



UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT TO RAISE FOUR MEMORIALS FOR VAJPAYEE | 3

TIMES CITY

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VILLAGE PANCHAYAT BYPOLLS POSTPONED IN PILIBHIT AFTER VAJPAYEE'S DEATH | 3



When Atal was swamped with flowers in Agra

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Agra: No stranger to the city, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Agra connect goes back to his early age, when his family moved to Bastessa, a village in the district on the banks of the River Yamuna. He studied up to class V in the town of Bastessa.

Perhaps, that is why Vajpayee had a personal connection with the city. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's road show in Agra on April 19, 1998, as a member of the party's national executive, he was in the city to attend BJP's national convention. Overwhelmed by love and support of the local residents, who showered him with flowers as he passed the market place, Vajpayee, while addressing the convention, had said, "Agra is a very special city, yes, it's agra hai, Yahan kya log khamanwala hai. Yeh toh phoolon gaya chhalayi hain (Stay safe brothers, this is Agra People here injure you with flowers)."

On his arrival, Vajpayee was swarmed along roadsides and stood on rooftops to catch a glimpse of their leader. As Vajpayee passed through market places in an open vehicle, he was rained with roses.



Vajpayee's road show in Agra

Agra University mourns loss of former student

Vajpayee Studied Pol Science Here In The 1940s

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Atal, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a student at Bhilai Arts, Madhya Pradesh University here for several years in the 1940s. Throughout his life, he remained connected with his teachers and close friends. A day after his demise on Thursday, Agra university remained closed throughout in memory of its illustrious alumnus. On Friday, university vice-chancellor Arvind Kumar Dixit went to New Delhi's pay

memorial service for the former PM.

Vajpayee completed his MA in political science with first division marks from DAV College, Kanpur (then affiliated to Agra University).

After this he secured admission in an LLB program but was not able to complete it due to his political interests

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According to the university staff, Vajpayee completed his school-level BA in Gwalior. Back then, the princely state of Gwalior led by Jiwajirao Scindia, used to offer stipends to meritorious students to pursue higher studies. Vajpayee applied for the scholarship and got selected. In 1946, he got admission in Agra University's DAV College.

Talking to TOI, vice-chancellor Arvind Kumar Dixit said, "It is a great honour for Agra University to have former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as its alumnus. Every year, we have more than 220, which is now known as the 'summit suit'. Two special chairs, which were made available for the summit, are still present here."

Praising the hospitality of the staff, Vajpayee wrote, "In press, my deep appreciation and thanks for the excellent

How Vajpayee stayed optimistic about Indo-Pak ties

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Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was cremated with full state honours at Shri Sri Bhulabhai Desai Crematorium in New Delhi on Friday, did not lose hope about finding a lasting solution to tensions between India and Pakistan, even after talk of war between the two leaders, also known as the Agra summit, was a landmark peace initiative by Vajpayee.

The three-time PM's optimism is etched in the quest register of Jaypee Hotel, where he used to carry back to home for Agri-Services as well as for former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as its alumnus.

"In his early years, Atalji worked as a journalist. This Atalji was a man of integrity of society and politics. As a mark of respect, he started working on a plan to develop a centre of excellence in journalism named after him," the VC added.

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The Agra summit was a landmark peace initiative by Vajpayee

hospitality accorded by the management and staff of Jaypee Hotel, Agra to me and members of my delegation.

Harish Subrahmanyam, the hotel's vice-president, told TOI that even after he was not honoured by the two leaders, also known as the Agra summit, was a landmark peace initiative by Vajpayee.

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Atal supported AMU's minority status

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Agar: Aligarh Muslim University's minority status might have become the issue, but the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a strong proponent of the varsity's minority character.

Director of Urdu Academy Dr. Rahat Ali Khan also a former PRO in AMU said that everything is documented. He said, "Atal ji supported the

minority character of AMU. In fact, he had promised in the election manifesto to restore the minority character of the University if it comes in power." During the 1979 mid-term elections, its manifesto had promised to give priority to enacting appropriate legislation to restore the character of the institution as an Oriental and Islamic studies, and for the promotion of educational and cultural advancement,

primarily of the Muslim community."

In the bill introduced by the Indira Gandhi-led government was actually drafted by Jan Sangh leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani, who later became part of the Morarji Desai cabinet.

The legislation in question was the AMU (Amendment) Bill, which was passed two years later in 1981 by then government.

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