

Delegation raises issue of ST-II Certificates for POJK Displaced Persons with MLA Suchetgarh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation led by the ST-II Sangarsh Samiti (POJK DPs 1947) met Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat, MLA Suchetgarh, to highlight the issue of non-issuance of ST-II certificates to displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) residing in the constituency.

The delegation expressed serious concern over the continued delay in issuing certificates and alleged harassment by the administration, which they said has caused significant hardship to affected families.

After hearing the concerns, Prof. Bhagat assured the delegation that he would take up the matter with seriousness in the upcoming Assembly session and on



Delegation led by ST-II Sangarsh Samiti (POJK DPs 1947) meeting with Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat, MLA Suchetgarh.

other appropriate platforms. He expressed commitment to resolving the issue at the earliest and addressing the grievances of the displaced community.

The delegation included several PRI members such as Rajinder Singh, Binny Sharma, Naib Sarpaneh Dhara Singh, Panch Santosh Sharma, and Panch Sunita Sharma. Others present were

retired SP Vijay Sharma, Ankush Raina, Ashutosh Raina, Sunny Sharma, Raju Sharma, and Rohit Khajuria.

The members of the delegation urged swift action to ensure justice and relief for POJK displaced persons, emphasizing the need for administrative accountability and timely issuance of certificates.

India emerging as robust pharma economy: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, said that India is steadily emerging as a strong pharmaceutical economy poised to significantly contribute to the country's GDP.

Delivering the keynote address at a "Healthcare Summit" organised by a leading English media house, the Minister highlighted that India's pharmaceutical, medtech, and manufacturing ecosystem is rapidly evolving, positioning the country as a global hub for high-quality and affordable healthcare solutions. He noted that the discussions at the summit centered around the themes



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh delivering keynote address at the "Healthcare Summit" organised by a leading English media house, at New Delhi on Saturday.

of "Made in India" and "Quality," reflecting a major shift toward indigenous innovation and global standards.

Dr. Singh underlined that over the past decade, India has transitioned from an import-dependent healthcare system to one driven by domestic capabilities. Earlier, critical medical devices, implants, and advanced drugs were largely imported, making treatment

costly and less accessible. Today, India is producing its own antibiotics, vaccines, and advanced therapies, marking a decisive move toward self-reliance.

Referring to India's response during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said the country not only developed indigenous vaccines but also supplied them globally, reinforcing its position as a reliable healthcare partner. He

added that India's credibility in both therapeutic and preventive healthcare has grown significantly.

The Minister also highlighted advancements in cutting-edge technologies such as gene therapy, including progress in treating conditions like haemophilia and sickle cell anaemia. Indian institutions, he said, are increasingly contributing to globally recognised research and publishing in leading international journals.

Emphasising quality, Dr. Singh stated that Indian-made healthcare products now meet global benchmarks, supported by strengthened regulatory frameworks and streamlined approval systems. Indigenous medical devices such as stents, ventilators, and diagnostic equipment are ensuring safety, affordability, and

effectiveness.

On the policy front, he cited initiatives like the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) scheme with an outlay of ₹5,000 crore, aimed at boosting high-value innovation. He also mentioned programmes like the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, Maha MedTech Mission, and MedTech Mitra platform, which are enhancing research, infrastructure, and regulatory support. Concluding, Dr. Singh said that with strong policy backing, public-private collaboration, and a focus on innovation, India is well on track to become a leading global destination for affordable, high-quality healthcare while strengthening its position in the global bioeconomy.

Shiv Sena (UBT) opposes Jinnah Chapter, warns of agitation; Criticizes media restrictions during Navratri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) has strongly opposed the inclusion of a chapter on Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the new postgraduate Political Science syllabus (2026-2028) at the University of Jammu, warning of agitation if the decision is not rolled back.

Addressing a interaction with journalists at the party's central office, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu & Kashmir chief Manish Sahni demanded the immediate removal of the chapter introduced under "Modern Indian Political Thought." He termed the inclusion inappropriate, stating that presenting Jinnah-associated with the Two-Nation Theory in any academic form is unacceptable.

Sahni alleged a contradic-



Shiv Sena J&K chief Manish Sahni talking to reporters.

tion in policy, saying that while efforts are being made in the name of "purification of history" by removing certain historical periods and renaming public places, the inclusion of a figure linked to India's partition reflects double standards. He further accused the BJP of inconsistency and described the move as an insult to the nation's unity, integrity, and the sacrifices of martyrs.

Extending full support to

the ongoing student protests, Sahni urged the university administration and the Lieutenant Governor to withdraw the chapter without delay. He warned that failure to act would compel the party to launch an agitation.

Prominent party members, including Sanjay Bhatt (General Secretary - Organization), Raju Kapoor (Vice Chairman), and Aditya Mahajan (Vice President),

were also present during the interaction.

Shiv Sena (UBT) also condemned the restrictions imposed on media coverage, including live and video reporting, at major religious sites such as the Vaishno Devi Temple and Bahu Fort during Navratri.

Manish Sahni described the move as an attack on freedom of expression and questioned the rationale behind restricting independent media when temple authorities themselves facilitate online broadcasts. He termed it a clear case of double standards.

The party has demanded immediate revocation of the ban and called for transparent and balanced guidelines to ensure both security and democratic values, including media freedom and public access to information.

BJYM holds introductory meet at BJP headquarters

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Moreha (BJYM), Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of its President Arun Prabhat, organized an introductory meeting at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, marking the formal interaction with its newly constituted team.

J&K BJP President and MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, BJP Vice President & Prabhari BJYM Rakesh Mahajan, BJP General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan congratulated the newly constituted team, including State Office Bearers, State Executive Members, District Presidents, and District General Secretaries.

While addressing the BJYM team, Sat Sharma emphasized the rich ideological legacy of the Bharatiya Janata Party and urged BJYM workers to act as the driving force at the grassroots level. He called for immediate organizational momentum from the newly formed team and stressed the need to expand the Moreha's reach to every section of society while working with dedication for the welfare of the people of Jammu &



J&K BJP President and MP Sat Sharma and others at introductory meet

Kashmir. He further guided the youthful team on organizational discipline, effective working style, and commitment towards public service.

Ashok Koul, in his address, highlighted the importance of strengthening the organization at the booth level, terming it as the backbone of the party's structure. He also emphasized increasing youth participation in social and political activities, encouraging them to take active roles in nation-building through the party platform.

Rakesh Mahajan motivated the young cadre, stating that the enthusiasm, innovation, and energy of youth are the

greatest assets of the organization, and reaffirmed that the future leadership of the nation lies in capable young hands.

Earlier speaking on the occasion, Arun Prabhat reiterated BJYM's commitment towards youth empowerment and societal development. He assured that the Moreha will actively work to address the concerns of the youth and extend the party's activities across all sections of society with renewed vigor.

BJYM General Secretary Anant Khajuria conducted the proceedings of the meeting, while General Secretary Ranjit Singh was also present on the occasion.

KP community celebrates 'Zangtra' with devotion at Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Kashmiri Pandit community celebrated the auspicious festival of 'Zangtra' with great devotion and spiritual fervour at Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram, Udaiwala, Bohri, Jammu.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the sacred Jyoti and floral offerings to Bhagawaan Gopinathji, followed by a soulful Guru-Vandana that created a serene and devotional atmosphere. The event witnessed participation of a large number of devotees, especially women, who thronged the Ashram throughout the day to pay obeisance.

Ashok Kumar Razdan, President, and Sohan Krishen Khordi, Secretary of the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust, formally introduced the Chief Guest, Sandhya Dhar, a recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar



and a noted differently-abled rights activist. The Trust also honoured Rikita Bhan, a successful UPSC qualifier, as the Guest of Honour for her remarkable achievement.

The Trust members urged the gathering to follow the teachings of Bhagawaan Gopinathji in true spirit. Renowned artists, including Smt. Deepali Watal and Shanti Lal Sid, presented melodious devotional songs, captivating the audience and receiving warm appreciation. As part of the ritual, small

packets of salt along with Rs 5 (Atgath) were distributed among the women as a symbol of purity, love, and blessings. The programme concluded with tea and refreshments, leaving devotees in a state of spiritual bliss.

The festival was also observed at various other Ashram centres across the country, including New Delhi, Srinagar, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and other Satsang Mandals, reflecting the widespread devotion of the community.

BJP organizes Kissan Mela in memory of Master Sohan Lal, Sat highlights farmer welfare initiatives

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP President and MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma inaugurated a two-day Kissan Mela organized by BJP Kissan Moreha in memory of the late social leader of Jammu, Master Sohan Lal, on his 20th death anniversary at Baba Kailakh Dev Asthan, Thathar, Bantabal.

The Mela, organized by Sunil Sharma (Rakka), General Secretary BJP Kissan Moreha, witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, BJP leaders, social activists, and local residents features a wide range of farmer-related products including agricultural tools, seeds, medicinal plants, and local produce.

BJP District President Nand Kishore, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana, and senior leaders Ayodhya Gupta, Rajinder Singh Chib, Omi Khajuria, Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, Er TK Sharma, and others were present on the occasion.

Sat Sharma, while addressing, paid rich tributes to Master Sohan Lal, recalling his selfless service to society. He said that Master Sohan Lal was a



J&K BJP President and MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma at Kissan Mela.

symbol of compassion and dedication, who always stood with the needy and distressed, even with limited resources. His life is an inspiration for all of us to serve society with sincerity and commitment, he said.

Sat Sharma highlighted the efforts of the PM Narendra Modi-led government, emphasizing that farmers are at the core of India's development agenda. He stated that several landmark initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), soil health cards, and increased MSP have

strengthened the economic condition of farmers. He said that the Modi government has taken historic steps to empower farmers, ensure better income, and provide them access to modern technology and markets, adding that such initiatives are transforming agriculture into a more sustainable and profitable sector.

Sharma further stressed that BJP remains committed to the welfare of farmers and continues to engage with them through initiatives like Kissan Melas, which provide a platform for awareness, innovation, and direct

interaction.

Nand Kishore appreciated the efforts of Sunil Sharma (Rakka), in organizing the event and said that such programmes help bridge the gap between farmers and government schemes, enabling them to fully benefit from welfare initiatives.

Devyani Rana also lauded the initiative and said that the BJP government is consistently working to uplift farmers by promoting modern agricultural practices and ensuring better market access. She reiterated that continuous outreach programmes like these play a crucial role in improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers.

Sunil Sharma thanked Shakti Dutt Sharma, President Baba Kailakh Nath management committee and their team members for providing the venue and all amenities to make the event successful. He also thanked Rajat Soodan, Rajdev Singh, Shankar Singh Ballu, Davinder Singh Manhas Kaka, Surinder Singh Gilli, Pawan Singh Bhanu and Rajan Singh Happy for their contributions in the event.

SCJS celebrates International Day of Happiness



SCJS members at International Day of Happiness celebration.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS) celebrated the International Day of Happiness during its weekly get-together held at the office of Vichar Kranti Manch International.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman, SCJS, presided over the session, while Anil Kumar Gupta, Retired Chief Engineer, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

On this occasion, Dr. Jain prepared a comprehensive and thought-provoking write-up, which was read out by Sh. Ashok Gupta, President, SCJS.

Highlighting the significance of the day, the write-up emphasized that although the world celebrates the International Day of Happiness every year on 20th March, it also prompts a deeper question-are we truly happy?

It reflected on the modern paradox of life, where despite increased comfort, convenience, and material prosperity, there is a growing sense of dissatisfaction and inner emptiness. The note pointed out that while resources have expanded, contentment has diminished, as human desires continue to grow without limit. The address further

identified key reasons behind this imbalance, including constant comparison, misplaced definitions of success, superficial relationships, and disconnection from self and nature. It emphasized that true happiness does not lie in external achievements or possessions, but within oneself in a calm mind, gratitude, meaningful relationships, and the ability to live in the present moment.

The write-up also highlighted the importance of appreciating what one already has, rather than postponing happiness for future achievements. It stressed that simple

moments-a peaceful morning, a heartfelt conversation, or a modest meal-form the true essence of a happy life. Emphasis was also laid on the need for genuine human connections over virtual interactions, noting that true happiness grows through depth in relationships rather than numbers.

Practical ways to attain happiness were shared, including practicing gratitude, limiting unnecessary desires, living in the present, nurturing meaningful relationships, connecting with nature, maintaining physical and mental well-being through yoga and meditation, serving others,

and cultivating contentment.

The message concluded by stating that the International Day of Happiness is not merely a celebration, but an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with what truly matters. Happiness, it affirmed, is already within us-it simply needs to be recognized and experienced.

Several members actively participated and shared their views, including B. B. Sharma, Rakesh Misra, Narinder Wadhwa, Kulbeer Khajuria, Ashok Gupta, and Ashok Khajuria, along with Anju Bansal and Vandna Mairi.

The program also featured the joyful celebration of the birthdays of Narinder Wadhwa, Anju Bansal, and Vandna Mairi, marked with enthusiasm and warm wishes. Ashok Gupta recited a birthday poem and formally welcomed the gathering while introducing the theme of the day.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Ashok Khajuria, Secretary, followed by the National Anthem.

DFSS protests against price hike and adulteration of festive essentials



DFSS leaders and workers staging protest at Jammu on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Activists of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena, led by president Ashok Gupta, staged a protest rally against the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) department over the rising prices of flowers and alleged adulteration in essential food items during the festive season. The protesters stated that while the government fixes prices of essential commodities during Eid to protect consumers from inflation, a similar approach is not followed during festivals like Navratri and Karwachauth. They high-

lighted that flowers, especially roses, which are widely used during these occasions, are being sold at exorbitant rates of up to Rs 500 per kg. Ashok Gupta further alleged that despite the government fixing the price of cheese at Rs 290 per kg, adulterated milk products are being sold in the market, particularly sourced from outside states. He also raised concerns about the quality of "Kuttu Ka Atta," claiming it is adulterated and contains sand particles. The protesters pointed out that fruits and vegetables are also being sold at inflated

prices, adding to the burden on the common man. They demanded strict action against black marketing and adulteration, urging the authorities, including the Metrology Department and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), to intensify market inspections. Gupta criticized the Food & Supplies Department for inaction, accusing it of remaining a mute spectator. Several party members, including Abhishek, Ashish, Bantu, Prem, Vinay, Devinder, Suresh, Amit, and others, were present during the protest.