

Priya Sethi lauds PM Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Vice President J & K and former Minister, Priya Sethi, praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiative 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' during the Hariyali Teej Utsav organized by Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Shivalik Branch, Jammu today. The event was celebrated with great cultural fervour and was marked by devotional ceremonies, traditional performances, and community bonding.

Addressing the gathering, Priya Sethi highlighted the significance of the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative as a powerful tool for fostering national integration.

She said, "Prime Minister Modi's campaign is more than just a slogan; it is a reflection of India's deep-rooted ethos of unity in diversity. This initiative encourages citizens to embrace, respect, and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions that define our great nation."



BJP Vice President J&K, Priya Sethi with others at Teej Festival celebration.

She emphasized the role of youth and students in strengthening national unity through participation in cultural exchange programmes, educational collaborations, and inter-state interaction platforms.

"Such efforts are nurturing a deeper emotional connection among people across regions and promoting the spirit of one India," she added.

Priya Sethi also lauded Jammu & Kashmir's unique contribution to India's composite culture.

"Our region has always stood as a symbol of cultural resilience and harmony.

Jammu & Kashmir continues to enrich the national identity with its heritage, traditions, and communal harmony," she said, encouraging the younger generation to actively involve themselves in cultural activities that reinforce national solidarity.

The event, organized by the BVP Ladies Club, was a grand celebration of Hariyali Teej, a festival deeply rooted in North Indian traditions. The festivities included a ceremonial puja dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, symbolizing eternal love, devotion, and marital bliss. Women, dressed in

vibrant traditional attire, observed fasts and offered prayers for the well-being and long life of their husbands.

A highlight of the celebration was the Teej-themed cultural program, featuring traditional songs, folk dances, festive games, and a Teej Queen competition. Women from various age groups participated enthusiastically, showcasing their talent and festive spirit. The celebration reflected the essence of Indian womanhood, values, and rich traditions.

The event witnessed the active involvement of several dignitaries and members of the

Bharat Vikas Parishad, Shivalik Branch namely Hriday Chander Vaid-Advisor & State Sanskar Coordinator; Ashok Gupta-Advisor; Ashok Khajuria-President, Rakesh Khajuria-Secretary; Vivek Gupta-Treasurer; Raj Kumari-Incharge, Mahila Sahvagita, Sunita Mahajan-Member; National Mahila Sahvagita, Anita Sharma - Incharge - Mahila Sahvagita Region North-I, and Sunita Gupta - President, B.V.P. Prant Jammu & Kashmir (UT).

All members contributed to the seamless organization of the event, ensuring its spiritual and cultural significance was upheld.

The festival not only celebrated religious devotion but also served as a platform for community unity, cultural bonding, and the empowerment of women through active participation. It reinforced the values of togetherness and cultural pride, resonating with the broader vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

Balbir calls on Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta during his Jammu visit



Senior BJP leader, Balbir Ram Rattan calling on Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, former Vice Chairperson of J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, called on the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, during the latter's visit to Jammu-his hometown-after assuming the prestigious constitutional office. In a warm and cordial meeting, Balbir Ram extended his congratulations and

best wishes to Kavinder Gupta on his taking over as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

He expressed confidence that Gupta's vast experience in public life and governance will contribute significantly to the development and progress of the strategically important Union Territory.

Balbir highlighted the numerous leadership roles Kavinder Gupta has held over the years, including his tenure

as the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and as Deputy Chief Minister of the erstwhile state. His long and distinguished journey in public service, his commitment to transparency, and his hands-on administrative capabilities make him ideally suited to serve the unique aspirations of the people of Ladakh, said Balbir. He further added that under Gupta's guidance, Ladakh can expect a strengthened focus on infrastructure development and equitable growth.

"Your presence in Ladakh will not only bring a sense of assurance to the people but also reinforce the Centre's commitment to inclusive development of the Union Territory," Balbir said to the LG.

LG Kavinder Gupta, during the meeting, reaffirmed his commitment to serve Ladakh with integrity and dedication.

State Times scribe Ashok Anand gets Media Star Awards 2025



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The M Jackson Cultural Institute of Society, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, presented the Media Star Awards 2025 at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, celebrating outstanding contributions and excellence in the field of journalism.

This prestigious event recognized the dedication, integrity, and achievements of distinguished media professionals who have significantly impacted journalism through their work.

Among the notable awardees was Ashok Anand, a senior photojournalist State Times English Daily newspaper, honored for his exceptional contributions to ground reporting in Jammu and Kashmir.

The award was also presented to the other journalists, acknowledging their visionary leadership, editorial excellence, and commitment to ethical journalism in the region.

The awards ceremony was graciously sponsored by the Betiya Foundation, a national-level NGO committed to empowering communities and promoting social causes. The event featured inspiring keynote addresses, award presentations, and insightful panel discussions on current media trends, ethics, and challenges faced by journalists today.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizers stated, "We are delighted to recognize and celebrate the relentless efforts of media professionals who continue to uphold the values of responsible journalism. The Media Star Awards 2025 are a tribute to their passion and perseverance."

The Jammu Kashmir Writers Team extended heartfelt congratulations to Ashok Anand, and all the recipients, acknowledging their unwavering dedication to truth, integrity, and excellence in journalism.

"May this recognition serve as a beacon of inspiration for continued commitment to journalistic values," the team said.

Will meet PM, HM to discuss Ladakh's immense dev potential: LG Kavinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta, who arrived in his native land Jammu for the first time after taking command of the Union Territory of Ladakh, received a grand welcome on Monday.

Talking to reporters here, Gupta said he will soon meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss Ladakh's immense potential for development.

He also took a dig at senior Congress leader P Chidambaram for his statement that "homegrown terrorists" were behind the Pahalgam attack and said that it has become a habit of some parties to always give a clean chit to Pakistan.

Hundreds of people carrying the tricolour and shouting slogans of "Bharat mata ki jai" welcomed him at the Jammu airport.

"I will meet the Prime Minister and the Home Minister in a couple of days and bring to their attention the immense scope for development in Ladakh,"



Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta being welcomed at Jammu Airport by BJP leaders on Monday.

Gupta said. He said the Union Territory has a lot of scope for development. "People there have many expectations from the Government of India, and continuous work is being done in that direction. We particularly want to promote tourism there. Many tourism projects are being prepared for the coming years."

The lieutenant governor said that on Sunday alone, he laid foundation stone for works worth Rs 180 crore. "The Central government has not imposed any restrictions on us, but due to road and weather issues, the work period is short in Ladakh. We have requested

the government that if any of our funds lapse due to time constraints, they should be carried forward and not declared lapsed," he said.

On Zoji-la tunnel, he said that the two ends of the tunnel will be connected by March next year. "That route will open. After that, some time will be needed for the finishing work. Ladakh already has good roads, and we are working to further strengthen

them," he said.

Gupta said that apart from remote areas, the administration is trying to ensure that people get all necessary facilities and administrative coordination within their own regions. "Work is being done at the grassroots level to implement this properly," he said.

Replying to a question on Chidambaram's remarks questioning Pakistan's involvement in Pahalgam

attack, he said that some parties have a habit of giving a clean chit to Pakistan. "Such parties have a habit of justifying them. Sometimes, it feels like these political parties and Pakistan talk in a similar language."

The lieutenant governor reiterated that terrorists came from outside and said there is no doubt that locals may have supported them.

He said people should desist from politicising issues like Operation Sindoor and stand with the country instead.

Referring to his visit to the Kargil memorial to pay homage to martyrs, he said that Indian forces have done a commendable job and one should see the depth of emotions of those who sacrificed their lives. "Such politics on martyrs is not good for the country," Gupta added.

SPPND GDC Samba launches green drive on Van Mahotsav

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: SPPND Government Degree College, Samba marked a major step toward environmental sustainability with the launch of a plantation drive on the occasion of Van Mahotsav, held at its newly developed Botanical Garden. The initiative aimed to promote green cover and ecological awareness among students and staff.

Over 25 saplings-including native species like Palash, Arjuna, Anla, Parijat, Reetha, Chinara, Bougainvillea, Mango, and Pomegranate, as well as two resilient bamboo varieties-were planted. The drive was organized by the Department of Botany in collaboration with the Forest Department, UT of J&K. The event commenced with



SPPND GDC Samba faculty planting sapling.

the plantation of a Palash sapling by Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal,

while emphasising that such green initiatives foster a deep sense of ecological responsibility among the youth. She added that even the smallest steps can inspire a culture of sustainable action and lasting change.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and non-teaching staff, reflecting the college's collective commitment to environmental advocacy thereby nurturing a culture of stewardship and sustainability among its students.

The plantation drive was effectively coordinated by Department of Botany headed by Assoc.Prof. Mala Bhasin along with Dr. Ranjodh Singh Janwal (HoD History), and Rajinder Singh Jasrotia, Block Officer, Forest Department, UT of J&K.

Ayush Medical Aid Camp held at Ranbireshwar Temple



Doctors examining patients at a medical camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Under the banner "Your Health, Our Priority: Beware, Stay Healthy with Ayush," a successful Ayush medical aid camp was organized by the Directorate of Ayush J&K on Monday at Shree Ranbireshwar Temple.

The camp aimed to deliver essential health services and promote awareness of Ayush practices for preventing lifestyle disorders. Dr. Neha Jolly (MO), Aakash (MPW), and Yoga Instructor Sheetal provided their expert services. The event, supported by the

Ranbireshwar Mandir Welfare Committee, emphasized simple yet impactful Ayush health tips for a balanced and disease-free life.

Jugal visits Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir, pledges support for Daily Jammu-Rishikesh Train Service



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma meeting with JYBT President Pawan Kumar Shastri.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma, paid a significant visit to the revered Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shri Hanuman Mandir Bhawan, operated by the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, located at B.C. Road, Jammu. Upon arrival, he was warmly welcomed by the Trust's President, Pawan Kumar Shastri, and General Secretary/ Treasurer,

Gurdas Sharma. During his visit, Jugal Kishore performed Puja Archana at the temple and sought blessings from Lord Hanuman.

On this occasion, Shastri apprised the MP of the hardships faced by Jammu residents, particularly those traveling to Haridwar for performing last rites and sacred rituals such as Asthi Visarjan and Ganga Snan. Highlighting the trans-

portation issues, Shastri stated that only one regular train service, Katra-Rishikesh (14609/14610), currently operates on this route and is often overcrowded. This poses a major challenge for senior citizens and physically handicapped individuals who struggle to secure train reservations during peak religious periods.

He also mentioned that although the Railway Ministry has sanctioned a weekly train - Yog Nagri Rishikesh-Jammu Tawi (14605/14606) - there is an urgent need to convert it into a daily service. He requested the Hon'ble MP to take up the matter with the concerned ministry to help ease the suffering of grieving families.

Jugal Kishore Sharma assured full support and promised to raise the issue with the Railway Ministry, expressing his appreciation for Shastri's continued efforts in championing the needs of the people of Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: World Hepatitis Day was observed at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar by organizing a mega screening camp on Monday.

The Camp was inaugurated by Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar in presence of Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhutiyal and District Health Officer Dr. Samina Nazir.

The event started with detailed power point presentations on implementation and challenges of National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) in District Jammu by Dr. Rolly Sharma (RMNCHA consultant and District Nodal officer NVHCP), followed by PPT on Epidemiology, clinical features and treatment by Dr. Shri Ram (DNB Scholar) and key aspects on Prevention and control of Hepatitis by Dr. Ruchita Mahajan (Microbiologist Gandhi

World Hepatitis Day: Screening camp held at Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar



Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar with other doctors at screening camp.

Nagar Hospital).

The event also witnessed the screening of High risk patients for Hepatitis Band Hepatitis C using Rapid Diagnostic kits. The health-care staff members, unvaccinated against Hepatitis B were also administered Hepatitis B vaccine.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid

Zargar, in his speech, highlighted the importance of early diagnosis and preventive measures to be taken through proper hygiene and timely vaccination to combat the spread of hepatitis viruses. The CMO laid stress on the risk factors and encouraged regular screening to fight this silent disease.

The Day was also observed

in health institutions of all Districts and Blocks of Jammu Division with active participation of Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents and Block Medical Officers along with Officers & Officials. Awareness programmes regarding transmission and control of Hepatitis were organized for patients, General Public and students in schools and colleges.

Young students were made aware about safe injection practices, transmission of H?patitis B and C by using unsafe needles and they were also made aware about risks of IV drug abuse. Hepatitis B vaccine was also given to staff members who were previously not vaccinated, in continuation to previous vaccination drives launched in different blocks. Stress was laid on immunization of newborn with Hepatitis B vaccine and role of Hepatitis B immunoglobulins for high risk infants and patients for prevention and management of Hepatitis B.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Laksh Dev Singh of Aryan Oriental Convent School (AOC) emerged winner in the boys' under-19 inter-school Table Tennis event of district Udhampur, which was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) at Indoor Complex, Subash Stadium, here as part of the annual calendar of activities. In the singles title clash, Laksh defeated Antrik of Government Boys Higher Secondary School Udhampur in straight sets of 11-06, 11-08. In traditional art of Gatka, Samar Preet Singh of Happy Model School bagged the title on the basis of his performance.

Earlier, the competition also took place in Wushu, Badminton and Chess with the sole aim to raise district teams for the upcoming inter-district divisional level events.

A total of 172 boys turned up in the under-19 age group in these six sports disciplines, a handout issued here today informed.

Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZIPEO) Tikri, Pushpinder Kourwas special guest, who along with ZIPEO Pancheri, Vijay Kumar interacted with the participants and the officials.