

NDS organises Dogri Music Programme; honours veteran composer Col. (Dr.) S.C Gupta

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) organised a captivating musical programme dedicated to Dogri songs, celebrating the linguistic and cultural richness of the Dogra heritage. The event featured Col. (Dr.) Subhash Chander Gupta (Retd) - a veteran music composer, AIR "B High Grade" artist and a stalwart in Indian music with over fifty years of contribution - as the central performer.

Held at the NDS platform, the event witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities from the music, cultural and defence communities, alongside a large gathering of music lovers, composers, and singers.

Wing Commander M.M. Joshi (Retd), National Commissioner for Scouts and Guides, Chairman of Lawrence Public School, and Founder Advisor of Gandhi Global Family, presided over the function. The Chief Guest was Major General S.K. Sharma, AVSM, a well-known social worker and fervent advocate for Dogri language promo-



Col. (Dr.) Subhash Chander Gupta (Retd) posing with others at Dogri musical programme.

tion. Kamal Sharma, former SP, renowned rhythmist and drama artist, graced the event as Special Guest, and celebrated Dogri singer Anita Sharma was the Guest of Honour.

Prof. Anupama Sharma, Patron NDS and a noted singer, shared the dais with Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President of NDS, while Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary NDS, anchored the programme with his engaging compering style. During the event, Col. (Dr.) S.C. Gupta was honoured with the "Sanstha Sammaan", comprising a citation, shawl, and trophy, for his unmatched contributions to music. Col. Gupta, who has composed over 900

compositions including bhajans, kafis, ghazals, shabads, Punjabi and Dogri songs, presented five melodious Dogri compositions based on lyrics by prominent Dogri poets. He was accompanied by a team of seasoned musicians including Ustad Dr. Murli Manohar (Tabla), Vijay Anand (Dholak), Rakesh Jasotra (Flute), and Sunil Sharma (Synthesizer). An audience request, Anita Sharma performed two of her evergreen Dogri numbers - "Koon Koon Koon, Katni Aan Mein Room" and "Tu Malla Tu", captivating the audience with her soulful voice and musical expression.

Earlier, Capt. Lalit Sharma, IFS, Convener

NDS, in his welcome address, stressed on the need to innovate and enrich Dogri music to align with modern styles and trends, thereby making it more popular among younger generations. He highlighted the need to focus on Dogri folk traditions, the true soul of the language.

Wing Cdr. M.M. Joshi appreciated NDS for preserving and promoting art and culture, stating that music and culture act as a unifying force in society. He called for reinforcing cultural roots to maintain collective identity.

Major General S.K. Sharma emphasized that the vibrancy of Dogra society lies in its language and tra-

ditions. He urged families to speak Dogri at home to ensure that children learn the language naturally.

Anita Sharma encouraged young artists to remain dedicated and consistent in their practice, recognizing the abundance of local talent. Kamal Sharma reflected on music as a form of meditation and a powerful source of societal positivity.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Narinder Singh Chib, a noted Dogri poet. The programme was attended by several cultural and literary figures including Wing Cdr. Nirmal Kumar, Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Mangal Dass Pangotra, Shambu Ram Pyasa, Mangal Singh Jamwal, Balwan Singh Jamwal (Ex-DC), Ramesh Sharma, Subhash Shastri, N.D. Sharma, Jatinder Kaur, Pt. Girdhari Lal, Prof. S.P. Chopra, Anita Chopra, and Shavinder Kumar.

The evening turned into a celebration of Dogri music, language, and identity - a rich tribute to cultural preservation through melodic expression.

Tawi Foundation (Tawi Andolan) honours Dr. Om Vidyarthi for multilingual poetry book on Tawi River



Devotees performing Aarti at Tawi Ghat.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned environmentalist, poet, and retired Additional Chief Conservator of Forests (ACCF) Dr. Om Vidyarthi was felicitated for his latest multilingual poetry book on the Tawi River at a function organized by the Tawi Foundation (Tawi Andolan) and Namami Gange at the Tawi Aarti Ghat.

The event coincided with the Foundation Day celebration and the auspicious occasion of Ganga Dussehra.

The felicitation was conducted by senior BJP leader Chander Mohan Sharma in the presence of a distinguished gathering. Senior BJP leaders Surinder Sharma, Ayodhya Gupta, Ankush Gupta, Rajni Sethi, and Vinu Khanna also graced the occasion. The programme was presided over by Balwinder Singh Bhatia.

Several prominent individuals were also honoured for their contributions, including Vijay Malhotra and Ved Parkash Sharma, President

of the Brahmin Sabha.

The event featured soul-stirring devotional performances by celebrated local artists including Ganesh Kumar, Nidhi Dogra, Vansh Rajput, Chander Mohan Sharma, Asha Sharma, Anita Sharma, and Ram Pal.

Prof. M.L. Bhardwaj delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, performers, and attendees for making the celebration a memorable and spiritually enriching experience.

CVPPL signs agreement for term loan of Rs 1,000 Cr with J&K Bank Ltd



CVPPL and J&K Bank representatives during MoU signing ceremony.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chenab Valley Power Project Limited (CVPPL), Joint Venture of NHPC LTD (51%) and JKSPDC (49%) has signed an Agreement with the J&K Bank Limited, a bank constituted under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of undertaking) Act 1970, for Term Loan of Rs 1000 Crore.

As per the Agreement, the loan will be utilized for Development and Construction of greenfield Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (4x250 MW) on River Marusadar located in Kishtwar District of Jammu & Kashmir.

The formal signing of the agreement took place on Monday at the Corporate Office of CVPPL in Jammu, J&K, in the pres-

ence of Ramesh Mukhiya, Managing Director, Vasant Hurmade, GGM (C&P) from CVPPL and Sunit Kumar, Divisional Head, Jammu and V.P.S. Jasrotia, LCU Head, Jammu from J&K Bank among other key officials of respective organizations. This collaboration marks a significant step towards sustainable energy development in the region.

STATE TIMES NEWS

FRANCE: Union Minister of Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), Dr. Jitendra Singh and the UNESCO emissary Vidar Helgesen held a "bilateral" on Monday with focus on India's enlarging global role. Leading the Indian delegation to the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), Dr. Jitendra Singh is currently in Nice, France. The high-level conference, being held from June 9 to 13, is deliberating on advancing collective efforts for the sustainable use of oceans.

Dr. Jitendra Singh held bilateral discussions with Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. The



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, formally greet each other before holding bilateral discussions at Nice, France on Monday.

meeting centred around enhancing global ocean observation capabilities, with India expressing its commitment to contribute through both satellite-based technologies and in-situ observation systems.

"Strengthening ocean observation infrastructure is crucial not only for better climate prediction but also for unlocking the economic potential of the blue economy," he noted.

Helgesen, in turn, encouraged India to play a more active role in contributing to the IOC's global coordination mechanisms, particularly in the areas of data sharing, ocean services, and regional observation efforts. The conversation underscored the importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing challenges such as sea level rise, marine pollution, and biodiversity loss.

India's participation at the UNOC3 comes at a time when coastal states are increasingly recognising the strategic and economic

value of oceans. With its extensive coastline and significant dependence on the monsoon cycle, India is positioning itself as a key player in global ocean governance, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The conference, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, brings together heads of state, ministers, scientists, and civil society leaders to discuss ways to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal 14 - to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.

Dr. Jitendra Singh is expected to participate in a series of multilateral engagements during the week, underlining India's priorities in marine science, capacity building, and equitable access to ocean data.

Dr Jitendra, UNESCO emissary hold 'bilateral'; focus on India's enlarging global role

BJP holds review meeting for 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal, Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal' Campaign

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a high-level review meeting at the Party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, on Monday to mark the successful completion of eleven years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary and transformative leadership.

The meeting was chaired by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, and was convened to assess the preparations and finalize the roadmap for various programmes scheduled under the nationwide campaign 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal, Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal'. The meeting saw the presence of prominent leaders including Campaign Incharge for J&K and BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, BJP Headquarters Incharge and former Minister Priya Sethi,



J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chairing a party workers meeting.

Abhiyan Co-Incharges Pawan Sharma and Rekha Mahajan, as well as senior functionaries like Parbhat Singh Jamwal, Rakesh Mahajan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ankit Gupta, Ved Sharma, Gourav Balgotra, Dr. Makson Tikoo, and others.

While addressing the party leaders, Sat Sharma emphasized the importance of strengthening the party's connection with the masses

by expanding outreach activities under the campaign.

"The journey of Viksit Bharat representing Sewa, Sushasan, aur Gareeb Kalyan reflects the unwavering commitment, reforms, and visionary policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that the message of good governance, development, nationalism, and selfless service reaches every home in Jammu & Kashmir.

Exhibitions, professional meets, corner meetings, press conferences, handbill distribution, and door-to-door campaigns must be planned effectively and carried out vigorously."

Sharma also directed the functionaries to prioritize booth-level coordination and maintain active engagement with all sections of society. "Every event must reflect the spirit of service, development, and national unity. This campaign is not merely

a celebration, but a call to action for the next level of transformation," he asserted.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta highlighted the importance of factual outreach in the present narrative-driven political environment. "It is crucial to counter disinformation and propaganda with authentic data and ground-level achievements. Each party worker must become a messenger of Prime Minister Modi's vision for a peaceful, developed, and self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

Priya Sethi underlined the significance of integrating environmental and social responsibility into political outreach. "As part of this campaign, we must also encourage public participation in initiatives such as plantation drives, water conservation efforts, cleanliness campaigns, and reducing single-use plastic.

ABVP launch campaigns on Birsa Munda, Rani Abbakka, Student Welfare



ABVP J&K members addressing the press conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu & Kashmir held a press conference to highlight the key outcomes of the National Executive Council (NEC) 2025 meeting held from May 29 to 31 at Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur; Chhattisgarh. The organization outlined a series of nationwide campaigns focused on historical remembrance, student welfare, and educational reform. Marking the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, ABVP announced that it would organize dialogues, rallies, and remembrance events in university campuses across the country. These events will aim to connect with former karyakartas and MISA detainees who were imprisoned during the Emergency period. The objective is to educate the youth about the importance of safe-

guarding democratic rights and constitutional values.

ABVP will also commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda through various initiatives including hostel surveys, book publications, commemorative journeys, and worship ceremonies using soil from his birthplace. Similarly, the 500th birth anniversary of Rani Abbakka, a symbol of resistance against colonial rule, will be celebrated through awareness campaigns and cultural programmes.

During the NEC meeting, four major resolutions were passed. These included a demand for regulatory policies to address exploitative practices by coaching institutions, concerns over delays in the appointment of Vice Chancellors in Central Universities, discussions on

India's internal security and rising global stature, and condemnation of increasing political intervention in university campuses. The ABVP also praised the courage and professionalism of Indian armed forces in operations 'Sindoor' and 'Kagar', reaffirming its unwavering support for national security forces.

State Secretary ABVP Jammu Kashmir, Sannak Shrivats, stated, "As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, we aim to reconnect with those who struggled for democracy and inspire today's students to value constitutional rights. Our campaigns for Birsa Munda and Rani Abbakka are designed to instill pride in our cultural heritage while addressing current educational challenges."

The press conference also featured CWC Member Akshi Billowria and Mahanagar Secretary Harish, who echoed the organization's commitment to student welfare, education reforms, and national service. ABVP Jammu Kashmir pledged to carry forward the spirit of activism through its upcoming campaigns, ensuring that historical legacy and student rights remain central to its mission.

NMC President hails 11 years of Modi Govt as era of transformative governance and national pride

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, completed 11 years in power and the first year of its third term, National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) President Subash Shastri praised the tenure as one of unprecedented development, national resurgence, and strong governance.

Reflecting on the journey that began in 2014, Shastri commended the Modi government for its robust handling of national security, internal peace, and global diplomacy. "In the 11 years of Narendra Modi's leadership, there has been remarkable progress across various sectors. Law and order have significantly

improved, with a complete halt to bomb blasts and the end of insurgency in the Northeast. Every time terrorists attempted an attack, they were met with a firm and decisive response, including surgical strikes and missile operations," he said.

Shastri emphasized that the third term of the Modi government represents a continuation of a governance model rooted in integrity, justice, and public faith. "This is a government that has stayed committed to clean and efficient administration, putting the nation first in every decision," he added.

Highlighting India's rising stature on the global stage, the NMC President noted, "In the last 11 years, the world now looks at India with respect.

Prime Minister Modi has transformed the way global leaders engage with India. Our stance on terrorism is now uncompromising. Pakistan, for instance, is no longer a threat-it stands exposed before the world as a terrorist state, and this is due to PM Modi's tough approach."

Shastri hailed India's economic resurgence, proudly noting that the nation has ascended to become the fourth-largest economy in the world. "This 11-year period is historic. Never before has post-Independence India witnessed such consistent growth and transformation. Whether it's infrastructure, welfare schemes, or technological advancements, India has seen real progress," he said.

He also pointed out India's assertive stance in recent geopolitical tensions. "When Pakistan showed aggression recently, the response was immediate and decisive. That's the kind of leadership the country needs-and that's what we've had under PM Modi," he asserted.

As the Modi government marks over a decade in office, leaders and observers across the spectrum are taking note of India's transformation in national security, economy, foreign policy, and governance, all guided by what Shastri called the spirit of "seva" (selfless service).

Shastri concluded by expressing confidence in the continued success of the government and urged citizens to

unite in the mission of building a stronger, safer, and more prosperous India.

AJHLA urges Govt for revival measures of Jammu tourism

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All Jammu Hotels and Lodges Association (AJHLA), in a meeting held today, expressed grave concern over the sharp decline in the arrival of tourists and pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, attributing it to the tragic Pahalgam massacre and the Indo-Pak tensions. The association said that the tourism sector in Jammu is facing an existential crisis, especially the budget hotel industry, which has been hit hard by dwindling business. Pawan Gupta, President of the Association, said the extension of the train service to Katra and further to Kashmir, already dealt a blow to the Jammu-based hotel and tourism stakeholders. The recent incidents have only worsened the scenario.

"The industry is gasping for survival, with many units closing down or switching to alternate businesses. The livelihoods of hundreds of families are at stake," he said.

Gupta highlighted that not only hotels and lodges, but the entire tourism ecosystem-including dhabas, travel agents, tour operators, dry fruit and handicraft traders, taxi and auto drivers, and transporters-is suffering due to what he called "zero business." "The entire spotlight is on Kashmir valley, while Jammu's potential as a tourist hub continues to be neglected," Gupta remarked. He appealed to the government to immediately implement long-pending tourism infrastructure projects in Jammu, such as the Artificial Lake, Mubarak Mandi Complex, and beautification of

Surya Putri Tawi riverfront on the lines of Sabarmati. He also demanded the revival of the abandoned cable car project from Peer Kho to Mahamaya and expansion of Jambu Zoo in Nagrota with more unique animal species to boost tourist interest.

Calling for urgent and strategic promotion, Gupta suggested that the administration should conduct road shows across the country to highlight Jammu's religious and historical tourism offerings. He stressed that this would not only help bring tourism back on track but also revitalize the region's economy. Other office bearers who attended the meeting included Anil Khajuria, Pritam Sharma, H. S. Manhas, Baldev Raj, Sunil Suri, Sankul Gupta, Ankit Gupta, and Varun Gupta.