

Ashok Koul highlights BJP's grassroots commitment, exposes NC's Budget failure at VB GRAM G program

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary (Organization), J&K, addressed a VB GRAM G Program held at the Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, where he strongly reaffirmed the Bharatiya Janata Party's unwavering commitment to grassroots development, public welfare, and inclusive growth under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji.

Mohammad Anwar Khan BJP General Secretary, Mudasir Wani, Secretary, Ghulam Hassan Dar District President Baramulla, senior leader M M War, and other leaders also addressed the programme.

Addressing a large gathering comprising BDC Members, Sarpanchs, Ward Members, women representatives, and senior party leaders, Ashok Koul said that the Central Budget is a reflection of BJP's pro-peo-



J&K BJP General Secretary (Org), Ashok Koul at VB GRAM G Program at Baramulla.

ple, pro-women and pro-poor ideology, which focuses on empowerment rather than empty slogans. He emphasized that women across India, including Jammu & Kashmir, are receiving unprecedented support through targeted schemes related to self-employment, health, education, housing, and financial inclusion, transforming them into active partners in nation-building.

Criticizing the National Conference (NC) government, Ashok Koul stated that the recently announced budget by the NC-led dispensation in J&K has completely failed to justify the trust of the people. "The NC government has neither vision nor commitment. Its budget is nothing but a poor imitation of the Central Government's budget, copied and pasted without originality, accountability, or concern for real

public welfare," he said. He added that while the BJP works with a clear roadmap for development, NC continues to mislead people with hollow promises and recycled policies.

Koul further said that BJP's strength lies in its deep-rooted connection with the grassroots, where elected representatives and citizens actively participate in shaping development priorities. He called upon grassroots

representatives to act as ambassadors of Central Government schemes and ensure that benefits reach the last person in society.

Later, Ashok Koul addressed an organizational review meeting with the BJP District Baramulla team, senior leaders, and Morcha representatives, stressing discipline, coordination, and people-centric outreach. He urged party workers to intensify booth-level activities, strengthen organizational structure, and remain continuously engaged with public issues to further reinforce BJP's presence in the district.

Mohammad Anwar Khan said that BJP is the only party that delivers development with honesty and transparency, adding that the people of J&K have clearly seen the difference between BJP's performance-based governance and NC's politics of deception.

Free Bone and Joint Disease Camp organized at Uppal Neuro Multispeciality OPD Clinic

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A free medical camp for bone and joint-related diseases was organized on Sunday at Uppal Neuro Multispeciality OPD Clinic, located at Amritsar-Jammu National Highway, Traffic Signal, Kaluchak.

During the camp, Dr. Parv stated that persistent pain, swelling and stiffness in the knees and joints, cracking sounds from joints, difficulty in walking, standing or sitting cross-legged, calcium deficiency, old injuries or sports injuries should not be ignored.

He explained that during the winter season, blood circulation in the muscles becomes lower than normal. Due to cold weather, muscles contract, which increases stiffness and pain in the joints. Elderly people are most affected by this problem; therefore, special care is required during winter.

He advised that in case of any problem, patients should



Doctor examining patient at a camp.

consult a specialist. He further informed that the Orthopaedics OPD at Uppal Neuro Clinic, Jammu, will now be held on the second Saturday of every month, so that residents of Jammu can also benefit from these services.

Dr. Ohri informed that at Uppal Neuro Hospital, Amritsar, advanced techniques are used for knee replacement, hip replacement and shoulder replacement surgeries. Treatment is

also provided for bone deformities or injuries in children, serious injuries caused by accidents, and sports injuries, which are successfully treated using laser technology.

In this camp, free BMD (Bone Mineral Density) tests were conducted to assess bone weakness, and free physiotherapy services were also provided. In addition, special discounts were offered on all types of investigations and surgeries.

Training programme on effective implementation of Rural Development schemes concludes



Participants with officials posing for a photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The three-day State-Level Training Programme on Effective Implementation of Rural Development Schemes under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) successfully concluded today at Leh. The programme was conducted from 05th to 07th February, 2026 with the objective of strengthening technical and implementation capacities at the grassroots level. The training programme was organized under the guidance of Syed Sajjad Qadri (JKAS), Director/SMD, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, UT Ladakh. Aqeel Sajjad (JKAS), District

Panchayat Officer and Nodal Officer for RGSA Capacity Building and Training, oversaw the smooth conduct of the programme.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Mir, State Project Manager (SPM-RGSA), played a key role in planning and monitoring the training programme. The programme was effectively monitored by DPM-RGSA, Stanzin Padma, along with the RGSA Leh team, who also ensured timely uploading of all participants on the Training Management Portal.

The programme was organized for Junior Engineers, Technical Assistants, and Work Supervisors, with focused ses-

sions on scheme guidelines, use of digital tools, monitoring mechanisms, and best practices for effective implementation of rural development schemes.

Dr. Shafia Wani, Assistant Professor, IMPA&RD Srinagar, served as the Master Trainer and facilitated technical sessions, providing expert guidance and practical insights to the participants.

The successful conclusion of the programme reflects the commitment of the Rural Development Department towards enhancing technical efficiency, transparency, and effective delivery of rural development initiatives across the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Teachers are main messengers of NEP 2020: Prof. Narayan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A thought-provoking programme on the theme "NEP 2020 se Viksit Bharat 2047" was organized by the Akhil Bhartiya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from academicians, professors, teachers, and other education stakeholders, reflecting a collective commitment to understanding and advancing the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The programme began with a warm welcome address by Gulshan Raina, State General Secretary, ABRSM, who greeted the dignitaries and participants with enthusiasm.

Addressing the gathering as the chief spokesperson, Prof. Narayan Lal Gupta, National President, ABRSM, emphasized that teachers are the main messengers of NEP 2020 and



A dignitary speaking at a programme.

play a pivotal role in translating policy into practice.

He highlighted NEP 2020 as a foundational framework for building an inclusive, innovative, and globally competitive education system aligned with India's goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Stressing adaptability to change as a core principle of the policy, he described NEP 2020 as the architect of Viksit Bharat 2047 and reiterated the importance

of integrating the Indian Knowledge System with modern education.

The Chief Guest, V. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, elaborated on key aspects of NEP 2020, including curricular flexibility, promotion of research and innovation, effective use of technology in education, teacher empowerment, and strengthening of higher education institutions.

He emphasized the need

for effective implementation of the policy at the grassroots level to achieve its intended outcomes. Discussions highlighted how these reforms can nurture skilled, ethical, and socially responsible citizens capable of contributing to India's economic growth and social progress.

Other dignitaries also shared their perspectives on how NEP 2020 can reshape learning experiences and create opportuni-

ties for creativity, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning. Interactive sessions encouraged dialogue on implementation strategies and underscored the collective responsibility of institutions, educators, and learners.

The programme concluded with a message that realizing the vision of a Developed India by 2047 requires sustained collaboration and a future-ready education system.

Rattan Sharma, State President, ABRSM J&K, expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and participants for making the programme successful. Dev Raj Thakur, National Joint Secretary, ABRSM, and Darshan Bharti, National Media Prakasht Pramukh, also graced the occasion.

IIT Jammu concludes 2nd International Conference on Recent Trends & Advances in Water Science, Remote Sensing & Climate Change

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu concluded the 2nd International Conference on Recent Trends & Advances in Water Science, Remote Sensing & Climate Change (WSRSCC-2) on 7th February 2026, following three days of focused deliberations on Sustainable Environmental Management.

Organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Jammu, under the coordination of Dr. Divyesh Varade, Dr. Pratik Kumar, and Dr. Ved Prakash Ranjan, the conference was held from 5-7 February 2026 with participation from academicians, scientists, researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals.

The organizing committee



IIT Jammu faculty and other participants posing for a photograph.

members emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary and technology-driven research to address challenges related to climate change, water security, and environmental sustainability, particularly in the Himalayan region.

The event featured eminent keynote speakers from institutions including IIT Ropar, IIT Mandi, IIT Kharagpur, IIT

Indore, NEERI Nagpur, Western Himalayan Regional Centre Jammu, and JKDEERS.

Over 60 technical papers were presented across six thematic sessions, covering geospatial applications, water and waste management, Solid Waste management, Himalayan ecosystem studies, sustainable engineering, natural hazard

risk assessment, and AI-based environmental solutions.

The valedictory session marked the successful conclusion of the conference with the distribution of certificates and awards, reaffirming IIT Jammu's commitment to advancing research, innovation, and policy-relevant dialogue in environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association organized a free full-body health check-up camp on Sunday at the Association's office in Gol Gujral, Jammu, in collaboration with Atulaya Diagnostic Lab. The initiative witnessed an overwhelming response, with over 300 members availing themselves of comprehensive health screenings.

The medical examinations covered 64 vital diagnostic parameters, along with PSA tests, and were conducted by a proficient and experienced medical team. The camp aimed to promote preventive healthcare and early detection of health issues among retired employees.

The programme was organized under the leadership of Iqbal Singh, Working President, and R.K. Bhan, General Secretary, and was conducted under the aegis of O.P. Nanda, Chief Patron of the Association. The organizing team included Chander Hass Sharma (Working

J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association organizes full-body health check-up camp



J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association members at a camp.

General Secretary), V.D. Dogra (Senior Vice President), P.P. Gupta (Vice President), Ved Gupta (Treasurer), and Arun Gupta (Secretary).

Executive Body Members-Yogesh Thaper, Pawan Mahajan, Jag Bhushan, Ramesh Angotra, R.C. Padha, S.N. Sharma, and R.S. Chib-actively contributed to ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the camp, reflecting the Association's strong

commitment to the welfare of its members. To facilitate fast-track requirements associated with medical tests, refreshments were thoughtfully provided to participants after the completion of health check-ups. Iqbal Singh, Working President, expressed sincere gratitude to all members for their participation and thanked the medical professionals for their dedicated service and cooperation.

The J&K Bank Retired

Welfare Association remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the health and well-being of retired employees and continues to contribute positively to society through such meaningful initiatives.

Similar health camps have previously been organized at the Association's Udhampur and Kathua units, further reinforcing its sustained commitment to community welfare.

92.7 BIG FM to present "BIG Laughter Fest" featuring Rajiv Thakur at Abhinav Theatre

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 92.7 BIG FM is all set to present a grand entertainment evening titled "BIG Laughter Fest" featuring internationally acclaimed stand-up comedian and The Kapil Sharma Show fame Rajiv Thakur on 15th February, 2026 at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, commencing at 4:00 PM.

The event is Co-Powered by Nice Gems and Aracot Constructions. Skoda by WheeloCity Motors joins as the Auto Partner, Mahavir Watch Co and Sansar Mills as Associate Partners, Holiday Makers & Earn My Trip as the Travel Partner, and F Salon by FTV Gandhi Nagar as the Salon Partner. With the support of its valued partners, the event is poised to offer a premium entertainment experience to the audience.

The evening promises to be a vibrant celebration of humour and live entertain-

ment, bringing together families, youth and comedy enthusiasts for an unforgettable cultural experience. The organisers have invited the public to be a part of this unique evening dedicated to laughter and positivity. Passes can be booked through BookMyShow, and for further information, interested persons may contact 9906048670.

Rajiv Thakur, widely recognised for his appearances on The Kapil Sharma Show, is known for his impeccable comic timing, spontaneous wit and clean, relatable humour. His performances on national television and major comedy platforms have earned him immense popularity across the country and abroad. With his effortless stage presence and ability to connect with audiences of all age groups, he has carved a special niche in the Indian comedy circuit. His live

performance in Jammu is expected to create an electrifying atmosphere filled with laughter and cheer.

"BIG Laughter Fest" aims to enrich the cultural and entertainment landscape of Jammu by offering a refreshing and wholesome live experience. At a time when audiences are increasingly drawn toward digital entertainment, such live events provide a unique opportunity to experience the magic of stage performance and shared laughter in a collective setting.

As per the handout issued, BIG FM has consistently remained committed to bringing quality entertainment and meaningful engagement to the people of Jammu.

It was stated that the initiative is a sincere effort to provide a joyful and memorable experience to Jammuites and further strengthen the cultural vibrancy of the city.

JKEJAC convenes provincial meet in Jammu; New leadership elected

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) convened an important provincial meeting at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Jammu, bringing together representatives of affiliated employees' associations from across the Jammu region. The meeting marked the formal welcome of newly elected State President Wajahat Hussain Durrani and served as a platform to deliberate on a wide range of service and welfare issues affecting government employees across the Union Territory.

Presiding over the session, Durrani thanked the employees' fraternity for reposing trust in the new leadership and emphasized the need for unity, discipline, and sustained collective efforts to achieve long-pending demands. He reiter-



JKEJAC newly elected members at a meet.

ated EJAC's commitment to functioning as a credible and strong representative voice for safeguarding the rights and dignity of employees.

During the meeting, the Jammu Provincial body was constituted unanimously. Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh was elected Provincial President (Jammu) unopposed, while Sardar Onkar Singh assumed the office of General Secretary. Tarun

Gupta was elected Senior Vice President, Amar Mooman as Vice President, Qamar Din as Chief Organizer, and Balraj Khokhar as Executive Member. Participants congratulated the newly elected office bearers and assured full cooperation in addressing employees' concerns.

Extensive discussions were held on several pressing issues, including the regu-

larization of Daily Wagers, implementation of a fair teacher transfer policy, and removal of delays in Assured Career Progression (ACP) benefits for lecturers. Members also highlighted the hardships faced by reserve category employees posted in Kashmir and called for a humane and transparent policy framework.

Service-related matters

