

Ladakh poised to emerge as India's Premier Winter Sports destination: LG Kavinder Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh has immense potential to become a premier winter sports destination driven by its geographical terrain and extreme winter conditions. The region needs adequate winter sports infrastructure and connectivity to attract both domestic and international winter sports lovers, thereby promoting Ladakh as an adventure and winter sports destination, with a special focus on boosting winter tourism to boost livelihood opportunities of the locals.

This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, while chairing a meeting to discuss the upcoming development projects related to Winter Sports at Drass and Zaskar.

The meeting was attended by Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Er Punchok Tashi; Councillors from Drass and Zaskar; Administrative Secretary, YSS, Bhanu Prabha; Joint Director, YSS, Tahir Hussain; government officials and members from Ski Association



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a meeting.

and Zaskar Ski School. The Lt Governor emphasised tapping Ladakh's winter sports potential to develop the region as a premier winter sports destination for skiers and winter sports lovers on the lines of Gulmarg.

He stressed that the establishment of the Winter Sports Academy and the installation of Chair Lift/Ski Drag Lift would also boost tourism and provide economic opportunities for local residents.

He underlined UT Administration's commitment to developing Ladakh into a top winter sports destination, with Khelo India Winter Games and other

winter sports events, particularly those related to ice hockey, being organised annually in Ladakh during the peak winter months.

The Lt Governor also mentioned key notable initiatives taken by the UT Administration, with the support of the Government of India, including the installation of the chilling plant for the ice hockey rink at NDS Stadium in Leh and also in Kargil to create year-round artificial ice for the benefit of local players. The development of such infrastructure would help in nurturing local talent for national and international competitions, including the Winter Olympics.

The stakeholders, including the CEC/Chairman, Executive Councillor, and

Councillors from LAHDC Kargil, along with members of the Ski Association, requested the Lt. Governor to initiate work on winter sports development at the earliest, highlighting the potential for Ladakh to become a hub for winter sports in India while empowering local talent.

Earlier, officials from Ronmas Pvt India, the consultancy firm, apprised about the project, with Chair Lift/Ski Drag Lift to be established in the first phase and Winter Sports Academy in the second.

CM reviews dev works in Pulwama, stresses on timely execution of projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a review meeting of District Pulwama to assess the status of development works and implementation of various government schemes in the district.

During the maiden district review meeting, the Chief Minister called upon officers to accelerate the pace of project execution and enhance expenditure levels under both District Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). He expressed concern over the low percentage of expenditure against the approved outlay and urged the departments to step up efforts for timely utilization of funds.

"First of all, I would like to thank the DDC Chairman and MLAs for their valuable suggestions and ideas. I have already given several on-spot directions during the review, but I have one overarching request - please pay more attention towards execution. There is lot of need for overall improvement," the Chief Minister said, while addressing the officers.

"We are now in mid-October, and if we fail to utilize the first instalment under the new SASCI scheme by December, further funds will be withheld - which would be a huge loss for us," he cautioned.

Omar Abdullah directed



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Pulwama.

the Deputy Commissioner to closely monitor progress of approved projects and ensure that any lapses are immediately corrected. "Please keep reviewing the projects regularly. Wherever there are delays, address them promptly. We have restarted the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for Hon'ble MLAs, but a lot more needs to be done in terms of expenditure," he said.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar, Satish Sharma, Chairman District Development Council Pulwama Abdul Bari Andrabi, MLAs Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi (Pampore), Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir (Rajpora), Waheed-ur Rehman Para (Pulwama), and Rafiq Ahmad Naik (Tral), besides

Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom, heads of departments, and district officers.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom presented a detailed overview of the District Capex Budget 2024-25, CSS 2024-25, and physical and financial achievements under Capex 2025-26, CDF, and MPLADS. He gave details of approved capital outlay of the district for 2025-26 and the details of works for which administrative approval has been accorded so far. The DC also gave department-wise, scheme-wise, and sector-wise performance reports covering Public Works (R&B), PMGSY, PMAY(G), Urban Development, School Education, Jal Shakti,

Irrigation & Flood Control, Agriculture and allied sectors, Power, Cooperatives, Social Welfare, Employment, Youth Services & Sports, SDRF, Tribal Affairs, Revenue and Food & Civil Supplies.

The DDC Chairman and MLAs raised several public issues concerning their respective constituencies, including irrigation and flood mitigation measures, drinking water scarcity, beautification of Pulwama, Pampore and Tral towns, road connectivity, crop insurance, desilting of rivulets, revenue settlement, illegal mining, completion of the Degree College building at Rajpora, and upgradation of health centres.

The Chief Minister and Ministers gave on-spot directions to the concerned officers for immediate redressal of the highlighted issues.

Taking serious note of ille-

gal mining, Omar Abdullah directed the Deputy Commissioner and concerned departments to initiate strict measures to curb such activities. "If complaints are being received, action must be taken immediately. Whatever has to be done to stop illegal mining, should be done," he asserted.

Expressing concern over the absence of toilets in certain schools, particularly for girls, the Chief Minister directed MLAs to allocate funds from their CDF to such institutions, stressing that lack of basic facilities contributes to higher dropout rates among girl students.

He urged all departments to expedite ongoing works and ensure completion within the stipulated timelines.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also laid foundation stone of a new Shopping Complex at Pampore in virtual mode.

Dr Sudhaa faculty in International PCOS Conference

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Sudhaa Sharma, Senior Gynaecologist and Managing Committee Member of PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome) Society of India was invited as Faculty in International Conference of PCOS society of India held in collaboration with Mayo Clinic USA at Ahmedabad from 10th to 12th October 2025.

She was one of the Convenor of the Workshop on Female Sexual Disorders along with Dr Sara Shihab (Internist Mayo US) and Dr Sandhya Saharan (Gynaecologist from Mumbai).

Dr Sudhaa moderated



the Panel and was also one of the expert panelists in another session. She highlighted that Female Sexual Dysfunction prevalence ranges from nearly 30 to 50 percent, that affects a woman's self esteem, confidence, mental health and interpersonal relationship, many times a cause of unconsummated marriage and even divorce. People

don't open up, don't discuss these issues and only on history exploration, one can know the underlying problem.

Dr Suneela Vegunta (Internist Mayo US) stated that people in USA are also not very comfortable in discussing these issues. Both the Faculty from US were experts in PCOS, Menopause and Sexual health.

Dr Sudhaa said that sex education in schools, at home, in PCOS patients, pre and post menopause is very important to address these issues. You should open up, discuss with your partner or with whom you confide in, & approach the concerned doctor and take the appropriate treatment if needed.

IIM Jammu inaugurates one day training on improving governance in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu conducted a one-day training on Improving Governance in Jammu and Kashmir, sponsored by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. Held on 13th Oct 2025 at the Manthan, IIM Jammu campus, the program brought together 55 participants, including policymakers, administrators, and regional experts.

The training program aims to strengthen institutional roles and responsibilities for the implementation of J&K State Missions, facilitate strategic planning, and promote evidence-based governance aligned with national frameworks such as Vision@2047 and the State Support Mission of NITI Aayog. Priority sectors include entrepreneurship and livelihoods, tourism, IT and data ana-



Dignitaries along with faculty and students during the programme.

lytics, agriculture, infrastructure development, human resource development, social safeguards, and environmental management.

Present on the occasion were Prof. Ravij Seth, Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy; Dr. Jaganth G., Program Director, IIM Jammu; Dr. Garima Maurya, Program Director, IIM Jammu; and Dr. S a n d e e p Ananthanarayanan, CEO, CITAG, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Ravij Seth, Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu, welcomed the participants to the One-Day Training Program on Transforming Governance held. He emphasized that Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved without Viksit Rajya (developed state) and underscored the importance of adopting best practices and utilizing resources effectively to strengthen governance and drive national progress.

Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu, stat-

ed that the program is a valuable opportunity to enhance governance through accountability and leadership. He emphasized that reflecting on these aspects can lead to meaningful contributions and noted that the one-day program is designed to be interactive, engaging, and impactful.

Dr. Garima Maurya, Program Director, IIM Jammu, welcomed the participants and set the tone for an interactive and collaborative session, emphasizing that effective governance starts with awareness

and responsibility. He noted that this training program encourages active participation and practical learning to address Jammu & Kashmir's priority sectors.

The inaugural session culminated with the National Anthem, followed by a group photo and a library visit to Nalanda Library, Smart Classrooms, Vedanta MDP Block and Mandapam Auditorium, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Jaganth G., Program Director, IIM Jammu. The training program's agenda for the day includes thematic sessions on Agriculture & Allied Sectors, Tourism Development, and IT, Data Analytics, Monitoring & Evaluation.

The one-day training program is expected to culminate in actionable strategic frameworks, roadmaps for SIT operations, and recommendations for strengthening institutional coordination and capacity building across priority sectors. The training program is being coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu.

PM Modi's Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card a lifeline for senior citizens: Priya Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Vice-President and former Minister Priya Sethi today inaugurated an enrollment camp for the Vaya Vandana Card under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) at Ward No. 3, Jammu. The camp was organised by Anuradha and Sanjeev Verma and witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, Priya Sethi lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership and commitment toward the welfare of the elderly and termed it a lifeline for senior citizens of India.

"This initiative reflects PM Modi's deep concern for senior citizens who have contributed immensely to building our nation. Providing them with assured health coverage is not just a policy but a gesture of respect and gratitude," she said.

As per the newly approved provisions, Priya Sethi said,



BJP Vice-President Priya Sethi inaugurating an enrollment camp in Jammu on Monday.

all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, are eligible to avail themselves of the benefits under AB PM-JAY. They will be issued a new Distinct Card to access free and quality healthcare services.

Senior citizens from families already covered under AB PM-JAY will now receive an additional top-up cover of Rs 5 lakh per year, exclusively for themselves, separate from younger family members. Those not covered under the scheme will

get a Rs 5 lakh annual family-based cover, she said.

Furthermore, Priya Sethi added, senior citizens already enrolled under CGHS, ECHS, or Ayushman Arogya Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) schemes can either continue their existing plan or opt for AB PM-JAY benefits.

Priya Sethi urged all eligible elderly citizens to enroll and avail themselves of the benefits, calling the move a "transformative step toward universal health assurance and social dignity for India's elderly."

SP South Jammu holds Pipping ceremony

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a moment of pride and celebration, Pipping ceremonies were held on Monday at Police Station Gangyal and PS Bagh-e-Bahu, where SP South, adorned HC Manoj Sharma of PS Gangyal and HC Goutam Singh Chib of PS Bagh-e-Bahu with ASI ranks on their promotion.

The events were graced by SDPO South and SHO PS Gangyal at PS Gangyal and SHO PS Bagh-e-Bahu at PS Bagh-e-Bahu along with other police personnel.

During the ceremonies, the senior officers extend-



SP South Jammu, Ajay Sharma pinning rank to a promotee.

ed heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the newly promoted officers. They commended their professionalism, sincerity, and steadfast dedication to duty, encourag-

ing them to carry forward the same zeal and integrity in their new role.

SP South Jammu, Ajay Sharma highlighted that promotions are not only a recognition of exemplary

service but also a call for greater responsibility. He lauded their commitment to service and consistent contribution to the department.

He also extended heartfelt congratulations to the families of the officers, acknowledging their support and sacrifices that enable police personnel to serve the community with courage and dedication.

The ceremony reflected a strong sense of pride and camaraderie among the ranks, with colleagues and staff joining in to congratulate the officers on this significant milestone in their career.

J&K Police invites all citizens to Police Diwali Mela 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police, in association with the Police Wives Welfare Association (PWWA), is set to host the Police Diwali Mela 2025 at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, on October 14, 2025, from 10 AM onwards. The event promises to be a vibrant celebration of community, culture, and creativity, while paying a heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of the Jammu Police, whose courage and dedication continue to inspire the force and the community alike.

The Mela will feature a full day of festivities, including cultural performances, a special police band performance, and a wide variety of attractions designed to engage visitors of all ages. Attendees will enjoy stalls organized by Police Welfare Centres, exhibitions by local brands, food stalls, and scholastic corners for creative and educational activities.

The event will also include magic shows, live orchestras, and a spectac-

ular light and sound show featuring laser displays, creating an unforgettable experience for families and children.

The festival is a step towards strengthening community engagement and promoting local arts, crafts, and cultural heritage. It also provides an opportunity for citizens to interact with police personnel, understand ongoing welfare initiatives, and celebrate the festive spirit together in a safe and joyous environment.

All visitors are requested

to cooperate with traffic arrangements around Gulshan Ground and follow guidance from traffic personnel to ensure smooth movement and a safe experience for everyone.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police invites all residents and visitors to participate in the Police Diwali Mela 2025, celebrate cultural diversity, support local talent, and honor the brave martyrs whose service remains a guiding light for the entire community.