

BJP remembers Gandhi, Shastri; promotes Khadi products across J&K

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JAMMU: J&K BJP remembered and paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth Anniversary at District, Mandal and Ward levels across Jammu & Kashmir under "Seva Pakhwada".

BJP leaders emphasized the promotion and use of Swadeshi products especially Khadi stressing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make "Atma Nirbhar Bharat".

BJP President Ravinder Raina accompanied by BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul, General Secretary Sunil Sharma,



BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina and other leaders paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Altaf Thakur and other leaders paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri at Baramulla.

Former BJP President Sat Sharma, Munish Khajuria, Ayodhya Gupta, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Parneesh

Mahajan, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Sanjay Baru, Neelam Nargotra, Sat Paul Karlupia, Suchha Singh,

Keshav Chopra, Rajesh Gupta, Karan Sharma, Jaideep Singh Samyal paid tributes at Talab Tillo.

Ashok Kaul paid tributes to the great personalities at Baramulla. He said that it is of utmost necessary to imbibe the spirit of Nationalism and feel proud of using Swadeshi products.

Jugal Kishore Sharma visited Khadi Centre & purchased Khadi items along with other senior leaders. He said that the Nation will always be indebted to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri as they have worked tirelessly in the service of the Nation.



Tara Chand seeks immediate restoration of statehood to J&K

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JAMMU: Senior leader of Democratic Azad Party and former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand on Sunday urged BJP Government to fulfill its promise made with people of J&K on the floor of the Parliament, regarding returning full statehood to J&K as soon as possible. He said that people of J&K feel betrayed by the downgrading of historic state and becoming deprived of their rights to land and jobs.

Speaking during a public rally of newly formed Democratic Azad Party in Gigrila area of Chaamb Khour Constituency, which was attended by thousands of people and senior workers, Tara Chand said that Democratic Azad Party would intensify struggle for restoration of Statehood with protection to jobs and lands for locals. Others who spoke on the occasion included Senior DAP leader, Former Minister Abdul Majeed Wani, Former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma, Former Minister Ch Garu Ram, Narinder Sharma and Varun Magotra.



Former Dy CM Tara Chand addressing a gathering.

On the occasion, a number of people expressing confidence in leadership of former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, joined Democratic Azad Party.

Tara Chand further said Democratic Azad Party feel duty bound to work for the well being of the people.

"Rise in prices of all most all things, including essential commodities has become a common feature these days. The Government should do something to check the same, as sudden and massive rise in prices of commodities has made life of common man miserable," he asserted.

He further added BJP's promise of providing employment to the youth of J&K also turned out to be

hollow. "Major stress of government should have been to assuage miseries of unemployed youth who regrettably have grown up in conflict.

The need of the hour called for adoption of a magnanimous approach to give our youth a new hope and rescue them to safe shores, but nothing substantial is being done by Government," he demanded.

Others present on the occasion included Suram Singh, Jagattar Singh, Vijay Chib, Jagdish Raj Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Santosh Manhas, Sham Lal Radha, Hansraj Bhagat, Mukesh Kumar, Tarsem Singh, Avtar Singh besides a number of Sarpanchs and Panchs of adjoining villages.

ADG (Hqrs) visits CBC's Multimedia Exhibition at Katra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Additional Director General (ADG), Headquarters, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Ranjana Dev Sarmah, on Sunday visited the Multimedia Exhibition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Katra.

The exhibition underway at Govt. Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Katra is being organized by CBC's Regional Office, Jammu during the annual Navratra festival.

The 8-day long multimedia exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India by means of chronologically arranged photo exhibits as well as audio-visual media.

Ranjana Dev was accompanied by Rajinder Chaudhry, ADG, Northern Region, Navneet Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer,



A section of dignitaries during the event.

Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Katra and Ghulam Abass, Joint Director, CBC Jammu.

The officers paid rich tributes to the Father of Nation - Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary. Tributes were also paid to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary as well.

In her presidential address, Ranjana Dev outlined the information that CBC intends to send across

through the exhibition and other outreach programmes currently underway at Katra.

She urged the people to visit the multimedia exhibition to know about India's glorious past and the progress our nation is making at present.

She exhorted the youth especially students to visit the dedicated corners for Azadi Quest and Swaraj and download the video games for an insight into the freedom struggle of India.

Rajinder Chaudhry said that the aim of the multimedia exhibition is to generate awareness among the masses regarding the various initiatives & welfare programmes of Government of India.

Ghulam Abass gave a detailed overview of the functioning, structure and working of CBC, in the twin UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Others present during the event were Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, Anantnag, Khurshheed Yousuf, Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur, In-charges of Field Office, Kathua, and Poonch, Artists of CBC, Jammu and former FPO Vijay Kumar Magotra.

Apart from the multimedia exhibition, CBC organizes cultural programmes and Magic Shows in the evening on a daily basis. To further amplify the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative of the government, CBC,

RO Jammu has invited cultural troupes from different parts of country. Registered troupes from Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur and Jammu Kashmir present cultural programmes showcasing their unique culture and highlighting India's cultural diversity. The troupes also are part Prabhat Pheris and Shoba Yatras being organized daily in Katra.

Various departments like Poshan Project (ICDS), AYUSH, Health and School Education department have been part of the multimedia exhibition. Students and teachers from educational institutions in the vicinity of Katra participated in the various competitions conducted by CBC. The exhibition and cultural programmes will conclude on October 4, 2022.

Ladakh to soon have 'Design & Assembly lab of Solar-based products': CEC LAHDC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Chairman/CEC, Adv. Tashi Gyalson chaired a meeting in continuation with the meeting held in the month of April 2021 with NIELIT Leh in which the Hill Council desired to set up a design and assembly lab of Solar-based products for the youths keeping in view the potential of harnessing solar energy in Ladakh.

Accordingly, he requested the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India to extend support for the said project last year.

CEC Tashi Gyalson stated that the lab would be highly useful, especially for a place like Ladakh knowing the usage of solar-based products in Ladakh over the years.

He further added that this kind of project would help in generating employment opportunities for the youths in particular and at large it would strengthen the potential of solar energy-based products in the region.

It was informed during the meeting that the project has been sanctioned and in the initial phase, the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology and

LAHDC Leh will provide training to 50 candidates. The Project is being implemented by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Leh, and the selection procedures and other required processes would be purely monitored by the Hill Council, Leh.

The project will have the equipment and machineries for Design and manufacturing of all kinds of Solar Led based Products and will also engage solar experts from all over the country for smooth execution.

CEC Tashi Gyalson extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and especially to the Joint Secretary, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Rajesh Singh along with DG NIELIT, Dr. M.M Tripathi for their extraordinary help and support in getting the project sanctioned for Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Director NIELIT Ladakh, Phuntsog Toldan, and Energy Expert, Kunzes Dolma.

Stop rehabilitation of retirees to tackle challenge of unemployment

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: According to available data, unemployment rate in J&K is rising steadily. The CMIE's September 2022 figures show unemployment rate in UT of J&K as 23.2 percent, second highest among all states and UTs of the country, which is really a cause of concern for both UT administration as well as people. LG's administration claims that it is making all efforts to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth, both in government as well as private sectors, but it is ever-growing 'menace' of re-engagement of retired employees in the universities and other government departments across J&K, which is negating efforts of Government. Amid rising unemployment rate, the varieties in UT have turned into hubs of re-engaged retired officials. All the universities have continuously reemployed/re-engaged retired officials/teachers in gross violation of rules and UGC guidelines. Recently, Kashmir University has taken a step and cancelled all re-appointments but rest of universities like BGSBU Rajouri and

IUST Avantipora have not taken a single step in this regard.

There are many examples wherein retirees have been re-engaged on consolidated monthly salaries, as so-called 'Consultants' Liaison Officers in BGSBU. Moreover, a former VC and a retired AMU teacher have also been engaged in gross violation of norms. In the instant case, the retired teacher is holding an important position of Dean Academic Affairs of BGSBU.

The IUST Avantipora appears to be another hub of rehabilitation of retired teachers. At least half a dozen teachers, retired from Kashmir University made inroads into IUST. According to insiders, the University administration instead of seeking creation of posts of professors and filling-up the same is continuing with 'bad practice' of engaging retired teachers on consolidated salaries. "When a teacher retires, the UGC norms are clear that he/she can't hold any administrative position," said an official, in know-how of UGC regulations.

"Due to low budget and grants, BGSBU prefers to hire retirees as they are paying

them just Rs 20,000-30,000 as remunerations, and if university chooses permanent faculty, it will have to pay them lakhs of rupees as salary," informed a former Assistant Controller Examination, University of Kashmir, who himself works as a consultant in BGSBU, while talking to STATE TIMES Correspondent. One of the arguments generally given for such re-engagements is that these people are 'needed' because of their so-called experience. "If educated youth, having qualifications PhDs and MPhils are not given a chance of employment, how will they gain experience" a youth said, alleging that university authorities are playing with their careers.

In view of rising graph of unemployment as well as the fact that there is no policy with universities to make such engagements, the matter of CUS has led to the probe. "If there are other universities who have resorted to such a practice, they cannot escape law and shall be made accountable," the sources said, adding that other universities are also under scanner for such violations.

Navratra festival; Tourism Deptt organises Garba & Dandiya night

J&K Govt presents first prize for Best Photography 2022 to journalist Naresh Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Journalist Naresh Sharma was awarded first prize for best photography in the 'Sabse Bada Ghumakkar' Photography Competition organised by Directorate of Tourism, Jammu under the aegis of Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir Government.

The first award with a cash prize of Rs 15, 000 was presented to Naresh Sharma, by Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism Jammu in presence of Sunaina Sharma, Joint Director, J&K Tourism and other dignitaries during Garba & Dandiya night function organised by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department in collaboration District Administration Jammu at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt PG College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, on Sunday as a part of



Journalist Naresh Sharma's picture of Amar Mahal Palace that received first prize from J&K Government; Director Tourism Vivekanand Rai and others giving prize to the winner during the Garba and Dandiya night celebrations at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Govt PG College for Women in Jammu on Sunday evening.

Navratra celebrations. The event was widely enjoyed by the audience who witnessed performances from various artists.

Vivekanand Rai, Director, Tourism (Jammu) said that the festival will help increase tourism and cultural

exchange in the Union Territory.

"We started the Navratra festival from Katra this year and now we are holding a Garba and Dandiya night in Jammu after a gap of two years due to COVID pandemic. We will keep doing activi-

ties that will increase tourism and public participation," Rai said.

"Such events will also lead to cultural exchange, interactions of different cultures with each other. A culture will be able to adopt the good aspects from the other," he

added.

"It is a great initiative by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir that Dandiya night is being held and Navratra is being celebrated in the Union Territory. We suffered heavily during the pandemic. However, events like this give

us hope that something good is on the horizon for the sector. There is a lot of scope in Jammu and Kashmir tourism because this region has a rich history," he said.

Sunaina Sharma, Joint Director, J&K Tourism also praised the picture clicked by

Naresh Sharma which depicts culture and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

While congratulating Naresh Sharma, she recalled the posting of Naresh Sharma in Jammu with the national newspaper Indian Express. There are many pictures

which Naresh Sharma clicked and received awards from various organisations.

Meanwhile, Deepak Thakur from Doda was conferred with second prize of Rs 10,000 while Irfan Choudhary from Poonch got third prize of Rs 5000.

