

Sham Lal inaugurates pre-mixed laying project in Ward 62

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant step towards infrastructure development, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North and former Minister, inaugurated the Pre-Mixed Laying Project on link roads in JMC Ward No. 62, Upper Roopnagar, and Laxmipuram, Chinnore, under the Jammu North Assembly Constituency.

The project, covering approximately 2 km of roads in each locality, has been sanctioned with a total budget of Rs 70.71 lakh.

The initiative aims to enhance road quality, improve connectivity, and provide long-term benefits to residents by ensuring smoother and more durable road surfaces.

Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal reiterated his commitment to infrastructure development, emphasizing that quality road networks play a crucial role in urban growth and ease of transportation.



MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, inaugurating the Pre-Mixed Laying Project.

He assured the public that his focus remains on strengthening civic amenities, ensuring better roads, drainage systems, and improved water supply to cater to the growing needs of the people.

He highlighted the government's proactive approach in executing developmental works and

stated that additional projects will soon be initiated across the constituency.

Sham Lal also spoke about various ongoing and upcoming development projects in the constituency. He mentioned that the next financial year will witness a significant push towards modernizing civic infrastructure, including

expedited work on road repairs, strengthening of drainage networks, and improved water supply management.

He assured that necessary funds would be allocated to ensure the completion of these projects in a timely manner.

Highlighting the pending demands of residents, he acknowledged concerns regarding lanes and drains, installation of street lights, flood channeling, and consistent water supply management.

He assured that these issues have been taken up at the highest level and that the administration is committed to resolving them at the earliest.

He also urged officials to expedite the repair and installation of street lights to enhance safety and security in residential areas.

With the upcoming summer season, Sham directed concerned departments, including PHE, JMC, and the Flood Control

Department, to ensure uninterrupted water supply and proper drainage and flood water management.

He instructed officials to conduct regular inspections, address any deficiencies in water distribution, and take proactive measures to prevent water scarcity and improve flood water management.

He reaffirmed his dedication to improving the quality of life for the people of Jammu North and called for collective efforts from officials and residents to support the development agenda.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including Pankaj Padha (Mandal Pardhan, Muthi-Paloura), Rekha Manhas (Ex-Corporator, Ward 62), Suresh Khajuria (Ex-Mandal Pardhan, Muthi-Paloura), Prabhu Singh, Ambedkar Gupta and Sectoral Officers of JMC, Jal Shakti were present.

IIT Jammu students engage in Basic Golf Training at Sidhra Golf Course

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant step toward promoting sports beyond conventional domains, IIT Jammu students have embarked on a Basic Golf Training Course at Sidhra Golf Course. This initiative aims to introduce students to the sport of golf, fostering precision, discipline, and strategic thinking.

This program has been spearheaded by Manav Gupta, Secretary, Sidhra Golf Course, who invited IIT Jammu students for golf orientation sessions as a regular feature. His vision to make golf more accessible to young minds has led to this structured training program, offering students hands-on experience in the sport.

The initiative is being coordinated by Dr. Quleen Kaur Bijral, Faculty, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Jammu, with strong institutional backing from Prof. Sartaj, Dean of Student Welfare and Dr. Arvind,



IIT Jammu students along with golf officials.

Associate Dean. Additional support is being provided by staff from the Student Welfare Office Vishal.

A heartfelt gratitude was extended to Deepak Handa, Senior Vice President, JKPSA, for his instrumental role in fostering a meaningful association between IIT Jammu and Sidhra Golf Course.

His efforts in bridging this collaboration have opened new avenues for students to explore the sport of golf, enriching their extracurricular experience and overall development.

Under the professional

guidance of Rohit, the golf coach, students Vishal, Chirag, Rohan, Aditya Kumar, Aditya Bakshi and Amrit are being trained in the fundamentals of the game.

This collaboration between IIT Jammu and Sidhra Golf Course marks a unique opportunity for students to explore golf as both a recreational and competitive sport.

It reflects IIT Jammu's commitment to fostering a well-rounded educational experience, integrating academics with sports and extracurricular activities for the holistic development of its students.

J&K 1947 PoJK Sharnarathi Intellectual Forum elects new leadership



Newly elected forum members posing for photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The All J&K 1947 PoJK Sharnarathi Intellectual Forum convened a General Body Meeting under the leadership of its outgoing President, Advocate Amrik Singh, to elect a new executive body.

The meeting was attended by distinguished members, intellectuals, and community representatives committed to the cause of PoJK Sharnarathi.

The house unanimously appointed Prof K.D. Singh

as the Returning Officer. Following the dissolution of the previous executive body, Prof Singh initiated the election process.

Senior Forum member Naseeb Singh proposed Advocate Amrik Singh's name for the President's post, seconded by Surjeet Singh. The house unanimously re-elected Advocate Amrik Singh as president, authorizing him to constitute the new executive team.

President Amrik Singh expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him and

reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the Forum's objectives.

He emphasized unity and strategic action to secure justice, rehabilitation, and development opportunities for the PoJK Sharnarathi community.

The Forum remains dedicated to addressing socio-political and economic challenges faced by displaced families.

The newly elected leadership includes Advocate Amrik Singh as President, Paramjeet Singh (Ex-

Corporator) as Senior Vice President, Naseeb Singh as Vice President, Kuldeep Singh as General Secretary, Dr. Surjeet Singh as Joint Secretary, Er. T.K. Sharma as Chief Advisor, Charanjeet Singh as Chief Spokesperson, Paramjeet Singh Shangari as Chief Cashier, Kuldeep Singh (Kukku) as Cashier, Prof. K.D. Singh as In-Charge Core Committee, Surjeet Singh as Media In-Charge, Jagdish Chander Sharma as Press In-Charge, J.P. Singh as Youth Wing President, Gurdeep Singh as General Secretary (Youth Wing), Sukhpreet Singh as Secretary (Youth Wing), Ranjit Singh as Protocol In-Charge, and Ramesh Gandhi as Spokesperson.

Additionally, 32 core committee members were elected to strengthen the Forum's operations.

Randhawa inaugurates civic works at Pacca Talab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a major step towards improving local infrastructure, MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurated the much-awaited lane and drain construction work at Pacca Talab, Ward No. 47, Bahu Fort.

The project, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 38.93 lakh, aims to enhance road connectivity and drainage facilities, addressing long-standing civic concerns in the area.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of key officials and community representatives, including AEE Rajan Mengi, JE Pranav Shivgotra, former Councillor Sharda Devi, Rajeev Charak, Parshotam Lal, Vivek Patyal, Ankush Khajuria, Ajay Kumar, Hardeep Khokher, and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa reiterated his commitment to strengthening civic infrastructure and ensuring holistic development in Bahu.



MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurating lane and drain construction work at Pacca Talab, Ward No. 47, Bahu Fort.

"This project is a reflection of our dedication to improving basic amenities for the people. Well-maintained lanes and proper drainage systems are

essential for a clean and healthy environment. We will continue to work towards the development of every ward under our jurisdiction," he

said.

During his visit, Randhawa also interacted with the residents and listened to their grievances. Locals raised concerns regarding electricity supply and water shortages, highlighting the difficulties they have been facing.

Assuring the public of swift action, the MLA directed the concerned departments to address these issues on priority. He emphasized that his office is committed to resolving public grievances and improving essential services for the welfare of the people.

Residents of the area welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude for the much-needed improvements. The MLA assured that more developmental projects are in the pipeline to further uplift the region.

Authorities have urged residents to cooperate during the construction phase to ensure timely completion of the project.

Libraries serve as source of knowledge: Balbir



BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan interacting with party leaders.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, said that libraries have long been regarded as the source of knowledge, culture, and inspiration.

He stated this while discussing the importance and need of a well-maintained library with a group of party leaders at Nanaji Deshmukh Library.

Balbir Ram said that an institution that house an extensive collection of resources, including books, manuscripts, digital materials, provide an invaluable platform for individuals of all ages to read, learn, and grow. They serve as dynamic mines of knowledge, offering opportunities to explore, discover, and create.

"A library is more than just a building filled with books. It is a repository of history, culture, and wisdom accumulated over centuries. Libraries offer access to knowledge that spans diverse fields such as literature, science, technology, history, and art", he said.

Balbir further said that the significance of libraries even extends beyond the accumulation of knowledge. They play a critical role in preserving cultural heritage and promoting literacy. Through curated collections, libraries present the rich and varied experiences of humanity, offering insights into the lives and contributions of

great leaders, thinkers, and innovators from different eras and regions. The stories of great leaders, their struggles, successes, and philosophies are preserved within library walls, offering invaluable lessons and inspiration to generations.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Incharge, Nanaji Deshmukh Library, shared that the Nanaji

Deshmukh Library has books on all subjects and lives of prominent Indian figures of different fields. He said that many scholars and reserchers visit Nanaji Deshmukh Library to read books of subjects of their choice and research field.

Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra said that libraries empower individuals by providing access to information regardless of socio-economic status. They offer a welcoming environment where people can engage in lifelong learning, conduct research, and develop new skills.

With the advent of digital technology, libraries have also evolved to offer online resources, e-books, and virtual learning opportunities, thereby expanding their reach and relevance.

JKPSA urges Govt to relax age criteria for admission in class 1st

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To discuss age criteria for the admission of the students in class 1st for the academic session 2025-26 in both government and private schools a meeting was organized by Rashpal Singh (President District Kathua).

During the meeting it was highlighted by the members that the children who had been admitted at the age of 2+ in nursery class now have completed three years in the pre-primary level.

They are in the age group of 5+ years and withholding admission of all such students in the same class by a year for not completing their age 6+ on or before March 31st of the academic year will attribute a loss of their academic year. They also showed their helplessness to convince all those parents who are pressurizing the school authorities to promote their children in the next



Association President Ajay Gupta briefing members.

higher class although their children are under age by four to six months.

President of the association Ajay Gupta briefed the members that NEP - 2020 was implemented in JKUT from the academic session 2022-23. The matter for the implementation of NEP gradually and in the phased manner was demanded in JKUT School Education Department gave relaxation of 06 months to the students (i.e. students completing 06 years of age up to September 30) in the previous academic sessions 2023-24 & 2024-25.

Ajay Gupta appealed to the government to relax the age criteria for the admission of the students to the class 1st for the academic session 2025-26 as one time exception for the larger interest of the society on the similar pattern of age relaxation extended by some other states of India.

Those who attended the meeting included Satpal Mansotra (General Secretary JKPSA Jammu), Dr. Madan Mohan Sharma (Organizer JKPSA Jammu), Er. Naresh Kumar, Rajeev Jasorotia, Vivek Mehra, Jasvir Singh, Chain Singh.

Dr. Pathania assumes charge as President of J&K Dharmarth Trust Pays obeisance at Shree Raghunath Temple



Dr. Parshotam Singh Pathania assuming office.

"Today is a significant day, and it is essential for us to involve all stakeholders in our journey. Our narrative must center around inclusiveness. We must work with a shared

vision and commitment to elevate the Trust to new heights of service and excellence," he said.

Dr. Pathania highlighted that fostering an environment of unity, where every member and

stakeholder feels valued, would be fundamental to the Trust's success. By working together with a common purpose, he expressed his belief that the Trust could not only strengthen its existing initiatives but also embark on new avenues for growth and service to the community.

Dr. Pathania further reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to upholding the core values of the Trust, including its dedication to selfless service and the promotion of cultural and spiritual traditions. He emphasized that the Trust's contributions to the community would be enriched by maintaining a deep respect for the diverse social and cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. He also acknowledged the importance of preserving the region's cultural heritage, pledging to

ensure that the Trust plays an integral role in safeguarding the historical, religious, and cultural landmarks that define the identity of the region.

Before assuming office, Dr. Pathania also visited the revered Shree Raghunath Temple, where he paid obeisance and sought blessings for the success of his tenure at the helm of the Trust.

Dr. Pathania is a former member of the J&K Dharmarth Trust Council. Having served as Registrar of the University of Jammu, he also held significant role as a member of the Jammu University's Administrative Body. Additionally, he served as Registrar/ OSD at the Central University also. Besides this, he was associated with various administrative, social and cultural organizations.

Gandhi Nagar Residents Welfare Association raises civic concerns with Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of the Gandhi Nagar Residents Welfare Association (Regd.), led by Bhushan Verma, on Tuesday met National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and highlighted pressing civic issues affecting the residents of the area.

The delegation raised concerns over the non-functional high mast light in the Swarga Ashram Gandhi Nagar (Shastri Nagar cremation ground) and the filthy distributary adjacent to it. They expressed concern over the distributary being used as garbage den and sought fencing along the distributary to prevent littering and the spread of unhygienic conditions, which are causing severe inconvenience to both residents and thousands of mourners participating in the last



Gandhi Nagar Residents Welfare Association calling on Ajay Sadhotra Additional General Secretary JKNC at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu on Tuesday.

rituals of deceased.

The Association also emphasized the dire condition of washrooms at the cremation ground, stressing the need for immediate repairs and upkeep. They expressed dissatisfaction over the deterioration of parks across Gandhi Nagar, which were previously well-maintained under the Parks and Gardens Department. However, since the Jammu

Municipal Corporation (JMC) took over their upkeep, the parks have fallen into neglect, affecting the recreational space for residents, especially children and senior citizens.

The Gandhi Nagar Residents Welfare Association hoped the authorities to act swiftly, ensuring better maintenance of public spaces and essential facilities for the

well-being of the residents.

Ajay Sadhotra listened attentively to the delegation's concerns and assured them that these matters would be taken up at the appropriate levels for prompt resolution. He reaffirmed commitment of the National Conference government to ensuring that the necessary steps are taken to improve civic infrastructure and public amenities.