

BJP J&K President releases Dogri Song ‘Sachi Gal’



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina in presence of Editor-in-Chief STATE TIMES Raj Daluja and others releasing 'Sachi Gal', a Dogri song sung by Sunil Sharma.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sung by Sunil Sharma, a popular Singer of Jammu, 'Sachi Gal', a Dogri

song has been released by J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina along with other dignitaries including Editor-in-

Chief STATE TIMES Raj Daluja, Ashok Khajuria at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on Monday.

On the occasion, Ravinder Raina congratulated team of song director, producer, writer, singer and other artists

involved in the endeavour. He admired them for their efforts in promoting Dogri language. He opined about the need of promoting Dogri through similar attempts by youngsters.

Raina further said that people of J&K should support and encourage the local artists so that they can also grow and reach new heights. "We are recognized by our culture, and language we belong and for this, we should be proud of using our mother tongue in every possible form," he added. Wishing all team members good luck and popularity of the song, he assured them that he is willing to lend a helping hand in similar projects depicting, our region and culture, in future.

Over 53,000 Loudspeakers Removed In UP, Sound Level Lowered For 60,295: Police



Omar Abdullah trying to communalise situation in J&K: Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah is attempting to communalise the situation in Jammu and Kashmir by "deceitfully" trying to connect power cuts with Sehri and Namaz, the BJP alleged on Monday.



gains". Sunil Sethi told reporters here.

The BJP had also requested the administration to improve power supply. But it cannot be forgotten that power supply is affected largely because of the defective policies of previous regimes that have left huge outstanding arrears, he claimed.

The NC leader had said that "curtailment of electricity at Sehri and Iftar hours is being deliberately done to hassle us".

"Are you playing with our sentiments? If your intention is not to play with our sentiments, then give power during Sehri and Iftar hours and cut it at other hours of the day," Abdullah had said.

Noting that there had been no opposition to

Abdullah's statements by the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), Sethi said, "This is a dangerous trend which will further radicalise the situation but unfortunately the PAGD has gone low in politics with eye on the coming (assembly) elections."

He said such communal tirades have no place in the tolerant society of Jammu and Kashmir and alleged that these are yet another attempt to engineer violence.

Taking exception to Abdullah questioning the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Union, the BJP leader said, "The decision to accede to India was taken by the ruler of the state as was done in cases of other states. Omar has forgotten history as to how killings and tortures and destruction of property had been done by Pakistani invaders to Kashmir."

The BJP stands for brotherhood amongst all nationalists belonging to different religions and will oppose all attempts to weaken the secular fibre of mutual co-existence, Sethi said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BERLIN: India on Monday reiterated its commitment to climate and environmental causes and pointed out that we have launched the National Hydrogen Energy Mission and several such initiatives to fulfill India's commitment at COP 26 of achieving net zero emissions by 2070.

On the 2nd day of his visit to Germany, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh held "bilateral" talks with his counterpart, Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection in Berlin as part of the India-Germany Inter Governmental parleys.

The agenda of the meeting was Adaptation to climate change, Biological diversity, Oceans and Artificial intelligence for environmental protection.



Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh being received by Federal Minister for Environment, Steffi Lemke at the Environment Ministry Headquarters, Republic of Germany, at Berlin on Monday.

In view of the imminent future challenges on the climate and weather, Dr Jitendra Singh expressed interest to augment our cooperation in this field including Model Development, Application of Forecasts in the renewable energy and of course use of Artificial Intelligence/ Machine learning. He mentioned that Science & Technology has been one of the strategic pillars of bilateral partnership and suggested to explore possibilities of bilateral scientific cooperation in emerging areas of Weather and Climate Research, specifically, on trends of regional climate extremes and variability of vulnerable areas including tropics and high-latitudes.

Dr Jitendra conveyed to his German counterpart that Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad provides early warning information for Tsunami related hazards to the Indian Ocean rim countries. He added that

India has been recognized as one of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSP) under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) and invited Germany to make utilization of this opportunity.

Dr Singh noted with satisfaction that India is working towards Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Assessment (PTHA) in the Makran region through UNESCO-IOC and funded by UNESCAP, where German experts and institutions are part of this initiative.

For strengthening mutual collaboration between MoES institutions and German scientific/ research agencies, Dr Jitendra proposed to develop bilateral cooperation in areas of Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Assessments, Early detection of tsunamis including 'atypical tsunami' generated by the under-sea landslides triggered by earthquakes, Geodynamic modelling of Earth's subsurface for submarine landslides and Crustal deformation monitoring using Global

Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) data, Tectonic settings of subduction zones in the Indian Ocean (more emphasis on Makran Subduction Zone) and integrating Machine Learning methods, Capacity building activities to strengthen pre-disaster preparedness and risk reduction programmes such as Tsunami Ready, Cooperation in the area of long term Arctic (Polar) observations & studies and Cooperation in the field of Gas Hydrates and underwater drills.

For bilateral cooperation in Ocean Exploration, Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that the Blue Economy is an important dimension of Vision New India and proposed joint collaboration in areas like Coastal Marine Spatial Planning and Tourism, Marine fisheries, aquaculture, and fish processing, Coastal and deep-sea mining and offshore energy.

Steffi Lemke, German Environment Minister reciprocated the proposal and briefed on German advancement in these areas and agreed to work out new collaboration.

Nitishwar Kumar visits Baltal, reviews Shri Amarnath Yatra arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar on Monday conducted an extensive tour of Baltal and took on-spot assessment of the facilities being upgraded for the convenience of pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Yatra-2022.



Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar during visit to Baltal.

proposed sites for halt stations to have first-hand appraisal of augmentation of pilgrims' staying capacity for ensuring smooth conduct of the yatra.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary was apprised by the concerned departments regarding the activities and developmental works undertaken to enhance the staying

capacity by 2-3 times of existing holding capacity at various halt stations.

The Principal Secretary inspected the facilities and arrangements at Access Point Domail and also inspected the proposed separate site for Service Providers located on other side of Nallah Sindh, and directed the R&B department to frame a proposal for installation of an iron bridge at the earliest so that the patch of land could be used by service providers during the Yatra period. He also stressed for proper leveling of all proposed sites before pitching tents.

The officials of R&B department briefed the Principal Secretary about the progress on snow clearance and other developmental & repairing works on the Yatra track.

Regarding parking facilities, the Principal Secretary directed for making adequate arrangements for parking of buses ferrying the Yatrists, as heavy footfall of Yatrists is expected this year.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal briefed the Principal Secretary about the works being taken up to augment the existing holding capacity at various points via Baltal

route for the comfortable stay of Yatrists.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed about the provision of facilities like water, electricity, sanitation and other public facilities for which the Principal Secretary directed the concerned authorities to make all necessary arrangements well in advance for the convenience of Yatrists.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Krittika Jyotsna, SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar, besides other senior officers of SASB and District Administration accompanied the Principal Secretary.

VHG Directorate issues promotion order

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Directorate of VHG, CD & SDRF J&K on Monday issued the promotion orders in respect of officers/officials vide different orders.

As recommended by the DPC (Departmental Promotion Committee) and after thorough scrutiny of the service records, promotion in respect of (01) Inspector (M), (01) Sub-Inspector (M), (03) ASIs, (03) Head Constables and (02)

Selection Grade Constables has been ordered.

The Commandant General, VHG, CD and SDRF J&K, Hemant Kumar Lohia, has congratulated the promoted officer/officials and their family members. He has expressed his hope that the promotion will serve as an inspiration for the officers/officials to perform their duties with enhanced dedication and zeal.

Great potential for religious tourism in J&K, need novel roadmap to exploit it fully: Kavinder



Ex-Dy CM J&K, Kavinder Gupta paying obeisance at Shirdi Temple.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: Kavinder Gupta, former Dy Chief Minister of J&K and senior Bharatiya Janata party leader, who is on a visit to Maharashtra, has asserted that Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has an immense potential for religious tourism and it continues to be a major contributor to the economy of this newly formed Union Territory.

In a statement issued to media here today, the former Dy Chief Minister said "Religious shrines constitute rich wealth of our cultural heritage due to which Jammu is known as the City of Temples. Well-ornamented old temples can be seen across Jammu city. However it is a fact that these need to be maintained properly with enhanced facilities for the visitors. Moreover there are multiple religious destinations in both Jammu as well as Kashmir Province which register a foot fall of lakhs of pilgrims every year. Naming a few including the holy Vaishno Devi Shrine, the Annual Shri Amarnath pilgrimage, Sudh Mahadev and many others, Kavinder said these need to be well managed especially by providing the world class facilities

to the pilgrim tourists. He said that the temples as well as surrounding structures are live jewels of our architectural heritage need proper maintenance so that they can also be developed as attractive religious tourism destinations. Kavinder said that he was very happy to see the systematic management of the religious shrines and temples in Maharashtra and we need to emulate the same in J&K UT with some minor adjustments as per the local specifications. He said that religious tourism will boost other sectors of tourism like site-seeing tourism, etc. He said that he was highly impressed with the expansion of facilities for pilgrims and promoting infrastructure projects with enhanced and hassle free connectivity.

The senior BJP leader said 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 destination project keeping in mind the world class facilities provided at pilgrimages in rest of the nation which envisages conservation and proper maintenance of even forgotten religious sites in J&K.

Mayor assures improved drinking water supply in coming months



Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta assured on Monday that drinking water supply in the city would be improved in the coming months as there were protests against power and water crisis in different parts of the region.

Making an appeal to the people for judicious use of water, Gupta said he, along with officers of the BJP-ruled Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and the Jal Shakti Department, are personally conducting extensive tours of water filtration plants and the Public Health Engineering (PHI) pumping stations to take stock of the situation. "Efforts are on to improve the water supply to the consumers by linking the filtration plants and pumping stations with dedicated electric feeders to ensure uninterrupted water supply. Besides this, solar panels will also be installed at Sheethi filtration plant on priority basis, the mayor told reporters here.

Referring to the additional allocation of 207 MW of electricity from the central government on April 28, he said the power crisis has eased to some extent as the Power Development Department has restricted the outage in the city to six hours daily.

He also appealed to the people to cooperate with the sanitation staff of JMC to keep the city neat and clean to welcome lakhs of pilgrims from across the country for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage which is going to start on June 30.

India's green goals seem shattering with increase in incidents of e-bikes catching fire

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI
SRINAGAR: Social media is flooded with videos of battery-powered scooters in flames from last few weeks. Last month, a father and daughter died from smoke inhalation after their brand-new bike from Okinawa Autotech Pvt caught fire while it was charging overnight at home. In another video, an Ola Electric Mobility Pvt scooter reduced to ashes in Pune, while in another, some 40 two-wheelers made by Jitendra EV got up in smoke as they are transported in a container. The incidents have, not surprisingly, made many Indians wary of electric vehicles. Number of people who used to say that they wouldn't buy an electric scooter due to safety and performance concerns jumped eightfold to 17 per cent in seven months through March, a survey of around 11,500 consumers conducted by Local Circles revealed. Just 2 per cent of people are likely to buy an electric scooter in coming six months, it added.

India, the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, is trying to get more electric vehicles on roads. Already many consumers are reluctant to switch over from combustion engine cars and motorcycles due to EVs high upfront cost and country's lack of charging stations, making it increasingly difficult for India to catch-up with countries like China, US etc. "When I hear of such incidents, I wonder why I should go for an electric vehicle. I'd rather buy a new gasoline one. I want to be part of the EV revolution and stop pollution but nothing is more important than safety of my family and kids," a 46-year-old resident from Srinagar said.

On the other hand, roads are notoriously potholed, causing all sorts of suspension problems. India currently imports most of its EV components from China, depriving automakers of full control over the quality and reliability of their products. Okinawa, in a statement issued few day back, revealed, that it had

recalled 3,215 units of its Praise-Pro electric scooters to fix battery-related issues. The accidents have at least ushered in some reforms to India's budding EV industry.

The Union Minister for Roads & Transport, Nitin Gadkari has pledged to adopt new standards to tackle fire incidents, which are likely caused due to thermal inefficiencies in lithium-ion batteries and exacerbated by hot weather. EVs should only be certified after they clear a revised testing system for battery packs and cells, he said. In the meantime, automakers should be 'cautious' with the cells they're using and recall products if they discover manufacturing defects.

According to experts, the technology development and management of batteries needs to be taken very seriously. It's important to understand that not all EVs or batteries are same and when short-cuts are adopted in their development, consumers can be exposed to potential unmitigated safety issues, they added.