

BJP committed to deliver healthcare to every doorstep: Sat

Distributes Ayushman Bharat Card Distribution in Gadigarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, organized Ayushman Bharat Card Distribution Camps at the Mandal level across the Union Territory.

A significant event under this campaign was held at Gadigarh in BJP District Jammu South, where Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) cards were distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma spearheaded the programme, who personally handed over the Ayushman Bharat Cards to the beneficiaries. The camp aimed to extend the benefits of free healthcare insurance to the citizens, thereby supporting the vision of universal health coverage.

Speaking at the occasion, Sat Sharma said, "Ensuring the last-mile delivery of pub-



J&K BJP President Sat Sharma handing over Ayushman Bharat Card to a beneficiary.

lic welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat is our top priority. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, healthcare has become accessible to even the most marginalized sections of society. This is not just a scheme but a commitment to safeguard lives."

Sat Sharma said, "The camp witnessed enthusiastic

participation, reinforcing BJP's commitment to Seva, Sushasan aur Gareeb Kalyan (Service, Good Governance, and Welfare of the Poor)."

Ayodhya Gupta, J&K BJP Secretary and District Prabhari, emphasized the significance of spreading awareness about the scheme. "We are reaching out to every

home so that no deserving person is left behind. These health cards are a lifeline in times of crisis," he stated.

District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia applauded the efforts of party workers and said, "The efficient implementation of Ayushman Bharat in our district showcases BJP's dedication to public service.

We are witnessing positive change at the grassroots level."

BJP Health & Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan highlighted the government's efforts in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure. "This initiative not only empowers the common man but also ensures dignity and security for families facing medical challenges," he remarked. The event also saw the presence of senior leaders Rekha Mahajan, District General Secretaries Rakesh Sangral and Kulbeer Charak, Mandal President Pushkar Sharma, Jasmeet Kour Pandey, Kunti Devi, Rajat Sharma, Pankaj Bral, Ravinder Singh, Meetu Sharma, Sakshi Sharma, Gurdial Singh, Ved Prakash, Ashwani Charak, and others.

Local residents expressed gratitude for the scheme and the BJP's continued support.

India stands strong for its people under Operation Sindhu: Purnima

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP J&K Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Adv Purnima Sharma has hailed the Central Government's swift and effective response in bringing back over 800 stranded Indian nationals from Iran under Operation Sindhu, calling it a testimony to India's unwavering resolve to protect its people.

In a press release issued here today, Purnima Sharma praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the Ministry of External Affairs for acting promptly in a time of international crisis. "Operation Sindhu is not just a rescue mission-it is a bold statement that India stands firmly with its citizens, no matter where they are or how difficult the circumstances," she said.

She expressed deep appreciation for the MEA's coordination and the efforts of the



Indian Embassy in Iran, which facilitated multiple evacuation flights from cities like Mashhad and Ashgabat, ensuring the safe return of students, pilgrims, and workers. "The timely response and meticulous planning have saved lives and brought relief to hundreds of families across the nation," she added.

Purnima also applauded India's decision to assist in evacuating nationals from neighboring countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka. "This highlights India's regional

leadership and humanitarian outlook. We are not only taking care of our own but also stepping up for our neighbors in times of need," she noted.

Highlighting the growing global stature of India under the Modi government, she remarked, "Today, the world recognizes India as a responsible power that values human life and acts swiftly in the face of adversity. Operation Sindhu reinforces our diplomatic strength and people-centric governance."

Purnima Sharma said that the success of Operation Sindhu is yet another milestone in India's journey as a confident and compassionate nation.

"This mission will be remembered as a powerful example of how the government rose to the occasion and brought its people home with dignity and care," she said.

Free Medical Camp organized at Home for Aged & Infirm Ambphalla



Doctors interacting with patients during medical camp at Home for Aged and Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A free medical camp was organized on Sunday for the residents of the Home for the Aged and Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu.

The camp was led by Dr. Parveen Yograj, MS assisted by Dr. Rajinder Thappa, Former CMO, GMCH,

Jammu, conducted thorough medical examinations of all inmates and provided the necessary medicines free of cost. Prior to this, a detailed body profile of each resident was carried out. Additionally, a specialized dermatology camp was held by a team from the Department of

Dermatology, SMGS Hospital, Jammu.

The team was headed by Dr. Masarat Jabeen and included Dr. Kuldeep Lakshara, Dr. Basira Sultan, Dr. Zenab Khatoon, and Fauzja Raffiq, who examined all patients and provided appropriate treatments

and medications. Active support during the camp was provided by psychology students from Women's College, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The interns-Shakshi Khajuria, Sohani Devi, Suhani Sharma, Divya Drishti, Amelia Ashwariya, Aanya Khajuria, Jewchika Aron Issac, Satyam Tandon, Bhoomi Sharma, and Khushi Sharma-enthusiastically assisted the inmates throughout the check-up process.

Members of the Home's Committee, including Satpaul Sharma and Dr. Dinesh Gupta, were present during the camp.

The management of the Home expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors and interns for their generous service, valuable medical advice, and efforts to uplift the morale of the residents.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Ghor Kalyug'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Natrang presented a thought-provoking new Hindi play 'Ghor Kalyug', written and directed by Neeraj Kant, as part of its popular weekly theatre series Sunday Theatre. The play drew a powerful response from the audience for its bold commentary on the emotional detachment and erosion of traditional values in contemporary society.



Natrang artists performing in a play.

The play revolves around Rajan, a media professional, and his family's emotionally distant reaction to the death of his ailing father. Upon waking up late one morning, Rajan is informed by his wife, Savita, that his father has passed away. Rather than showing grief, Rajan responds with calculated pragmatism, calling a funeral assistance committee to handle the last rites and delegating all responsibilities to Savita and their servant, Bhola.

As the story unfolds, the audience is drawn into the contrasting reactions within the household. Rajan's young daughter, Veera, is deeply affected and refuses to go to school, while Savita manages the situation with cold efficiency, relying solely on paid services. Rajan, meanwhile, faces emotional conflict at work, where his boss dismisses his father's death as irrelevant in the cutthroat world of sensational media. His attempt to

give personal grief professional relevance is shut down, highlighting the growing dissonance between human emotions and public apathy.

The play's climax intensifies at home when even the father's ashes are returned by the funeral service agency. Frustrated, Rajan suggests finding an organization for ash immersion. But when Bhola is asked to carry out the task, he refuses, condemning the family's

complete outsourcing of intimate rituals. Bhola's monologue becomes the emotional high point of the play, as he mourns the disappearance of human connection, cultural responsibility, and emotional authenticity in modern life. Declaring his wish to escape this heartless "Kalyug," Bhola leaves the audience with a stark and stirring critique of today's mechanical existence.

Today's play was decorated with the participation of Pawan Verma (Recipient of J&K State Award and National Fellowship from Ministry of Culture) who performed brilliantly. Others who have significant performances included Aryan Sharma, Adakash Bagal, Kushal Bhat, Prerna Sharma, Priyal Ashok Gupta and Kartik Kumar. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Khatana applauds PM Modi for UN Recognition of Yoga, calls for grassroots fight against drug menace



RS MP, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana speaking at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, while addressing a large gathering on the occasion of International Yoga Day in Jammu, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for achieving global recognition for Yoga through the United Nations.

"Only a visionary leader like Narendra Modi could make this happen. This recognition not only honours

Indian heritage but also strengthens our cultural identity across the globe," said Khatana.

Highlighting the significance of Yoga for physical and mental well-being, he emphasized, "The health of our citizens is the true wealth of the nation. A healthy population contributes immensely to the overall development of the country."

Urging everyone to adopt Yoga and regular physical

exercise as a daily routine, Khatana also raised concern over the growing drug menace. "Though Jammu & Kashmir Police is doing commendable work in curbing drug abuse, we need active community participation at the grassroots level," he noted.

He proposed the formation of Anti-Drug Committees at the panchayat and municipal ward level, modeled on the lines of Village Defence Committees (VDCs), to intensify the fight against narcotics. The MP also participated in the mass Yoga session and distributed mementoes to children who performed exceptionally well during the event.

He extended his gratitude to Vishal Yog Sansthan and the J&K Government's Department of Culture for organizing the grand event and mobilizing an impressive turnout.

BJP organizes Mohalla Sankalp Sabha at Kabir Colony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Mohalla Sankalp Sabha was organized by J&K BJP, under ongoing campaign 'Viksit Bharat Ka Anurikhaal - Seva, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal' at Kabir Colony, Talab Tillo, Jammu. The event was chiefly addressed by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir.



Media Incharge BJP J&K, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra speaking at a Sabha.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra highlighted the transformative achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government over the last 11 years. He stated, "The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation for a Viksit Bharat. Under his leadership, every section of society, especially the poor, marginalized, and youth has witnessed empowerment and inclusion through transparent governance and people-centric policies." He further emphasized that initiatives like Ayushman

Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, Digital India, and housing for all have drastically improved the quality of life for the common citizen. "In Jammu & Kashmir, the abrogation of Article 370 paved the way for full integration, unprecedented development, transparent governance, and massive infrastructure growth. Peace, tourism, and investment have seen a sharp rise. With reforms like GST, Swachh Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, and global leadership through G20, India

is confidently moving towards becoming a Viksit Bharat", said Dr. Pardeep Mahotra.

Neelam Nargotra, former JMC Councillor and BJP District Secretary, also addressed the gathering and praised the central government's focus on women empowerment and grassroots development. "The Modi government has brought women into the mainstream through schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Awas Yojana, and direct benefit transfers," she

said, calling upon the residents to stay connected with the party's outreach efforts.

Arun Dubey, General Secretary of BJP Talab Tillo Mandal, conducted the proceedings and remarked, "These Sankalp Sabhas are not just events but platforms for direct dialogue between the public and the party, reflecting our commitment to participatory governance."

Rahul Nargotra, Mandal Vice-President, extended the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the participants and reaffirming the Mandal's commitment to the BJP's ideology and grassroots connectivity.

Prominent among those present were Sonali Gupta, Mandal Secretary; Sachin, Vice-President SC Morecha Talab Tillo Mandal, Bishambhar Singh Chib, Rekha Devi, Rajkumari, Bachno Devi and other local party activists who ensured successful conduct of the programme.

Operation Sindhu reflects a New & Bold India that stands by its citizens: Nitish

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Nitish Mahajan, President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, on Sunday hailed the Government of India's swift and successful execution of Operation Sindhu, which has so far facilitated the safe return of over 800 Indian nationals from Iran amid rising regional tensions.

In a statement issued today, the senior BJP leader praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive leadership and the prompt action of the Ministry of External Affairs for ensuring the well-being of Indian citizens stranded in Iran due to escalating conflict in the region. "The safe evacuation of 827 Indians, including students and pilgrims, showcases the government's unwavering commitment to protecting its people, no matter where they are in the world," he said.

He specifically acknowledged the commendable efforts of the Indian Embassy in Iran and MEA officials, who worked around the clock to coordinate the evacuation flights. "Each evacuation-from Mashhad, Ashgabat, and other points-reflects the strength of India's diplomatic outreach and humanitarian concern," he added.

Nitish also appreciated India's gesture of including Nepalese and Sri Lankan citizens in its evacuation efforts. "This highlights our cultural and humanitarian ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-the world is one family," he noted.

Nitish Mahajan said such missions reaffirm people's faith in the Modi government's foreign policy and national security vision. "Operation Sindhu is not just a rescue mission-it is a reflection of a new, bold India that stands by its citizens anywhere, anytime," he added.

Ashadha Amavasya on June 25: Mahant Rohit Shastri Urges donations based on zodiac signs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, has emphasized the spiritual and religious significance of Ashadha Amavasya, falling on Wednesday, June 25 this year. He has encouraged the public to observe traditional Vedic rituals and make specific donations aligned with their zodiac signs to honor ancestors and seek divine blessings.

Amavasya, occurring once every month, is considered sacred and is governed by Pitru Devas (ancestral spirits). Mahant Shastri highlighted that Ashadha Amavasya is especially auspicious for performing rituals like pind daan, tarpan, and daan (charity). He stated that these practices help individuals gain relief from grief, illness, poverty, and the consequences of past misdeeds.

This year, Ashadha Krishna Paksha Amavasya begins at



7:00 PM on June 24 and ends at 4:02 PM on June 25. Since the sunrise falls within the tithi on June 25, the Amavasya will be observed on Wednesday. Those who cannot travel to sacred rivers are advised to bathe at home using water mixed with Gangajal and donate according to their means-items like food, clothes, sesame, or ghee-to those in need. Mahant Rohit Shastri also recommended several remedial rituals for Amavasya, including fasting for the peace of ancestors, which pleases both ancestral and celestial beings. Donations of sesame seeds, milk, and sesame-based

sweets are said to alleviate poverty. He further suggested offering water and black sesame seeds under a Peepal tree while chanting "Om Pitribhyah Namah," as well as making Arghya to the Sun using a copper vessel with red sandalwood and Gangajal.

Devotees are encouraged to recite scriptures such as the Neelkanth Stotra, Sarpasukt, and Shri Narayan Kavach, and feed Brahmins. Those facing astrological challenges, particularly related to Rahu or wishing for children, are advised to fast on this day. Lighting a cow ghee lamp with a red cotton wick in the northeast corner of the house and donating a silver Peepal leaf are also considered highly beneficial.

Special offerings like kheer and dry fruits to Goddess Lakshmi, along with hoisting a flag at a Shri Vishnu temple, further amplify the day's auspiciousness.

Do's and Don'ts on

Amavasya, as per Mahant Shastri, include avoiding tamasic food, alcohol, leather items, and wearing black clothes. He also advised against shaving and urged people to maintain celibacy and refrain from causing emotional harm to others. Those who are emotionally sensitive should remain especially cautious, as the moon's energy is weakest on Amavasya.

In a special guidance, Mahant Rohit Shastri suggested zodiac-based donations to enhance the positive effects of the day. Each zodiac sign has recommended items for donation, such as jaggery and peanuts for Aries, white clothes and silver for Taurus, green moong for Virgo, black urad dal and khichdi for Aquarius, and silk cloth and chana dal for Pisces.

Mahant Shastri concluded by urging everyone to make the most of this spiritually significant day through devotion, humility, and charity.

SKUAST-J signs agreement for establishing Bayer Learning Centre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) has taken a significant stride in strengthening its industry-academia partnership by establishing the Bayer Learning Centre (BLC) under the leadership of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor.

This collaborative initiative with Bayer Crop Science aims to provide hands-on learning opportunities to students, aligning agricultural education with modern industry practices.

The agreement to establish the BLC was formally signed between Gulshan Singh Rana, Head Market Development and Commercial Capability, Bayer Crop Science and Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director

Research, SKUAST-Jammu.

The initiative was coordinated by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences and Incharge, Counselling and Placement Cell.

The BLC will function as a field-based learning and demonstration platform, enabling students to gain practical exposure to innovative agricultural technologies.

SKUAST-Jammu will provide land, agricultural tools, machinery, and infrastructure support. It will also ensure regular academic guidance, faculty coordination, and management of produce generated from BLC demonstrations.

Bayer will contribute by supplying essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, crop protection products, and micronutrients, and

will bear the operational cost including labour charges.

Additionally, Bayer will offer incentives or stipends to students actively involved in the centre's activities and will provide technical support through literature, expert visits, and training programs.

Both institutions will jointly develop an annual work plan, co-brand the centre, and document success stories and learnings for broader dissemination.

The agreement is valid for an initial period of five years and may be extended with mutual consent.

Prof. N. Tripathi emphasized that the BLC represents SKUAST-Jammu's strong commitment to experiential learning, skill development, and making students future-ready and industry-aligned.