

BJP remembers Nanaji Deshmukh, Chander Shekhar Azad

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sat Sharma, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP along with Ashok Koul General Secretary (Organisation), General Secretary & MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, NEM Priya Sethi, Prof. (Dr.) Kulbushan Mohtra and others, remembered Nanaji Deshmukh and Chander Shekhar Azad, on their death anniversaries. They paid floral tributes to both these great Indian patriots.

Sat Sharma said that Nanaji Deshmukh also known as Chandikadasnritrao Deshmukh was born on 11 October 1916 in a small town in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra to Amritrao Deshmukh and Rajabai Amritrao Deshmukh. At an early age, he lost his parents and was brought up by his maternal uncle. His early life was full of strife and struggle; however, he grew up to become a dedicated social activist also worked in the fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan.

Nanaji Deshmukh became inspired by Lokamanya Tilak and his nationalist



BJP leaders paying tributes to Nanaji Deshmukh and Chander Shekhar Azad, on their death anniversaries.

ideology. He was also in close association with eminent leaders such as Dr. Keshav Bajiram Hedgewar and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya who he met for the first time in the year 1940. In 1947, on the launch of two journals, Rashtradharma and Panchjanya, and a newspaper called Swadesh, Atal Vihari Vajpayee was assigned the responsibility of the editor and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was made the Marg Darshak with Nanaji as the managing director.

Nanaji Deshmukh was given the charge of Bharatiya Jan Sangh in Uttar Pradesh as General Secretary. Deshmukh's groundwork was a great help in strengthening Bhartiya Jan Sangha (BJS) at the grass roots. By

1957 BJS had established its units at each and every district in Uttar Pradesh and credit for this goes to Nanaji who had extensively travelled all over the state and put in a lot of hard work.

Nanaji Deshmukh also actively participated in Bhoodan Movement started by Vinoba Bhave. He spent two months with Vinoba, and was greatly inspired by the success and appeal of the movement. Later, when Jayaprakash Narayan gave the call for "Total Revolution", Nanaji responded by giving total support to this movement. Nanaji Deshmukh was elected in 1977 from Balmampur Lok Sabha constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was offered a cabinet portfolio which he declined.

Ashok Koul said that, in 1980, when he turned 60, he opted out of politics, devoting himself completely to social and constructive work, living in ashrams and keeping a low profile. He did pioneer work towards anti-poverty and minimum needs programme. Other areas of his work were agriculture and cottage industry, rural health and education. Nanaji assumed chairmanship of the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) which he had founded in 1972 to validate the philosophy of Integral Humanism propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. Integral Humanism gave a vision for Bharat that with an approach to man and his relationship to society that is integral and complementary could transform India turning it into a self-reliant and compassionate example for the world to follow.

Dr. Devinder Manyal said that, Nanaji propounded a model for the development of rural areas on the basis of Integral Humanism. After initial experiments in Gonda (U.P.) and Beed (Maharashtra), Nanaji fine-tuned a program that would cover health, hygiene, education, agriculture, income generation, conservation of resources, and social conscience, that is both sustainable and replicable. The vision of the project was

'Total transformation through total development with people's initiative and participation'. He was also instrumental in carrying out social restructuring programme in over 500 villages of both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

He finally settled down at Chitrakoot, a holy place on the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. It was in 1969 that Deshmukh had visited Chitrakoot for the first time and was moved to see the condition of the society. He resolved to change the face of Chitrakoot during his lifetime. He established, Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya, India's first rural University, and served as its Chancellor.

Prof. Kulbushan Mohtra said that Nanaji was nominated to Rajya Sabha in the year 1999 in recognition of his services to the nation. He was also awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1999. India's former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam praised Deshmukh for his "single-minded devotion to the uplift of the people". He died the age of 94, on 27 February 2010 in the premises of Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya.

Tilak Raj Gupta, Balbir Ram Rattan, Vikram Malhotra, Hira Lal, Ajay Vaid, Sanjay Bakshi and others paid tributes.

Sainik Colony Jammu to hold elections after seven years on March 3

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: After a long legal battle and a gap of over seven years, elections for the Sainik Colony Management Committee are finally set to take place on March 3, 2025, under the direction of the High Court.

The Sainik community expressed its deep gratitude to the judiciary for ensuring justice and upholding democratic rights.

"Established 60 years ago by serving and retired personnel of the Indian Armed Forces, Sainik Colony has always maintained its distinct character. The colony operates under its own Byelaws, duly framed by an elected body and approved by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in 2013," said contesting candidate Col Sukhvir Singh (Mankotia) flanked by his team in a press conference here on Thursday.

As per these byelaws, Col Sukhvir said, elections must be held every three years to elect a seven-member management committee, responsible for the administration and development of the colony.

However, the last elections were held in 2014, and despite repeated efforts, no elections have taken place since 2017, he said.

In the absence of an elected body, he said, the colony was placed under government-appointed administrators, who



Col Sukhvir Singh (Mankotia) briefing media in Jammu.

were expected to manage routine affairs and ensure elections at the earliest.

"Unfortunately, neither did elections take place, nor was there a focus on development and welfare. Instead, unauthorized amendments to the byelaws were enacted-bypassing jurisdiction and threatening the core interests of the Sainik community," he said.

The lack of transparency and the misuse of power compelled residents to seek legal recourse under the leadership of Brig SS Saini (Retd.), he said.

"After a two-year legal battle, the High Court quashed the amendments and directed the conduct of elections by October 22, 2024. However, elections were still delayed, leading to a contempt case, which is now expected to be resolved in favor of the Sainik community," he said.

With past misgovernance, financial mismanagement, and lack of accountability, it is now time for real change, he said

adding that the 'Col Shiv Choudhary & Col Mankotia's 'Team' is contesting the upcoming elections with a vision for integrity, transparency, and development.

This dedicated team of veterans present on the occasion include Col Shiv Choudhary, Col Sukhvir Singh (Mankotia), Hony Captain Chanchal Singh, Hony Captain Resal Singh, Hony Captain Shamsher Singh, Hony Captain Tilak Raj Sharma, and Subedar Kamal Netar.

The team pledges to work selflessly, without any remuneration, allowances, or honorariums for three years, if elected. Their goal is to restore order, ensure fair governance, and transform Sainik Colony into a well-managed, resident-friendly community.

With full zeal, honesty, and commitment, the team sought the support of the Sainik fraternity to bring about much-needed reforms and uphold the true spirit of Sainik Colony.

Randhawa emphasizes BJP's commitment to grassroots development under Modi regime

Inaugurates development works in Gorkha Nagar



MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa inaugurating civic works in Ward No. 47, Gorkha Nagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa emphasized that the BJP government's dedication to grassroots development under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was speaking after inaugurating lane, drain, and other allied works in Ward No. 47, Gorkha Nagar, with an estimated cost of Rs 32.76 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Randhawa said that this initiative aims to enhance the quality of life for residents

and fulfill long-pending demands of the local community. He assured that no area would be left behind in the march toward progress, and essential civic infrastructure remains a priority for the government.

Randhawa highlighted that development is not just about infrastructure but about improving lives. He encouraged the local residents to actively participate in monitoring public works and ensuring their proper upkeep.

"We are committed to delivering development at every doorstep. No stone will be left

turned in making Bahu constituency a model of progress," he asserted.

The inauguration concluded with chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", reflecting the enthusiasm of the people towards the developmental vision of the BJP government.

The event saw the presence of key officials, including AEE Rajan Mengi and JE Khalid, who played a crucial role in overseeing the execution of these projects. Prominent social and political figures such as Karuna Chhetri (President, Gorkha Sabha) and Surjeet Singh (Mandal President) also attended, extending their support to the initiative.

Community members, including S.B. Rana, Om Pun, Manish Adhikari, Anil Kumar, Nitesh Thapa, Virender Pradhan, Tul Bahadur, Bharat Singh, Uma Devi, Soniya Rana, Nashib Singh, Ajay Sharma, Subash Chander, Sunny Sagotra, and Sajan Gupta, were also present, reflecting the collective spirit of development.

VKMI calls for Value-Based Education in J&K Schools

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant step towards fostering moral values in education, a memorandum was presented to Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary (Higher and School Education, J&K UT), advocating for the formal inclusion of Value-Based Education in the academic curriculum.



VKMI delegation handing over memorandum to Shantmanu, Addl CS Higher and School Education, J&K UT during the programme in Jammu.

This initiative was led by Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), which had previously adopted 25 schools to impart moral and ethical education. However, following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, VKMI emphasized the urgent need for a structured and institutionalized approach to value-based education. As societal structures evolve, traditional sources of moral guidance have weakened, leaving young minds vulnerable to confusion, fear, and frustra-

tion. Recognizing this concerning trend, VKMI President Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain and his team formally urged Shri Shantmanu to advocate for the inclusion of Value-Based Education as a fundamental part of the school and higher education curriculum.

The appeal was presented during a special interaction and welcome program organized by the Global Peace Organization, where Shantmanu was the Chief Guest. Several eminent personalities attended the

event, including Shri I.D. Soni, Chief Adviser, VKMI; Sohail Kazni, Noted Journalist & Chairman, Taskeen Group of Publications; Harminder Kour, Secretary, Cultural Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Smt. Seema Rhometra, Director, Jammu University, and S.K. Jain, who presented a special poem in honor of the Chief Guest.

During the event, Altaf Hussain, Advocate & Chairman, outlined a comprehensive roadmap for

embedding moral education into the education system.

The key proposals included the establishment of a Directorate of Moral Education, the creation of a dedicated PhD unit for research on moral and ethical education, and the setting up of a university exclusively focused on moral and ethical education.

The VKMI team, including Vice Presidents Shri Ashok Gupta and K.S. Samyal, Advisor C.M. Sharma, General Secretary & Punjab Coordinator Anju

Bansal, and Financial Advisor Abhinandan Jain, extended their full support to this transformative initiative. In his address, Shantmanu assured the gathering that he would make every effort to facilitate the inclusion of Moral Education as a formal subject in J&K's educational framework.

His commitment was met with strong appreciation from the audience, who agreed that the urgent need for value education must be addressed to ensure future generations grow up with ethics, integrity, and social responsibility.

The event proceedings were conducted by Gohar Hafeez Fani, President, Global Peace Organization.

The program concluded with a strong consensus on the importance of value education, marking a significant step toward instilling moral values in J&K's education system.

ESIC J&K organizes Suvidha Samagam on 74th Foundation Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: On the occasion of the 74th ESIC Foundation Day and as part of the Special Services Fortnight, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Jammu & Kashmir organized a Suvidha Samagam at Hotel White, Katra.

The event was graced by Dushyant Pande, Regional Director, ESIC Regional Office Jammu, as the Chief Guest, while Rakesh Wazir, President, Hotels Association Katra, attended as the Special Guest.

The program also saw the participation of several dignitaries, including Dr. Palak



Dushyant Pande, Regional Director, ESIC Regional Office Jammu being honoured during the event.

Pandoh, IMO Incharge, DCBO Katra, Parambir Singh, Branch Manager, ESIC DCBO Katra, Vivek Katal, Assistant, ESIC DCBO Katra, and Sheetal,

Pharmacist, ESIC DCBO Katra.

During the Suvidha Samagam, the Regional Director, Dushyant Pande, addressed the ESIC-insured

persons (IPs), listened to their concerns, and assured them of prompt resolution of their grievances.

The event served as a platform to enhance communication between ESIC beneficiaries and officials, ensuring that the services provided meet the expectations of the insured persons.

A medical camp was also set up at the venue, where patients underwent screening and medical consultations. The camp witnessed the participation of a significant number of insured persons, highlighting ESIC's commitment to the well-being of its beneficiaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Thursday held a public grievance camp at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu and listened to the issues faced by the public.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leader.

Various deputations, including individual persons visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other devel-



MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public issues during the Darbar in Jammu.

opment-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and

assured to resolve their issues by taking up the authorities concerned. Sethi said that the BJP is committed to address-

ing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jammu City in particular and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people.

The senior BJP leader also stated that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

Ahead of Budget Session, NC to hold Legislative Party meeting on March 2

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As the Jammu and Kashmir Budget session is set to commence on March 3, 2025, the ruling National Conference has called a crucial Legislative Party Meeting on March 2 to strategize ahead of the session.

Mubarak Gul, the Chief Whip of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, announced that the meeting will be held at 2:00 PM in the Banquet Hall at the Official Residence of the Chief Minister on Wazarat Road, Jammu.

The session will be presided over by Legislative Party Leader and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Gul emphasized the importance of the meeting and urged all National Conference Members to attend promptly, as key legislative matters, including the upcoming budget, will be discussed.

The budget session is expected to be a crucial platform for policy discussions, financial planning, and legislative decisions impacting the Union Territory.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi ensures financial security to farmers: Balbir



Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP Spokesperson interacting with workers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme is a flagship initiative by the Government of India, under PM Narendra Modi, aimed at supporting farmers by providing direct financial assistance, said Balbir Ram Rattan, while discussing the significance of this scheme with a group of the SC beneficiaries of the scheme.

Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP

Spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, elaborated that this scheme plays a crucial role in strengthening the agricultural sector and ensuring the well-being of small and marginal farmers.

The primary objective of the PM-KISAN scheme is to provide economic support to farmers to help them manage their agricultural expenses and improve their standard of living. Under the scheme, eligible

farmers receive ₹6,000 annually, transferred in three equal installments of ₹2,000 each, directly into their bank accounts.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that it reduces the financial burden on farmers ensuring that they have adequate resources for cultivation. It supports small and marginal farmers, who form the backbone of India's agricultural economy. Balbir further said that it enhances farmers' income and improves rural livelihoods. It also helps farmers invest in better seeds, fertilizers, and modern agricultural techniques.

The scheme has had a transformational impact on India's agriculture sector. By directly transferring funds, it ensures transparency and efficiency, eliminating middlemen and leakages. Since its inception, PM-KISAN has benefited mil-

lions of farmers, improving their purchasing power and reducing dependency on moneylenders.

The scheme also aligns with the government's vision of "Doubling Farmers' Income", promoting rural development, and ensuring food security. With continued focus, the scheme will further empower Indian farmers, making agriculture more resilient and sustainable.

Prominent among those with whom PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme was discussed included Gulshan Bhagat, State General Secretary, BJP SC Moreha, Som Nath Bhagat (Retd.Principal from Navodya Vidyalaya & also General Secretary of Bhagat Sabha, Mulkh Raj Bhagat (Reted ExN PWD) & Vice President Bhagat Sabha and Parshotam Bhagat.

DC Baramulla inaugurates RRR Center established by MC Baramulla



DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa inaugurating RRR Center.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, on Thursday inaugurated the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (RRR) Center established by the Municipal Council Baramulla in the presence of Executive Officer MC Baramulla, Noveed Ajaz.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Baramulla said that the establishment of this RRR

Center is a significant step towards effective waste management in Baramulla. It will encourage people to adopt sustainable practices by reducing waste, reusing materials and promoting recycling. Such initiatives are crucial for environmental conservation and ensuring a cleaner future for our district.

Executive Officer MC Baramulla, Noveed Ajaz,

also highlighted the importance of the center, stating that it will serve as a key facility for waste segregation and recycling, helping to reduce environmental pollution.

The event saw the participation of municipal officials, local and community members who lauded the administration's efforts in promoting eco-friendly practices.