

PKF unveils Dr. Sampath's book, "Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum (1760-1799)"

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: In an insightful gathering at the India Habitat Centre, the Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) launched Dr. Vikram Sampath's latest literary contribution, "Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum (1760-1799)". The book was unveiled as part of the Foundation's Kitaab initiative, which brings together history enthusiasts, literature lovers, and scholars to celebrate works of historical significance. The evening took attendees on a profound journey into the complex narrative surrounding the 18th-century ruler, Tipu Sultan, offering new perspectives on his life, legacy, and controversies.

The Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, was the Chief Guest for the event. He praised the importance of historical works like Dr. Sampath's, emphasizing the need to revisit and reassess narratives surrounding controversial figures from India's past. Dr. Jaishankar highlighted how such literary contributions help shed light on lesser-known facets of history, encouraging a more nuanced understanding of figures like Tipu Sultan, whose legacy remains polarizing.



Minister of External Affairs, Gol, Dr. S Jaishankar and other dignitaries releasing book.

ing. He commended Dr. Sampath for his dedication to revisiting historical narratives with a discerning eye, ensuring a more honest and comprehensive portrayal.

Special guest Pavan K. Varma, author, diplomat, and former MP; and Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, President of the India Habitat Centre, also graced the occasion. In her remarks, Ambassador Mukherjee noted that the 18th century, marked by immense conflict and decline for India, was a time of significant struggle. Dr. Sampath's work, she said, is an example of how history should be written, without romanticizing the past but rather confronting the harsh realities and complexities of figures like Tipu Sultan.

The book's launch was followed by a thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by Lipika Bhushan, with Dr.

Sampath, Varma, and Ambassador Mukherjee engaging in a deep dive into the intricacies of the book. Mr. Pavan K. Varma spoke about the importance of engaging with history in public forums, stressing that such conversations foster a better understanding of India's past. He highlighted that Dr. Sampath's work ensures that history is not forgotten but kept alive through meaningful dialogue.

In his speech, Dr. Vikram Sampath discussed the extensive research behind the book, revealing his lifelong interest in understanding the complexities of Tipu Sultan's reign. He shared how he sifted through a wealth of archival materials, including manuscripts and letters, to provide a more complete portrayal of Tipu Sultan, acknowledging both his controversial actions and the positive aspects of his reign. Dr.

Sampath emphasized that the book seeks to uncover the atrocities committed by Tipu Sultan against several communities in southern India, including the Kodavas, Canara Christians, Mandyam Iyengars, and Nairs. These actions, Dr. Sampath argued, cannot be erased or minimized in contemporary political discussions, as it is important to confront these parts of history to have a truthful representation.

However, Dr. Sampath also highlighted the redeeming qualities of Tipu Sultan, including his efforts in land reforms and his significant contributions to military technology, particularly in the development of rocketry. He dedicated a substantial portion of the book to Haidar Ali, Tipu's father, describing how understanding Haidar

Ali's role is essential for gaining a fuller understanding of Tipu's character and reign.

The evening's discussion was not just an exploration of Tipu Sultan's controversial legacy, but also an insightful look into the methods and challenges involved in writing historical narratives. Dr. Sampath's rigorous approach to researching historical figures, even those who are contentious, serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of a balanced approach to history—one that is neither sanitized nor sensationalized.

The event, which brought together a distinguished audience of scholars, diplomats, and literature lovers, served as a significant milestone in the ongoing discourse on how India's history should be written and remembered. Through "Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum (1760-1799)", Dr. Sampath has made an invaluable contribution to the field of Indian historiography, prompting readers to rethink and reevaluate the complexities of the past, rather than accept oversimplified narratives.

ASCOMS holds CME on Glaucoma



Post Graduate Department of Ophthalmology, ASCOMS & Hospital faculty and students with other dignitaries at CME session on Glaucoma at Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Post Graduate Department of Ophthalmology, ASCOMS & Hospital, Sidhra, Jammu, organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) session on Glaucoma, held at the college auditorium. This CME was held in collaboration with Glaucoma Society of India.

The event, aimed at raising awareness about glaucoma, often referred to as the "sneak thief of vision," was conducted in collaboration with the Glaucoma Society of India.

Prominent speakers at the CME included Dr. Dewang Angmo, Additional Professor at

AIIMS New Delhi; Dr. Parul Iechpurjani, Professor at GMC Chandigarh; Dr. Shristi Raj, Professor at PGI Chandigarh; Lt. Col. Dr. Menakshi Pathania, HOD Ophthalmology at Military Hospital, Satwari; and Dr. Renu Hashia Dhar, Professor and Head of the Post Graduate Department of Ophthalmology at ASCOMS. The experts covered various aspects of glaucoma diagnosis and management.

The Chief Guest for the event was Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal of ASCOMS & Hospital, who lauded the efforts of the organizing

committee, led by Dr. Renu Hashia Dhar, in putting together the event.

Around 75 delegates from the Jammu region attended the CME, alongside ASCOMS faculty and staff. The event was also graced by several guest of honors, including Dr. P. Sadhotra, Ex-HOD Ophthalmology GMC Jammu & ASCOMS, Dr. Deepak Kapoor, Retd. Dy Director, J&K Health Services, Dr. R.D. Sood, Director Dr. Aggarwal Eye Institute, Jammu, Dr. Dinesh Malhotra, Ex. Prof. & HOD, Ophthalmology ASCOMS and Dr. Maneesha Sethi, HOD Ophthalmology, GMC Kathua, Jammu.

DIPR pays floral tributes to Late Mukesh Singh Chib



DIPR Jammu officials paying tributes to late Mukesh Singh Chib.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu on Monday paid heartfelt tributes to its esteemed employee, late Mukesh Singh Chib, a member of Multi Tasking Staff of the department who passed away in a tragic road accident on November 29, 2024.

A condolence meeting was organized in the office premises of the DIPR Complex Jammu, to honor the departed soul. The gathering commenced with a floral tribute and all present observed two minutes of silence as a mark of respect and remembrance.

During the meeting, staff members fondly recalled Mukesh Singh Chib's dedication and significant contributions to the department. His commitment and service were deeply appreciated by his colleagues.

Joint Director Information Atul Gupta, Joint Director

Headquarters Vivek Puri, Deputy Director PR Jammu Ankush Hans, Deputy Director Headquarters Jammu Virender Gupta, besides other officers and officials of DIPR participated in the condolence meeting, expressing their solidarity and grief over the untimely demise of their colleague.

The department extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and solace in this difficult time.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Department of Mathematics, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), hosted its Alumni Meet 2024 in the University Seminar Hall, ISRO Building.

This significant event, themed "Connecting, Converging, and Continuing," brought together alumni, faculty, and students to celebrate their shared history and forge stronger connections.

The program began with an inspiring welcome address by Prof. Kamlesh Kumar, Head of the Department, who presented a comprehensive overview of the department's journey since its establishment on October 10, 2011.

Highlighting the department's accomplishments, Prof. Kamlesh shared that 12 batches of M.Sc. students have graduated, with approximately 420 post-graduates and over 15 students completing their Ph.D. programs.

He mentioned the inclusion of Dr. Uday Pratap Singh in the Global Top 2%



Department of Mathematics CUJ faculty at Alumni Meet 2024.

of Highly Cited Researchers as per the Stanford University Report.

Expressing gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, for his continued support, Prof. Kamlesh announced the upcoming operationalization of the new School of Basic and Applied Sciences building in January 2025.

He also acknowledged the support of Prof. Vinay Kumar, whose contributions have been instrumental in the department's suc-

cess. He also thanked to Prof. Ritu Bakshi, DSW, for her invaluable assistance.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Dean, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, emphasized the pivotal role of alumni as the pride and strength of the department. He reiterated the

department's commitment to leveraging alumni expertise for the benefit of students and alumni alike.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Program Coordinator, highlighted the importance of sustained alumni connections and announced plans to establish an alumni association to strength-

en collaborations. Faculty members Prof. Ajay Sharma, Dr. Pavinder, and Dr. Mehak also shared their insights.

The event witnessed the participation of over 100 registered alumni, with around 50 attending in person, including members from the department's inaugural batch. A major highlight was the formation of the Alumni Association, in which Dr. Vivek Kumar announced as President, Dr. Vishal Sharma Vice President, Stanzin Dolkar Secretary, Sanchita Khajuria Joint Secretary and Tanisha Gupta as Treasurer. The association aims to facilitate regular communication and streamline future initiatives. A membership form for alumni was also introduced. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sanjay Kumar.

People inspired by transformative policies of PM Modi: Sat

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Like other parts of the country, people from different sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir too, are joining BJP in large numbers almost on daily basis and the graph of the party is going up with each passing day.



President, J&K BJP, Sat Sharma welcoming people in party fold.

peace in Jammu and Kashmir, besides ensuring welfare of masses and flooding the UT with numerous prestigious projects of infrastructure development, including different means of connectivity, health and educational institutions which has put the UT on the path of progress and prosperity. "Modi government's

principles and firm commitment to the idea of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas", has convinced people of every region, faith and section that first time justice to all and appeasement to none is reflected in the programmes and policies of any regime.

Another reason of people joining BJP is that they are also inspired by the transformative policies and decisive leadership of the Prime Minister and express their

belief in the party's ability to foster a strong and prosperous India. They are also appreciating landmark initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Digital India, Make in India, Ayushman Bharat, and the government's proactive measures to empower women, farmers, and marginalized communities, said Sat Sharma.

Sat Sharma further said that the BJP has consistently worked to expand its outreach and connect with diverse communities across the nation.

With its nation first approach and policies that address grassroots challenges, the party continues to attract individuals who share its vision of a self-reliant, progressive India.

Ved Sharma, Co-Incharge, J&K BJP All Cells, Tariq Keen, Secretary BJP, Balbir Ram Rattan, senior leader & former VC and Satish Sharma, also welcomed the new entrants.

Prominent among those who joined BJP included Balwant Singh, retired Principal, Sunil Sharma, General Secretary, Jammu Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association, Jasbeer Singh, retired DFO, Bhagwan Dass, Ex Sarpanch, Surinder Singh, retired Police Officer, Raghuveer Singh, retired Police Officer, Surinder Bakshi, singer & artist, Baldev Singh, retired Forest officer, Sushma Rani, president, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Sambla.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader & former Vice Chairperson, while enrolling the membership of youth as new members of the party, shared with them that one can use online as well as offline/ paper membership modes of the party as per one's convenience.



Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP senior leader & former Vice Chairperson at membership drive.

Balbir Ram Rattan, while carrying forward membership drive to achieve target allotted to him, said that Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a nationwide membership drive aimed at expanding its grassroots presence and welcoming new members into its fold. In Jammu and Kashmir also, this exercise is getting overwhelming response and people in large numbers are getting registered as members through online as well as offline modes.

Balbir said that the initiative reflects the party's commitment to inclusivity and its vision of empowering citizens to contribute to India's

progress.

"The BJP is more than a political party; it is a movement committed to nation-building. Our membership drive is an opportunity for individuals from all walks of life to join us in creating a stronger and self-reliant India. This is not just about numbers but about fostering shared values and responsibilities." Balbir shared these views of the top leadership of BJP, while urging the people to be its members, said that the BJP has structured the membership programme to educate new members about its core ideology, achievements, and vision for the

future.

Balbir Ram Rattan, while highlighting the initiative's importance, said that the drive is a step towards building a cadre that resonates with the aspirations of a New India. Each member represents a unique voice that strengthens our democratic fabric," he said.

The BJP, known for its organizational strength, aims to deepen its reach and create a robust support base through this initiative. The party encourages citizens, especially the youth, to embrace this opportunity to shape the nation's destiny by strengthening BJP.

Dir Agriculture inspects ongoing HADP aided projects

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen visited the R.S. Pura sub-division on Monday to inspect ongoing agricultural projects aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting advanced farming techniques in the region. He was accompanied by Sub-Divisional Agricultural Officer Surinder Gupta, Zonal Officers and the staff.

The visit commenced with an inspection of Paddy Procurement Mandi in the R.S. Pura sub-division. The Director carefully reviewed the mandi operations and provided essential guidance to improve efficiency, ensuring smoother procurement processes for local farmers.

Later, the Director visited

high-tech polyhouse issued under HADP to progressive farmer Mahesh Choudhary of Kirpind area of R.S. Pura. The polyhouse is designed to encourage the cultivation of high-value crops in controlled environments.

During the visit, Director A.S Reen inspected the polyhouse, where Mahesh Choudhary is cultivating exotic crops. Additionally, the farmer has raised runner mother plant nursery for strawberries, which have been transplanted into fields. The Director also witnessed the successful transplantation of seedlings raised within the polyhouse. Currently, the polyhouse also has bell pepper seedlings that are ready for transplanting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management (SLNMM) Trust, Gandhi Nagar, on Monday organized a thought-provoking "Bhashan Partiyogita" (Speech Competition) on the theme "Sanatan Dharam and Science", aiming to instill Sanatana values in the younger generation while fostering character building and cultural awareness.

This event marked the revival of a long-standing tradition of the Trust, which had been paused due to the pandemic.

Held in the Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, the competition saw enthusiastic participation from around 30-35 stu-

dents from classes 8 to 12, representing 10 schools from across Jammu.

The participants showcased their understanding and articulation of the profound relationship between Sanatan Dharm and Science, addressing how ancient spiritual wisdom aligns with modern scientific principles.

The speeches were evaluated by a distinguished panel of eminent personalities, including I.D. Soni, Senior Educationist, Padma Shri Vishav Murti Shastri, and Pt. Bhupinder Shastri, a National Awardee.

In Senior Group, Divyanshi Manhas, Rich Harvest School, first, Madhvi Sharma, Shiksha Niketan, Jeevan Nagar; second



Dignitaries at Bhashan Partiyogita being organized by SLNMM Trust, Gandhi Nagar.

and Shristy Mishra, Dogra Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar; third, in Junior Group, Ojashvi Sharma, Shiksha Niketan, Jeevan Nagar; first, Avantika Suryavanshi, Dogra Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar; second and Arushi

Sharma, Shastri Shiksha Kendra, Gandhi Nagar; third, Consolation Prizes were received by Gouri Sharma (SD Tarapur School), Alex Ramos (Tiny Tots Higher Secondary School, Sainik Colony), and Krishi Sharma (Co-Op Public School, Greater Kailash).

The event was graced by Ashok Aima, Former Vice-Chancellor of Central University, as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the significance of integrating scientific knowledge with spiritual wisdom, stating, "Sanatana Dharm is a timeless source of knowledge

that bridges science and spirituality."

Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister and President of the Management Trust, presided over the ceremony, highlighting the importance of nurturing cultural knowledge and values among students.

Prizes were distributed by the dignitaries, with Gambir Dev Singh Charak announcing the winners.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by S.C. Rekhi, General Secretary of the Trust.

Prominent attendees included Kapil Sathia, Prem Sharma, V.K. Abrol, Kulbhushan Bali, P.C. Gupta, Suresh Damral, Ashok Khajuria, and Brij Raj Singh Bhadwal.