

Local Bodies have fulfilled Modi's vision in J&K by establishing local self Govt at grass root level: Ex-Mayor

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rajinder Sharma, former Mayor and former General Secretary All India Mayor's Council inaugurated sewerage project worth Rs 34 crores under AMRUT-2 to be executed by Urban Environment and Engineering Department.

This project will be executed in two years of time and it will cover lane number one to nine of ward number 16 at New Plots. While speaking at the inauguration, he said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced from Red Fort before 2018 that Local bodies elections would be held soon in J&K to established democracy at grass root level,



Ex-Mayor, Rajinder Sharma inaugurating sewerage project.

no one had imagined that there would be development all around with such magnitude. There are 39850 PRI representatives in rural local bodies and 80 urban local bodies including two corpora-

tions. Nation Conference and PDP had boycotted local bodies elections.

He said 152 cores of CAPEX Budget in a single year of 2023 was spent for 75 wards of Jammu Municipal

corporation. That means Two crores per ward where each ward has households ranging from 700 to 2000 baring ward 32. This is besides Smart City Funds to the tune of 837 crores.

He said ward 16 has seen unprecedented development for the last 7 years where 58 new lanes and drains from Lane 1 New Plots to Lane No 21 Doordarshan Lane were constructed, 668 street lights were installed, park with fountains, Community Hall and wash rooms costing one crore of rupees were constructed at state motor garage lane, recreational hall and E-library and wash room costing 60 lacks were constructed at Middle School, lane Number 6, New Plots, sewerage costing 4 crores at Jawahar Nagar, Construction of Nalla from Tali Morh to Jawahar Nagar costing 60 lacks, foot path and drain at main road from Coffee House, lane one to Tali Morh costing 4 crores, five autos for

garbage collection, black topping of roads costing Rs 4 crores, fountain Installation at main road New Plots to Tali Morh so that people do not dump garbage at these sites and numbering of each lanes from lane number 1 to lane number 21.

He said Ward 16 have established new model where some lanes were constructed with PPP mode. That means public also contributed for construction of lane and sewerage which doubled the executed work. Moreover all these projects were inaugurated, supervised and executed by inhabitants of the respective lanes which is the essence and ethos of local self Government at Grass root level.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion were Chaman Panthi, Durga Dass, Ram Saran, Sunil Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Gharu Ram, Anmol Bharatwaj, Ankush Lalotra and others.

Randhawa slams Urdu language as mandatory for Naib Tehsildar Post



MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa listening to public issues.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA from Bahu Assembly Constituency, Vikram Randhawa, has strongly criticized the move to make Urdu as a mandatory paper for the recently advertised post of Naib Tehsildar.

Speaking during a Public Darbar held at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Randhawa termed the decision as discriminatory towards the youth of the Jammu region.

He asserted that such a move is a clear violation of the equal status to multiple official lan-

guages including Dogri, Hindi, Kashmiri, Urdu, and English. "While Urdu is certainly one of the official languages, it is not compulsory for all residents of the Union Territory. Making it a qualifying criterion for government jobs restricts fair opportunities to a large section of youth, particularly from the Jammu region," Randhawa stated. During the Public Darbar, deputations from areas including Laxminipuram Chinor, Gangyal, Gorkha Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Rani Talab, Extension Sanjay Nagar, Ward 46, Exchange Road, Satwari, Udhampur, and others raised

various civic and administrative concerns.

These included demands for repair of transformers, clearance of deep drains, installation of RCB bins, replacement of faulty PHE pipes, road restoration, blacktopping, canal fencing near cremation grounds, transfer of ration depot licenses, resolution of inflated electricity bills, and irregular water supply.

Randhawa gave a patient hearing to each deputation and took swift action by forwarding the grievances to the concerned departments. He also issued written communications on several issues, urging prompt redressal. The Public Darbar was coordinated by Er. T.K. Sharma, Co-convenor of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, J&K BJP.

Randhawa reiterated the BJP's commitment to equitable development and fair employment opportunities for all youth in the Union Territory and assured continued efforts to address public concerns at the grassroots level.

JMC launches crack down on unregistered Pet, Bird shops



JMC Jammu team interacting with shopkeeper during drive.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), under the Directions of Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, on Wednesday intensified its drive against unregistered pet and bird sellers operating illegally within the city.

Acting under the leadership of Dr. Gaurav Chowdhary, Animal Welfare Officer, JMC team, comprising of Dr Divya and

officials of Enforcement Wing of JMC conducted surprise inspections at multiple locations including Gandhinagar, Nanak Nagar, Railway Station and Trikuta Nagar.

During the operation, some shopkeepers were found selling fishes & birds without obtaining the mandatory registration or licenses. Despite multiple notices and warnings previously issued by the

Corporation, many traders have continued to flout regulations.

Dr. Gourav Chowdhary informed that a total of 20 shops have been inspected so far and notices were served to those operating without proper authorization, putting animal welfare and public health at risk. As part of the ongoing enforcement drive, one shop was sealed today in the Gandhinagar area.

Dr. Chowdhary emphasized that strict action will continue against unregistered shops unless they comply with the licensing norms. "The facility for registration is available at the office of the Animal Welfare Officer, DC North, JMC and all traders involved in the sale of pet animals are advised to get registered at the earliest to avoid legal action," he added.

Rekha, Puneet meet CEO State Health Agency, discuss Ayushman Bharat Camps in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Co Convenor Sewa Susashan and Garib Kalyan Programme, Rekha Mahajan, accompanied by Puneet Mahajan, Convenor Health and Medical Cell, BJP, J&K, held a meeting with Sanjiv M. Gadkar (IAS), CEO of the State Health Agency, Jammu & Kashmir and discussed the organization of Ayushman Bharat health camps across various localities in Jammu City. Rekha Mahajan informed the CEO that as part of the ongoing celebration of 11 years of the Modi Government



Senior BJP leaders Rekha Mahajan and Puneet Mahajan, meeting with Sanjiv M. Gadkar, CEO SHA J&K.

at the Centre, the BJP is planning to organize a series of programmes including Ayushman Bharat camps to extend the benefits of this flagship health scheme to the

current implementation status and the need for enhanced awareness among the general public.

Puneet Mahajan highlighted several pressing public concerns, including the necessity for simplified enrollment processes and improved accessibility to scheme benefits. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring 100% coverage, particularly for senior citizens aged 70 and above, who represent one of the most vulnerable demographics in terms of healthcare needs.

Puneet urged the CEO to strengthen its outreach mech-

anisms and extend full administrative and infrastructural support to make these camps successful. He reiterated BJP's commitment to translating the vision of 'Swasth Bharat' into reality by ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

In response, CEO Sanjiv M. Gadkar appreciated the initiative and assured full cooperation from the department. He reaffirmed the State Health Agency's dedication to inclusive, efficient, and transparent implementation of the Ayushman Bharat scheme across Jammu and Kashmir.

Keshav distributes key welfare cards to Locals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prominent Social Activist & Chairman of the Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra on Wednesday led a significant community outreach program in Jammu, focusing on empowering local residents through the distribution of essential identification and healthcare cards. He distributed Ration Cards, Voter ID Cards to eligible youths, and Ayushman Bharat Cards, aiming to alleviate civic concerns and enhance access to vital services.

The distribution event was held at Talab Tillo, met with enthusiastic participation from the local populace. The primary objective of distributing the Cards was to



Chairman Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra distributing card.

ensure that locals should not go outside in this scorching heat to avail the services of different departments. Keshav provided them with these cards at one place. Chopra also focused on reg-

istering young eligible voters. He personally distributed Voter ID Cards to many youths, emphasizing the importance of their involvement in the democratic process.

"It is crucial that our youth understand their civic responsibility and are empowered to cast their votes without any hassle during elections," stated Chopra. "By providing them with Voter ID Cards now, we aim to eliminate any potential worries they might face on election day."

Further solidifying his commitment to public welfare, Chopra also facilitated the distribution of Ayushman Bharat Cards. This initiative will enable beneficiaries to access cashless healthcare services at empanelled hospitals, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder access to crucial medical treatment.

"Today's distribution drive

is a testament to Samvedna Society's unwavering dedication to the well-being of our community," said Keshav Chopra. "Our goal is to ensure that every individual has access to fundamental rights and services, from food security to healthcare and the right to vote. We believe these initiatives will significantly improve the quality of life for many families in Jammu."

The Samvedna Society continues to work tirelessly on various fronts to address community needs and promote social welfare across Jammu and Kashmir, Keshav added. Anju, Vikas Kumar, Manoj Tandon, Sourav Gupta, Ishan Gupta and others were also present.

Prasar Bharati, Shucae Films OTT join forces to boost WAVES OTT content portfolio

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a strategic move to expand digital content and engage wider audiences, Prasar Bharati has partnered with Shucae Films OTT. This collaboration brings Shucae's dynamic slate of original web content to Prasar Bharati's digital platform WAVES, with select shows also airing on its national television network.

The alliance underscores Prasar Bharati's ongoing push to modernise content delivery by merging its robust broadcast ecosystem with Shucae Films' creative edge in digital storytelling. Together, they aim to deliv-

er compelling, inclusive and high-quality content for India's evolving media consumers.

This partnership strengthens WAVES as a premier OTT Platform for homegrown digital content, building on its mission to blend entertainment with empowerment. Already known for shows like The Lions' Den, WAVES now hosts a fresh lineup of Shucae's popular titles including Jaane Kyun, Ek Ke Peeche Ek, Love Forever, It's a Match, Yeh Hai Meri Love Story!, Belt, Bolo Pencil, Pyaar Ke Panne and 3rd Stanza.

Speaking on the occasion

, Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO, Prasar Bharati, said, "This partnership reflects our commitment to offer vibrant, diverse and engaging content to audiences in India and beyond. Our OTT Platform WAVES continues to evolve as a digital-first platform showcasing the best of Indian storytelling."

Manoj Doogra, CEO, Shucae Films, added, "We're excited to collaborate with Prasar Bharati and leverage WAVES OTT's reach to bring our stories to a broader, more connected audience. It's an ideal platform to co-create content that truly resonates."

Dr. Hajji Shak elevated to Senior Vice President Adm of AIPP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move aimed at strengthening and revitalizing the Jammu & Kashmir unit of the All India Panchayat Parishad (AIPP), Dr. Hajji Shak Mohammed has been elevated to the esteemed position of Senior Vice President. Previously serving as Vice President, his promotion is being hailed as a recognition of his exceptional performance and steadfast commitment to grassroots development.

The decision follows a comprehensive performance review directed by Prof. Jugal Kishore Gupta, National Vice President of AIPP.

The review included key leadership from the state unit, such as Dr. Kuldeep Sharma (State President), Pt. Ashwani Sharma



J&K President AIPP, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma talking to reporters.

(Senior Vice President), and Pt. R.C. Sharma (General Secretary - Organization), who collectively endorsed the elevation.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, accompanied by Prof. Jugal

Kishore Gupta, Pt. Ashwani Sharma, and Pt. R.C. Sharma, praised the tireless efforts of the AIPP J&K team.

"Dr. Hajji Shak Mohammed's outstanding dedication made him a clear choice for elevation," Dr. Sharma stated. He also hinted at forthcoming structural changes in the organization, aimed at further energizing the team and introducing new leadership.

Dr. Hajji Shak Mohammed is a well-known social reformer in Jammu & Kashmir, recognized for his unwavering principles and relentless dedication to community welfare. His promotion not only highlights his individual merit but also underscores AIPP's commitment to recognizing grassroots leadership and empowering dedicated workers at all levels.

Follow footsteps of Guru Kabir Dass: Mula Ram

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sant Kabir Jayanti was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervour across the Jammu region today, marked by special prayers, community Langars, and 'Shabeel' arrangements at various temples dedicated to the revered saint.

Among the dignitaries paying homage was former Health and Medical Education Minister of J&K and Senior Vice President of the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee, Mula Ram, who addressed multiple functions in Marh block, including Jhiri, Kalyanpur, Ghou Manahsan, and Patta Borhi Chungi.

At a prominent function held at Kabir Mandir, Mula Ram, accompanied by community leaders and others, paid floral tributes to Saint Kabir and reflected on the timeless teachings of the saintless teachings of the 15th-century poet and saint.

He urged the people to follow the footsteps of Guru Kabir Dass Ji Maharaj and embrace the values that the saint propagated, which continue to hold immense relevance today.

Mula Ram emphasized that Sant Kabir's path is a beacon of brotherhood, equality, and communal harmony.

"The teachings of Sant Kabir Ji are not just a part



Senior Vice President JKPC, Mula Ram speaking at a programme.

of history but remain a living source of inspiration for humanity. His message transcends religions and promotes love, unity, and peace in society," he said.

Mula Ram highlighted that Kabir's verses have influenced the Bhakti movement and can be found embedded in the spiritual fabric of many faiths, underscoring his universal appeal.

"The philosophy and ideas of Saint Kabir are even more relevant in our contemporary society where divisions and conflicts persist. We must follow his teachings and spread the message of oneness, peace, and universal brotherhood to build a harmonious society based on equality and social justice," Mula Ram added.

Recognizing Kabir Ji as the first Indian saint who bridged the gap between various religions, Mula Ram said, "Saint Kabir Ji

provided a universal path that can be followed by all, irrespective of faith or background. His life and teachings encourage us to look beyond religious differences and unite as one human family."

The former minister also prayed for peace, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, invoking the blessings of Sant Kabir Dass Ji. He called upon the people to imbibe the saint's teachings in their daily lives to foster harmony and goodwill.

Other speakers at the functions included Ram Ditta Bhagat Retd Principal, Shemsher Bhagat, Sohan Bhagat, Bittu Rampal, Er. Rajinder Kumar Happy, Pradeep Bhagat and others, who also paid homage and reiterated the importance of Kabir's teachings in today's world.

Sant Kabir Jayanti cele-

brations featured fervent prayers, devotional singing, and community service, symbolizing the spirit of Sant Kabir's message of love and equality. The events across the region reflected the enduring respect and reverence for the saint who remains an eternal source of guidance for humanity.

In his concluding message, Mula Ram stated, "The teachings of Saint Kabir Dass Ji remain an eternal source of guidance for humanity, inspiring us to build a just, peaceful, and united society. Let us all follow his path and work towards a future grounded in brotherhood and harmony."

The day's celebrations stood as a reminder of the power of Sant Kabir's teachings to transcend time and societal boundaries, urging all to uphold his legacy for generations to come.

Two-day Mela concludes at Bawa Bhair Devsathan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two-day ancient Bawa Bhair Mela concluded with religious fervor and devotion at the revered Bawa Bhair Devsathan in Block Nagrota on Wednesday evening. The event was organized by the Bawa Bhair Devsathan Trust and witnessed participation from thousands of devotees from across the country.

The Mela was inaugurated by Former Deputy Commissioner B.S. Jamwal in the presence of prominent dignitaries including NMC President Subash Shastri, DBPS Chairman Advocate P.C. Sharma, Trust President Balwant Singh, General Secretary Ramesh Sharma, and other notable figures such as Om Parkash Sharma, Kirpal Singh, Gurdas Sharma, Subash Sharma, and Ritiz Khajuria. Representatives of various religions



and social organizations also graced the occasion.

A sacred Hawan ceremony was performed during the Mela, led by scholars and chela of Bawa jee, Joginder Singh, with the chanting of Vedic mantras echoing through the

devsathan. The spiritual ambience added to the sanctity of the event.

As part of the celebrations, several langars (community kitchens) were organized within the temple premises, serving free meals to the devotees. A ceremonial Yatar was also performed at the shrine by chelas of Bawa jee from different parts of the country, showcasing deep-rooted traditions and cultural vibrancy.

Despite the overall success of the Mela, many pilgrims expressed concern over the lack of clean drinking water and the poor condition of the road leading to the Devsathan. In light of this, the Trust has urged the concerned authorities to promptly approve and initiate the construction of a proper road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to facilitate easier access for devotees in the future.