

# Year-long events to celebrate Vajpayee's birth centenary BJP compiling memories of Atal ji in J&K : Balbir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP is compiling memories of Atal Behari Vajpayee in the erstwhile state through yearlong different programmes under 'Atal Smriti Sankal evam Sampark Abhiyan' while celebrating birth centenary of the former Prime Minister.



Spokesperson J&K BJP, Balbir Ram Rattan talking to reporters.

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, informed this while addressing a press conference, along with senior leaders Rajiv Charak and Reema Padha at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Balbir Ram Rattan said that the BJP has planned a yearlong series of programmes to celebrate the birth centenary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister and veteran leader of BJP. In first phase of the series of programmes, the

party activists have been assigned the task to identify the people, who might have met Vajpayee ji, worked with him and travelled with him during his visits to Jammu and Kashmir. They will collect photographs, videos, letters, and books and similar such material, associated with Atal ji from them or their families. These items and objects will be compiled as memories of the former PM. The same will be preserved by the Library and Documentation Department of the party. The party leaders have been asked to honour such persons or their family members on February 12, 13 and 14. This programme will culminate on February 14. In second phase, the party will organize public meetings, seminars and workshops at district levels, where, the local senior citizens and intellectual persons will be invited, life of Atal ji, his ideology, patriotism and principles will be discussed with them and the objects and items collected in first phase will also be shown to them. The second phase will culminate on March 15, this year and the future programmes will be

announced soon. For the birth centenary programmes, a State level Committee has been framed, which has Dr. Nirmal Singh as Convenor, and the Co Convenors include Vibodh Gupta, general secretary, Rajeev Charak, Reema Padha, Munish Khajuria and Amar Singh. Balbir Ram Rattan will look after the media and Ankit Gupta will look after Social media activities. Among Co-Convenors Reema Padha will look after Jammu, Jammu South, Jammu North, Jammu Border and Akhnoor districts. Rajeev Charak will look after Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban and Udhampur districts. Munish Khajuria to look after Poonch, Rajouri, Nowshera and Reasi districts and Amar Singh will look after Kathua, Basohli and Samba districts for conducting mentioned programmes.

# IIIM organizes workshop for Govt. Science Teachers

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A two-day workshop for science teachers of government schools commenced on Wednesday at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, in collaboration with the Bharti Airtel Foundation, under the flagship of the CSIR Jigyasa programme, wherein 81 science teachers drawn from districts Jammu, Samba, and Rajouri got the opportunity to acquire knowledge of high-quality science and state-of-the-art facilities. The workshop aims to provide science teachers with hands-on training in research labs, guided by the expert scientists. This initiative aims to provide teachers with practical research experience to better inspire students in their schools. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, encouraged the participants for their active participation in the workshop and to get themselves benefited from such types of initiatives of IIIM under the CSIR Jigyasa Mission. Further, Dr. Ahmed told that under the CSIR Jigyasa Mission, we are trying our utmost to disseminate and make the students, teachers, and others aware of the science and technology, which is very significant in this era to mitigate the sufferings and problems of the common masses. Anil Bhat, Regional Head, Bharti Airtel Foundation, briefed about various kinds of activities and support being provided by the foundation for schools. Er Abdul Rahim, Chief



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed honouring Anil Bhat, Regional Head, Bharti Airtel Foundation.

Scientist & Head RMBD & IST emphasized that Skill India Initiative is the special program that enables the teachers to upgrade their skills while they are teaching the students at school levels. Earlier, Dr. Asha Chaubey, Sr. Principal Scientist/HoD, Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology & Nodal Scientist, Jigyasa Programme, welcomed all the teachers/participants and began the workshop with technical lectures and practical sessions. During the event various head of the divisions, scientists and others were also presented.

# Kesri commends Police efforts in curbing drug menace in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri on Wednesday commended the police for their efforts in curbing the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in border areas Arnia and Bishnah. Addressing media persons during press conference in Jammu, Kesri also urged everyone to come forward and join the fight against drug trafficking in the region. While praising the Police, Kesri appealed public to amplify the fight against drug trafficking and promote a safer, healthier community in Jammu and Kashmir. He said rehabilitating drug-addicted youth through vocational training is a crucial step towards helping them overcome addiction and reintegrate into society. Kesri emphasized fostering creativity through arts and crafts, which can help individuals express themselves and develop a sense of self-worth. Rehabilitation centers and organizations can collaborate with vocational training



Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri speaking at a press conference.

requires a multi-faceted approach including enforcing strict laws against drug trafficking, manufacturing and distribution, conducting regular raids, surveillance and intelligence gathering to dismantle drug networks. Kesri demanded to ensure swift and severe punishment for those convicted of drug-related crimes and also organizing awareness programs, rallies and workshops to educate youth about the dangers of drugs. He encouraged parents to monitor their children's activities, provide guidance and seek help when needed. Foster a culture of community vigilance, where individuals report suspicious activities related to drug trafficking. Foster collaboration between law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, and social services to address the drug menace. By adopting a comprehensive approach, we can effectively act against those destroying the younger generation with drugs and create a safer, healthier society, added Kesri.

ing institutions to provide comprehensive support by providing counseling services to address underlying issues contributing to addiction. He also suggested offering medical support and treatment for addiction and related health issues besides pairing individuals with mentors who can guide and support them throughout the rehabilitation process. Kesri further claimed that by providing vocational training and rehabilitation, we can empower drug-addicted youth to overcome their addiction, develop valuable skills and lead productive lives. Acting against those responsible for destroying the younger generation with drugs is crucial. This

# Plantation drive to facilitate Open Air Green Reading in SKUAST Jammu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Central Library, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) at Main Campus, Chatha launched massive winter season plantation drive to strengthen green Library for environmental conservation and beautification. The drive was launched with the aim to enhance the green cover and to create a vibrant and ecologically diverse landscape in the spread area of about 11 kanals surrounding the Central Library. The dignitaries including Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, Dr. Sushil Sharma, Dean F&AE, Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dean F&HR, Prof. Tuhina Dey, Prof. Sandeep Chopra HoD PBG & Veg. Sc., Officials from the Data Centre planted the winter season fruit plants including Peach, Plum, Low chilling apple fruits surrounding the



SKUAST-Jammu faculty planting a sapling.

library. The event was coordinated by the Estates Officer, SKUAST-Jammu with the support of Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dean Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, Estates Officer, SKUAST Jammu speaking on the occasion stressed upon simple living to reduce the carbon footprint. He further drew attention on the significance of indoor and outdoor plantation

drives to mitigate the pollution and environmental degradation. The University Librarian, Dr. R K Samntra highlighted the use of Open Air Reading (OAR) facility for the students in the green zone of the Central Library. Teaching, non-teaching staff members, students & officials from libraries participated in the plantation drive.

# Jammu Bar team calls on CJ Tashi Rabstan, discusses issues of lawyers fraternity

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The members of the Bar led by President K. Nirmal Kotwal, accompanied by former Presidents D.K. Khajuria, A.K. Sawhney, V.R. Wazir, M.K. Bharadvaj, D.S. Saini, Sunil Sethi, Surinder Singh, Vice President Baldev Singh, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal called upon the Chief Justice (CJ) Tashi Rabstan at the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to discuss and deliberate upon the issues being faced by the members of the association. The deputation primarily discussed on the issue of construction of multistorey building to accommodate Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and other Tribunals and registration work within the court complex. All the former Presidents unanimously and strongly projected the demand for need of a multistorey building and estab-

lishment of CAT within the court premises. The other demands raised included restoration of vakalatnama charges, parking management, reference of demise of Advocates, establishment of medical dispensary in all the courts in Jammu Province, a dedicated ambulance for court complex, extension of lawyers chambers and installing lift in the complex, installation of water plant at court complex, winter vacations in District Courts, single window system for certified copies in District Courts, social security schemes for advocates and extending time of AIR library in lawyers court complex. The Chief Justice gave a patient hearing to the deputation, and assured that all the issues will be resolved at the earliest. The deputation thanked the Chief Justice for his time and listening to the grievance of the Advocates and for his assurance of resolving the issues.

# Traders Federation felicitates Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A grand ceremony was held at the Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market office on Wednesday under the leadership of President Deepak Gupta to honor renowned writer, educationist, and advocate of Jammu's Dogra culture, Prof. Lalit Mangotra. Recently awarded the Padma Shri by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prof. Mangotra was felicitated with a memento and chunri by the Federation. "We all thank Prof. Lalit Mangotra for his tireless efforts in promoting our mother tongue, Dogri. Through his writing, he has elevated Dogri to new heights, and today, with this recognition, the language itself has received national-level respect. This award is not just for Prof. Mangotra but for the entire Dogri-speaking community," said Deepak Gupta. Highlighting his contributions, Gupta emphasized that Prof. Mangotra has



Traders Federation Ware House Nehru Market team honouring Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra on Wednesday.

been an eminent Dogri writer, dedicated to the promotion and development of Dogri literature and culture for nearly 50 years. Over the years, he has received numerous awards and honors while holding prestigious positions in various literary and cultural organizations. Prof. Mangotra has played a crucial role in strengthening and modernizing Dogri literature, ensuring its progress alongside other Indian languages. In his various capacities, Prof. Mangotra has organized numerous seminars, symposia, and confer-

ences on vital literary topics, as well as workshops to address the needs of Dogri. He has also initiated folk fairs and book exhibitions to popularize the language. Under his leadership, Dogri Sanstha Jammu pioneered the publication of children's comic books in Dogri to engage young readers. Additionally, he has been instrumental in bringing Dogri literature to a wider audience by ensuring its translation into English and Hindi. His literary works have gained such prominence that two of his books have

been included in the post-graduate syllabus at Jammu University-an honor for all Dogras. Gupta also highlighted Prof. Mangotra's distinguished career as a scientist, teacher, and researcher in High Energy Physics. Having served as Professor and Head of the Department of Physics and Computer Sciences at the University of Jammu, he also held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Sciences. His international research experience includes over five years in various European

laboratories, contributing to more than 300 scientific publications in international journals. Recognizing his vast contributions, the Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri, a proud moment for the entire community. Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Lalit Mangotra thanked the Traders Federation and its leadership for the honor. He also extended his appreciation to the central government for the Padma Shri recognition. "For the past 50 years, I have been working to promote Dogri on national and international platforms. This award is not just my achievement but also that of my colleagues and supporters who have stood by me," he remarked. On this occasion, Senior Vice President of the Federation Dheeraj Mahajan, Vice President Vishal Gupta, General Secretary Abhimanyu Gupta, Secretary Rahul Gupta, and Cashier Nitish Gupta were also present.

# One-day workshop on Detailed Project Report for Start Up grants organized at JU



Anil Gupta, an industrialist from Jammu with JU faculty at a workshop.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Skill, Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC), University of Jammu organized one-day workshop on formulating Detailed Project Report (DPR), aimed at honing the grant applications for Start Ups. Anil Gupta, a renowned industrialist from Jammu was the resource person of the event. The event was joined by the participants from different departments

of University of Jammu and Central University of Jammu. Event planning was initiated by Prof. Alka Sharma, Director, SIIEDC, and Prof. Anil Gupta, Coordinator Skill Entrepreneurship and coordinated by Dr. Harish Chander Dutt, Coordinator Business, Incubation and Innovation. The participants were trained to draft viable detailed project report for Start Up Grants. The main focus was given on SWOT

analysis and deciding the total fund of the project. Gupta said that proper planning of the project is the key of the success and a continual approach can help in establishing a successful start-up. Dr. Harish Chander Dutt stated that, in alignment with the vision of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, SIIEDC is actively working across various spheres to foster a startup culture on campus.

# Enhance your innate talent: Prof. Sanjeev Jain Release of the New Issue of the Quarterly Sharda Wall Magazine at CUJ



VC CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain releasing October-December 2024 issue of quarterly wall magazine.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), Prof. Sanjeev Jain, released the October-December 2024 issue of the quarterly wall magazine Sharda, published by the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages today. Following the release, Prof. Jain emphasized the crucial role of magazines and journals in raising awareness and fostering intellectual consciousness in society. He noted that while media houses have connected people globally, literary magazines have sparked a new cultural revolution. He extended his best wishes to the contributors whose works were published in Sharda and

congratulated the magazine's editors, research scholars Anshu Kumari and Indradevi, for their efforts. Prof. Jain further stated that such literary publications help students and researchers refine and showcase their inherent talents. On this occasion, Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Head of the Department, welcomed the Vice Chancellor Prof. Jain and briefed him on the department's initiatives. The magazine's Chief Editor, Dr. Shashikant Mishra, expressed gratitude to all participants and encouraged students and researchers to continue producing outstanding literary works. The event was attended by faculty members, research scholars, and students of the department.

These developments will ensure the socio-economic growth of the society as a whole and encourage the re-development of faith in the Kashmiri displaced community for their dignified return to their land," said Sat Sharma. Sat Sharma was speaking, while he welcomed the BJP's

# BJP committed for dignified return of KP community: Sat

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party is committed for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community to their homeland. The party has from the beginning championed the cause of the displaced community and has taken effective measures to safeguard their basic rights and dignity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led union government has ensured a significant improvement in curbing the terrorist and separatist related incidents. These developments will ensure the socio-economic growth of the society as a whole and encourage the re-development of faith in the Kashmiri displaced community for their dignified return to their land," said Sat Sharma. Sat Sharma was speaking, while he welcomed the BJP's



BJP's Kashmir Displaced District team felicitating J&K BJP president Sat Sharma.

Kashmir Displaced District team led by its new District President Rajeev Pandita at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar; here. Sat said that the woes faced by the community were taken at every forum by the party with a firm commitment for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Displaced persons, while working to provide lasting solutions to their issues.

He said that the party has entrusted a strong confidence in the party's Kashmiri displaced unit to enlist and highlight the grievances and the issues of the community. The new unit of BJP KDD has the foremost duty to live up to the expectations of the organization as well as the community now, added Sat Sharma. BJP Kashmir Displaced dis-

trict (KDD) led by its President Rajeev Pandita, also felicitated Sat Sharma for his election as the President of BJP Jammu & Kashmir. The KDD team also felicitated Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), acknowledging his invaluable contributions to the party and the community. Rajeev Pandita said that the BJP has always stood for the

cause of the Kashmiri displaced community and worked for the betterment of the community through various measures. He assured the President that KDD will work with full dedication as a team for the best interests of the organization and the betterment of displaced people. KDD assured their leadership about their commitment of strengthening the party and serving the displaced community with unwavering dedication. The KDD delegation included Rajeev Pandita (District President), Chand Ji Bhat (Former District President), Hira Lal Bhat (Sah Prabhari), H.K. Razdan (General Secretary, KDD), Anil Dhar, Rakesh Sadhu, Vimal Raina, Chetan Wanchoo, Sateya Koul, Sanjay Bhat (Vice President), K.K. Koul, Neha Pandita, Rohit Ganju, and Rahul Koul (Mandal President).