Yudhvir Sethi launches Rs 25 lakh development work for tile installation in Ward No 8

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his efforts to strengthen civic infrastructure and improve public convenience, MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday started development work worth Rs 25 lakh for the installation of tiles from the Vishav Hindu Parishad Office, Rehari, to Rehari Chungi in Ward No. 8. The project aims to enhance pedestrian facilities, improve the overall appearance of the locality, and provide better infrastructure for residents and commuters using the stretch on a daily basis. The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to upgrade basic amenities and ensure sustainable urban development in Jammu East constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that development of local infrastructure remains one of his top priorities. "Our aim is to ensure that every locality in Jammu East gets better civic facilities and improved infrastructure. The tile installation work from Vishav Hindu Parishad Office to Rehari Chungi will greatly benefit residents and pedestrians by providing a cleaner and safer pathway," he said.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi starting development work in Ward 8.

Sethi further stated that the central government is committed to implementing development projects that directly improve the quality of life for people. He emphasized that such initiatives not only enhance convenience for residents but also contribute to the beautification and modernization of urban areas.

The MLA appreciated the AEE Sahil Arora and JEE Rakesh for their support and dedication in ensuring the smooth execution of the development work.

Local residents and party workers welcomed the initiative and expressed hope that more development works will be undertaken in the area in the coming months.

Among those present on the occasion were Swati Sharma (Amphalla Mandal President), Raman Sharma (District Spokesperson), Dr. Akshay Sharma (Ex-Corporator Ward No. 8), Ashok Salgotra, Sharda Devi, Kamaljeet Kour, Rohit Gupta, Puneet Chawla, Ramesh Kumar, Sohan Lal, Karan Sharma, Pooja Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Ajeet Jogi, Rahul Sharma, Nipun Malhotra, and several other prominent residents and party activists.

DLSA Jammu organises awareness programme on Int'l Women's Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Jammu, R. N. Watal and the overall supervision of Secretary Maleeka Sharma, on Tuesday organized an awareness programme on International Women's Day at CMH College of Legal Studies Chowadhi Sainik Colony.

Secretary DLSA Jammu Maleeka Sharma graced the occasion as the chief guest and emphasized the importance of legal empowerment for women.

She highlighted International Women's Day as a reminder of the progress made toward gender equality and the ongoing efforts required to achieve it.

Secretary DLSA Jammu Maleeka Sharma with students and faculty at CMH College of Legal Studies.

Aligning with the 2026 theme "Give to Gain", she underscored how empowering women leads to broader societal gains, serving as a call to action for accelerating gender parity through sustained advocacy and global collaboration.

The programme aimed to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about gender inequality and promote gender equality.

Resource person Advocate Uma Kapahi-Panel Lawyer DLSA Jammu- delivered insightful sessions, highlighting the contributions of notable women from past and present who have shaped the Indian nation.

The initiative received an enthusiastic response from students and faculty, reinforcing DLSA Jammu's commitment to women's rights and empowerment.

Secy ITD reviews MeghRaj Cloud Services rollout in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards modernizing Jammu and Kashmir's IT ecosystem, Secretary Information Technology Department (ITD) Dr.Piyush Singla on Tuesday chaired a high level meeting to review the hiring process and operationalization of MeghRaj Cloud Services.

This flagship initiative, part of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI)'s MeghRaj Cloud framework, is designed to provide scalable, secure and cost-effective cloud infrastructure, enabling seamless digital governance, data management and service delivery across government departments.

The meeting saw participation from key stakeholders including the CEO, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA); Special Secretary, IT Department; Deputy Secretary, IT Department; representatives from NIC and NICSI and other officers.

Secretary ITD, Dr.Piyush Singla chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

Discussions focused on the project's current status, timelines and challenges in implementation.

Secretary IT emphasized the importance of holding regular meetings of the cloud committee to maintain momentum. He stressed proper utilization of allocated resources, ensuring smooth onboarding of cloud services for all eligible departments and prioritizing cybersecurity and data security measures. "MeghRaj will be a game-changer for J&K, reducing dependency on legacy systems and fostering innovation in public service delivery," Dr.Singla stated.

The successful execution of the MoU represents a pivotal milestone, paving the way for departments to migrate workloads to the cloud, enhancing data security, disaster recovery and real-time analytics. Future phases will prioritize capacity building and robust cybersecurity protocols.

The IT Department remains committed to drive J&K's digital transformation, aligning with national goals under the Digital India initiative.

DM bans transportation of bovine animals from Jammu Dist

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu Rakesh Minhas, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), has banned transportation of Bovine animals such as Cow, Buffalo, Oxen, Bulls, Calves etc from District Jammu to other Districts, except with written permission from District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate Jammu under certain conditions imposed by this office from time to time.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from date of its issue or till the order is rescinded whichever be earlier. Any person who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section-223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Rahul Gandhi took pride in topless protest at AI Summit, exposed himself: Gaurav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and Convenor, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta on Tuesday strongly condemned Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for allegedly orchestrating and then proudly endorsing the disgraceful protest by Youth Congress workers during the recently held World AI Summit.

In a hard-hitting statement, Gupta said Rahul Gandhi has effectively admitted his role in the controversy through his own remarks made during a party interaction on Monday, where he was heard saying:

"AI Summit ka naam suna hai? Kar diya Kaam Youth Congress walon ne."

Gupta said the remark clearly demonstrates that

Rahul Gandhi took pride in the shameful topless protest staged by Youth Congress activists, which attempted to embarrass India in front of foreign delegates attending the prestigious international summit.

"Rahul Gandhi's own words expose the truth. Instead of condemning such irresponsible behaviour, he is openly celebrating it. This clearly proves that the protest was not spontaneous but a pre-planned political stunt aimed at defaming India on a global platform," Gupta said.

The BJP leader said it was shocking that someone occupying the constitutional position of Leader of Opposition would glorify acts that insult the nation and damage India's image internationally.

"Rahul Gandhi appears more interested in creating controversy and chaos rather than contributing positively to the country's progress. His conduct once again reflects the mindset of what people now rightly call the ANC - Anti National Congress," Gupta said.

He further alleged that the Congress party has repeatedly tried to undermine India's reputation at international forums, whether through controversial statements abroad or through disruptive acts at global events hosted by India.

"At a time when the world is recognising India's leadership in technology and innovation under Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi and his party chose to stage cheap theatrics to grab headlines and malign the country," Gupta added.

Gupta asserted that such anti-India politics will never succeed in stopping the country's rise. "India's global stature and progress cannot be derailed by the desperate and irresponsible actions of Rahul Gandhi and his party," he said.

CS pushes for fast-track recruitment to fill vacancies

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Tuesday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the status of vacancies and the progress of recruitments being undertaken through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) across various departments of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries; Chairperson, JKSSB; Secretary, JKPSC and other concerned representatives from different departments.

While reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for expeditious filling of all critical vacancies to strengthen governance and improve public service delivery. He called upon all Administrative Secretaries to hold regular follow-up meetings with their departments and recruitment agencies to ensure that pending issues are resolved and vacancies are filled at the earliest.

He emphasized that timelines fixed for ongoing recruitment drives must be strictly adhered to, and directed that all posts received by the recruiting agencies should be advertised without delay.

The Chief Secretary further advised the recruiting agencies to prepare and publish examination calendars simultaneously, enabling aspirants to have clarity regarding the schedule of examinations and adequate time to prepare.

During the review, the Chief Secretary also took note of several bottlenecks affecting certain recruitments in JKPSC and JKSSB. He examined each issue in detail and directed the concerned departments to issue necessary clarifications and resolve procedural hurdles immediately so that the recruitment process is not delayed.

Observing that prolonged recruitment cycles often create uncertainty for job aspirants, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of conducting recruitment within a defined timeframe. He noted that a predictable recruitment cycle would allow applicants to plan their careers better and reduce anxiety among candidates.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M.Raju presented a comprehensive overview of vacant posts across government departments. The data revealed that a total of 40,661 posts are currently vacant in different departments, including 3,808 Gazetted, 24,507 Non-Gazetted, and 12,351 Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) posts.

Among major departments, Health & Medical Education accounts for a significant share of vacancies with 2,497 Gazetted, 8,088 Non-Gazetted and 2,712 MTS posts, while other departments with substantial vacancies include Agriculture Production, Power Development, Finance, Revenue, Forest, Public Works (R&B) and Youth Services & Sports.

While reviewing the recruitment being undertaken by the JKSSB for Non-Gazetted and MTS posts the Chairperson SSB, Vikas Kundal revealed that since 2019 the Board has received 46,744 posts, out of which 9,260 were withdrawn, leaving 37,484 posts for recruitment. The Board has already completed selections for 32,956 posts, including 27,449 selections pertaining to this period.

He further added that at present, 10,035 posts remain under different stages of recruitment with JKSSB. These include 2,532 posts yet to be advertised, 4,768 posts at the examination stage, 1,258 at the selection stage, and 1,477 posts under live advertisements awaiting completion of the recruitment process.

Meanwhile the Secretary, JKPSC, Bashir Ahmad Dar apprised the meeting about the status of posts referred to the JKPSC for recruitment. He divulged that at present, 1,745 Gazetted posts are under process with the Commission out of these, against 1,573 posts selection schedule has already been drawn, while 172 posts are yet to be scheduled due to certain procedural issues.

He also gave out that a recruitment timeline has been worked out by the Commission for filling these posts. As per the schedule, 630 selections are targeted for completion by March 2026, 476 during April-May 2026, 158 during June-July 2026, and 309 during August-September 2026.

Additionally department-wise analysis shows that the highest number of posts with JKPSC pertains to Health & Medical Education (872 posts) followed by School Education (470 posts), General Administration (170 posts) and Higher Education (129 posts), among others.

The meeting was informed that all departments have shared the latest status of advertised posts, vacant positions and posts proposed to be referred to recruiting agencies.

It was resolved that all clear vacancies without legal or procedural issues will be referred to the respective recruiting agencies at the earliest for timely recruitment.

FICCI FLO JKL celebrates women empowerment journey with 'Samriddhi'

Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of J&K along with other dignitaries at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter hosted "Samriddhi", a special event celebrating a year of impactful initiatives focused on women's empowerment, grassroots entrepreneurship, and collaborative development across the region.

The event was graced by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of J&K, as the Chief Guest, and Poonam Sharma, National President, FICCI FLO, as the Guest of Honour.

The gathering witnessed participation from FLO members, Self-Help Group (SHG) workers, Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) representatives, and dignitaries from various professional and social sectors.

Addressing the gathering, Aarti Chowdhary, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, described Samriddhi as a celebration of the chapter's journey over the past year-one defined by collaboration, grassroots engagement, and meaningful impact. She highlighted that the chapter's key focus during the year was to work closely with SHGs, FPOs, and cooperative institutions, ensuring that women are not only trained but also supported in building sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurial opportunities.

During the event, FICCI FLO JKL highlighted several collaborations aimed at strengthening women-led economic participation. The chapter signed MoUs with cooperatives such as UAM, MCL, and the Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation (JKFDC), along with a significant partnership with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, to create structured pathways for livelihood generation among rural women and SHG members.

Further strengthening these collaborations, the chapter also signed a national-level MoU with UMMAC and MCL Cooperative, along with three state-level MoUs with SRLM under the leadership of Mr. Subramanian, FIDGO, and Government Degree College Kathua, aimed at promoting skill development, entrepreneurship, and capacity building.

A key highlight of the year was the Skill-to-Scale initiative, through which over 100 women from SHGs and FPOs were trained.

Through a collaboration with Nidra Mattresses, these women were able to convert their skills into livelihood opportunities by producing pillow covers for the company, creating a sustainable source of income and financial independence.

The chapter also launched two important initiatives, including a women-led dairy livelihood programme in collaboration with NABARD, under which cattle were provided to women beneficiaries, and the installation of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) to strengthen community preparedness and access to weather information.

Nasir Aslam Wani appreciated FLO's efforts in empowering women at the grassroots level and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems. Poonam Sharma commended the JKL Chapter for its collaborative approach and impactful initiatives. She remarked, "FICCI FLO's strength lies in its ability to translate vision into meaningful impact. The work undertaken by the Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter reflects how collaborative partnerships can create sustainable opportunities and empower women at the grassroots level."

LG lauds bravery of CISF personnel on Raising Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday greeted personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force on its raising day and said that the nation is proud of their service and sacrifices.

In an X post, Sinha saluted the bravery and dedication of CISF personnel, acknowledging their role in safeguarding the country's critical infrastructure.

"Greetings to all CISF personnel and their families on CISF Raising Day. CISF's unwavering commitment to securing our nation's critical infrastructure is truly commendable," the Lieutenant Governor wrote.

"The nation is proud of your service and sacrifices. I salute your bravery and steadfast dedication to duty," he added.

The CISF was formed under an Act of Parliament in 1968 and has evolved into a multi-faceted Central Armed Police Force ever since.

From a modest beginning with just 3,129 personnel, it has grown into a formidable force with over 2.20 lakh personnel deployed across the country.