

Jammu hosts AICOI's 46th Annual Celebration

# Bestows Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. Vaid, J&K Ratan Awards to Dr Sushil, Dutta, Gaurav & others

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 46th Annual Celebration of the All India Conference of Intellectuals (AICOI) was held at the Amar Singh Club in Jammu. The event featured a discussion on the theme "Peace, Humanism, and Nationalism," followed by an award ceremony to honor eminent personalities from across the country.

The program began with a welcome address and the presentation of a bouquet to Dr. S.P. Vaid, former DGP, J&K Police, who was the Chief Guest. Other distinguished guests included Justice Rajesh Tandon (Rtd.), and Subash Gupta, Former District & Sessions Judge and Member PSC. Prakash Nidhi Sharma, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, provided an introductory lecture about the organization and the theme for discussion. Several notable speakers, including Dr. P.P. Singh, Adv. G. Venkatesh Subbarao, Sohail Kazmi, Avinash Choudhary, Adv. D.S. Chauhan, and Adv. Uma Kapahi, further elaborated on the program's theme, emphasizing that nationalism is deeply rooted in the values of peace, compassion, and unity.

The selection committee, chaired by Lt. Gen. K.M. Seth, Former Governor, and including members such as Justice Rajesh Tandon (Rtd.), Dr. P.L.



Dignitaries at 46th Annual Celebration of AICOI at the Amar Singh Club in Jammu.

Gautam, Former DG FRI, Dr. S. Farooq, Himalaya Wellness Company, and Smt. Anushri, Co-Convenor AICOI, unanimously resolved to bestow the Life Time Achievement Award to Dr. S.P. Vaid for his meritorious services and reformative approach during his long career in the police force. The event continued with the presentation of the J&K Ratan Award and Certificates of Appreciation to eminent personalities from a wide array of social and regional domains. The awardees included: Gaurav Gupta,

Secretary, Jammu Club; Dr. Sushil Sharma, HOD Cardiology GMC & SSH Jammu; Sapna Kotwal, JKAS; Pardeep Dutta, Editor, Times Now; Ranjeet Kalra, Sports Administrator & Educationist; Prof. (Dr.) Sudhir Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE; Dr. Javadi Rahi, Tribal Researcher; Parvinder Singh Sudan, ExB anker & Editor-in-Chief, Black & White Media; Dr. Seema Rohmetra, Academician & Peace Practitioner; Kuldeep Sharma; Parveen Kumar Naagar; Haji

Sheikh Mohd.; Vivek Singhal; CA Dev Hirvat; Sohail Kazmi, Journalist & Former Member of the Waqf Board, J&K. Each awardee shared their journey and underscored the importance of following fundamental duties in letter and spirit, as these duties lay the foundation for a stronger nation. Additional Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Satish Parihar, Retd. Group DGM, Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd.; Adv. Anuj Malhotra, J&K High Court; Tajinder Singh, Social Activist; Anuradha,

Principal, Cambridge Montessori, Ponicah; Adv. Nitin Parihar; Founder, Meridian Law Chambers; Yashveer Singh Jasrotia, Singer; Dastoor Organisation; Yash Jasrotia, Entrepreneur; Adv. Gaurav Prasher, TLSA Nowshera; Manpreet Singh, Sports; Adv. Kapil Sharma, Elite Law Institute and Avinash Choudhary, Chairman, Border Welfare Organisation, J&K. The program concluded with a valedictory address by Dr. S.P. Vaid, who highlighted the contributions of policemen and martyrs in upholding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. He appealed to the audience and the younger generation to work together to build a safer and more harmonious society. Justice Rajesh Tandon complemented Dr. Vaid's message, congratulated all the awardees, and designated Dr. Nitin Sharma as the working President of AICOI for J&K.

The proceedings of the program were compered by Maskeen Kour Wazir from the University of Jammu, and the formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Nitin Sharma.

Others instrumental in organizing the program included Adv. Sanjeev Sharma, Er. Ramnik Singh, Gagandeep Singh, and Avinash Choudhary, Chairman, Border Welfare Organisation, J&K.

## LG lays wreath, pays tribute to martyrs

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid wreath and paid homage to Hav Dipak Kumar Yadav and LNK Parveen Sharma, who laid down their lives during anti-terror operation in Anantnag.

"I salute the indomitable courage of our brave-hearts, who made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

Their valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the families of the martyrs in



LG Manoj Sinha laying wreath and paying homage to Hav Dipak Kumar Yadav and LNK Parveen Sharma.

this hour of grief," the Lt Governor said.

## Former foreign minister Natwar Singh no more

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday night after a prolonged illness, family sources said. He was 93. He breathed his last at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram near Delhi, where he had been admitted for the past couple of weeks, they said. Singh was born in 1931 in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. He was a career diplomat, who brought a wealth of experience in diplomacy to his political career and a prolific author on subjects ranging from the life of a maharaja to nuances of foreign affairs.

During his distinguished career, he wore many hats, and for his service to the nation, the former external affairs minister was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1984. "His son is there at the hospital, and many more family members are coming to Delhi from his native state for the last rites planned in Delhi. He was not keeping well for some time," a family source told PTI late night on Saturday. He died late Saturday night, the source said. A former Congress MP, Singh was India's External Affairs Minister for the period 2004-05 during the UPA-I government led by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

He also served as ambassador to Pakistan and was attached to the office of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from 1966 to 1971. Veteran politician Randeep Surjewala paid tribute to the former external affairs minister in a post on X. "The news of the demise of former Foreign Minister Natwar Singh ji is sad. May God give strength to his family to bear this loss and grant peace to the departed soul," he wrote on the social media platform in Hindi and also posted a photograph of Singh.

Dr. Karan Singh, former Member of Parliament, in a heartfelt statement issued here, said "I am deeply sad to learn that my good friend and colleague K. Natwar Singh has passed away. He was exactly my age, and I knew him for at least six decades. He made his mark as a Foreign Service Officer for many years in many countries, and also when he joined politics his contribution was significant." "I pay my homage to his memory and convey my deep sympathy to his wife Rajkumari Hem Kaur and other members of the family," he added. Singh also authored several books including, 'The Legacy of Nehru: A Memorial Tribute' and 'My China Diary 1956-88'. His autobiography is titled 'One Life is Not Enough'.

## Private schools demand immediate restoration of online access



President JKPSA, Ajay Gupta speaking in the meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A meeting of private schools from Akhnoor, Jourian, Khour, Gajansoo, Gho Manhasa, Marh, and Chowki Choura was held at S. S. Kendra Hr. Sec. School Marh, organized by Lal Chand Gandotra. The session aimed to address the difficulties faced by private schools operating in rural, border, and remote areas of Jammu district.

Participants shared their concerns about the evolving educational landscape, noting that many of these schools were established in the early 1980s

when conditions were different. The recent introduction of a dynamic affiliation fee by JKBOSE, based on the consolidated enrollment of students and including an 18% GST, has raised issues for smaller institutions. This fee structure does not take into account the financial realities of these smaller schools.

Members expressed worry over the potential closure of schools not listed in the JKBOSE's recent notification of 172 private schools, as students from these institutions are migrating to nearby govern-

ment schools.

Ajay Gupta, President of the association, reported that the concerns about the dynamic affiliation fee and the need for a fairer fee structure based on per-student enrollment were previously communicated to Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, and Prof. (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Chairman of JKBOSE, during a meeting in Srinagar on July 27, 2024. Gupta urged the Principal Secretary to take swift action to support small private schools and restore online access for those who had paid their affiliation fees before the academic session began on April 1, 2024.

The meeting was attended by several key figures including Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President), Sat Paul Mansotra (General Secretary), Naresh Kumar, Bindiya Samyal, Kiran Raina, Rashpal Singh, and Anil Sharma, who all voiced their concerns and sought immediate intervention to address the issues facing small private schools in the region.

## Vikrant distributes National Flags in Gurha Bakshi Nagar



BJP leader, Vikrant Gupta distributing Trocolour at doorstep in Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Vikrant Gupta, a dedicated BJP leader, who selflessly served the nation for 23 years in government service before resigning, distributed National Flags in Gurha Bakshi Nagar, spreading patriotism and enthusiasm among the residents. His unwavering commitment to the nation and its people is truly inspiring by putting nation first.

## Senior citizen have important role in highlighting BJP's good governance among youths: JD Singh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A meeting of the Senior Citizen Cell, chaired by J.D. Singh, BJP State Convenor, was held at Miran Sahib. The gathering saw the participation of several senior leaders,

including Advocate Devraj Sharma, Rajendra Pathania, Ashok Dogra, Madan Lal Raina, Girdhari Lal, Radha Krishna, Mukesh Sharma, G. L. Raina, Daulat Ram, Satpal, Jogesh Pal, and Ramesh Kumar besides a large number of senior citizens of the area. The meeting focused on addressing the pressing issues faced by senior citizens and emphasized the vital role they play in society. J.D. Singh underscored the invaluable contributions of senior citizens, urging them to share their life experiences with younger generations to support the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He highlighted the wisdom and guidance senior citizens offer, which is essential for national progress.



BJP State Convenor Senior Citizen Cell, J.D. Singh speaking in a meeting at Miran Sahib.

Singh reflected on India's political history, noting the dominance of Congress at the national level and regional parties like NC and PDP in Jammu and Kashmir.

He criticized these parties for promoting dynastic rule and failing to address the genuine needs of the people. Singh urged senior citizens to oppose political parties involved in appeasement politics and false promises.

He praised the BJP-led NDA government under Prime Minister Modi for its effective governance over the past decade, highlighting various development projects and welfare schemes launched since 2014. Singh lauded the

## Natrang presents Hindi play 'Chandi Ka Chamcha'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Natrang's latest Hindi play, \*Chandi Ka Chamcha\*, written by Habib Tanver and directed by Neeraj Kant, premiered on Sunday at the Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu, as part of the weekly 'Sunday Theatre' series. The play, set in a bustling market, revolves around a shopkeeper who is frustrated by the continuous littering outside her shop. As she cleans up the mess, she curses everyone, including the garbage collectors and local residents who disregard sanitation. The situation worsens when a woman dumps her household garbage onto the already overflowing heap. The shopkeeper's anger escalates as she recounts her troubles to Tony, a young man recently



Natrang artists performing in a play.

returned from abroad who contrasts the situation with international cleanliness standards. The shopkeeper suspects that a passerby might be responsible for the littering and confronts a woman, leading to a heated argument. Amid the chaos, Tony and the shopkeeper's friend join her, only to have garbage dropped on them from above. The shopkeeper demands the culprit come forward, but no one steps up. In a clever twist, the shopkeeper's friend announces the discovery of a silver spoon in the garbage, prompting the culprit to reveal herself in an attempt to retrieve

it. Publicly exposed, the woman is pressured to clean up the mess and vows to improve her behavior. As she begins to collect the garbage, she slips on banana peels she had previously discarded, illustrating the theme of the play: "As you sow, so shall you reap."

The cast included Vrinda Gujral, Mehak Chib, Aadesh Dhar, Advik Sharma, and Priyali Ashok Gupta. The play's lighting was designed and operated by Neeraj Kant, with music by Kushal Bhat, who also presented the play. Coordination was managed by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Farmers at KVK Jammu witness release of 109 Varieties by Prime Minister



Farmers at KVK Jammu witnessing release of 109 Varieties by Prime Minister.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Krishna Vignyan Kendra (KVK), Jammu of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) working under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi organised Kisan Sammalan cum Farmers Scientist interaction on the occasion of release of 109 varieties of Agricultural and Horticulture crops by Hon'ble Prime Minister at ICAR New Delhi. The programme was attended by a number of farmers and rural youths of the area.

Dr Amrsh Vaid Director Extension SKUAST J graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Smt Vidya Motan DDC member Miran sahib was Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Amrsh Vaid briefed the participants about the various varieties released by ICAR and also informed

that the newly released climate resilient varieties will definitely increase the production and productivity of field and horticulture crops. Vidya Motan appreciated the role of KVK Jammu for uplifting the socioeconomic status of farmers of Jammu.

At the outset Dr Punit Choudhary Chief Scientist and Head KVK Jammu welcomed the dignitaries and participants and briefed that KVK Jammu is working hard for the improvement of farmers of Jammu region.

A farmers scientists interaction on schemes of HADP and online training was also conducted on the occasion.

The programme was conducted by Dr Prem Kumar scientist Fisheries and the programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr Amitesh Sharma. Satbir Singh also helped in the smooth conduct of the programme.

## Ashok Koul calls upon youth to participate massively in 'Tiranga' programmes



Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary (Organization) leading Tiranga Yatra in Bandi town, Uri, Baramulla.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: To celebrate nationalism ahead of Independence Day, the BJP Jammu & Kashmir launched the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call.

The campaign featured various "Tiranga Yatras" across the region, where senior BJP leaders, party workers, and local residents participated with enthusiasm. Participants carried the national flag and chanted patriotic slogans like 'Bharat

engage in the Tiranga events in their areas.

In Hiranagar, the rally was led by BJP State Incharge 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Munish Sharma, District President Gopal Mahajan, and Mandal President Sudesh Kumar Sethu.

In Akhnoor, the event saw participation from District President & former MLA Rajiv Sharma and DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan Bodhi. In Jammu North, former MP Shamsheer Singh Manhas and former MLA Shiv Dev Singh joined the celebrations.

Other areas like Marh, KDD, and Rajouri also saw senior BJP leaders leading the rallies. The campaign highlighted the party's commitment to national unity and the development of Jammu & Kashmir, reinforcing its dedication to peace and progress in the region.

## Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre organizes "Free Eye Check-up and Aadhar updation Camp"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: As part of its Sewa Bhav initiative, the Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre (SCRC) in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, organized a free eye check-up and ration card updation camp today. The event, inaugurated by BJP leader Rekha Mahajan, saw participation from SCRC President Baldev Raj Gupta, Patron



Doctor examining a patient in a camp.

Narinder Mahajan, General Secretary TR Taggee, and other members.

The camp aimed to enhance community health by offering free eye examinations and treatments, including medications and glasses.

Experienced ophthalmologists and paramedical staff conducted the check-ups, benefitting

numerous residents.

Rekha Mahajan praised Dr. Amandeep Gupta and Nisha Sharma for their exemplary service and highlighted the importance of eye health.

She encouraged everyone to engage in acts of goodwill, emphasizing that such efforts contribute to personal satisfaction and societal development. Mahajan

also noted the Union Health Ministry's work under the National Program for Control of Blindness, launched in 1976, which focuses on improving eye care infrastructure and expanding services to underserved areas.

She urged the community to actively participate in these free health initiatives for broader impact.