

HP Governor pays tributes to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary

SHIMLA, AUGUST 16: The Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, today paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary, at a solemn ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, Shimla.

Paying homage to the departed leader, the Governor observed that Atal Bihari Vajpayee occupies an abiding place in the nation's history as a visionary statesman, an exceptional parliamentarian and a towering figure whose contribution to nation-building continues to inspire successive generations. He was, the Governor said, admired across the political spectrum and held in deep affection by the entire nation for his simplicity, eloquence and statesmanship.

The Governor noted that Vajpayee ji's unwavering commitment to democratic values, parliamentary traditions and the spirit of consensus set an enduring benchmark in public life, reflected in his steadfast dedication to national development, social welfare and the



unity and integrity of the country. His singular ability to rise above political differences and place national interest above all else earned him respect that transcended party lines.

The Governor further remarked that Vajpayee ji's abiding conviction was that India's progress must be anchored in democratic values, good governance and the empowerment of every section of society, and that his vision of a strong, self-reliant and developed nation remains deeply relevant to India's continuing journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

HP Governor expresses grief over Kishtwar road accident

Shimla, August 16: The Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of five precious lives in a road accident in the Dachhan area of Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

In a condolence message, the Governor said the road mishap was deeply saddening and extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and strength for the families to bear this irreparable loss, and also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the accident.

Concluding the tribute, the Governor said the ideals, statesmanship and enduring legacy of Atal Bihari Vajpayee would continue to guide and inspire the nation for generations to come.

Jammu Woman Gets New Lease of Life After Successful Mitral Valve Replacement

JAMMU:

A 57-year-old Jammu woman suffering from advanced rheumatic mitral valve disease got a new lease of life following successful cardiac treatment at Livasa Hospital, Mohali.

Speaking at a press conference in Jammu, Dr. Ishant Singla, Senior Consultant-CTVS and Robotic & Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgeon, said the patient had progressive breathlessness and was diagnosed with severe mitral regurgitation and moderate mitral stenosis. After comprehensive evaluation, mitral valve replacement



was advised.

Dr. Singla stressed that timely specialist evaluation is crucial as rheumatic mitral valve disease can gradually progress and lead to heart failure. He said minimally invasive valve surgery, where suitable, can offer benefits including smaller incisions, reduced blood loss and discomfort, earlier mobilisation and faster recovery.

The patient was discharged in a haemodynamically stable condition and will remain under cardiac follow-up.

DC Poonch reviews Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra arrangements in Mandi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 16

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today visited Tehsil Mandi to review the arrangements being put in place ahead of the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The DDC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed Malik, Tehsildar Mandi Ashfaq Hussain, BDO Mandi, Arshad Hussain, Executive Engineers Jal Shakti, Sajad Chowdhary, Executive Engineer PWD and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the DDC held discussions with the Management Committee of the Mandir regarding the arrangements for the visiting pilgrims. The Committee members apprised him of the preparations and highlighted areas needing District administration's intervention.

The DDC inspected the

Langer sites, toilet complexes, directed uninterrupted supply of water and light and other facilities around the Mandir premises and took stock of the overall arrangements.

The DDC inspected the Poonch-Mandi road and reviewed its condition in view of the expected movement of pilgrims. During the inspection of the Mandi market, the DDC also reviewed the drainage system and directed the concerned officers to ensure proper cleaning, main-

tenance and functioning of drains to prevent waterlogging and inconvenience to pilgrims and the local population.

The DDC directed all concerned officers to complete all arrangements well in advance and ensure close coordination among departments.

He emphasised that every necessary facility must be put in place so that the yatris do not face any inconvenience during the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra.

NHPC celebrates 80th Independence Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, AUG 16

NHPC Regional Office, Jammu celebrated 80th Independence Day with great fervor and happiness on 15th August 2026. Shri Anish Gouraha, Executive Director, RO, Jammu hoisted the flag in the office premises and sang the National Anthem along with the employees. A guard of honour was also offered by a CISF unit on this occasion.

At the beginning of the programme, everyone sang the National Song as well.

In his address, Shri Anish Gouraha extended Independence Day greetings to everyone and remarked that we are fortunate to



have been born and to be breathing in a free country. We express our heartfelt gratitude to our freedom fighters for this invaluable gift. Alongside power generation in the region, NHPC is also undertaking various welfare initiatives.

Shri Anish Gouraha called upon everyone to contribute selflessly towards building a developed India with a new resolve, new zeal, and new enthusiasm.

The event was attended by Shri Guru Dutt, GM(F), Shri Pankaj Vashistha, GM (C), Shri R.P. Maurya, GM (HR) and other officers and employees with family members, CISF, DGR Security personnel and outsourced manpower.

Agriculture Department Officials Felicitated for Outstanding Services in Dansal

DANSAL, AUGUST 16: On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, officials of the Agriculture Department in Sub-Division Dansal were felicitated for their outstanding and dedicated services towards the development of the agriculture sector and welfare of the farming community.

The felicitation ceremony was held during the Independence Day celebrations at Government Higher Secondary School, Dansal. Tehsildar Dansal, Ms. Mahrukh Fatima, was the Chief Guest, while Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Dansal, Mr. Ashwani Gupta, attended the



tural development of the area, appreciation certificates were presented to officials of the Agriculture Department.

The awardees included SMS SDLs Mr. Pankaj Bhawani and Mr. Pranav Chadha, JAEOS Mr. Parveen Singh and Mr. Vishal Many, besides Head Assistant [name not provided].

The recognition was appreciated by those present, with the officials being lauded for their efforts in strengthening agricultural activities and extending support and services to the farming community in Sub-Division Dansal.

Patriotic Zeal, Enthusiasm, National Spirit mark 80th I-Day celebrations in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 16: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, fervour and patriotic spirit at district, Sub-Division, tehsil and block headquarters, besides government offices and educational institutions across Kishtwar.

The main function was held at Chowgan Grounds. The programme commenced with Shehnai Vadan by DIPR (DIC), followed by rendition of Vande Mataram and the National Anthem.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who was the Chief Guest hoisted the Tricolour and took the salute of the March Past presented by contingents drawn from J&K Police, CRPF, CISF, IRP, NCC, GDC Kishtwar and students from various schools across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Naresh Singh. The parade was commanded by DySP Divya Kesar.

Students and local artists presented patriotic and traditional songs and dance performances, which were appreciated by the audience. A large number of schoolchildren participated in the celebrations with enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people of District and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of the 80th Independence Day. He highlighted the priceless sacrifices of freedom fighters, revolutionaries, great men and brave heroes who sacrificed everything for the country's freedom and paid heartfelt tribute to them.

He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the brave young men, security forces, soldiers and police personnel dedicated to safe-



guarding the integrity and sovereignty of the country. He said that "Operation Sindoor has shown the entire world that our country is capable of protecting its own borders." He also highlighted that the success of Operation Trashi played an important role in destroying the terrorist structure in the district and congratulated the Police Administration, Indian Army and other security forces for their efforts.

He said that under the visionary leadership and guidance of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward on the path of progress, prosperity and development. He observed that youths who were earlier misled by external enemy forces into anti-national activities are now returning to the mainstream and contributing towards the upliftment of the nation.

Giving details of developmental works, the DC informed that out of 2,565 works taken up under last year's District Capex Budget, 2,447 have been completed, while this year, out of 1,975 new works, the tendering process for 1,933 works has been completed.

"Under the Aspirational Block Programme, NITI Aayog has placed Marwah Block at the second position in the entire country, resulting in an additional allocation of ₹2 crore. Under Sampooran Abhiyan 2.0, six key indicators established by NITI Aayog have been completed in Marwah Block," he informed.

He further shared that 26,000 individuals are receiving benefits under different social security schemes in the District.

Referring to development of backward areas, he said "Under the Tribal Plan, 28 out of 32 works have been completed,

while the remaining four are progressing at full speed. The construction of the Gurjar Bakarwal Hostel at Chhatroo under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan has also nearing completion with about 90 percent work having been completed.

"In the agriculture sector, ₹25 crore has been invested for the first time in the district to promote vegetable and flower cultivation. The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar Awaam Aajeevika Mission has been implemented across rural areas with an interim allocation of ₹90 crore. To promote youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, ₹31.60 crore has been disbursed against 561 approved proposals," he shared.

Highlighting Kishtwar's rich cultural heritage, religious sites, and spiritual traditions, the DC

nor on April 11, 2026. A mega rally was organised on June 6, 2026, in which people from all sections of society participated. During the campaign, a total of 2,34,000 programmes were organised at various places across the district, with more than 30 lakh people participating. Properties worth ₹26 crore belonging to drug traffickers including a car and a residential house, were confiscated. From the stage, he appealed to the youth of Kishtwar to stay away from drugs and not allow their bright future to be ruined by the menace of substance abuse.

He heartily congratulated the people of Kishtwar for their enthusiasm, zeal and fervent patriotism during all three phases of the "Har Ghar Tiranga" and "Vande Mataram" campaigns. He said that in the first phase of the Vande Mataram campaign, Kishtwar secured the first position in the entire country, with schoolchildren and youth playing an important role. He also appealed to citizens to actively participate in the tree-plantation campaign — "Ek Ped Ek Maa ke Naam" and "Ek Ped Shahidon ke Naam".

The DC expressed pride over the unwavering cooperation and enthusiasm of the people of Kishtwar in successfully completing the first phase of Census 2027 and thanked the census officers, enumerators, supervisors, charge officers and technical teams for their dedicated efforts. He urged every resident to participate with the same spirit of enthusiasm and responsibility in the upcoming second phase, scheduled from August 17, 2026, to September 30, 2026, stressing that the Census is not merely a counting exercise but the foundation for future planning, development and welfare. The DC said that Kishtwar has long been a symbol of har-

mony, brotherhood, unity in diversity and rich cultural traditions. He urged citizens to honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters by upholding national unity, constitutional and democratic values, protecting the environment and contributing towards a clean, green, self-reliant and developed India.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening the bond of brotherhood and communal harmony, he recited:

"Aise khwab mere mulk mein aisi faza bane,
Mandir jale toh ranj musalman ko bhi ho,
Pamal hone na paaye masjid ki aabroo,
Yeh fikr mandir ke nighabhan ko bhi ho."

The Independence Day celebrations concluded with the felicitation of dedicated officers, individuals and students for their meritorious and exemplary work. The best-performing parade contingents and participants in the cultural presentations were also felicitated by the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The Masters of Ceremony for the occasion were Roopesh Sharma, Zorawar Singh and Awani Sen, who conducted the proceedings in a dignified, orderly and professional manner, ensuring the smooth conduct of the Independence Day celebrations in accordance with the prescribed ceremonial protocol.

ADDC, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC, Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS, Rishi Kumar Sharma; CEO, KDA, Kaiser Bhawani; CPO, Akhil Thakur; ACR, Idrees Lone; DIO, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar; EO, MC, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; DFO; DYSSO, Jaffer Haider Sheikh; CEO, Sanjay Dogra; besides other officers from Civil, Police, Army, Assam Rifles, CRPF and staff from various departments were present on the occasion.