

Sat emphasizes ideological discipline at Prashikshan Mahabhiyan District Workshop



J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP, Sat Sharma speaking at a workshop.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The District Jammu South unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a workshop under the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan-2026 at the BJP J&K Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sat Sharma, J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP, addressed the session along with party leaders including Rekha Mahajan, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Reema Padha, Parduman Singh, and Naresh Singh Jasrotia. District office bearers, Mandal Presidents, and senior leaders actively participated.

In his address, Sat Sharma emphasized that the BJP is a cadre-based party rooted in discipline and ideological commitment. He said structured training programmes are integral to the party's organisational framework, ensuring that workers remain informed about its philosophy, policies, and current national and international developments. He stressed that such initiatives enhance maturity, accountability, and efficiency among party activists while reinforcing organisational discipline and dedication to national service.

Baldev Singh Billawaria highlighted that despite evolving socio-political conditions, the party's ideological foundation remains firm. He urged workers at all levels to stay updated on contemporary issues and effectively communicate the party's stance at the grassroots. Naresh Singh Jasrotia presented a detailed roadmap for implementing the Mahabhiyan at the district level, extending workshops and training sessions down to the Shakti Kendra level to strengthen the organisation and ensure wider participation.

Abhay Mahajan welcomes Centre's directive on full recitation of Vande Mataram

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Abhay Kumar Mahajan, IPS (Retd) and J&K Co-Convenor of the BJP Employees Cell, has welcomed the Union Government's directive mandating the recitation of the complete six-stanza version of Vande Mataram at government functions, official ceremonies, school assemblies and other notified events.



In a statement issued here, Mahajan said the new guidelines, reportedly issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, make it mandatory to recite the National Song in full before the National Anthem at official programmes. As per the prescribed protocol, attendees will stand at attention for the entire duration of approximately three minutes and ten seconds as a mark of respect. Describing the move as historic, Mahajan said it restores the full dignity of the composition written by

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. Though Vande Mataram was adopted as the National Song on January 24, 1950, only its first two stanzas had been officially recognised. He recalled that in 1937, the Indian National Congress had selected only the opening stanzas, reportedly excluding certain verses containing references to Hindu goddesses. The present directive, he said, marks a significant shift from that long-standing practice. Originally published in 1882 as part of the novel Anandamath, the song became a powerful rallying cry during India's freedom struggle. Mahajan noted that the decision coincides with the 150th year of its composition and enhances the reverence of the National Song, placing it alongside the National Anthem composed by Rabindranath Tagore.

One World Aid Trust organises Sanitary Pad Distribution-cum- awareness drive

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: One World Aid Trust, a leading non-governmental organization committed to social welfare, today organised a specialised programme titled "Sanitary Pad Distribution cum Awareness," focusing on nomadic families with limited access to healthcare facilities. The initiative aimed to promote menstrual hygiene awareness while distributing essential sanitary products to women and adolescent girls.



One World Aid Trust members during a drive.

The programme was spearheaded by Tanzeela Mushtaq and Muniba Ashraf, who closely engaged with members of the nomadic community. Tanzeela Mushtaq, Executive Member of the Trust, led the awareness session and highlighted the importance of menstrual hygiene and the correct usage of sanitary napkins. She emphasized that proper hygiene is a fundamental health necessity and that every woman, irrespective of her socio-economic background or lifestyle, deserves access to both awareness and essential resources.

During the event, Faisal Bilal underlined the need to build a more empathetic and inclusive society by breaking the stigma surrounding menstruation. He stated that menstruation is a natural biological process and should not be treated as a taboo. Referring to recent Supreme Court rulings advocating safe and private spaces for women, he stressed that menstrual dignity is both a legal and human rights issue.

Executive Member Irfan Ramzan reiterated the NGO's commitment to inclusive outreach. He noted that education is the first step toward empowerment and that extending such initiatives to nomadic groups ensures that no section of society is left behind. Other members present included Mohammad Athar, Ovais Majeed, Manpreet Singh, Azeen Bilal, and Shahid Sofi. During the drive, hundreds of sanitary pads were distributed, reinforcing the Trust's mission to promote health, hygiene, and social awareness.

IIM Jammu hosts Vittamanthan 2026: A High-Impact Post-Budget Dialogue on India's Economic Future

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu convened its flagship annual post-budget conclave, Vittamanthan 2026, at Mandapam, bringing together policymakers, economists, academicians, and students for an in-depth analysis of the Union Budget 2026. The forum served as a vibrant platform to deliberate on India's fiscal priorities, structural reforms, and long-term economic trajectory aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Kumar, Dr. Jai Kamal, and Dr. Garima Maurya, faculty members of IIM Jammu, along with a large gathering of faculty, officers, staff, students and scholars. Addressing the role of technology in governance and economic transformation, Dr. Arun Manhas, Director of Industries and Commerce, Jammu & Kashmir, highlighted the government's strategic emphasis on digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and platforms such as Digi Locker and UPI, underscoring India's global leadership in digital payments adoption. He described Artificial Intelligence as a transformative disruptor of the job market and emphasized the urgent need for skill development, AI literacy, and responsible AI governance. He further spoke about initiatives such as Mission Karma yogi, collaborations with IIM Jammu, integra-



Dr. Arun Manhas, Director I&C, J&K speaking at a programme at IIM Jammu.

tion with J&K Bank, and incentives for green and sustainable innovation, while stressing India's emerging role as a trusted AI partner for the Global South. Madan Gopal Sharma, Director, Finance Department, Jammu & Kashmir underscored the importance of the Economic Survey as a critical lens to interpret the Union Budget and reiterated the national

aspiration of achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 through sustained annual growth of 7 percent and above. He elaborated on the sectoral composition of GDP, noting the dominance of services followed by industry and agriculture. Highlighting the budget's thrust areas, he spoke on infrastructure expansion, rare earth development, high-speed rail connectivity,

tourism-led employment generation, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare workforce expansion. While characterizing the budget as balanced and growth-oriented, he also pointed out the need to enhance allocations for education and health in comparison with global benchmarks, alongside prudent management of fiscal deficit and public debt. Offering a macroeconomic perspective, Dr. Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist, Informatics Rating, emphasized India's growing contribution to global growth and advocated for growth with stability and financial inclusion. He highlighted encouraging indicators such as the declining fiscal deficit, strong performance in defence manufacturing, renewable energy progress nearing global benchmarks, asset monetization in roads and rail-

ways, and improved profitability of scheduled commercial banks. He termed GST a transformative reform in India's tax architecture while cautioning against emerging global risks including interest rate volatility, data privacy challenges, and cybersecurity concerns in the expanding digital public infrastructure ecosystem. The session witnessed active engagement from students and faculty, fostering rigorous and informed dialogue on policy design, economic resilience, and governance reforms. Vittamanthan 2026 once again demonstrated IIM Jammu's role as a thought leader and catalyst for meaningful discourse on national economic priorities, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing analytically grounded, policy-aware, and future-ready leaders for a rapidly evolving India.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal observes 'Shaheedi Diwas' in memory of Pulwama Martyrs



Members of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal observing Shaheedi Diwas.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: More than 40 CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the Pulwama terror attack of February 14, 2019, were paid heartfelt tributes during a commemorative programme organised by the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, which observed the day as 'Shaheedi Diwas' in honour of the fallen heroes. The event was chaired by Rashtriya Bajrang Dal J&K UT President Rakesh Bajrangji, who called upon party workers and citizens to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and observe the day with respect and national pride.

Addressing the gathering, he said the courage and dedication of the security personnel who laid down their lives for the nation would always be remembered. During his address, Bajrangji appealed to people to commemorate February 14 as a day of tribute to the martyrs. He expressed his organisation's views on cultural values, stating that some sections celebrate the day as Valentine's Day, which he described as a Western-influenced tradition promoted for commercial purposes. He urged people to remain aware of such trends and prioritise remembrance of national heroes.

Dogri Sanstha Jammu organizes book release function



Dignitaries releasing three latest literary works of eminent Dogri poet and writer Dr. Nirmal Vinod.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized a significant book release function on Saturday at K.L. Saigal Hall, Writers' Club, Jammu. The event marked the formal release of three latest literary works of eminent Dogri poet and writer Dr. Nirmal Vinod, in the presence of distinguished scholars, writers and admirers of Dogri literature. The books released on the occasion include Hasde Na Jaltarang (Ghazal Collection), Geet Hans Mein (Naveet Collection), and Sanjh Sandhuri Dhudhli Raat (Ghazal Collection). These works reflect Dr.

Vinod's poetic depth, lyrical sensitivity and intellectual engagement with contemporary themes rooted in Dogri culture. His ghazals carry emotional intensity and refined craftsmanship, while the Naveet collection blends melody with meaningful social reflection. Prof. R.D. Sharma, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, he lauded Dr. Vinod's literary journey and described his poetry as intellectually enriching and emotionally resonant. He emphasized that regional literature plays a crucial role in safeguarding

cultural identity and shaping collective consciousness in changing times. Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra, President of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, who presided over the function appreciated Dr. Nirmal Vinod's consistent and valuable contribution to Dogri literature. He remarked that the author's writings harmoniously combine tradition with modern sensibility and strengthen the creative foundation of the Dogri language. He reiterated that Dogri Sanstha remains committed to promoting and preserving the rich literary heritage of

the region. Prof. Veena Gupta, Vice President of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, attended as Special Guest. She congratulated the author and observed that the thematic richness and artistic maturity of his works make them relevant across generations. She highlighted the importance of such literary gatherings in fostering dialogue, critical appreciation and creative inspiration. Scholarly papers on the books were presented by Dr. Yash Raina, Promila Manhas and Babu Bhatti, who discussed the thematic diversity, imagery and poetic strength of the collections. The proceedings were conducted efficiently by Sushil Begana. The program concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the collective resolve to continue nurturing Dogri language and literature.

Aap Shambhu Mandir Committee invites devotees for Maha Shivratri Festival

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Aap Shambhu Mandir Committee, Roop Nagar Chairman and former MLA Shiv Dev Singh, along with Head Priest Sat Pal Singh, invited devotees to participate in the upcoming Maha Shivratri Mela scheduled to be held on February 15, 2026. The committee urged people from across the region to join the spiritual celebrations and seek the blessings of Bhagwan Shiv.



Aap Shambhu Mandir Committee, Roop Nagar members talking to reporters.

Addressing the media, Shiv Dev Singh highlighted the religious and cultural significance of the annual Mela and said that elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure a smooth and peaceful event for devotees. "Maha Shivratri is a sacred occasion that brings people together in devotion and harmony. We invite all devotees to visit Aap Shambhu Mandir on February 15 and take part in the Mela to seek the divine blessings of Bhagwan Shiv," he said. He added that volunteers

and committee members have been working tirelessly to prepare the temple premises and surrounding areas for the expected large turnout. He spoke about the spiritual importance of the festival and said that special prayers, bhajans and religious rituals will be organised throughout the day. He encouraged devotees to participate with faith and discipline while maintaining the sanctity of the temple. He informed that arrangements for cleanliness, lighting, security and distribution of prasad have been finalised to ensure convenience for visitors. Devotees will also have the opportunity to take part in traditional rituals associated with Maha Shivratri. The committee expressed hope that the Maha Shivratri Mela would strengthen spiritual unity and promote cultural values among the community while offering devotees a meaningful and devotional experience on the auspicious occasion.

Dy CM inspects Govt offices in Satwari, Akhnoor, Sunderbani

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday conducted surprise inspection of various government offices in Satwari, Akhnoor and Sunderbani to review administrative functioning and public service delivery. During his visit to the SDM Office Akhnoor, the Deputy Chief Minister took stock of the overall functioning there. He emphasized the need for greater efficiency, transparency and prompt grievance redressal to ensure better governance and responsive administration. He also undertook a surprise inspection of the PWD (R&B) Division and Sub-Division offices in Akhnoor. He evaluated the performance standards and functioning of the departments. Later, at the PWD Guest House in Sunderbani, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with several delegations and individuals who apprised him of

various issues and development concerns. Senior PWD officers were also present during the interaction who had detailed discussion on addressing the grievances raised by the public. While reviewing the functioning of offices across the inspected areas, the Deputy Chief Minister laid special emphasis on seamless service delivery to the general public. He called for strict adherence to duty rosters and timely execution of official responsibilities. Cautioning the officials against dereliction of duty and unauthorized absence, he warned that strict action would be initiated against those found neglecting their responsibilities. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the BDO Office Lamberi and chaired a meeting there. He also inspected the construction site of the 100-bedded Mother and Child Healthcare Hospital at Lamberi.

The Chief Guest, Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, IGP Jammu Zone, paid homage to the martyrs and welcomed their family members. He emphasized the need for greater civil society engagement with martyrs' families and stressed that their sacrifices must be remembered on all significant occasions. He described the police uniform as a symbol of courage, commitment, and selflessness, assuring full cooperation from the Police Department in future initiatives supporting martyrs' families.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rotary Club Jammu Tawi, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Jubilee Hills Hyderabad, paid heartfelt tributes to police martyrs and felicitated their families at the Police Martyrs Memorial, opposite Railway Station Jammu. The solemn ceremony began with a wreath-laying tribute by dignitaries to honour the brave personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. The Chief Guest, Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, IGP Jammu Zone, paid homage to the martyrs and welcomed their family members. He emphasized the need for greater civil society engagement with martyrs' families and stressed that their sacrifices must be remembered



Rotary Club Jammu Tawi members distributing bicycles to families of martyred officers.

The event was presided over by Kuldeep Khuda, IPS (Retd.), former DGP J&K, who lauded the Rotary Club for organizing the tribute ceremony. He noted that over 2,000 personnel have sacrificed their lives since the onset of mil-

ity and praised the resilience of their families. Ashok Gupta, IPS (Retd.), former IGP, formally welcomed the guests and reiterated society's responsibility to stand by the families of martyrs. Dr. Pawan Malhotra,

Principal ASCOMS, also spoke in honour of the fallen heroes. Senior police officers, including Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic; J.S. Johar, IGP Telecommunications; Rajeshwar Singh, DIG; and Joginder Singh, SSP Jammu, were present along with senior Rotarians. As a token of gratitude, bicycles were distributed to families of martyred officers and personnel. The programme was completed by Rtn. Dr. Sandhya Bharadwaj with the support of PDG Dr. Dushyant Choudhary, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Shivani Choudhary, President, Rotary Club Jammu Tawi, who reaffirmed society's enduring respect and support for the martyrs' families.