

# LG pays obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, inaugurates new Yagyashala at Bhawan

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and prayed for the peace, prosperity and progress of the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

During his visit to the Holy Shrine, the Lt Governor inaugurated and dedicated the new Yagyashala facility at Bhawan to the devotees.

The Yagyashala, an integral part of the religious landscape, has been meticulously designed and constructed to enhance spiritual practices at Bhawan. It will



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Katra on Sunday.

serve the religious needs of devotees and address pilgrims keen to experience and participate in the religious rituals.

The newly constructed Yagyashala, situated near the old Bathing Ghat below the Atka area at main Bhawan, comprises five Hawan Kunds spread across 1600 square feet. This expansive design enables a threefold increase in capacity, allowing 10 groups of pilgrims to perform Hawan Poojan concurrently, up from the previous limit of three groups.

Additionally, an approach gallery with a covered area of 1100 sq. ft. has been created, leading up to the Yagyashala. This gallery can accommodate more than 100 pilgrims during the Shat Chandi Mahayagya, conducted regularly during Navratras.

Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Anshul Garg, CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi; Mohita Sharma, SSP Reasi; officials of the Shrine Board and devotees in large number were present on the occasion.



# Sham engages Rajouri-Poonch residents, extensive tour focused on crafting inclusive election manifesto



State Vice President BJP J&K Sham Sharma interacting with people.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: State Vice President BJP and former Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Sham Lal Sharma has embarked on a significant 3-day tour of the Rajouri and Poonch districts, focusing on the upcoming Assembly Elections.

As a key member of the Manifesto Committee and Incharge for these districts, Sharma is dedicated to ensuring that the voices of the people are at the forefront of the BJP's electoral promises.

Throughout his visit to Sunderbani-Kalakote,

Iqbal Malik (DDC Darhal), Neena Sharma (District President Nowshera), Sr. Gurdeep Singh, and Capt. Ramesh Chander. Their contributions were integral to the consultations.

In his interactions, Sharma emphasized the BJP's commitment to addressing the socio-economic stability of the region.

Sham was accompanied by a distinguished group of leaders, including Vibodh Gupta (General Secretary BJP), Talib Hussain (Former MP), Selmaz Ganai (Ex MLC),

Nowshera, Rajouri, Mendhar, Poonch, and Surankote, Sharma engaged with various delegations, including political and non-political entities, to gather valuable inputs.

Representatives from the Vyapaar Mandal, Bar Association, Teacher Associations, religious forums, youth groups, and intellectuals actively participated, offering their written suggestions.

He assured the delegations that their voices would be central to the BJP's manifesto, which will be crafted to reflect the aspirations of the people of Rajouri and Poonch. "The BJP is committed to all-around development and addressing the local issues that matter most to the people of Rajouri and Poonch," said Sharma.

The extensive tour concluded with his reiteration of the party's dedication to resolving employment-related issues and fostering sustainable growth and development in the region.

# Cardio metabolic diseases in Indians-burgeoning epidemic: Dr Sushil

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: While spearheading the campaign to educate and aware masses about the importance of primary prevention of cardiac ailments by adopting heart compatible lifestyle Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Kgee Playway School Muthi, Jammu in order to make people realize the increasing incidence of cardiac diseases and various primordial modalities to prevent them.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that Cardio metabolic diseases are a group of common but often preventable conditions including heart attack, stroke, diabetes, insulin resistance and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

"There is a global increase in the number of people who experience one or more of these conditions during their lifetime. Smoking, lack of exercise, drinking a lot of alcohol and eating an unhealthy diet are recognized as the four main drivers of this rise. The high socioeconomic cost of cardio metabolic conditions to low, middle-income and wealthy



HoD Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma inaugurating cardiac awareness cum health check up camp.

countries make tackling these conditions critical to the health of our whole communities in the future," Dr Sushil said.

He elaborated that Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death and disability in India.

The CVD epidemic in Indians is characterized by a higher relative risk burden, an earlier age of onset, higher case fatality and higher premature deaths.

"For decades, researchers have been trying to understand the reason for this increased burden and propensity of CVD among Indians. It can partly be explained by population-level changes and the remaining by increased inherent

biological risk. While increased biological risk can be attributed to phenotypic changes caused by early life influences, six major transitions can be considered largely responsible for the population-level changes in India-epidemiological, demographic, nutritional, environmental, social-cultural and economic," Dr Sushil said.

He added that a multifaceted and holistic approach to CVD prevention that takes into consideration population-level as well as biological risk factors would be needed to control the burgeoning CVD epidemic among Indians. Prenatal factors that include maternal and paternal influences on the offspring, and postnatal factors, rang-

ing from birth through childhood, adolescence and young adulthood, as well as inter-generational influences have been explored using the life course approach to chronic disease.

In addition to this, recent research has illustrated the importance of the role of inherent biological differences in lipid metabolism, glucose metabolism, inflammatory states, genetic predispositions and epigenetic influences for the increased risk, he said.

Prominent members of the area Raman Chalotra, Vir Vikram, Kavi Raj Sharma, Kuldeep Raj Sharma, Kadar Sharma and Ajay Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness camp cum health check up camp in their area and expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Yashwant Sharma.

Paramedics and volunteers include Kamal Sharma, Ranjeet Singh, Amnisha Dutta, Amish Jamwal, Makhana Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Vaid, Rahul Sharma, Gourav Sharma, Jatin Bhasin, Paramveer Singh, Vikas Kumar and Nirvair Singh Bali.

# In 1950 SC listing was done with sole indicator of untouchability for Social & Educational Backwardness

A proviso was added even after 50 Yrs to 335 for relaxation in qualifying marks/ evaluation standard

Educational Empowerment of Socially -Administratively "Depressed Citizens" can only reduce their Exploitation

Reservation enshrined in COI have surely less benefitted those who were kept in focus in 1950

Are only the Governments responsible ? Are not community leaders too responsible?

DAYA SAGAR

From the 7 judge constitutional bench judgement on the petition related to sub classification in SC ( scheduled Caste) category for reservations delivered in Supreme Court of India on this 1st August for common understanding it could be sensed that no intimate method or basis for using some quantifiable & measurable data system was named by 'our' forefathers for listing 'castes/ groups/ sects/ tribes' to be specially supported by reservations in Lok Sabha /State legislatures, only direct reference was of social and educational backwardness and there was no direct reference of economic backwardness. Permitting sub classification the 6:1 constitution bench has said that 'present' SC category is heterogeneous and not homogeneous group and any sub classification as and when done in future has to be based on quantifiable and measurable data support basis.

During the course of delivery of judgment by CJI it was also said that listing of SC group/ category has been so far done /was done ( while issuing first presential order in

1950) like one homogenous group ( which it was not) using the single core indicator of untouchability.

Let us have brief on some constitutional features related to reservations. Taking fair leads from the judgment it will not be wrong to say that Governments / legislatures should have on their own gone for such exercise/ any other corrective administrative / legislative process instead of waiting for the Supreme court laying down such like doctrine after 7 decades. No doubt now also for applying correction a very comprehensive exercises will be required and which may take time since data on castes / sects member wise has to be made available as regards the caste/economic level/educational level/ administrative level/ and like.

THE Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 C.O. 19 along other things very particularly said that at clause (3) that "Notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph 2, no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu and the Sikh religion shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste which supports the inference that basis taken for listing

castes was untouchability to be prevailing as a curse only among the Hindu and the Sikh. Other religions have affirmed that there existed no social backwardness in them . Later on when the Bhudhist also said that they too suffered from social backwardness and it was in 1990 that . by Act 15 of 1990, s. 2, for "or the Sikh". Or the sikh was substituted by or sikh and Budhism.

Similarly in Part IV-Directive Principles of State Policy Art-46 only reference in particular is of Schedule Caste ( 'ST') and Schedule Tribe (ST) where it says " The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation." Though the expression weaker is not relatively spelled , it can be understood as economically weaker: In PART XVI of COI ( Special Provisions Relating



A Look through the Mist Part-IV

To Certain Classes) Art-330 among other things it said that seats shall be reserved in

the House of the People for-(a) the Scheduled Castes;(b) the Scheduled Tribes except the Scheduled Tribes in the tribal areas of Assam; and (c) the Scheduled Tribes in the autonomous districts of Assam.(2) The number of seats reserved in any State for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes under clause (1) shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats allotted to that State in the House of the People as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or part of the State, as the case may be, in respect of which seats are so reserved, bears to the total population of the State . Similarly Art - 332 laid down similar criteria provision for reservation of Seats for SC & ST in the legislative Assemblies of States/ UTs. At the same time the framers of the COI also drafted & adopted Art- 335

which said ["The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State. So it has been only the "social & educational" backwardness that was pointedly focused since the reference included only SC & ST. Since no reference of religion was made in 1950 while issuing the related orders for ST it can be taken that as regards ST their distant placement from the modern methods of economic activity & power control centres had led to their social neglect by the other members of society. Then comes the reference of Art-334 of the constitution which said "{334. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Part the provisions of this Constitution relating to- (a) the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States; and \* the representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the House of

the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States by nomination shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution: Provided that nothing in this article shall affect any representation in the House of the People or in the Legislative Assembly of a State until the dissolution of the then existing House or Assembly, as the case may be."].

It is pertinent to mention here that Art-334 talked of ceaser of reservation for Sc & ST in Lok Sabha and Sate Legislature after 10 years from 1950 and had no any reference or quote that could suggest that it was expected there may be need for extension. But there was no such reference ( end of support time line) to special support for educational and economic support to continue or cease. May be the 'elders' expected that need will not be there for 'provs' w.r.t legislature after 10 yrs since India would an independent country governed by her own people by a government by her people. To be continued

(The writer is a Sr Journalist, analyst J&K affairs and Social Activist).

# Impact of incessant rains on Jammu Smart City: A troubling scenario

During the monsoon months, Jammu Smart City struggles with several issues that undermine its progress. Roads and streets frequently become inundated, leading to waterlogging and disrupting daily commutes. This not only affects the flow of traffic but also poses risks to pedestrians and commuters. The accumulation of water in low-lying areas can lead to further complications, including potential damage to property and infrastructure.



**Gorav Mangotra, Trader**  
In Jammu, conditions worsen significantly with even a small amount of rain. The infrastructure in Jammu is not at all adequate, and people are visibly distressed even with minor rainfall. In Jammu, recently the situation was like a flood, but as usual no government official visits or inspects the situation. There is neither electricity nor any semblance of smartness here. If Jammu is truly smart, the government should consider that the city should still appear smart even after it rains.



**Ravi Gupta, Trader**  
Do you think there is any smartness in Jammu? In the future, water will accumulate on the streets that you won't be able to step outside. At least, the government should ensure proper cleaning of the drains so that water doesn't accumulate due to any blockages. With just a small amount of rain, water enters people's homes. I believe this cannot be considered a smart city.



**Narinder Gupta, President, Canal Road Market Association**  
With just a little bit of rain, we suffered significant damage amounting to lakhs of rupees as water entered in our shop. What kind of smart city is this? There is no proper system in place, and no one comes to check on us. Our government seems to be asleep, only waking up during elections. I don't know how they plan to make Jammu smart. I appeal to the government to save the beauty of our Jammu, as it is being lost.



**Tarsem Lochan, Social Activist**  
The rains in Jammu two days ago left the city in complete disarray. Does the government even know what a smart city is? They are only wasting money and doing nothing else. In the name of a smart city, resources are being squandered. I don't understand how Jammu is being made smart. Just one rainfall has exposed the city.



**Ravinder Singh**  
We were very happy that Jammu would become a smart city, but nothing like this has happened yet. We have only been made fools. People are extremely distressed, and I don't understand what the government is doing. If something unfortunate happens in the future, who would be responsible? Jammu's future is in danger now.