

Shrine Board, Narayana Health Care extend collaboration for enhanced Healthcare Services

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The SMVD Charitable Society under the aegis of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and Narayana Vaishno Devi Specialty Hospitals Private Limited (NVD), a subsidiary of Narayana Health Care, Bangalore on Friday signed an extension of their Concession Agreement for an additional eight years upto 2033, for the operation of the Super Specialty Hospital at Kakryal-Katra.

The concession agreement was signed by Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB and Sunil Kumar, CN; Sr. VP and Head Business Transformations and Key initiatives, Narayana Health Care in the presence of Dr. Ashok Bhan and Suresh Kumar Sharma, Members of Shrine Board; Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Mahesh Sharma, FA/ Chief Accounts Officer, SMVDSB; Dr. Yash Pal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME; Sandhya J. Group Chief Financial Officer; Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director and Rohit



Officials of SMVDSB and Narayana Vaishno Devi Specialty Hospitals Private Limited during the event.

Sethi, Sr. Manager - Finance of NVD and other officers of Board and NVD.

The decision to extend the collaboration was taken after a thorough review of the hospital's performance and the quality of healthcare services being provided to the patients by the Board at its 73rd meeting held on December 18, 2024 under the Chairmanship of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor, JK-UT.

The Shrine Board and NH Care have been working together since 2016 to provide world-class healthcare services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji.

The Super Specialty Hospital inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and operational since April 2016 has been offering specialized medical services across over 20 specialties. Key focus areas include Cardiology, Cardio-Vascular Surgery, Medical and Surgical Gastroenterology, Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement, Renal Sciences, Medical, Radiation and Surgical Oncology (Cancer) besides Critical Care Medicine. Equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment, the hospital boasts a team of highly qualified and experienced doctors and paramedical staff ensuring top-notch patient care. Annually, the hospital

provides in-patient treatment to around 50,000 patients and out-patient consultations to nearly 60,000. Since its inception, the hospital has also provided free treatment worth over Rs.50 crore to more than one lakh needy patients, as part of the Shrine Board's medical support policy. The hospital has also been providing training and capacity-building programs for the medical and paramedical staff in the region.

Noteworthy that SMVDIME -Medical College, established at a cost of Rs. 350 crore, commenced its operations in November 2024, expanding the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality

Hospital's operational base. The college will be offering an MBBS program, starting with its first batch of 50 students in the 2025-26 academic session (upgradable to 100 seats). Notably, the hospital has 120 senior consultants and doctors serving in various superspeciality disciplines and additionally, the Board's Medical College has appointed 49 faculty members and 18 Sr. Residents, thus augmenting the numbers significantly.

With the signing of the renewed Agreement, Narayana Health (NH) will continue to provide comprehensive support in critical aspects including procurements, ensuring adherence to quality control standards as mandated by the National Medical Commission (NMC), facilitation in accreditation processes, implement and manage advanced IT systems, staffing and recruitment, besides providing expertise in budgeting and audits, thereby ensuring the hospital's operations remain streamlined, efficient and compliant with regulatory requirements.

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha begins with 'Kalash Yatra'

By listening to Bhagwat Katha, one can change his way of life to large extent: Swami Vishwatamanandji

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AKHNOOR: A huge "Kalash Yatra" was taken out with enthusiasm and religious fervour at Gyan Ganga Mathh, Devipura, Akhnoor.

The Yatra started from Chak Kirpalpur headed by His Holiness Atal Pethadeshwar Rajguru A c h a r y a Mahamandaleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswati ji Maharaj accompanied by scores of devotees hailing from different parts of JK UT.

During the yatra route, devotees performed various dance with drum beats and chanted bhajans in favour of Lord Krishna.

The Yatra passed through various locations and covered areas like Batla, Naiwala and finally culminated at Gyan Ganga Mathh, Devipur where "Shrimad Bhagwat Tatva Gyan Yagya (Bhagwat Katha)" is being organised starting from 28th of March to 3th of April.

The members of Aashram Committee, Devipur welcomed Swamiji and devo-



tees by showering flowers. Later, Parshad was distributed among the devotees.

While speaking during the inaugural function, Swamiji briefed the gathering about the importance of Bhagwat Katha in everyone's life and how one can take the path of self realization by reading and listening to the religious discourses.

Swamiji started the Katha by saying that by listening to the Bhagwat Katha, one can change his way of life to large extent.

Swamiji further said that our expressions only give birth to falsehood and makes the world untrue ultimately.

To carry forward the story, Swamiji said that God is in all, but he is also the most different, he is with us every moment. The Bhagwat Saptah involves reading, preaching, interpretation and singing of verses of the Shrimad Bhagwat and it was filled with colours of devotion, laughter, tales of separation and union with almighty.

Career guidance seminar organised for children at Khellani



A resource person delivering lecture.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a dedicated effort to empower and guide the youth, Indian Army organized a Career Guidance Seminar at PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School,

Khellani.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 75-100 students, including both boys and girls, eager to explore various career opportunities.

The seminar aimed to

enlighten students about diverse career paths, including entry into the Armed Forces, and inspire them to work towards a bright and promising future.

During the interaction, the Indian Army emphasized the importance of education, perseverance, and career awareness while reiterating its commitment to mentoring and supporting local youth in their aspirations.

The event also saw the presence of school faculty and community representatives, who appreciated the Indian Army's initiative in shaping the future of young minds through such meaningful engagements.

DDC member inaugurates development projects in Panchayat Rah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: In a major step toward regional development, BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma on Friday inaugurated two key infrastructure projects in Panchayat Rah of Block Chowki Choura. These include the newly constructed Hardu-Malara road-built at a cost of Rs 47 lakh-and the installation of a 63 KVA transformer worth Rs 6.50 lakh in the OBC locality of Rah Panchayat.

The newly installed transformer brings much-needed relief to residents who faced persistent low-voltage issues. Raised during a Janta Darbar, this demand was promptly addressed by Suresh Sharma, who ensured its installation



DDC member Suresh Sharma inaugurating developmental work.

through his District Development Fund.

Staying true to his commitment, the transformer is now operational, significantly enhancing the area's power supply.

The Hardu-Malara road, previously in deplorable condition, had been a major obstacle for daily commuters. Residents had long faced difficulties due to its

poor state, which often led to inconvenience and delays. With the completion of this road, connectivity has now been greatly enhanced, ensuring smoother travel and improved access for the people.

While addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma reiterated his dedication to accelerating developmental initiatives, emphasizing that

the concerns raised by the people-whether related to roads, electricity, or water supply-are being systematically addressed.

He credited these accomplishments to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose guidance, transformational welfare schemes are reaching the last person in the queue. He also high-

lighted the Jammu-Poonch National Highway as a landmark project that will further boost regional growth and connectivity.

The residents of Panchayat Rah, expressing their deep appreciation, commended Suresh Sharma for his proactive efforts and urged him to continue championing their developmental needs.

The occasion was graced by several dignitaries, including BJP leader Captain BD Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, former Sarpanch Ramesh Lal, Rattan Verma, Sham Lal, Pandit Bal krishna, retired Naib Tehsildar Tara Singh, Subedar Ranjit Singh, Kaushal Gupta, Om Prakash, Karam Singh, Kaka Ram, along with department officials and other prominent figures.

DC inspects beautification works in Kishtwar Town; inaugurates Selfie Point at Historical Qilla Top

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KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan inaugurated a Selfie Point here at the historical Qilla Top under the #KISHTWAR initiative. The site, aimed at adding to the town's tourism attraction and beautification, has been executed by the Municipal Council at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 lakh.

The Selfie Point is part of the broader Town Beautification Project designed to uplift the aesthetic value of Kishtwar Township and promote its rich historical significance.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the Municipal Council for their work. He also directed KDA authorities to ensure regular maintenance of the park at Qilla Top to preserve its beauty for visitors.



Later, the DC also inaugurated fountains at Hidayal Chowk and Shaheedi Mazaar, further adding to the beautification of Kishtwar town.

Qilla Top, located southwest of Kishtwar town, holds immense historical importance. The hillock was once home to a fort and palace built during the reign of the Rajas of Kishtwar, notably by Raja Kahan Paul. Over time, the fort and palace have disappeared, leaving behind the

throne made of stone and two preserved guns, locally known as 'TOPE,' as remnants of the site's regal history.

The DC also inaugurated the Prefabricated Tehsildar's residence building constructed by the Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division Kishtwar within the premises of the Tehsildar's office. The building has been built at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakh.

Earlier, the DC inspected the ongoing retrofitting

work at the HRT Lift Scheme of the Jal Shakti Department for the Town. The DC directed ExEn PHE, to complete the work in a time bound manner.

The DC was accompanied by Executive Officer Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; ExEn Jal Shakti, Sunil Sharma; Executive Engineer PWD, Ravinder Kumar; AEE Mechanical and Hospital Sub-Division Kishtwar and other officers and concerned staff members.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan RS Pura Police organises anti-drug rally at New Agrachak

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To combat the scourge of drug abuse, an anti-drug rally under Civic Action Programme (CAP) was organized today by Police Station R.S Pura at New Agra Chak, R.S Pura.

Prominent citizens of the area, youth including sportspersons as well as children enthusiastically participated in the rally.

SDPO Gurmeet Singh, Inspector Ravi Singh Parihar (SHO), SI Rajinder Singh IC BPP AgraChak, ASI Ranbir Singh BPP Baspur and ASI Ashwani Kumar I/C BPP Badyal Brahmana also participated.

Spreading the anti drug message, the rally started



Police officials along with students taking out rally.

from village New Agrachak and after passing through different areas of the village culminated at Rahda Krishan Mandir.

Later, the participating senior citizens were honored by Special Antidrug Mementos from District Police Jammu. The main

motive of the event was to project these Citizens as Role Models against Drug Abuse in the society.

The ground breaking campaign aimed to educate the public about the ill effects of drug abuse. The initiative capitalized on ensuring the anti-drug

message reaches a broad audience promoting drugs and alcohol free lifestyle.

The campaign sought to foster enduring awareness about the issue of drug abuse. It also served as a constant reminder to the individuals, reinforcing the importance of staying away from illicit substances.

The innovative anti-drug awareness campaign reflected the Jammu Police's commitment in tackling drug abuse and safeguarding the well-being of the community.

The Anti-drug Campaign launched by District Police Jammu under Civic Action Programme (CAP) will continue in other parts of the District especially Drug hotspots.

Workshop cum awareness programme on PMAY-G, Awaas Plus 2.0 held in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj today organized a one-day workshop cum awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin and Awaas Plus 2.0 here in the Conference Hall DC Office



Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh during the programme.

Complex.

Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh was the chief guest, while Assistant Commissioner Development Dr Ranjit Singh Kotwal presided over the programme. He welcomed the chief guest and informed that the objective of the programme was to enhance awareness, gather feedback and strategize for the effective execution of PMAY-G scheme.

Speaking at the workshop,

the ADC highlighted that welfare schemes can only be successful when people actively embrace and participate in the implementation process. He stressed that the purpose of the workshop was to ensure that all eligible and deserving beneficiaries are registered in the ongoing Awaas Plus 2.0 survey. He directed RDD officials to ensure the geo-tagging of all works executed under the scheme for transparency and accountability.

A documentary highlighting achievements of the Rural Development Department under PMAY-G, success stories of beneficiaries and various technical features available in the Awaas App was also screened.

Later, the Officials gave a detailed presentation covering key aspects viz Evolution of Rural Housing Schemes, aims & objectives of PMAY-G, eligibility criteria for beneficiaries, challenges faced in Udhampur District in regis-

tering beneficiaries and strategizes to overcome these challenges

The workshop concluded with an interactive session, where field staff shared their experiences, discussed challenges in implementation and explored solutions to improve the execution of the scheme.

The awareness cum workshop was attended by all BDOs, Surveyors, staff of RDD blocks and PMAY-G beneficiaries from all blocks.

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) affiliated with All India Secondary Teachers federation (AISTF) announced the expansion of its district body in Rajouri, on the recommendations of District President Rajouri Surjeet Kumar.

The newly appointed office bearers include Jasvir Singh Thakur as District Sr Vice President Rajouri, Agypal Sharma as District

Chairman, Abdul Aziz as Zonal president Nowshera, Mohd Ashraf as Zonal president Baljallan, Tahir Javed as Zonal president Rajouri, Anwar Awana as Zonal president Khawas, Abdul Qayoom as

Zonal president Kotranka, Mohd Shabir as District Advisor, Javid Iqbal Mirza as Chairman for Zone Thanamandi, Manja kot, and Doongi, Mohd Razaq as District Additional General Secretary, Dr. Shoket as District Organiser, Mohd Latief as District Chief Publicity Secretary, Mohd Zubair as Zonal General Secretary Baljallan, Raghunath Singh as District Cashier, Mohd Hanif Lodhi as District Organiser, Mohd Shabir Lodhi as District Chief Coordinator, Ravinder Singh as District Chief Organiser, Ghulam Mustafa as Zonal Additional General Secretary, Sadiq Khatana as Zonal president Mongla, Mohd Aslam as

Zonal Chairman, Robia Kousar as Zonal Advisor, Dharampal Sharma as District Legal Advisor, Parkash Sharma as District Chief Convenor.

In a joint statement District General Secretary Rajouri Mohd Shafiq Mirza and District Sr. Vice President Gulshan Sharma announced that a grand function of the Teachers Forum will be organized at Rajouri after Eid ul Fiter, where all stakeholders are invited.

Chairman Showket Ali Beig, State President Mohd Ashraf Sheikh congratulated the newly appointed office bearers, expressing hope that they would work towards the welfare of the teaching and student communities.

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