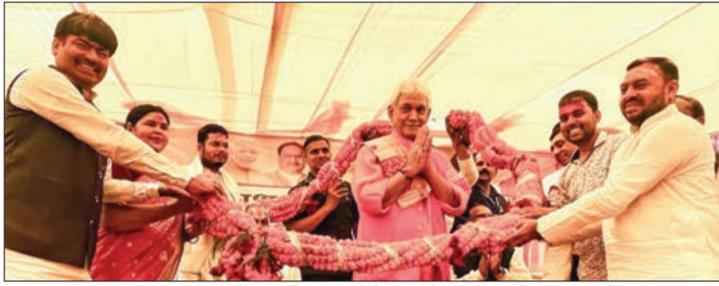


Sinha attends 'Holi Milan Samaroh' at Sendhwa, Jehanabad



LG Manoj Sinha being honoured during the 'Holi Milan Samaroh' at Sendhwa, Jehanabad in Bihar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 'Holi Milan Samaroh' at Sendhwa, Jehanabad in Bihar on Tuesday.

Holi in Jehanabad is celebrated with gaiety and enthusiasm. The Lieutenant Governor extended his greetings and best wishes for a brighter future of all.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke

on the rich spiritual, educational and cultural heritage of Magadha.

"Magadha region is the life element of our ancient culture. It has a prominent place in the history of modern India due to its ancient tradition and cultural values and the invincible strength of this land adorned with the richness of philosophy, language and literature is guiding us.

From this holy land, the principles of industry, trade,

commerce and urban development emerged and reached beyond the shores of India through scholars who came to Bodh Gaya from all over Asia," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people from all sections of the society to work together to revive the glory of ancient Magadha region.

"According to Vedic literature, there was 'Magadha' in

- ▶ Extends his hearty greetings, best wishes for brighter future of all
- ▶ Says, we need to work together to revive glory of ancient Magadha
- ▶ Magadha is the life element of our ancient culture
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the south-west, 'Anga' in the east and 'Videha' in the north. The first description is found in the 14th verse, 53rd Sutra of the third Ashtak of the Rigveda and it has been called by the name Keekak.

Many historians have also tried to highlight the fact that the integration of Vedic culture and Vratya culture first took place in Magadha. Along

with this, the tradition of Rajrishi started from Magadha and the first was Rajrishi Vishwamitra," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the dedicated efforts made under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the inclusive development of Magadha region and the state of Bihar.



No area will leave behind in terms of development in East Constituency: Yudhvir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move towards enhancing the infrastructure of East Constituency, BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday inaugurated the development work of the Nallah at Vikram Chowk, near Amar Singh Club.

The project will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 35 lakhs, aiming to address longstanding waterlogging issues in the area, thereby improving sanitation and reducing waterlogging during the monsoon season.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of key officials and prominent community members, including Executive Engineer (XEN) of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Suraj Singh, Mandal President Adarsh Kumar, Gurcharan Singh, Rajesh Dogra, Ashok Lamber, Rohit Mehra, Ajeet Jogi, and Robin Mehra.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of the project for the residents of the East Constituency.

He stated, "The development of the Nallah at Vikram Chowk is a crucial step towards mitigating the challenges posed by inadequate drainage systems.

This initiative reflects our commitment to creating a cleaner and healthier environment for our citizens."



MLA East Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating civic works at Vikram Chowk, near Amar Singh Club.

Sethi further highlighted that this project aligns with the broader vision of transforming the East Constituency into a model of growth and prosperity. He remarked, "Our goal is to ensure holistic development across all sectors. Infrastructure projects like these are foundational to our mission of building a resilient and progressive constituency."

The senior BJP leader also underscored the unwavering commitment of the BJP-led Central Government towards the development and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted, "The abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 marked a new era of integration and development for Jammu and Kashmir."

Since then, the Central Government has initiated numerous projects to bolster infrastructure, enhance connectivity, and improve the overall quality of life for our citizens."

projects are in the pipeline and will be executed in a phased manner to ensure systematic progress in the East constituency. No area will be left behind in terms of development, as the government at the Centre remains committed to equitable growth across all regions, he added.

"Every effort is being made to bridge developmental gaps and uplift every section of society. The government's proactive approach will ensure that progress reaches every doorstep, enhancing the overall quality of life for the people," he added.

The Community leaders present at the event expressed their gratitude towards MLA Sethi for addressing a critical issue that has affected the area for years.

They acknowledged that such developmental works not only improve living conditions but also boost the morale of the residents, fostering a sense of community pride.

Childless widow can remarry, yet claim deceased husband's Pension: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A childless widow can now remarry and yet claim her deceased husband's Pension or Family Pension.

These are some of the revolutionary reforms which the Union Minister Incharge Pensions who is also Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, had been brought in the recent few years.

Addressing the 34th meeting of the "Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies" (SCOVA) here on Tuesday, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, it is gratifying to note that we have been able to introduce several reforms in the Service Rules pertaining to women, which was called for with the changing norms of the society but the earlier government continued to follow a status quoist approach and hence avoided doing so. He said, we could carry forward these pathbreaking reforms with courage and conviction because we have the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Elaborating on this, Dr. Singh said, Family Pension to a childless widow will now continue even after remarriage, provided her income from other sources is less than the minimum Family Pension that she is receiving.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at the 34th meeting of the "Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies" (SCOVA) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Tuesday.

In another progressive decision, Dr. Jitendra said, Family Pension is now available also for the divorced or separated daughters without waiting for the outcome of a Divorce suit in the court and she can claim Family Pension through her deceased parent if her divorce proceedings have been constituted during the lifetime of her parent.

Citing another woman-centric reform, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, rules have been changed and a woman pensioner can now nominate her children for Family Pension, in precedence to her husband in the event of a marital discord leading to filing of Divorce suit or filing of case under Protection of Domestic Violation Act or

Dowry Prohibition Act.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving the lives of pensioners by streamlining processes and introducing technology-driven solutions. The meeting saw deliberations on key policy reforms and digital initiatives aimed at enhancing pensioners' welfare, ensuring ease of living, and resolving long-pending grievances. Dr. Jitendra highlighted that in the past decade, several steps have been taken to simplify pension procedures. Notably, the Jeevan Pramaan Digital Life Certificate, launched in 2014, has now expanded to include face authentication technology, making it easier for pensioners to submit life certificates remotely. A nationwide campaign in November 2024 saw 1.5 crore life certificates

generated, with 8 lakh submitted by senior citizens aged 80 and above. Another major reform discussed was the Bhavishya portal, which integrates pension processing with government health schemes like CGHS. This will ensure that retirees receive their CGHS cards at the time of retirement, eliminating delays. The Integrated Pensioners' Portal has also been linked with major banks such as SBI, PNB, and Canara Bank to ensure seamless pension disbursements.

Dr. Singh lauded the success of the Pension Adalat initiative, which has resolved over 70% of grievances across 12 editions since its inception in 2017. The most recent adalat, held in February 2025, saw 490 out of 531 cases settled on the spot. Similarly, the CPENGRAMS grievance

redressal system has achieved record efficiency, addressing over one lakh pension-related complaints, with a special focus on Defence pensioners.

The meeting also reviewed the National Anubhav Awards, which now recognize contributions from Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and Public Sector Banks. The Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshops were another focal point, having guided over 10,000 retiring personnel on financial security and post-retirement opportunities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated that the government remains committed to doing away with outdated rules and ensuring pensioners' concerns are addressed with urgency. "If any rule is causing inconvenience, we are open to revisiting it. The focus is on reducing bureaucratic hurdles and improving senior citizens' quality of life," he assured.

The meeting saw the participation of Secretary, DoPPW, Sri V. Srinivas, along with senior officials from various ministries and representatives of pensioners' associations, who actively participated in the discussions on key policy matters and welfare initiatives.

50 MVA GIS Grid sub-station proposed for Pahalgam: CM

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that a 50MVA, 220/33kV GIS Grid Sub-Station at Batkote (Pahalgam) has been proposed under the perspective transmission plan for Jammu and Kashmir for the period 2022-27.

While responding to a starred question by MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Power Department, stated that the projects under the transmission plan, including the Batkote Grid Station, are being implemented in a phased manner, depending on load growth and technical feasibility.

"As per the current guidelines issued under the Ministry of Power/Tariff Policy, projects exceeding the threshold limits set by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) can be executed through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mode. Based on JERC regulations, which fix ₹100 crore as the threshold limit, the most suitable mode for the project is being examined, and a decision will be taken in due course, considering the prevailing price levels," the Chief Minister stated.

Regarding land acquisition, the Chief Minister informed the House that the identification of land for the proposed Grid Substation is currently underway.

Div Com felicitates women leaders, achievers as Jammu University hosts Shakti Parv to mark Int'l Women's Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Monday attended 'Shakti Parv' organised by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies University of Jammu, in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to commemorate International Women's Day.

On the occasion, women leaders and achievers from different walks of life were felicitated, honouring their strength, resilience and achievements across different fields.

The event also brought together distinguished speakers, scholars, and students to engage in thought-provoking discussions and storytelling sessions, emphasizing the pivotal role of women in the society.

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar was the chief guest, while Devyani Rana was the special guest.

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the challenges women face due to societal biases at different stages of life.

He emphasized the urgent need to break these deeply ingrained stereotypes and urged the audience to ensure that women's empowerment is not just acknowledged for a single day but is reflected throughout the year in societal attitudes and actions.

Many women speakers also voiced their views. Devyani Rana shared her journey of breaking stereotypes in the



Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar and others during the event.

media industry and spoke about the representation of women in the media industry. She also emphasized the need for diverse voices in storytelling, which is an important part of journalism.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies Prof. Garima Gupta highlighted the significance of the event, stating, "Shakti Parv is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of women who continue to inspire change and challenge societal norms and also the men who play a pivotal role in women empowerment. It is only the synergy of both that can create a truly empowered society as a whole."

Regional Director IGNCA Shruti Awasthi said, "Women have always been the driving force behind societal progress, and Shakti Parv is a tribute to their unwavering strength, creativity, and leadership. Through cultural narratives and academic discussions, we aim to highlight their invaluable contribu-

tions and inspire future generations."

Women security guards, auto drivers, and women shopkeepers were felicitated, acknowledging their hard work, perseverance, and significant role in society.

Chairperson, MIER Group of Institutions Renu Gupta said that there is a need to accelerate efforts toward achieving gender equality. Renowned singer Aasha Kesar shared her personal journey, reflecting on the challenges and social restrictions faced by women in earlier times.

Nirmal Vikram spoke of women's empowerment as a gradual transition rather than a sudden revolution. Similarly, Fozia Akhtar stressed upon the role of Islam in empowering women, addressing common misconceptions about the religion's stance on women's rights.

Rolie Khanna, Bureau Chief Amar Ujala Jammu, discussed the evolving role of women in journalism, the challenges they face, and strategies to overcome gen-

der bias in the workplace.

Others present on the occasion included, Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, Prof. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali, Dr. Ramiyan Bharadwaj and Kumerjit Chajotra, faculty and students of Jammu University.

Call India Bharat only, says RSS General Secy

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale has pitched for calling India 'Bharat' only, saying questions should be raised on why the country should have two names, one in Hindi and another in English.

His remarks came at a book launch event in Noida on Monday.

"It is India in English and Bharat in Hindi. Can this happen anywhere else in the world?" he asked.

Hosabale noted that the Constitution of India is called 'Bharat ka samvid-

Block PHU being developed at CHC Sumbal: Sakeena

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a question, raised by Hilal Akbar Lone on criteria for upgradation of Community Health Centre (CHC) Sumbal to Sub-District Hospital level, on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that CHC Sumbal is not feasible for its upgradation to Sub District Hospital as per IPHS 2022 norms.

She apprised that as per IPHS 2022 guidelines, the districts with a population of less than 5 lakh and a

functional District Hospital (DH) do not qualify for a Sub District Hospital (SDH). She also informed that SDH Davar, Gurez, has been sanctioned in the district for being a snowbound area.

The Minister also informed the House that around 14 healthcare facilities are catering to the primary healthcare services. He said that CHC Sumbal is well equipped in terms of manpower, machinery, equipment, infrastructure, dialysis unit, medical and emergency equipment

serving as a critical healthcare hub in Bandipora district. She further informed that the Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) is also being developed at CHC Sumbal under PM-ABHIM which will be an important linkage for the latest healthcare facilities.

The Minister also informed that the department is focusing on consolidation of existing health institutions by way of strengthening the manpower, infrastructure and services in the existing healthcare institutions, rather than upgradation.

and trample others but to become a "lighthouse of the world".

"This is India's goal. But to achieve it, India needs to become stronger and self-reliant from this point of view. Until society is ready to say that we are such a country and we have come to give some message to the world, all these things will turn out to be empty words," Hosabale said.

"That's why it becomes a special responsibility of all of us to raise such a society. Otherwise, nobody would listen," he added.

Quoting noted philosopher and yogi Aurobindo Ghosh who had also participated in India's freedom struggle, the RSS general secretary said the 'maharishi' had said India would not rise just for its selfish interest or to bully

should move in the right direction in the system of society, family and other areas. That is why subjects of study are gradually changing in the universities. Only those subjects that provide employment should be taught, he said.

"For nation-building and upliftment of the society, (study of subjects that provide) employment is indeed necessary. But lectures are necessary in the universities for intellectual development, cultural development and civilisational development. Universities exist for this very purpose," he added.

Hosabale said everybody