Davinder Sharma Baboo, Ramesh Sharma,

Raman Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Prem Balotra and others call upon the all organizations and individuals in the country to strongly condemn the targeting of minorities, Hindu religious places in Bangladesh and demanded firm warning to Bangladesh Govt. on the continuous violence against Hindu community and religious places.

# Dr Vikas performs 250 Joint Replacement Surgeries at SMVD Narayana Hospital in 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Katra, has reaffirmed its position as a major health-



care hub for Jammu and Kashmir, with Senior Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement Surgeon Dr Vikas Padha achieving the milestone of 250 joint replacement surgeries in the calendar year 2025. This landmark achievement reflects the hospital's growing role in transforming the region's medical landscape by providing world-class orthopaedic care locally. Of the 250 procedures performed this year, nearly 200 were total knee replacements and about 50 were hip replacements, marking a significant rise from 2023, when Dr Padha performed 100 joint replacement surgeries. The 150 per cent increase in surgical volume highlights rising public trust and a clear shift away from medical migration to metropolitan cities such as Delhi and Punjab. The success is attributed to the combined efforts of Dr Padha's dedication and the strong medical ecosystem at SMVD Narayana Hospital. Known for his patient-centric approach, Dr Padha frequently performs extended surgical schedules to ensure timely care. Notably, on December 23, he conducted nine complex joint replacement surgeries in a single day. Such

high-volume performance is supported by a well-coordinated team of anaesthetists, nursing staff and technicians, along with state-of-the-art modular operation theatres, strict

infection control protocols and comprehensive ICU facilities. The hospital, established by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, stands as a visionary initiative aimed at delivering high-quality health-care to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The facility effectively implements government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY), enabling cashless treatment and removing financial barriers for patients across the Union Territory.

Dr M M Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVDNSH, described the milestone as a testament to the hospital's core mission of service to humanity. He said the achievement reflects not just numbers, but the quality and accessibility of care made possible through the Shrine Board's support.

Beyond surgery, Dr Padha has strengthened patient care through regular outreach OPDs in Billawar, Kathua and Rajouri, benefiting patients from remote districts including Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban, Samba and Kathua. These initiatives ensure accessible pre- and post-operative care, allowing patients to recover with confidence and comfort closer to home.



Marketing Manager, LIC of India Srinagar Division, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta being honoured by presenting a memento on behalf of Volleyball Association of J&K as a token of love & support for successful conduct of 37 JKUT Sr. Volleyball Championship at Jammu from December 15 to 17, 2025.

# Dr Ranjana's trained students shine with inspiring Yoga performance on Mahila Yog Shakti Diwas



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A group of young yoga students trained under the guidance of Dr. Ranjana Verma delivered an impressive and disciplined yoga performance under the banner of the world-renowned organisation, Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, reflecting the true spirit of dedication, culture, and wellness.

Bharatiya Yog Sansthan, which has earned national recognition for its selfless service in promoting yoga and holistic well-being, was hon-

oured on 19 December 2025 by the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in appreciation of its unwavering commitment, sincere efforts, and seva bhaav in spreading the message of health and harmony through yoga.

Continuing this noble mission, the organisation observed 25 December as Mahila Yog Shakti Diwas, with a special focus on empowering women and strengthening India's cultural and moral values

through the practice of yoga. The programme was organised with the aim of highlighting the role of women in nation-building while encouraging physical, mental, and spiritual wellness among young girls and women.

Instead of conventional celebrations, the day was dedicated entirely to yoga, discipline, and Indian traditions. Students demonstrated various yogic postures and routines that reflected both physical excellence and inner balance. The performances were designed not only to showcase skill but also to promote self-confidence, inner strength, and cultural pride.

The efforts of Dr. Ranjana Verma and her dedicated students were widely praised for carrying forward the organisation's vision with discipline, devotion, and excellence.

# JU hosts interactive session on Contemporary Discourses



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an intellectually stimulating academic engagement, the Department of Home Science, University of Jammu organized an Interactive Session on "Contemporary Discourses in Home Science Research and Pedagogy". The session was graced by Prof. Humnara Azim, Director, Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir, as the Resource Person. Prof. Azim shared valuable insights on emerging research trends, interdisciplinary approaches, and innovative pedagogical practices shaping the future of Home Science education. Her address emphasized the need for curriculum innovation, research responsiveness to societal needs, and the integration of contemporary methodologies in teaching and learning.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head of the Department, who highlighted the importance

of sustained academic dialogue and inter-university collaboration in strengthening research and pedagogical practices in Home Science. Prof. Rajni Dhingra, Former Dean, Research Studies, University of Jammu, Prof. Neeru Sharma, and Prof. Samridhi Arora also spoke on the occasion and shared their perspectives on evolving research priorities and pedagogical innovations in the discipline. Participants interacted with the resource person, making the session both enriching and thought-provoking. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sunaina Sharma, Research Scholar, Department of Home Science. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, research scholars, and students.

The event marked a significant step towards strengthening academic discourse and collaborative learning within the discipline of Home Science at the University.