

# LG exhorts medical fraternity to ensure accessible, affordable care in rural, remote areas of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the new Centre of Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital at Qamarwari in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the hospital and medical fraternity for ensuring accessible and affordable care for all and connecting the specialists with patients in rural and far-flung areas of J&K.

"Over the past decade, modern technologies have fundamentally transformed the eye care field and today it is offering faster and more accurate diagnoses with precise treatments. The new technologies have also increased access to care in health sector and personalized treatment.



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating new Centre of Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital at Qamarwari in Srinagar.

AI-powered systems have enabled doctors to detect early signs of disease and eye problems.

Dr. Agarwals Eye Centre and other hospitals must take advantage of new technologies and provide the same treatment to the people of J&K, which is available to the

citizens in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the landmark transformation of Jammu Kashmir's healthcare sector over the past few years.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, we are ensuring that every citizen has access to quality healthcare. The rapid expansion of both Government and Private healthcare infrastructure has also ensured a healthy and prosperous future for every citizen of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon Dr. Agarwals Eye Centre and other hospitals to organise free eye check-up camps in different parts of J&K, especially in rural and border areas, with spirit of selfless service. He said, for greater reach, people should be served from time to time through telemedicine, virtual consultations and digital examinations.

Dr. Ashar Agarwal, Chief Business Officer, Dr

Agarwals Group of Eye Hospitals; Dr Atif Ali Mir, Head Clinical Services, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, Srinagar; Doctors, staff members of the hospital were present.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology department; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range, Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, besides Imran Reza Ansari, President All J&K Shia Association and senior officials also attended the inaugural ceremony.

# SUF welcomes SC's order on Anand Marriage Act Implementation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Sikh United Front (SUF) J&K, along with various Sikh organizations, was held under the chairmanship of Sudershan Singh Wazir to welcome the recent Supreme Court (SC) directive instructing all States and Union Territories to frame rules under the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 within four months.

The Act facilitates the registration of Sikh marriages solemnized through the traditional Anand Karaj ceremony.

Wazir emphasized that while the Anand Marriage Act was amended in 2012 with the inclusion of Section 6 to mandate State Governments to frame nec-

essary rules, several States and UTs, including Jammu & Kashmir, have yet to implement it effectively.

He noted that this has led to unequal access to a uniform legal framework for Sikh marriage registration.

Highlighting the secular character of the Indian Constitution, Wazir asserted that marriages conducted through Anand Karaj should be treated at par with other religious and civil marriage registrations.

He urged the J&K Government to promptly formulate rules under the Act to ensure its proper implementation.

Other Sikh leaders also lauded the Supreme Court's decision, stating

that it rightly places a positive obligation on State authorities to establish a functioning registration mechanism for Sikh marriages.

Among those present at the press conference were Darbinder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Rajinder Singh, Kuldeep Kour, Kulwant Singh Khajuria, Charan Singh Bali, Harpreet Singh Chhotu, Dheeraj Singh, Surjeet Singh Kukoo, Manmohan Singh, Jagmohan Singh, Surinder Singh Dutt, and other prominent community members.

The leaders collectively appealed for swift action by the government to honour the spirit of the Act and uphold the rights of the Sikh community.

# Ved Sharma stresses on 'Swachhta Abhiyan' during Sewa Pakhwada at Sainik Colony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of the Viksit Bharat Sewa Pakhwada activities, a Swachhta Abhiyan was organized today at Sainik Colony under the leadership of Ved Sharma, All Cells Incharge, BJP J&K.

The programme was organized by Refugees Cell Convenor S. Balwinder Singh and Co-Convenor Parmodh Chib, in association with BJP Gangval Mandal.

Prominent leaders present on the occasion included BJP Gangval Mandal President Ajay Partap, Ex-Corporator Ward No. 70 Narinder Singh, Sainik Colony Ex-Director Kamal Naiter, along with Ravi Baikshi, Kamalpreet, B.S. Manhas, Ch. General Singh, Gopal Sharma, Maj. D.B. Sharma, Omesh Sharma, and Ravinder Bali. Speaking on the occasion, Ved Sharma emphasized the



BJP leaders and workers carrying out cleanliness drive.

importance of Swachhta Abhiyan, describing cleanliness as a collective responsibility that directly contributes to the vision of a developed India.

"Cleanliness is not just about surroundings, it reflects our discipline and respect towards the community. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission has inspired millions, but we must continue to carry forward this mission at the grassroots level. Under the banner of Sewa Pakhwada, it is our duty to ensure active public participation in every Swachhta drive," he stated.

Sharma further added that BJP's All Cells are working

with dedication to spread awareness about cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental protection.

He urged citizens of Sainik Colony and adjoining areas to adopt sustainable practices such as waste segregation and proper disposal to make their neighborhoods models of cleanliness. The organizers, S. Balwinder Singh and Parmodh Chib, expressed gratitude to the participants and local residents for their active involvement in the drive. They said that such initiatives not only create cleaner surroundings but also inspire the younger generation to imbibe values of responsibility and community service.

The event concluded with a pledge by participants to continue the cleanliness campaign and contribute to building a cleaner, healthier, and developed Jammu & Kashmir.

# Jammu trade hit hard by traffic mismanagement, natural calamities: Traders Federation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Traders Federation Warehouse-Nehru Market has expressed deep concern over severe economic disruptions being faced by Jammu's business community due to persistent traffic mismanagement on the Lakhampur-Jammu route. Addressing a press conference, Federation President Deepak Gupta highlighted that for the last 15 days, truck movement from Lakhampur to Jammu has been severely hampered, with vehicles being stopped at Lakhampur, Raya Morh, and Bari Brahmana, causing delays of four to six days.

Gupta stated that the Srinagar Highway remains closed, but surprisingly, trucks bound for Jammu and Udhampur are also being halted, resulting in disrupted supplies across Jammu, Udhampur,



Federation President Deepak Gupta talking to reporters.

Rajouri-Poonch, Doda-Kishtwar, and Baderwah.

He blamed the traffic department's mismanagement for this chaos, warning that essential supplies-vegetables, dairy, poultry, and livestock-are getting spoiled, and grocery shortages are straining both consumers and traders.

Gupta also reminded the media that the region is already reeling from the aftermath of the tragic April 22 terror attack, the war-like

atmosphere that followed, and a series of natural disasters-including cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides-which have destroyed roads, damaged the Mata Vaishno Devi track, collapsed bridges, and submerged large areas.

He appealed to the IGP Traffic for immediate intervention and urged Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to waive toll tax between Lakhampur and Srinagar until the highway is fully

restored. Criticizing the Power Development Department, Gupta questioned the Chief Engineer over continued power outages, stating that traders are unable to generate e-way bills or operate computers and inverters.

To revive tourism-based trade during the upcoming Navratri festival, Gupta urged the Tourism Department to organize religious events at Bawe Mata Temple and requested Jammu Smart City Limited to conduct Tawi Aarti throughout the festival, similar to the Amarnath Yatra arrangements.

Federation office-bearers Sham Lal Gupta, Rajesh Bhagotra, Dheeraj Mahajan, Vishal Gupta, Abhimanyu Gupta, Rahul Gupta, and Nitish Gupta were also present during the press conference.

# Health camp held at SDH RS Pura under Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan



MLA R S Pura Dr Narender Raina and others at a health camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A mega health camp was held today at Sub District Hospital RS Pura under Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan.

Member Legislative Assembly R S Pura Dr Narender Raina attended the camp as the chief guest. He was welcomed by the Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar. CMO Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh, STO Dr. Jyoti Jolly and BMO R S

Pura Dr Balwinder Singh were present on the occasion. At the camp, the local residents were provided General OPD consultation, NCD Screening, Mental Health Counselling, Anemia Screening, Ayush OPD, ABHA ID's generation, Immunization and ANC services, Sputum Sampling and Nikshay ID generation.

A team of medics comprising Dr. Laghi Bhan (Anaesthetic), Dr. Renu Manhas (Gynaecologist) and

Dr. Vikram Jee (Paediatrician) gave information to the locals about the campaign.

Nikshay Poshan was also distributed among the beneficiaries in the presence of STO Dr. Jyoti Jolly.

The MLA took the round of the camp and appreciated the Health Department's initiative, while urging everyone to participate in the campaign. The BMO presented the vote of thanks to present dignitaries.

# Glimpses of Future Theatre showcased at Natrang

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Theatre enthusiasts in Jammu witnessed a groundbreaking artistic experiment today at the Natrang Studio Theatre, where visionary theatre-maker Padma Shri Balwant Thakur presented glimpses of future theatre to an exclusive audience. The presentation marked a bold step towards developing a new theatrical language that transcends geographical and linguistic boundaries, putting Jammu on the global cultural map.

Balwant Thakur, internationally acclaimed for his innovative contributions to contemporary theatre, has previously enriched Indian theatre with landmark productions like Ghumayee, Bawa Jitto, and Mahabhoj. With this latest initiative, he pushes creative boundaries further by focusing on poetic visual imagery, rhythmic



group movements, artistic lighting, and ensemble sounds instead of conventional dialogue to communicate universal concerns.

The performance explored pressing issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, peace, corruption, mental health, and human survival, creating a shared language of emotions that resonated deeply with the

audience. The non-verbal, expressive style ensured the message was immediate, accessible, and culturally transcendent.

Speaking on the occasion, Thakur emphasized that the work is still experimental and evolving. Drawing inspiration from recent interactions with international theatre productions in England, he highlighted the importance

of global exchange in shaping theatre that remains relevant in a rapidly changing world. "Theatre today must transcend language and connect directly with the heart and imagination of audiences everywhere," he said.

The presentation left spectators spellbound, many of whom hailed it as a potential turning point for Indian theatre on the

global stage. The performance featured an ensemble of talented artists including Neeraj Kant, Mohd. Yaseen, Aadesh Dhar, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Malooop Singh, Mitali Sarmal, Vrinda Sharma, Kanampreet Kaur, Parmjeet Singh, Pawan Verma, Roshan Singh, Sahil Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Vijay Bhat, Arun Dev Verma, Amit Rana, Vansh Pandotra, Sanjay Singh, Shaptan Singh, Mandeep Singh, Aryan Sharma, Kartik Kumar, Adaksh Bagal, Arjun Soni, Priya, Vishal Sharma, Sunder Singh, Vijay Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Ajay Sharma, and Kushal Bhat.

As the curtains fell, it was evident that this experiment offered not just a glimpse of future theatre, but the dawn of a new theatrical journey poised to resonate worldwide.

# JMC intensifies thermal fogging, spraying drive to prevent dengue, malaria, other vector-borne diseases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav on Saturday conducted a review of the ongoing citywide thermal fogging and spraying campaign aimed at preventing the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. The Commissioner reiterated that safeguarding the health and well-being of citizens is the foremost priority of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and emphasized the need for sustained and coordinated efforts at all levels.

Directing the field teams to intensify operations in sensitive, waterlogged, and densely populated areas, where the risk of mosquito breeding remains high, Dr. Yadav appealed to residents to extend their cooperation by keeping their surroundings clean, avoiding water stagnation in household containers, overhead tanks and open drains and by cov-



JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav conducting a review of ongoing citywide thermal fogging drive.

ering stored water properly. He further advised citizens to adopt preventive practices such as using mosquito nets, repellents, and wearing full-sleeved clothing to reduce exposure to bites.

The special campaign, which is being jointly executed by the JMC, Health Department, and Anti-Malaria Department, marks the third round of fogging this year. The first campaign was launched in July, and in continuation, the present round covers various wards on a daily basis. As part of today's schedule,

thermal fogging and spraying were conducted in Ward No. 41 (Bohri area) and Ward No. 61 (Patta Paloura area). The Malaria Control Teams are carrying out door-to-door spraying, while JMC's specialized machinery is engaged in large-scale thermal fogging.

To ensure systematic coverage, JMC has prepared a ward-wise roster, under which teams are deployed to different localities every day. The Commissioner informed that the campaign will continue till 18th October, thereby ensuring

protection during the post-monsoon period, when the risk of dengue and malaria remains at its peak.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yadav said, "Through thermal fogging and spraying, we are making consistent efforts to protect the people of Jammu from vector-borne diseases. However, the success of this campaign depends not only on government action but also on people's cooperation. Citizens must take responsibility by maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings, not allowing water to stagnate, and adopting basic precautionary measures. Together, we can minimize the risk of diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya."

The Commissioner also highlighted that while dengue cases reported this year are significantly lower compared to 2024, the JMC is leaving no stone unturned to prevent any sudden rise. Awareness drives are being conducted alongside fogging

to educate people about the importance of personal hygiene, safe water storage, and timely medical consultation in case of fever or related symptoms.

Malaria Expert of Jammu Health Department, Dr. Dhruv Raina and Health Officer of JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma, were also present. They briefed the Commissioner about the technical aspects of the campaign and the precautions being suggested to residents. Both officers stressed that consistent efforts by health authorities, combined with active public participation, are the key to keeping Jammu city free from mosquito-borne illnesses.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation once again appeals to the citizens to support the campaign by ensuring cleanliness in their neighbourhoods and by promptly reporting any issue of water stagnation or mosquito breeding sites to the concerned authorities.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA from Chenani, and senior BJP leader, strongly criticized INDI-Alliance candidate Harsh Dev Singh for making false and misleading allegations of rigging in 2024 Assembly elections.

Balwant Singh Mankotia, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, was addressing to the media persons in a press conference held at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here on Saturday.

Mankotia, while addressing the media, said that reverification of votes was conducted at three polling stations-2, 6, and 12-in Assembly Constituency Chenani, District Udhampur.

He said that the exercise was carried out following a demand made by INDI Alliance candidate Harsh Dev Singh, who had lost the 2024 Assembly elections from Chenani Constituency by a margin of 16,000 votes. Mankotia said that



MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia briefing media.

Harshdev had alleged large-scale rigging in the Assembly polls and sought reverification of EVMs.

Acting on this demand, the authorities conducted trial voting and recounting of the EVMs of the three polling stations as desired by applicant in the presence of the candidate and other representatives. The verification process confirmed that the allegations of rigging were baseless. The results matched the vote cost on spot and its outcome, thereby reaffirming the authenticity of the electoral process.

Mankotia further asserted that this episode is not just

an exposure of Harsh Dev's propaganda, but also a reminder that the Congress and its INDI-Alliance partners are consistently attempting to defame the Constitutional institutions of India.

He said that this exercise is a clear slap on the face of those who question the Election Commission of India and added that their attitude shows that they have no trust in the Indian democratic system.

Instead of respecting the people's mandate, they are working to mislead and create distrust among the public, he said.