

'Commitment to foster cutting edge innovation'

Dr Jitendra exchanges MoU in presence of PM Modi, German Chancellor Scholz

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a significant step to advance Indo-German cooperation in science, technology and StartUps, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and German Federal Minister of Education & Research, Bettina Stark-Watzinger exchanged a Joint Declaration of Intent for cooperation in StartUps, research and development on advanced materials.

The exchange, held in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, underscores both nations' commitment to foster cutting edge innovation and research that will address global challenges.

The bilateral talks between Dr. Jitendra Singh and Ms. Stark-Watzinger, which took place prior to the Plenary between the two Heads of State, were a pivotal part of the Golden Jubilee celebration of Indo-German science and technology collaboration.



PM Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz witnessing the exchange of MoU between Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Federal Minister of Education & Research, Bettina Stark-Watzinger at Hyderabad House, New Delhi.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed gratitude to Ms. Stark-Watzinger for her consistent support in strengthening the Indo-German partnership. He highlighted recent collaborative successes, such as the launch of 2+2 joint projects in areas like "Waste to Wealth" and sustainable packaging, as well as a new call for proposals in AI for Sustainability.

These initiatives, along with the Joint Declaration of Intent, will be presented as key outcomes at the upcoming Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations led by the Prime Minister of India and the German Chancellor, said the Minister. Dr. Jitendra Singh also lauded the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) for its instrumental role in promot-

ing joint research, having supported over 50 projects and connected young researchers from both nations. Discussions included the recent establishment of the International Research Training Group (IRTG) between IISER Trivandrum and Würzburg University, focusing on photoluminescence in supramolecular matrices, a testament to the advanced, collaborative research being fostered between the two countries.

Additionally, Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed India's commitment to long-term international projects such as the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) in Darmstadt, where Indian scientists play a key role in advanced materials and particle physics research.

The bilateral discussions also highlighted national initiatives such as India's Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the National Quantum Mission, both

aimed at scaling up R&D across priority areas including electric mobility, sustainable agriculture, and advanced materials.

The two Ministers also discussed potential collaboration in hydrogen energy, with Dr. Jitendra Singh noting that India's National Hydrogen Mission could offer promising joint opportunities in R&D, production, and sustainable energy storage.

As the meeting concluded, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Ms. Stark-Watzinger affirmed their commitment to aligning innovation and research efforts across areas such as biotechnology, environmental technology, and healthcare. Both leaders emphasized the importance of fostering academic exchange and talent development, ensuring that the Indo-German partnership continues to drive innovative solutions for a sustainable and resilient global future.



Thank Maharaja Hari Singh for making J&K an integral part of India: Arun Gupta

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta said here on Friday that Jammu & Kashmir became an integral part of India after Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947. Paying tributes to the visionary Dogra king on the eve of Accession Day, Mr Gupta said the ruler had done so by exercising his right as defined under Indian Independence Act of 1947. We should be eternally grateful towards the Maharaja as his action has made us all citizens of India, he added.

It was not a right meant for people of the Princely states but the rulers themselves were given this choice. Around those days, at the dawn of Independence, over 550 Princely states had joined India. There was only one draft and version of the Instrument of Accession which all these states had signed, Mr Gupta said.

The Dogra Maharaja too had signed the same Instrument of Accession which dozens of others had signed before him. The document that he had signed was in no way different from those who signed it before, and, after him. One of the most famous cases of the Instrument of Accession being signed later than J&K was that of the Princely state of Bhopal, he pointed out. Its



hereditary ruler Nawab Hamidullah Khan signed the accession document on April 30, 1949, thus making it an Indian state thereafter.

Incidentally, Bhopal, which was one of the last Princely states to sign the Instrument of Accession, serves as the capital of Madhya Pradesh now. Despite the fact that Bhopal has signed this document over 18 months after J&K, no questions are asked about it. The reason is that it was not mandatory for the Princely states to sign the accession document before Independence Day (August 15, 1947). Further, there was no deadline or last date before which the princely hereditary rulers were to join either of the Dominions, Gupta said.

Maharaja Hari Singh is accused by some uninformed and ignorant people of delaying the signing of the accession document. These people also say that this delay caused trouble in J&K but this is a patent false-

hood. As early as in 1930, at a roundtable conference of princes in London, he had clearly demonstrated his Indian-ness. This was the reason he was not liked by the British who conspired against him and helped Pakistan grab a part of the territory ruled by him, Mr Gupta asserted.

It was mainly the contiguity of J&K to both India and Pakistan which created problems for Maharaja Hari Singh. He had signed a Standstill Agreement with the Dominion of Pakistan in August 1947 and offered to sign it with India also. However, there were no takers for his offer of Standstill Agreement in Delhi, as then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was not favourably disposed towards him. There is nothing on record to show that Maharaja Hari Singh was ever in doubt about his joining India, he added.

In its verdict on the bunch of petitions relating to Article 370, the Supreme Court had said in December last year: J&K does not have any 'internal sovereignty' distinct from the powers and privileges enjoyed by other States in the country. It had no sovereignty after the signing of the Instrument of Accession (IoA) and Proclamation issued by Yuvraj Karan Singh on November 25, 1949.

Appreciates Govt for farmers friendly schemes

Govt must educate farmers on Nano Urea, Nano DAP fertilizer purchase for remarkable yield: Sukhnandan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: During ongoing Rabi season in Jammu, the sale of urea has made the farmers worried as the companies are forcing the farmers to buy Nano DAP & Nano urea which is in liquid form. Here in our region the farmers are using DAP urea only and its yield is also excellent, said former Minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar.

Seeking the intervention of Union Minister J P Nadda while addressing the media in Jammu, the former Minister Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar said that black marketing of Urea & DAP at double rate during the ongoing Rabi season has further worsen the



Senior BJP leader, Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar addressing a press conference in Jammu.

already fractured financial condition of the Jammu based farmers.

"The farmers in Jammu are worried as IFFCO company and IPL Company is forcing the farmers to purchase Nano DAP & Nano Urea and Potash while the farmers who are not knowing much about Nano Urea, Nano DAP are running here and there but no one

is making them understand its use and benefits and damages," said Sukhnandan Kumar.

At the same time, the IPL (Indian Potash limited) company is forcing the farmers to buy Potash also.

At Chinore farms, the total yield on 15,000 kanals was mere and production were 12000 qtl due to the use of Nano

DAP and Nano urea. There by making huge losses to the farmers, said Sukhnandan.

"Moreover, sometimes, the less knowledge for Nano Urea, and Nano DAP fertilizer essential for Rabi crops, mainly wheat and maize, is due to its unavailability at the officially designated fertilizer dealer shops across the J&K UT," the senior BJP leader told reporters after meeting with hundreds of farmers who gathered at Marh block near the office of Ch Sukhnandan today morning, who assured the villagers that he would take up the matter with the LG Manoj Sinha to intervene and resolve the issue. In this connection, Sukhnandan Kumar held

a press conference to apprise the media.

The fertilizers are very essential for good yield and someone from the government must aware the farmers so that they don't feel cheated at the hand of companies, added Ch Sukhnandan.

Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar said, adding, the Rabi crops will be affected due to this issue. The BJP-led government at Centre has always supported the farmers and increase in MSP has helped the farmers all over the country, Sukhnandan added. and he also demanded the Centre government to look into the matter and take necessary step to resolve farmers problems as soon as possible.

Satish visits Abrol's residence; assures all support to family

Pays obeisance at Bawe Wali Mata

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma, today visited the family of Shashi Abrol at Jammu, who was killed in a terrorists attack at Gagangir in Ganderbal on Sunday.

The Minister offered condolences to the bereaved family and assured them all assistance and support from the government.

Sharma said that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to provide all possible support to the grieved family and assured that the entire administration stands in solidarity with the family of the deceased Shashi Abrol in this hour of grief.

He also visited the Bawe



Minister FCS&CA and Transport, Satish Sharma visiting family of martyr Shashi Abrol in Jammu.

Wali Mata temple to pay obeisance at the revered shrine.

The Minister prayed for peace, progress and prosperity for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. "Spiritual blessings are essential and integral to human lives as these empowers us to perform our roles and respon-

sibilities more efficiently and honestly", maintained the Minister.

He expressed hope that the newly formed government under the leadership of Omar Abdullah will successfully lead the development journey achieving new highs of growth and glory.

Rana pitches for full-fledged Railway Division for Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Underseering the crucial need of transforming the Railway infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader and MLA Nagrota Devender Singh Rana on Friday urged the Union Minister for Railways Ashwani Vaishnav and Lieutenant Governor Mr Manoj Sinha to establish a full-fledged Railway Division in Jammu, keeping in view the city's immense strategic, cultural, and economic significance.

Interacting with deputations here this morning, Devender Rana said that the issue will be taken up proactively for an earnest consideration, to dispense with dependence on the Ferozpur Division.



Senior BJP leader and MLA Nagrota Devender Singh Rana addressing a public gathering.

He said such a step will not only revive the pristine glory of Jammu that had been a major railway junction pre-partition but also give impetus to growth and job generation in a big way.

Rana said the time has come to assuage the urges and aspirations of Jammu, a most prominent pilgrim city of North

India and gateway to adventures Ladakh and picturesque Kashmir Valley. In such a backdrop, establishment of a Railway Division will give impetus to rail infrastructure as new destinations like the Valley and Pir Panchal region are on the anvil, as a result of Naya Jammu Kashmir vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Devender Rana said the establishment of Railway Division will bring considerable benefits in terms of regional development and public convenience, as Jammu serves as a main hub for over ten million pilgrims, thronging from various parts of the country and even abroad 24x7x365. Such a facility will help create necessary facilities for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine bound pilgrims and millions of adventure and nature lovers embarking on trip to the Valley and Ladakh. Enhanced railway services through a dedicated division would streamline travel for these visitors and support the local economy, he said, adding that this will generate jobs in the process.

Devender Rana said a

full-fledged Railway Division will ease logistical challenges apart from support to defence mobility, keeping in view the strategic importance of this part of the country.

"The Railway Division could stimulate economic growth by improving accessibility, creating jobs, and fostering local businesses that depend on rail transport for goods and services", Mr Rana said, adding that by making Jammu a focal point for railway operations, the vision of boosting tourism to surrounding regions can be well realized. He hoped that the Ministry of Railways will take a considerate view of the proposal that will be a path-breaking step towards regional development and national integration.

Deputations meet Dy CM; highlight issues, concerns seeking speedy redressal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Scores of deputations and individuals from across Jammu region on Friday met Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary here at Jammu and projected their issues and concerns while seeking speedy redressal of the same.

The deputations who called on the Deputy Chief Minister included Chamber of Commerce & Industries Jammu, Amarnath Yatra Association Jammu, delegations from Sports, Police, Finance and other departments besides other deputations from Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch and other districts.

The deputation from Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the Presidentship of Arun Gupta raised key developmental



Sikh Minority association calling on Dy CM, Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Jammu.

issues of Jammu region including restoration of darbar move, clear land and other issues of small industrialists, mining and related issues, choking of nullahs, lanes and drains in Jammu city during monsoon season, road to Bawe wali Mata Temple, unemployment and other issues being faced by the youth and people of

Jammu and Kashmir. Another deputation from Jatt Biradari projected various issues regarding welfare of the Biradari and hoped that the government will consider the same on priority basis.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputations that all their genuine demands and grievances would be

resolved on priority basis.

A deputation of Advocates led by Senior Advocate D S Chandan also met the Deputy Chief Minister and highlighted their demands regarding infrastructure of High Court besides other development and welfare issues.

While interacting with the deputations, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that the government is committed to redress all their pending issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister also issued on the spot directions to the concerned authorities to remove all bottlenecks hampering development process in their respective areas.

Meanwhile, All Sikh Minority Employees Association and All Employees Joint Association

Kashmir, led by its President Jagmeet Kour Bali, called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary at Srinagar the other day.

President ASMEAK and AEJAK along with delegation, raised several crucial issues affecting the minority community working in Jammu and Kashmir.

They also highlighted important concerns regarding safety and security of minority employees, implementation of SRO 425, reservation, accommodation for all, conversion of NPS into OPS, Transfer Policy and other issues pertaining to employees community.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the delegation that all their genuine issues would be addressed in a phased manner.

Sinha inspects progress of key infrastructure, Smart City projects in Srinagar



LG, Manoj Sinha conducting on-site inspection on progress of key infrastructure and Smart City projects at Srinagar on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday conducted the on-site inspection and reviewed the progress of key infrastructure and Smart City projects of Srinagar. The Lt Governor visited the project sites of Noor Jehan Bridge, Qamarwari; Wooden Pedestrian Bridge, Amira Kadal and Jhelum Riverfront Development project from Right River Bank Beyond JK Arts Emporium to Amira Kadal and directed the officers and

implementing agencies to expedite the works for completion of the projects in a time-bound manner. He also visited Srinagar Square, Lal Chowk and interacted with the shopkeepers and traders. The Lt Governor was accompanied by Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner; Srinagar; Dr Owais Ahmed, CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited and other senior officers.