

Maharishi Valmiki advocated equality, social justice: Balbir



GRVM National General Secretary Balbir Ram Rattan paying tributes to Maharishi Valmiki.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The teachings of great saints of India continue to inspire and guide the people of all generations and the path shown by them teach everyone to work for equality and social justice.

Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth (GRVM) National General Secretary & former Vice Chairperson, J&K SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, Balbir Ram Rattan, said this while paying tributes to Maharishi Valmiki when he visited Bhagwan Valmiki Mandir in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

He was accompanied by Vijay Anand Gill, President Jammu and Kashmir Valmiki

Samaj, Adarsh Jathiar, General Secretary, Guru Ravidass Sabha, Upper Gumat, Jammu, and other prominent social activists.

Jang Bahadur Pradhan of the Mandir Committee and Ram Singh, Mandir Sevaks presented siropa as token of respect to Balbir and his colleagues. Balbir Ram Rattan, while discussing the contribution of Maharishi Valmiki in the literary field, said that one of the great religious book of hindus, Ramayana, was written by him, which is most revered writing work. He stressed for motivating the youth in particular to learn the lives of Indian saints to progress and prosper.

Vijay Anand Gill, on this occasion, said that the Parkat Divas of Maharishi Valmiki is celebrated every year not only by the Valmiki community but the people of other faiths too join us to pay tributes to such a great saint, which is reflective of the respect for him among every section in the society.

Adarsh Jathiar said that like Guru Ravidass, Maharishi Valmiki, also gave message of universal equality, goodwill and respect for all, without any consideration of one's religion, region or gender. He also lauded the Mandir Committee for organizing functions in memory of Maharishi Valmiki on regular basis.

Spark of separatism, fundamentalism should not be tolerated: Shiv Sena Hilal should apologize to country: Sahni

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has called the act of NC MLA Hilal Akbar Lone not standing during the national anthem is anti-national act and has advocated strict action like apology and dismissal. In a press conference held at the party state center office, state central office, state chief Manish Sahni has appealed to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take strict cognizance of the act of MLA Hilal Akbar, who remained

talism should be tolerated. Sahni alleged that this is a deliberate act. This MLA's father Mohammad Akbar Lone has also raised the slogan of Pakistan Zindabad in the Jammu Kashmir Assembly during his tenure. It is worth mentioning that the swearing-in ceremony of Omar Abdullah was going on at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC) in Srinagar. When the national anthem was played during the swearing-in ceremony,



Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit Manish Sahni talking to reporters.

seated at his place during the national anthem, and dismiss him. Sahni said that no spark of separatism and fundamen-

Hilal Akbar Lone, the National Conference MLA elected from Sonwari Hajin, remained seated at his place.

Maj Gen Sachdeva inspires future leaders at Jammu



ADG of NCC Directorate JK&L, Maj Gen R.K. Sachdeva addressing cadets at NCC Training Academy in Nagrota.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: In a memorable and impactful visit, Major General R.K. Sachdeva, Additional Director General of NCC Directorate JK&L visited the NCC Training Academy in Nagrota during the ongoing Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) camp. His interaction with cadets, particularly those from the Bihar and Jharkhand Directorates, left a lasting impression as he emphasized the importance of national unity and the vibrant diversity of cultures across India. Addressing the enthusiastic cadets, Maj Gen Sachdeva passionately reiterated the deeper significance of the words "Unity" and "Discipline" prominently displayed on the NCC logo. He highlighted that these

values are not just symbolic, but fundamental principles that every cadet should embody throughout their lives. He emphasized that the phrase, "Once a cadet, always a cadet," glorifies the enduring spirit of leadership, discipline, and teamwork that the National Cadet Corps instills in its members during their journey. Encouraging cadets to utilize the skills they acquire in NCC to shape their future careers, Maj Gen Sachdeva underscored the invaluable experiences cadets gain through their service. He mentioned the ongoing expansion plans in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, where four new NCC units are being raised, providing a transformative opportunity for cadets even from the remotest areas of these

regions. This, he said, is a testament to the government's commitment to nurturing talent from every corner of the country. The ADG reviewed preparations for the inauguration ceremony of the new units and urged all participants to give their best performance, leaving a remarkable impression on all attendees. Maj Gen Sachdeva also took stock of renovation works underway at the NCC Training Academy. He reminded the cadets that they are the "brand ambassadors" of NCC, and even after they pass out, they should remain connected with the NCC fraternity. He urged them to continue serving the society as responsible and dedicated citizens, helping to build a stronger, more united nation.

ASCOMS organizes Divisional Round of 37th IAP Quiz for Undergraduates



Dr. Ravinder K Gupta, Prof & HOD, Paediatric with doctors and winner students.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Paediatrics at Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital, Sidhra, Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics, organized the Divisional Round of the 37th IAP Quiz on Friday in the College Auditorium.

Under the supervision of Dr. Ravinder K. Gupta, Professor and Head of Paediatrics, the event saw participation from final-year MBBS students across various medical colleges in the Jammu Division. Teams from AIIMS Vijaypur, GMC Jammu, ASCOMS, GMC Doda, and GMC Rajouri competed fiercely, with

AIIMS Vijaypur emerging victorious after a narrow win against ASCOMS, thus qualifying for the zonal round in Amritsar. Dr. G.V. Basavaraja, Central IAP President 2024, addressed the participants virtually, commending the efforts of IAP Jammu and ASCOMS Hospital for organizing the quiz, and praised ASCOMS

for its reputation in fostering scientific activities among medical students. The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Ashok Gupta, Ex-Professor and HOD of Paediatrics at GMC Jammu, along with Dr. G.S. Saini and Dr. N.K. Pargal as guests of honor. Faculty members and students were also present, enjoying the quiz proceedings. Dr. K.S. Mehta, Officiating Director Principal, lauded the efforts of Dr. Gupta and his team in organizing the event. Dr. Ravinder K. Gupta emphasized the importance of such academic activities in the undergraduate curriculum, fostering competitiveness among students. Participants were later felicitated by the dignitaries, celebrating their achievements and efforts.

Tiger Division organizes Veterans Outreach Program-cum-Ex-servicemen felicitation ceremony



Tiger Division officials and veterans at outreach program-cum Ex-servicemen Felicitation Ceremony on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian Army's Tiger Division organized a Veterans Outreach Program cum Ex-servicemen Felicitation Ceremony on Friday. The event was conducted to honour and felicitate the Gallantry Awardees and Disabled Soldiers for their selfless sacrifice in service of the Nation. Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, AVSM, GOC-in-C Western

Command graced the occasion. The event was conducted in coordination with War Wounded Foundation (WWF) and witnessed a gathering of more than 250 Ex-Servicemen. During the event, information on various government schemes was shared by State Government officials including from Zila Sainik Board and Nationalised Banks.

Indian Army departments were represented by Record Offices, Department of Indian Army Veterans, Veterans Sahayata Kendra, Army Welfare Placement Organization amongst others, who interacted with Veterans to resolve their pending queries and share information.

A team from Defence Accounts Department was also present to resolve pending pension related issues while the local Military Hospital team attended to the medical issues of the ESM. The Army Commander expressed his gratitude towards the War veterans for their contribution to the Nation. He felicitated the War Heroes and also presented modified scooters and autos. The GOC-in-C interacted with the veterans and there was a hearty exchange of ideas and views, fostering camaraderie and strengthening bonds.

BJP's highest poll percentage in J&K is stamp of approval to Art 30 abrogation: Core Group

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Describing the highest poll percentage of BJP in the recently held elections to Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly as a stamp of approval to abrogation of Article 370 by majority of the people, the Core Group of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday said that this, as also such of the other decisions taken by the Central Government, have instilled confidence among the masses in the system. The Core Group, which met at the BJP headquarters here, with the Pradesh President Ravinder Raina and MP Jugal Kishore Sharma in the chair, hailed the measures taken for containing and eliminating the terror network from Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Working President Sat Sharma, National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, General Secretary, Organization Ashok Koul, General Secretaries Vibodh Gupta, and Dr. D.K. Manyal besides the other members of the Core Group,

Devender Singh Rana, Surjit Singh Salathia, Sham Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, Ajay Bharti and Balwant Singh Mankotia. "The Core Group had in-depth discussion on the recently held elections for UT of J&K Assembly and extended thanks to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for leading the Party to unprecedented victory in the elections wherein not only the Party created history by getting 29 seats but also procured highest percentage of votes of around 26 percentage in the assembly elections and stood at number one position so far as percentage of votes is concerned", a BJP spokesperson said. The Core Group extended gratitude and thanks to the public of UT of J&K especially Jammu province who overwhelmingly supported the policies of BJP and extended their full support to the Party. The Core Group observed that majority of the population of J&K also approved the devel-



BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina chairing core group meeting at Jammu on Friday.

opment and developmental work of the Central Government and the LG Administration in the UT of J&K and this is also reflected from the manifold increase in the vote share in Kashmir province also. The Core Group also greeted

BJP workers, who through their untiring support and work and commitment towards the Party, have convinced the public for standing with the principles of BJP of Nation First. Though because of various factors and misleading campaign by National Conference,

elections in Kashmir region became one sided and the NC has been in a position to form the Government, the Core Group maintained that the real victory is with the BJP, which has created electoral history in J&K. The Core Group resolved that

all the members of the Legislative Assembly belonging to BJP stands committed to work for the people of J&K, particularly for the Jammu region and will not leave any stone unturned to ensure that justice is done to the people of Jammu. All the BJP members of the Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K have been asked to stand with commitment of the party and to play the role of effective and vigilant opposition in the Assembly to ensure that no injustice is done to Jammu region by the National Conference government, which is primarily a Kashmir centric dispensation. The Core Group also resolved to strengthen the democracy and democratic institutions in J&K and to mitigate the sufferings of the masses by its hard work, honesty and commitment.

Amar Singh Club celebrates Karwa Chauth festival



Anita Kapahi and Veena Handa inaugurating Karwa Chauth festival at Amar Singh Club.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two day Exhibition and Musical Night to celebrate the auspicious festival of Karwa Chauth started at Amar Singh Club on Friday. The exhibition included various stalls like mehendi, designer dresses, foot wear, bangles, decoration materials, book stall mehendi, designer dresses, footwear, bangles, decoration materials, book stall and paintings. The event was inaugurated by Anita Kapahi, wife of the Secretary of the Club, Veena Handa a renowned Educationist and Socialite, Anil Kapahi, the Secretary of the Club along with the other executive members of the Club.

The event also saw famous Astrologer Yagendra checking the horoscopes of members interested in knowing their future. In the evening Tambola was organised for the members of the Club and this was followed by a musical performance by Deepak Kumar. Secretary of the Club, Anil Kapahi, thanked the team, especially Ritika Mahajan, Renu Nanda, and Deepali Handa for their efforts in organising this fun-filled program. Notable attendees included Vikram Gujral, Naresh Gupta, Amit Mahajan, and Dr. Vikram Handa, Deepak Kumar and Tambola horoscope Yogender.

CISF rescues three persons trapped in malfunctioned lift of chimney

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Three individuals were trapped in a malfunctioning lift of a chimney at NTPC Farakka in West Bengal on Friday. The Central Industrial Security Force's (CISF) personnel's fire wing successfully saved the trapped individuals. The chimney, which stands approximately 110 meters tall, posed significant challenges during the rescue effort. Immediately, CISF Fire Wing personnel alongwith the equipment reached at the spot and started res-

cue operations. Using specialized ropes and rescue equipment, they successfully extricated the three individuals from the lift. By 1725 hours, the operation was completed, and all individuals were safely retrieved with no reported injuries. The NTPC Management appreciated the quick response and professionalism of the CISF personnel, which ensured the safety of those involved. This incident highlights our commitment in maintaining the highest safety standards in all our operations.

IIPA JKRB organizes prelude conference on "One Nation One Election"



Prof. Suresh Misra, Chair Professor (Consumer Affairs) at Centre for Consumer Studies IIPA, New Delhi and others at a conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch (JKRB) organized significant prelude Conference on the theme "One Nation One Election". Prof. Suresh Misra, Chair Professor (Consumer Affairs) at the Centre for Consumer Studies, IIPA, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address. B.R. Sharma, IAS (Retd), State Election Commissioner and Chairman of IIPA JKRB, served as the Chief Guest, while Kuldeep Khoda, IPS (Retd), former DGP of J&K Police presided over the event. In his keynote address, Prof. Misra underscored the vital principles of democracy, stressing the necessity for free and fair elections

and acknowledged that India has a robust parliamentary system. Prof. Misra explored the concept of simultaneous elections, referencing international examples from countries such as South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Indonesia, and the Philippines. He traced the initiative's origins to discussions initiated by former President Pranab Mukherjee in 2017 and the subsequent formation of a high-level committee under Ram Nath

Kovind. The proposed electoral reform aims to implement a two-step process for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with panchayat and local urban body elections within 100 days. He also highlighted expected merits which include continuity of governance, greater emphasis on policy implementation, reduced expenditure and single voter list. He also acknowledged potential demerits, including the risk of overshadowing regional

issues by national concerns and neglecting local needs. He emphasized the importance of building consensus, particularly given the frequency of elections and the necessity of a Model Code of Conduct to maintain electoral integrity. B.R. Sharma, in his address, outlined essential concepts underpinning democracy, emphasizing its mechanics and structure as crucial for fostering greater accountability. He highlighted the significance of making democratic processes which empower citizens and enhance their engagement with the government. His insights reinforced the critical role of informed citizen participation in strengthening democracy and ensuring that governance remains transparent and responsive

to the needs of the populace. In his presidential remarks, Kuldeep Khoda emphasized the importance of collating diverse opinions to drive major electoral reforms. He discussed the necessity of a coordinated approach in managing elections, particularly in deploying security forces to ensure a smooth electoral process. Khoda highlighted the intersection of preservation and internal security during elections, referencing the influential contributions of T.N. Seshan, a former Chief Election Commissioner, and underscored the significance of the Delhi Elections 2019 as a case study in effective electoral management. He however cautioned citizens to judiciously use social media to ensure that a posi-

tive and favourable environment to strengthen the democratic process. K.B. Jandial, IAS (Retd), Vice Chairman in his welcome address set the context for the conference by discussing the multifaceted implications of the "One Nation One Election" proposal. Prof. Alka Sharma, Honorary Secretary, presented the formal vote of thanks, while the proceedings were conducted by Prof. Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary. The program was attended by officials from the State Election Commission, media representatives, faculty and students from the University of Jammu, members of IIPA, and eminent individuals from civil society and the Central Government Pensioners Association, Jammu.