

Yudhvir Sethi inaugurates sewerage links worth 2.8 Cr



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday inaugurating Sewerage links.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday inaugurated Sewerage links and house connections of Jammu city, 1 to 09 (Under Capex Head) for the allotted Cost 2.77 Cr.

Sethi said he will not leave any stone unturned in addressing the aspirations of the general public particularly in Jammu East. "This project is a crucial step towards improving the quality of life for the residents of area and ensuring seamless connectivity," he said adding that infrastructural development was one of his top priorities and under the leadership of PM Modi, BJP is committed to

provide basic amenities and modern infrastructure at every nook and corner of country. Among those present on the occasion were Ashwani Khajuria- (Exe. Engineer Sewerage & Drainage (N) Div. Jammu, Naresh Kumar (AEE), Sushil Kumar (JE) and from BJP Party side Dr Akshay Sharma, Swati Sharma, Raman Sharma, Prithvi Duggal, Suresh Sulgotra, Pooja Sharma and others. The MLA said, "It is my moral responsibility to ensure that the public of Jammu East be provided with all necessary amenities and these development works are being undertaken with a sense of service and devotion." The MLA assured the residents that more such projects were in pipeline to ensure holistic development in the constituency. The people of the area appreciated the efforts to uplift the constituency were widely appreciated.

MLA Marh inaugurates 100 KVA Transformer at Lalyal

STATE TIMES NEWS
MARH: In a significant move to address power woes, MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar, on Thursday inaugurated a 100 KVA transformer in Lalyal village, providing major relief to residents grappling with frequent power outages and voltage fluctuations amid rising temperatures.

The event witnessed the presence of Bhurwansh Mehta, District General Secretary, Jalam Singh, and a large gathering of local residents. The installation of the transformer resolves a long-pending issue, ensuring a stable power supply and improving the quality of life for villagers. The MLA reiterated his commitment to addressing public concerns and delivering timely development.

In his address, Surinder Kumar urged villagers to use electricity judiciously and responsibly. He assured residents of his availability round-the-clock and emphasized the importance of cooperation and collective responsibility in tackling local issues. He also highlighted the BJP's focus on cultural nationalism, training, and the welfare of the poor, stating, "We are public servants, not rulers." The MLA also inspected ongoing development works and instructed concerned departments to expedite completion. He encouraged people to actively participate in and benefit from various welfare schemes of the Centre and UT government, reiterating his dedication to inclusive growth and community upliftment.



MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar inaugurating transformer.

Ambedkar's Constitution opened ways for SCs to become DM, CM, and PM: Balbir



BJP J&K spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan chairing meeting with party workers.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, and former Vice Chairperson, stated that the Constitution of India - a monumental contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar - has provided equal opportunities for Scheduled Caste (SC) individuals to reach top positions like District Magistrate (DM), Chief Minister (CM), and even Prime Minister (PM). He said this constitutional framework stands as a symbol of social justice, equality, and inclusiveness. He made these remarks during a meeting with key

party workers from the Scheduled Caste community, where he discussed the provisions made by Dr. Ambedkar in the Constitution for the upliftment of marginalized communities. Balbir said that under various articles of the Constitution, every citizen has the right to progress in education, employment, business, and public life without any discrimination. He emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar ensured the inclusion of such provisions that enabled socially disadvantaged groups to integrate into the mainstream. He added that in the past, when caste-based discrimination was at its peak, it was

extremely difficult for a dalit to even attain an education. But in today's India, a person from a Scheduled Caste category can not only become a district officer through administrative services but can also rise to the highest offices like Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Balbir further asserted that this transformation has only been made possible due to the Constitution, which prioritizes equality and social justice. He urged the youth to embrace education as their most powerful tool and to make positive contributions to society by utilizing the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He also appreciated the welfare schemes launched by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are focused on uplifting dalits, backward classes, and the underprivileged. Present at the meeting were Jagdish Bhagat, Vijay Anand Gill, Ashok Gandhi, G.R. Bhagat, R.K. Raina, and others.

Ayurvedic Clinic "Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda" inaugurated at Channi Himmat

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant boost to holistic and traditional healthcare in the region, a new Ayurvedic wellness center "Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda - A Natural Healing Centre" was inaugurated at Channi Himmat, Jammu.



MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa inaugurating Ayurvedic wellness center.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, alongwith Dr. Vijay Sawhney Retd. HOD Blood Bank, Jammu Medical College, Harpreet Anand Chairman Jammu Sanskriti school, Mona Mehta, Sapna Sethi, Taruna Singh & Anju from Sparkle Women Club, and Kulbir Charak inaugurated the Clinic. The proprietor Dr. Aishwarya is an experienced Ayurvedic practitioner dedicated to offering natural and time-tested healing therapies. She was accompanied by her husband Mukesh Gupta, her supportive parents, children, and a gathering of well-wishers, family members, and notable social figures from across Jammu.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, in his remarks, highlighted the growing relevance of Ayurvedic practices in today's fast-paced world. "In an era of stress-induced ailments and lifestyle disorders, Ayurveda offers preventive as well as curative solutions that align with the human body's natural rhythm. Clinics like this are a bridge between our cultural heritage and modern wellness needs," he said. Dr. Aishwarya, while

also become a model for others to follow. I extend my full support to Dr. Aishwarya and her team, and I hope to see this initiative flourish and expand." Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, in his remarks, highlighted the growing relevance of Ayurvedic practices in today's fast-paced world. "In an era of stress-induced ailments and lifestyle disorders, Ayurveda offers preventive as well as curative solutions that align with the human body's natural rhythm. Clinics like this are a bridge between our cultural heritage and modern wellness needs," he said. Dr. Aishwarya, while

extending a guided tour of the newly established wellness center, shared her vision behind establishing the clinic. "My dream is to make Ayurveda accessible and relatable to every household. With personalized care, authentic therapies, and a scientific approach to traditional healing, we hope to make a real difference in people's lives," she stated. Dr. Aishwarya said that the clinic will offer a range of treatments including Panchakarma therapies, lifestyle consultation, stress management, skin care, joint pain solutions, and more-all rooted in classical Ayurvedic principles. Dr. Aishwarya's Ayurveda is Jammu's first dedicated naturopathy Centre, offering medication-free treatments through holistic healing methods. We specialize in managing diabetes, joint pain, and female health disorders using natural therapies, herbal treatments, and a wholesome organic diet tailored to individual needs, added Dr. Aishwarya.

SKUAST-J strengthens FPO Development Officers under JKCIP

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), in collaboration with the Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has inaugurated a five-day Capacity Building Programme for FPO (Farmer Producer Organisation) Development Officers from various districts of the Jammu region.



SKUAST-J officers with others at a meeting.

The initiative is part of the Competitive Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), implemented by SKUAST-Jammu. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. Dr. Anil Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, emphasized the importance of combining modern extension techniques with on-ground realities to ensure government schemes effectively benefit small and

marginal farmers. He stated that the programme is a crucial step in strengthening leadership, technical, and managerial capabilities within FPOs. Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare, lauded the role of FPO Development Officers in fostering farmer collectives and urged them to work consistently towards inclusive agricultural growth. The training programme specifically focuses on the "Upscaling Collectivization" component, which includes

forming new FPOs in selected blocks and reinforcing those established under the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for the Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs. Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Nodal Officer and Principal Investigator of JKCIP, welcomed the participants and outlined the programme's objectives and structure. He highlighted strategies to include previously unassociated farmers through the creation of Farmer Interest Groups

(FIGs) and their integration into the FPO framework. He also expressed appreciation to Sandeep Kumar, Mission Director, JKCIP, for his ongoing support. Dr. Anil Bhat, Associate Director Research, delivered the vote of thanks, and the proceedings were coordinated by Magandeep Kour, Young Professional. The programme marks a vital step in transforming Jammu & Kashmir's agronomy through empowered farmer institutions.

Natrang screens Rajtilak episode to celebrate 203rd Coronation Day of Maharaja Gulab Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To mark the 203rd coronation day of Maharaja Gulab Singh, Natrang screened the episode of Rajtilak from the highly acclaimed Hindi film 'Gulab Gatha' at its Natrang Studio Theatre for the invited audiences. Interestingly Natrang shot that episode exactly at the historic location of Jia Potha in Akhnoor to pay a befitting tribute to the occasion. Conceptualized, written and directed by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur the production of this magnificent film was supported by Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust.



At the very outset, Natrang Director Balwant Thakur informed that today's screening is aimed at educating the younger generations about their rich historical past. He added that unfortunately the local history is not taught in schools and younger generations are totally aloof about their vibrant history and culture. There are many interesting and worth learning facts about the 100 years of Dogra rule and it becomes our larger

responsibility to sensitize and educate the younger generations about that. "This screening of 'Gulab Gatha' will go a long way in achieving that" he concluded. It is pertinent to mention here that Dr. Karan Singh who is also the Chairman of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust inspired Balwant Thakur to write, produce and direct this first ever film on the story of Great Dogra ruler who created the larger princely state of India.

Interestingly Balwant Thakur first created a theatre play of the same name after devoting over two years in research and the collection of facts and figures. The lead role of Maharaja Gulab Singh is played by FTII's meritorious product and Yuva Bismillah Khan Awardee Sunil Kumar Palwal who has many films and TV serials to his credit including Jolly LLB2, Mughal-e-Azam, 'Yeh Dil Ranta Yogi', 'Chera-the unknown mask', 'Satin Sin B's', MTV Rush, Shapptah,

Rakshak, Sapne Suhane Ladakpan Ke etc. He is supported by prominent TV and stage actors of Jammu including Arvind Anand, Madan Rangeela, Janak Khajuria, Anil Tiekoo, Neeraj Kant, Vijay Bhat, Pankaj Sharma, Sudhir Jamwal, Sanjeev Gupta, Suresh Kumar, Subash Jamwal, Sumeet Sharma, Gaurav Jamwal, Rahul Sharma, Aftab Singh Chauhan, Meera Tapasvi, Aarushi Thakur Rama, Gauri Thakur, Mohd. Yaseen, Rahul Singh, Gontam Sharma, Ashish Parihar, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Sushant Singh Charak, Aviral Kapoor, Shivam Singh, Kuldeep Angral, Chirag Anand, Shivam Sharma and Mohsin Malik. Entire technical crew came from Mumbai and the film was technically coordinated by Malooop Singh, Neeraj Badyal, Mohd Yaseen and Gaurav Jamwal.

French Club felicitates educators, celebrates cultural Excellence



French Club members felicitating educators and others.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: French Club Jammu recently hosted the French Teachers' Felicitation Programme, a heartfelt celebration honouring the unwavering dedication of French language educators from various schools across the region. This initiative, rooted in gratitude and cultural pride, served as a meaningful platform to recognize the vital role of teachers play in nurturing linguistic and cultural understanding. The event welcomed an inspiring gathering of distinguished guests whose presence added immense value to the occasion.

Anil Sharma, Senior Business Associate at LIC of India and Rushmi Sharma, Senior Journalist graced the event as the Guest of Honours, and was warmly received for their support and encouragement. Joining him as Special Guests were Tarun Sharma, Founder & President of Nat Manch, Bhavna Mahajan, acclaimed Author and Entrepreneur, Sushil Tagotra, Wealth Manager at LIC of India, and Saima Inman, Founder of Tiffin Hut & Kinara (Pahalgam). Arun Sharma, Founder and

President of the French Club Jammu, along with Arushi Mahajan, General Secretary, extended heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries for their time, encouragement, and belief in the cause of language education. French teachers were felicitated by the guests for their passion, perseverance, and profound contribution to language learning. The event was not just a tribute but a celebration of the cultural richness that the French language brings into classrooms and communities alike. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks.

Caste Census a historic step for inclusive and equitable India: Sunil Prajapati

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sunil Prajapati, State President of BJP OBC Moreha, Jammu & Kashmir, has strongly welcomed the historic decision of the Modi Government to conduct a nationwide caste census - the first since independence - calling it a bold, inclusive, and transformative step toward building a more just and equitable India. Prajapati said this initiative will uncover the real social structure of the nation, enabling accurate, data-driven policies for all communities - including OBCs, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), and underserved groups within the general category. He strongly criticized the Congress and National Conference for decades of manipulation and injustice in Jammu & Kashmir, saying, "These parties consistently denied constitutional rights to large sections of society, especially OBCs, and diverted their rightful share to other groups for political benefits." Prajapati highlighted that it was only under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji that OBC status was officially granted to Jammu & Kashmir in December 2023, following the abrogation of Article 370 - a historic step no previous government dared to take. He emphasized that the caste census will serve as the foundation for reforming reservation policies, improving welfare distribution, and ensuring fair political representation through the delimitation process. "This is not about caste politics - this is about truth, justice, and equal opportunity. The Modi Government is correcting historic wrongs and laying the foundation for a more inclusive future," said Prajapati.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a powerful move to promote cleanliness and cultural heritage, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) conducted a rehearsal-cum-workshop through Nukkad Natak, presenting its 498th Wednesday Series musical play titled "Swachhata Hi Sewa". The event was organized in close collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The program was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, Former Regional Director, Directorate of Field Publicity,

Government of India. He emphasized the importance of street theatre in spreading awareness about Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, highlighting that such initiatives play a vital role in engaging citizens and inspiring them to adopt sustainable cleanliness habits. Guest of Honour for the event included J.K. Raina, Freelance Producer-Director, Mukesh Singh, Media Person, and Dr. Anju Kumari Dogra from the Health Department, J&K Government. The program began with powerful and melodious songs like "Na Thappad Se, Na Gaali Se Ab Sanjhaainge Taali Se", "Swachh Bharat Ka Irada Kar

BLSKS conducts Nukkad Natak workshop



BLSKS team during a programme.

Liya Humne", and "Swachhata Hi Sewa Hai", composed by Raju Bajgal, Music Instructor, BLSKS. Written, produced, and directed by Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman, BLSKS, the

Nukkad Natak "Swachhata Hi Sewa" aimed to sensitize the audience about the direct link between personal hygiene, environmental well-being, and responsible civic behavior. The skit encouraged citizens to participate in cleanliness drives, adopt waste segregation, and minimize plastic usage. A central theme of the play was the satirical portrayal of "Kaakra Sethi", a wealthy but irresponsible character who discards trash from his car, highlighting the everyday negligence of civic responsibilities. The play used humour and drama to drive home the message - not through violence or abuse, but through applause and awareness". K.K. Joshi, Troupe Leader of BLSKS, welcomed the dignitaries and explained the objectives of the program. The event saw enthusiastic performances by Usha Raina, Neelam

Gandotra, Raju Bajgal, M.C. Kotwal, Kuldeep Raj, Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha, Naiya Digra, and Ajit Sharma. A large audience comprising students, teachers, youth, and general public participated actively. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Master Deepak Kumar, who appreciated the collaborative efforts of all participants and stakeholders. As a continuation of the initiative, BLSKS will stage the next Nukkad Natak on June 21, 2025, at Parade Chowk, Jammu, carrying forward the mission of Swachh Bharat through art and awareness.