

# Opposition targeting PM Modi for political gains, J&K witnesses development after 2014: Yudhvir Sethi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The opposition has no constructive agenda and is only focused on targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the people of the country are aware of the transformative work being done under his leadership.

This was stated by BJP MLA from Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi in a meeting with party workers of the East Constituency to review ongoing development works and discuss future planning aimed at building a "smart constituency."

Addressing the gathering, Sethi strongly criticised the opposition for what he termed as "baseless and politically motivated attacks" against Narendra Modi. He said that such criticism is driven by frustration over the continuous development initiatives undertaken by the Central Government.

He further emphasized that Jammu & Kashmir, particularly the Jammu East constituency, has witnessed significant progress in infrastructure, public services, and civic amenities due to the government's focused approach.

The meeting also served as a



BJP MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi speaking at party workers meeting.

platform to assess the status of ongoing development projects and to outline future projects for enhancing urban infrastructure.

"We are committed to transforming Jammu East into a model constituency with smart infrastructure, better civic facilities, and improved quality of life for residents. Continuous monitoring and public participation are key to achieving this goal," he added.

Reviewing the progress of the past year, Sethi highlighted several key development works undertaken in the Jammu East

constituency.

He said that significant improvements have been made in road infrastructure, drainage systems, and sanitation facilities. Multiple lanes and by-lanes have been upgraded, while blacktopping of roads has enhanced connectivity within the constituency.

He further informed that efforts have been made to strengthen urban infrastructure through better street lighting, installation of modern LED systems, and beautification of public spaces.

Work on upgrading parks,

community halls, and public utilities has also been carried out to improve the overall quality of life for residents.

Sethi also noted improvements in water supply and sewerage systems, stating that several projects have been initiated to address long-standing civic issues. He emphasized that public grievances have been addressed on priority through regular monitoring and coordination with concerned departments.

Looking ahead, the MLA outlined a comprehensive vision for the future, focusing on the development of Jammu East as a smart and sustainable constituency.

He said that upcoming plans include the introduction of digital governance initiatives, better traffic management systems, expansion of green

spaces, and further modernization of civic amenities. "We are committed to building a constituency that is not only developed but also future-ready. Our focus will remain on sustainable infrastructure, smart solutions, and citizen-centric governance," he added. Sethi also urged party workers to stay connected with the grassroots and ensure effective implementation of government schemes, while maintaining transparency and accountability.

Prominent BJP leaders and party members present at the meeting included Former Minister and BJP J&K Vice president Priya Sethi, Ex-Mayor Rajinder Sharma, District President Jammu Rajesh Gupta, District Vice President and former Corporator Anil Masoom, District Prabhari Brijeshwar Singh Rana Rana, General Secretary Ravi Kant, Jammu East Mandal President Adarsh Jathiar, Bajalta Mandal President Shiv Kumar Sharma, and Ambphalla Mandal President Swati Sharma besides ex-corporators, booth level and Jammu East Mandal office bearers and senior leaders of Jammu east constituency.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen organisational activities and accelerate development initiatives in the constituency, ensuring that the benefits of governance reach every section of society.

# Tara Chand leads discussions on education, jobs, social justice and protection of reservation rights; youth urged to take leadership role



Former Dy CM, Tara Chand at a meeting of SC, ST, and OBC communities.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NARAINA: A meeting of the SC, ST, and OBC communities was held on Sunday at Lucky Resort, Naraina, under the leadership of former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Tara Chand. The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout, drawing participants from across the region, including community leaders, youth, intellectuals, and social activists. The meeting reflected a strong sense of unity and shared purpose among the participants, who gathered to deliberate on key issues concerning the welfare, empowerment, and future of reserved category communities. The primary objective was to strengthen social cohesion, create awareness about constitutional rights, and formulate strategies for inclusive development.

Addressing the gathering, speakers highlighted pressing concerns related to education, employment opportunities, social justice, and the effective implementation of government welfare schemes. A major focus was laid on safeguarding reservation policies and ensuring fair representation of SC, ST, and OBC communities in various sectors. Several speakers emphasized that unity among these communities is essential to protect their constitutional rights and to effectively raise their voice against any attempts to dilute welfare measures. They called for collective efforts to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the deserving sections without discrimination or delay. The youth actively participated in the deliberations, expressing their commitment to community development and leadership. They were encouraged to prioritize education, skill development, and social awareness, and to come forward as agents of positive change in society. Speakers stressed that empowering youth is key to securing a brighter and more progressive future for the community.

Special emphasis was also laid on promoting brotherhood, harmony, and solidarity among all sections of society. The participants collectively resolved to work unitedly for the protection

of their rights and the overall upliftment of marginalized communities. The meeting concluded on an energetic and inspiring note, with slogans such as "Unity is Strength," "Jai Bhim," "Jai Bharat," and "Jai Constitution" resonating throughout the venue, reflecting the determination and spirit of the participants.

Prominent personalities who attended and shared their views included Sham Lal Bassan (President, Dalit Chetna Manch J&K), Prof. G.L. Thapa, R.A. Inqabi (KAS), Mohinder Bhagat, Adv. Raehit Dogra, Dr. Kartar Bhushan, Sham Lal Radha, Hans Raj Bhagat, Capt. Kali Das, Yusuf Masih, Som Nath Verma, Jatinder Mehra, Ch. Bashir Mohammad, Capt. Mohan Lal, Hans Raj, Vipin Lachotra, Sham Lal, Vikram (President, Guru Raviddass Sabha Khour), ZEO Mohan Lal, Lecturer Kasturi Lal, Kiran Kumar, Rajesh Kumar (Babbi), Smt. Bachno, Smt. Sarfo, Mangesh Kumar, Bua Ditta, Capt. Gorkha, Capt. Gopal Dass, and Ishar Dass.

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## Veteran BJP leader Datta Meghe passes away

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: Veteran BJP leader Datta Meghe passed away on Sunday evening at the age of 89, his close aide and former Nagpur deputy mayor Raghunath Malikar said.

Meghe is the father of Hingna MLA Sameer Meghe and former MLC Sagar Meghe.

Datta Meghe was a four-time Congress Lok Sabha MP from Nagpur, Ramtek and Wardha and was also Raja Sabha member between 2002 and 2008. He was part of the Sharad Pawar-led (undivided) NCP when it was formed in 1999 and was a state minister.

He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014. He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters and grandchildren.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said Meghe was a like an elder brother and the news of his passing away was heart-breaking.

# J&K Government Pharmacist Association raises key demands, extends support to strike



JKGPA members during a meeting at Jammu.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Government Pharmacist Association (JKGPA) was held today under the leadership of Bharat Bhushan Bhagat, in the presence of Sushil Sudan, to deliberate on the long-pending demands of the pharmacist cadre. Addressing the gathering, the President urged the Government to take immediate steps to resolve the pending issues of pharmacists, stating that several important files have remained unattended in the Civil Secretariat for a long time. He also appealed to the Chief Accounts Officers (CAOs) and Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the Health Department not to withhold the two-and-a-half

days' salary of pharmacists who are performing roster duties in accordance with SRO 274 of 1991 dated March 14, 1991.

The Association further strongly demanded the withdrawal of Finance Department Order No. HME/Acetts/236/2022/02 (CC-150945) dated January 20, 2026, which they believe adversely affects the interests of the pharmacist cadre.

Speaking on the occasion, Sushil Sudan urged the Government to positively consider the proposal submitted by the Pharmacy Council of India regarding rank promotion of pharmacists and to expedite the process at the earliest. The Association also extended full support to the two-day strike scheduled for March 24 and 25, 2026, as

announced by the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (Jammu Province). It appealed to all members of the pharmacist cadre to participate in the strike with unity and determination. The Jammu Province unit of the Association strongly condemned Notification No. 043 BOPEE of 2026 dated March 17, 2026, regarding the training of medical/pharmacist assistants. The Association termed this notification a clear violation of Government Order No. 803 of 1993 dated October 11, 1993, under which the designation of "Medical Assistant" had already been reclassified as "Pharmacist."

The Association stated that despite raising concerns with the BOPEE Chairman last year regarding the nomenclature, the notification has been reissued, which they described as unjust to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Prominent members present at the meeting included Rakesh Bakshi, Bahadur Singh, Suresh Chauhan, Ram Lal, K Tarun Sharma, Sham Sunder, Sanjay Choudhary, Madan Sharma, and Yash Paul Sharma.

# 'Super Girl & Super Woman of the Year' finale held Shilpa Thakur honoured with 'Super Girl of the Year 2026' for excellence in journalism



Editor-in-Chief STATE TIMES, Raj Daluja presenting Super Girl of the Year 2026 award to journalist Shilpa Thakur.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The much-awaited Super Girl & Super Woman of the Year Super Finale was held on Sunday at the Grand Taj Resort in Bantala, Jammu, organized by JD Events Production in association with Shree Ganesh Entertainments Co.

The event, aimed at celebrating and empowering

women and young girls in the region, witnessed a grand gathering of participants, dignitaries, and audience members. The chief guest, Raj Daluja, Editor-in-Chief STATE TIMES, graced the occasion and commended the initiative for promoting talent, confidence, and leadership among women. The finale was co-powered

by Khushaal Shah Amar Nath Jewellers and the Grand Taj Resort. The event was sponsored by VLCC, Shingar Auto Deal, with STATE TIMES as the media partner.

Shilpa Thakur, a journalist with The Mandate News Paper, has brought pride to Jammu by being recognized as an achiever and honoured with the prestigious title of

"Super Girl of the Year 2026."

The award acknowledges her dedication, hard work, and significant contribution to the field of journalism. Known for her commitment to truthful reporting and impactful storytelling, Shilpa Thakur has emerged as an inspiration for many aspiring journalists, especially young girls.

Her achievement reflects not only personal excellence but also highlights the growing role of women in media and society. The honour has been widely appreciated by colleagues, well-wishers, and members of the journalism fraternity.

This recognition marks yet another milestone in her professional journey.

The grand finale concluded on a celebratory note, leaving an empowering message of equality, self-belief, and encouragement for future generations.

# Bhalla slams Central Govt over price rise, LPG shortage

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Intensifying his attack on the Centre, Working President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and former minister Raman Bhalla on Sunday accused the BJP-led government of failing to address the growing hardships faced by common people, particularly rising inflation and shortages of essential commodities.

Addressing a public gathering at Sai Kalan Khour Buan, Bhalla said that people across Jammu and Kashmir are struggling under the burden of unprecedented price rise, which has severely affected household budgets. He alleged that the government has failed to regulate the prices of essential goods, leaving citizens to cope with mounting financial stress on their own.

"From food items to cooking



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

fuel, everything has become costlier. The government has turned a blind eye to the sufferings of the people," Bhalla said. He further accused the ruling dispensation of prioritizing big business houses over the welfare of ordinary citizens.

The senior Congress leader also claimed that since the BJP assumed power at the Centre, the gap between the rich and the poor has widened significantly. According to

him, instead of providing relief to economically weaker sections, policies are being framed in a way that benefits only a select few, pushing the common masses into deeper distress.

Referring to global developments, Bhalla pointed to ongoing tensions in the Middle East as an additional factor contributing to rising prices and supply disruptions. However, he maintained that the government has failed to

take adequate steps to shield the public from these impacts.

He expressed particular concern over the alleged shortage and black-marketing of LPG cylinders. "People are facing a double blow-skyrocketing prices and difficulty in accessing essential supplies. Many households are running from pillar to post due to artificial shortages. This reflects a complete failure of governance," he said.

Bhalla also criticized the

BJP for what he described as unfulfilled promises, stating that many commitments made to the public remain unimplemented. "The claims of improving people's lives have not translated into reality. There is widespread disillusionment among the masses," he added.

During the interaction, local residents raised issues such as irregular supply of essential commodities, inadequate public services, and the rising cost of living. They urged immediate intervention to address these concerns.

Reaffirming the Congress party's commitment to public welfare, Bhalla assured that these issues would be raised at appropriate forums. He emphasized the need for pro-people policies, effective price control measures, and strict action against black-marketing to ensure fair access to essential goods.

# Pakistan obsessed with India; Think twice before provoking: Gaurav on Basit remark

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and Convenor International Affairs Gaurav Gupta has strongly condemned the reckless and outrageous statements made by former Pakistani diplomat Abdul Basit, in which he brazenly threatened Indian cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai. Gupta described Basit's remarks as "insane, desperate, and proof that Beggaristan (Pakistan) remains obsessed with India and incapable of independent, responsible statecraft." "Basit's statements reveal a nation living in delusions-licking the boots of others, begging for attention, and fantasizing about striking India. Pakistan is a beggar country in every sense: weak, frustrated, and mentally unbalanced," Gupta said. "Even today, they glorify 'Operation Sindoor' as if it were a movie



trailer for future attacks, forgetting that India has already shown the world its decisive power." Gupta emphasized that India is fully prepared to counter any threat, and Pakistan's hollow boasts will meet a response so swift and severe that it will shock anyone who underestimates India's strength. "Our armed forces are modern, lethal, and ready. Every missile, every unit, every intelligence operation is calibrated to neutralize threats. India does not threaten-it annihilates aggression. Basit and his cronies must remember that

Mumbai and New Delhi are untouchable, and any attack will invite retaliation beyond Pakistan's imagination," Gupta said. Detailing India's readiness, Gupta stated India's strategic and tactical nuclear arsenal is fully capable of responding to any provocation; Precision strikes, rapid mobilization, and surgical operations ensure Beggaristan cannot even dream of success in its fantasies and Recent operations have already sent Pakistan a clear message: India acts decisively, and any misadventure will be punished immediately and severely." "Pakistan has nothing to its name but hollow threats. It lives in past fantasies, worships delusions like Operation Sindoor, and imagines itself a danger to India. In reality, it is weak, unstable, and licking the global hand before thinking of aggression," Gupta said.

# Religious conversion issue in Jammu serious, Govt must reveal truth: Shiv Sena

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir unit chief of Shiv Sena (UBT), Manish Sahni, has expressed serious concern over reports of religious conversion involving four members of a Hindu family in the Janipur area of Jammu, terming the matter highly sensitive and alarming.

In a statement issued here, Manish Sahni urged the government and administration to immediately bring the facts of the case into the public domain. He said that the incident raises several questions and does not appear to be a routine matter.



J&K Shiv Sena (UBT) president, Manish Sahni talking to reporters.

"It is highly suspicious how the identity remained concealed for nearly 16 years. Under what circumstances and pressures did this occur? A

thorough and transparent investigation is necessary to uncover the truth," Sahni stated.

He further expressed apprehension that the case could be

linked to an organized network, possible financial inducements, or even coercion.

Stressing the need for accountability, Sahni demanded a high-level, impartial, and time-bound inquiry to identify those responsible and to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the future.

The Shiv Sena leader emphasized that issues related to religious identity and conversion are extremely sensitive and must be handled with seriousness and transparency to maintain public trust and social harmony.

# Bhajan "Machaila Hazri Parda Ae" released

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A soulful Dogri bhajan titled "Machaila Hazri Parda Ae" was formally released at Press Club Jammu in a graceful function marked by devotion and cultural pride.

The event was graced by Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, as the Chief Guest. Priya Sethi, former Minister, attended as the Guest of Honour, while renowned ghazal singer Dharmesh Nargotra was present as the Special Guest.



MLA, Yudhvir Sethi with former Minister, Priya Sethi and others releasing Bhajan.

The bhajan has been melodiously rendered by Kavita Dutt, with lyrics penned by Sranga Wattali. The music has been composed and produced by R B Studio, creat-

ing a soothing and devotional musical experience.

The video has been directed by Prof. D. S. Manhas, with cinematography and editing by Yogi Studios,

adding visual depth to the presentation.

Produced under the banner of JCM Musical Group, the bhajan pays tribute to Chandi Mata of Machil, reflecting faith, culture, and the spiritual heritage of the region.

The dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the entire team for promoting the Dogri language and devotional music, highlighting the importance of preserving cultural traditions through such artistic creations.