

Mehbooba's tweets likening Lanka situation to India under 'purview of treason': BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Slamming former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti for her recent tweets where she warned the Indian economy of going the Sri Lankan way, the BJP on Thursday said her statement came under the purview of "treason".

"What happened in Sri Lanka should serve as a wake-up call. Since 2014, India is being whipped into a communal frenzy & imagined fears. It is treading the same path of hyper nationalism & religious majoritarianism. All at the cost of disrupting social cohesion & economic security," Mehbooba had tweeted on Wednesday.

Taking objection to this, former deputy chief minister Dr Nirmal Singh told reporters here, "Mehbooba's statement smells of a big conspiracy against the country and the Bharatiya Janata Party condemns this in the strongest terms. All of this cannot be allowed. All this comes under the purview of treason."

He said the only thing common between Kashmir and the Sri



Former Dy CM J&K, Dr Nirmal Singh talking to reporters.

Lankan episode was that some party leaders preferred "family over nation", and asked the leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party and the National Conference "not to test the country's patience".

Alleging that the dynastic politics in Jammu and Kashmir had "weakened India", he said, "Their blind love for their family and neglect of the ambitions and aspirations of the common man has led to a terrible mess. What hurts Mehbooba and the others after the abrogation of Article 370 is the

loss of their fiefdoms and emergence of a naya Kashmir, where the power lies in the hands of village panchayats, and not the writs of Mehbooba and her colleagues," he said.

Singh alleged that the PDP and NC leadership was troubled to see peace in Jammu and Kashmir, and were instigating the youth as elections in the union territory are likely in the near future. "There is also Pakistan's support in this," he alleged.

Further, he said Mehbooba was trying to "ignite communal tensions"

with her "hate speeches" in an attempt to regain lost political ground.

"Her agenda has failed in Kashmir, where investors are coming and tourism is growing. And now, Mehbooba is instigating the youth of Kashmir towards stone pelting and separatism," he said.

"Is Mehbooba Mufti not misleading Kashmiris against the order of the Supreme Court? Vapi Masjid, Ayodhya, Taj Mahal are judicial issues, are they misleading the Muslim Ummah against the respected court? This is a shoddy ploy to humiliate the courts in India," he added.

Singh said that Indian judicial system represented highest values imparting unbiased judgments on every crucial issue.

"It will spare nobody, be it Yasin Malik or any other involved in anti-national or anti-social activities. The people of Jammu and Kashmir will never accept their version as the youth is eyeing for development that is visible after August 5, 2019," Singh added.



CCI meets DC Jammu Avny Lavasa, anticipates warm ties between Admn, traders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A team of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu led by its President Arun Gupta on Wednesday met Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa and discussed various issues related to trading community.

Felicitating Avny Lavasa for her appointment as Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Arun Gupta said that the Jammu Chamber has lots of hopes from the new Deputy Commissioner Jammu as her tenure as Commissioner JMC was also stupendous because areas falling under Jammu Municipal Corporation have witnessed many drastic changes under her headship.

"It was under your term that Jammu Municipal Corporation won the second prize for 'Best Municipal Corporation in the Plastic Waste Management category' at the Plastic Recycling Conference Asia 2.0. Of course, it was Avni Lavasa's out of the box initiatives that have ensured recognition to JMC for its pioneering efforts in the field of plastic recycling", Arun Gupta said, adding that Jammu is look-



CI Jammu President Arun Gupta presenting bouquet to Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa.

ing forward for the better ties between traders and the administration. He said that people of Jammu are fortunate enough to have such a seasoned officer as the DC.

Meanwhile, gun manufacturers who accompanied the CCI team highlighted their issues concerning transport license, no objection certificate and proof testing permissions of guns.

Arun Gupta said that the aforesaid things have been arbitrarily delayed at the DM's office for the last over two months, thus causing trouble to gun manufacturer fraternity.

Upon listening to the issue of gun manufacturers, the DC Jammu assured to look into the matter at the earliest and also vowed to bring

in procedural changes to streamline the entire process so that no one feels the pinch of arbitrariness of officials in the aforesaid office.

Avny Lavasa also thanked the CCI team for according warm welcome and assured that Jammu Administration will leave no stone unturned to mitigate the problems of businessmen of the region besides offering them pedestal for flourishing their establishments and businesses as never before.

Among those who were present include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President CCI, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General CCI, and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary CCI.

CUJ inks MoU with Kiel University Germany



(L-R) Prof. Jutta Zimmermann, Chair Department of English, Prof. Nele Matz Luck, Vice President Kiel University, Germany; Prof. Rasal Singh, Dean School of Languages; Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ, Dr. Vandana Sharma, HOD, English; Dr. Yashwant Singh, Registrar I/C, CUJ during the MoU Signing Ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of English, Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Thursday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with English Department of Kiel University, Germany to promote Exchange of researchers, students and faculty; Cooperation in research projects; Organization of lectures, symposia, conferences, and workshops; Development of mutually beneficial academic programmes and courses; Exchange of information, teaching materials, and scientific publications.

The Memorandum of Understanding is intended to promote international

cooperation between the Department of English, represented by Professor Jutta Zimmermann of Kiel University (hereinafter referred to as CAU), represented by its President Prof. Dr. Simone Fulda and the Head, Department of English, represented by Dr. Vandana Sharma of Central University of Jammu (herein after referred to as CUJ) represented by its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

In his message, Prof. Jain declared that all institutional support is always there for facilitating all those linkages which are in national interest and for promoting academic standards.

ADGP Ladakh launches portals to report menace of drug abuse, illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: In an extraordinary move to control and eradicate the menace of drug trafficking/abuse and illicit liquor trade, ADGP, Union Territory of Ladakh, S.S Khandare, on Thursday launched a web portal initiated by District Police Leh.

The website has been designed with the intention to enable the public to directly report about activities of drug trafficking/abuse and illicit liquor trade to Leh Police.

SSP Leh P.D Nitya said that drug abuse and illicit liquor trade reporting portal is being launched with the objective that anyone can go to the portal and lodge a complaint or share information with the police which can help police finding drug peddlers who, otherwise, make children or youth addicted.

She added that informers will not be penalised for sharing information and their identities will not be disclosed.

It was also informed that the identities of the informers will be strictly kept confidential and no official other than SSP



ADGP Ladakh and SSP Leh addressing media.

Leh would have the means to access the data.

ADGP Ladakh, S.S Khandare, while interacting with media persons of Leh, said that Ladakh sometimes becomes a part of drug transit route.

Drugs coming from international borders and going to the interior areas of our country sometimes pass through Ladakh, and drugs coming from Himachal Pradesh also land up in Ladakh.

He informed that drug peddlers that Ladakh Police has arrested so far are all from outside and during tourist season some outsiders bring drugs in Ladakh and sell them here.

The website also hosts

information about lists of De-addiction centres across India, information on harmful effects of drugs, prevention advice and how to identify a drug user. <https://www.drugs-freeleh.com> can be accessed from any device and information can be shared with the District Police Leh.

"If you happen to be a drug addict, or a victim of drug abuse or knows someone who is involved in drug selling and peddling business or have any valuable information related to drugs, then please share with us at the reporting link," District Police Leh requested the general public.

Sham, Rana, others listen to public grievances at BJP headquarter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister along with Devender Singh Rana, former MLA and accompanied by Rekha Mahajan, Secretary, J&K BJP listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Numerous individual sand deputations representing various quarters of society visited BJP headquarter to present their concerns regarding various issues comprised of development, adminis-



J&K BJP Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma along with former MLA, Devender Rana listening to public issues.

trative and personal issues.

Many deputations presented their issues regarding electricity, water supply, road connectivity etc.

some deputations complained over the lack of teaching faculty in the government schools and the resultant loss in education of studious stu-

dents. One deputation raised issues of flood management in the Samba area.

A deputation raised the issue of construction of Bridge and approach road in Chhamb constituency. A deputation from Mangal Market near Railway station, Jammu raised its concern about the fear that has gripped them in case of their dislodgment.

BJP senior leaders listened to their issues patiently and telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the oth-

ers.

BJP leaders said that as many people and deputations have raised their concern about their various issues, they have sincerely tried to give reasonable solution to their issues while taking immediate steps wherever needed by talking to concerned authorities.

They said that the senior BJP leadership is sincerely working to address their problems. They maintained that BJP is serving the society with dedication and up to the satisfaction of the masses.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a statement to the media today Rakesh Gupta, Former President Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu/President Jammu Pharmaceutical Distributors Association Jammu advised the Power Development Department to put on hold the proposed power tariff hike and termed it as totally irrational.

Rakesh Gupta appealed to Sh. Amit Shah , Hon'ble Union Home Minister to urgently intervene and question the bosses of PDD for the proposed power tariff hike and ask the PDD to go for serious introspection as corruption in their distribution department has crossed all barriers resulting into 60-62% AT & C Losses (Aggregate Technical & Commercial Losses) despite thousands of crores of Tax Payers Money been and being allocated by the Union Government for improving the Infra . He also appealed to the Union Home Minister for an urgent Audit by Central Agencies of the Money Spent by the PDD on their Infra in J&K UT in the last one decade.

He also appealed to Sh. Manoj Sinha



Hon'ble Lt Governor J&K UT to make the PDD Distribution Officials accountable for big mismatch between the consumption of electricity and revenue collected. He also appealed that there must be no increase the existing power tariff and effective steps be taken to lower the AT & C Losses rather.

He also questioned the PDD Distribution department that why no action is being initiated against those responsible in their department for theft of Electricity because of their active connivance . He advised the PDD to link the performance of their Revenue Collection Staff directly to their Salaries so that consumption of electricity without using meters and manipulation of meter readings could stop.

He further cautioned the J&K UT administration and urged them to realise the Plight of Traders & Industrialists in view of the alarming Inflation and cut throat competition from Big Chains. He said that any further financial burden on the business community and the people at large shall result in adding to the losses already being suffered.

Pilgrim Tourism can add a lot to efforts, if any, Govt makes for Commercial Tourism in Jammu Region

■ DAYA SAGAR

Sr. BJP Leader Kavinder Gupta, Ex MLA & former Dy Chief Minister of J&K State, during his Maharashtra visit has been reported as having said this 2nd May while in Mumbai after visiting Shirdi Temple, Grishneshwar Temple, Bhadra Maruti Temple and other temples that Jammu and Kashmir UT has immense potential for religious tourism which continues to be a major contributor to the economy of this newly formed Union Territory adding that religious shrines constitute rich wealth of our cultural heritage due to which Jammu is known for ornamental old temples. Gupta well appreciating that there may be need for further improving maintenance standards and enhancing facilities for the visitors he did quote that Jammu as well as Kashmir Province register a foot fall of lakhs of pilgrims every year for Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine, Sudh Mahadev and many others.

Three things are particularly worth

noting and appreciation from the words of Kavinder Gupta, first he gets the distinction of primarily promoting & highlighting the economic importance & potential of pilgrim tourism in J&K, 2nd he has in a way communicated to outside world that there exist lot for visitors outside Valley (too) in the form of pilgrim tourism and 3rd that religious tourism "continues" to be a major contributor to the economy of UT. No doubt presently for the areas of UT of J&K outside Kashmir valley the pilgrim tourism is a major contributor to the local economy as regards the tourism sector since inspite of there being a very large potential for summer / winter/ adventure tourism outside Kashmir valley the same has not been reasonably exploited even after Independence. Even there exists very large potential for pilgrim tourism in Jammu Region (Kathua, Udhampur, Baderwah, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch) and that too has not been provided needed economic/ infrastructural inputs by the governments otherwise

the religious tourism would have brought in fortunes for the areas / people outside Kashmir valley.

Any Kavinder Gupta still deserves appreciations for having talked of particularly pilgrim tourism potential most of which exist in Jammu region (though not promoted yet adequately).

Other thing that Kavinder Gupta has referred in his press statement is that the temples / other structures around are our architectural heritage which could make the destinations additionally attractive.

It is not out of place that in Jammu Region there are lot many monumental old religious shrines/ temples/ places of worship which also have very attractive streams/ rivers/ mountains/ forests/ lakes/ alpine / meadows /etc near about/ around which can receive / can be developed to receive summer / winter / adventure tourist as well as where resorts / village tourism/ health tourism can also be promoted by



A Look through the Mist

developing the infrastructure to receive the visitors with safe communication connectivity . This sector has been badly neglected so far . No doubts occasionally small projects worth Rs.10 to 20 Cr have been announced in the past but requirement was for projects of a few hundred crore rupees sector wise.

For immediate reference and broader look I take opportunity to quote some places of pilgrimage and the spots / sites worth enough potential around like The scope could be well seen in the treasure of The Sukrala Mata, Varun Mandir Billawar, Mata Bala Sundri, Machedi, Cheoo (u) Bangla Sankari Devta, Mongri Shiv Parvati Cave, Devasthans at Bariote, Badsar Devta at Laki, Shiv Khori (Cave) Shrine, Sudh Mahadev Shiva Temple , Jakhed Naag temple, Basant Garh Purdaar Devta/ Nag Devta, Khaned, Sehogali Chamanda Mandir, Kakddi Dhar mountain range, Gandh Top Nag Mandir,

Majohi, Mata Chountra Devi, Budha Amarnath Temple Mandi, Gurudwara Nangali Sahib, Dashnami Akhara Poonch, Ziarat of Shahdara Ziarat Budguyal Dora Poonch, Ziarat Batalkot Mandi, Ziarat Guntrian Poonch, Ziarat Pamrote in Surankote, Ziarat Chote Shah, Surankot, Noor Chamb, Sungari (Bhudhal), Gali Maidaan, seven lakes, Shrine of Shah Farid ud Din Sahib Kishtwar, Shah Asra ud Din Sahib Kishtwar, Ziarat Zain Shah Sahib Bhandarkot, Chandi Mata temple Machail Paddar, Atharah Bhuja Temple Sarthar Kishtwar, Sinthan Top, Paddar, Leondi single stone Nandi , Hanuman Temple of ancient times (as per local belief it was got constructed by Bhim Sen elder brother of Arjuna),Chesoti Densel Deodar forests, Chandi Mata Temple Bhaderwah, Vasuki Nag/ Patta, Kailash Kund ,Gupt Ganga , Asha Pati- Glacier, SONE (deep) BAW-BLI, Lal Draman Doda , Padri Top/ Padhri Dhaar , Padri (everlasting

Glacier) , Chinta Valley , Jaai Valley , Seuj Dhar, Raushira Mata Temple, Hairrru, Thathera, Satsar Spring , Thubba Temple, and many like.

Kavinder Gupta has gone to the extent of committing his self by saying that that on his return to J&K he will appeal to the UT Administration to prepare a novel roadmap for developing a model mega religious pilgrimage cum tourist plans .It is hoped that atleast he takes to this task / his promise religiously and sees that atleast 3 to 4 projects worth a few thousand crores are drawn by the government atleast now after 7 decades which would provide a great socio economic boost to the people and backward areas of Poonch/ Rajouri/ Kathua/ Udhampur/ Bhaderwah/ Doda/ Kishtwar /like there by really providing that pilgrim tourism can be really be a major economy booster for the UT of J&K.

(The author is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist dayasagr45@yahoo.com).