

# LG Kavinder Gupta celebrates Diwali with officers, staff at LG Secretariat Leh

Asks people of Ladakh to stay united & contribute positively to region's growth journey

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LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta celebrated Diwali with officers and staff of the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat here on Sunday.

On the occasion, Secretary, Information & Public Relations, Sanjit Rodrigues, was also present.

Extending warm greetings on the auspicious occasion, the Lt Governor said that Diwali, the festival of lights, embodies the universal message of hope, harmony, and the victory of good over evil. He highlighted that the festival reflects the spirit of India's unity in diversity, inspiring mutual respect, compassion, and togetherness among all communities.

Reaffirming the Administration's unwavering commitment to the holistic



Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta speaking at Diwali celebration with officers and staff of the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat on Sunday.

development of Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor said that continuous efforts are being made to transform the Union Territory into one of the most progressive regions in the country. He emphasised that the Administration's vision is centred on inclusive growth, ensuring that every section of

society benefits equally from the ongoing development initiatives.

Calling for collective responsibility and active participation of all stakeholders, the Lt Governor asked the people of Ladakh to stay united and contribute positively to the region's growth journey. "Together, we can

take Ladakh to new heights of development and make it a model of progress, peace, and prosperity," he said, extending his best wishes to the people for a brighter and more prosperous future.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also shared sweets with the officers and staff and wished everyone a bright

and prosperous year ahead filled with peace, happiness, and collective progress.

The Secretary Information & Public Relations also extended greetings to all officers and staff, wishing them happiness, peace, and prosperity. He said that festivals like Diwali remind us of the importance of unity and positive energy in building a brighter future for Ladakh.

Earlier, the welcome address and vote of thanks were presented by Sachin Bali, Under Secretary to LG.



## Flags off Rs 80 L Ambulance from MP Fund

# Dr Jitendra holds Public Darbar at Ramban, several issues resolved on spot

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RAMBAN: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh held a public darbar here on Sunday as part of his ongoing outreach campaign to engage directly with the people in his Parliamentary constituency.

Interacting with a host of public delegations hailing from different parts of the district including villages, the Minister gave a patient hearing to their concerns. The deputations aired their grievances and put forth their demands regarding developmental and rehabilitation issues.

Following Dr Jitendra Singh's intervention, many issues were resolved on-the-spot. Dr Jitendra Singh issued immediate instructions to the officers of the concerned departments to resolve the remaining public issues in a time-bound manner. The public delegations thanked Dr Jitendra Singh for directly engaging with them to listen to their grievances.

Among the diverse delegations, for example, a deputation from village Sana sought relief and rehabilitation measures for families affected by recent landslides. Contractors executing works under the District Plan, including the District



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh holding "Public Darbar" at Ramban on Sunday.

Capex Budget, Jal Jeevan Mission, and other schemes, raised the issue of pending payments for completed projects. Similarly, deputations from Rajgarh and Boli Bazar highlighted the need for timely rehabilitation and protection works in flood-affected areas. Various other delegations also put forth demands for expediting ongoing developmental projects and initiating new works to address local needs and improve infrastructure across the district.

The public darbar was attended by Local MLA Arjun Singh Raju; DDC Chairperson Shamshad Shan; BJP District President Neelam Langeh; DDC members Renuka Katoch, Bashir Naik, Balbir Singh, Rakesh Thakur, Jagveer Das, Shamim Akhtar; prominent local lead-

ers Gurdip Singh and Salim Bhat among others. The District administration was led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan and SSP Arun Gupta as well as officers from NHAI, NHPC, all the major government departments.

Today's public darbar was held in the wake of recent floods in many districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Ramban was among the districts which bore the brunt of the torrential rainfall-induced flash floods. Roads and other public infrastructure in many villages of Ramban have suffered massive damages. Power and water supply remained affected in several places.

The Minister informed that the district administration would identify alternative places for a permanent resettlement of the population of ecologically-vulnerable places in the district. He said the residents of these areas face a constant threat during natural disasters like the recent floods. The Minister informed that restoration work on the damaged stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar Highway has nearly been completed.

Earlier, in response to public demand in the wake of recent flash floods, from his MP Fund, the Union Minister flagged off an advanced life support ambulance for the district. It is pertinent to mention that the Minister has donated 80 lakh rupees from his MPLAD fund for the Hospital on Wheels ambulance. It is aimed at bringing quality healthcare to the doorsteps of citizens in remote parts of the district.

The Minister highlighted the achievements of district Ramban in healthcare. He said it has achieved full saturation under PM-JAY. Now, PM-JAY 2.0 would be launched in the district. He also informed that Ramban has become the first district in J&K which has achieved done 100 per cent screening for all patients of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

# Dr Ritu, Dr. Navneet, Dr. Nidhi launch 'Mission MITHAAS' on Diwali



Ritu Singh, Social Reformer Dr. Navneet Kaur, and Dr. Nidhi Gupta distributing festive sweets (mithai) among underprivileged girls.

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JAMMU: Spreading love and light on the occasion of Diwali, Dr Ritu Singh inaugurated Mission Mithaas, a noble initiative launched in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Jammu Bahu & Tawi, Gracious Givers, and the Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation.

Mission Mithaas-an initiative by Ritu Singh, Social Reformer Dr. Navneet Kaur, and Dr. Nidhi Gupta aims to eradicate hunger and bridge the gap between

privileged and underprivileged girls through sustainable nutrition, education, and healthcare programs.

This Diwali, the mission seeks to share the joy and sweetness of the festival with underprivileged and flood-affected families and children in slum areas. Through the collective efforts of Gracious Givers Annakshetra, Rotary Club Jammu Bahu & Tawi, and the Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation, festive sweets (mithai) and cheer will be

distributed to over 500 families, ensuring that the Festival of Lights truly shines for everyone.

Dr Ritu Singh further said that such initiatives remind us that real celebrations lie in sharing and uplifting those who need our support the most. She urged individuals, institutions, and organisations to come forward and contribute in their own way to build a compassionate and inclusive community.

"Small acts of kindness can bring about transformative change. Together, we can make sure that every girl grows up with dignity, confidence, and opportunities to thrive," she added. "In the true spirit of Diwali, which symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, we want to bring a moment of sweetness and light into the lives of those who need it most," said Rtn. Dr. Nidhi Gupta, Co-founder of Mission Mithaas.

"We believe that a simple box of sweets can carry a powerful message of care and community. Mission Mithaas is our commitment to sharing the festival's happiness with those less fortunate," added Social Reformer Rtn. Dr. Navneet Kaur, President, Rotary Club Jammu Bahu.

Mission Mithaas represents a significant step toward community welfare and aligns with the broader goals of Rotary-to serve humanity and promote goodwill across communities.

## Strengthen Dogra identity from homes

# Sham, Mankotia, Zorawar release Dogri video album 'Duggar Daa Maan Bhadaayo' promoting culture, language



MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Balwant Singh Mankotia and Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal and others releasing a new Dogri video album titled "Duggar Daa Maan Bhadaayo".

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JAMMU: Reiterating that community participation is essential for preserving and promoting the Dogri language and culture, Senior BJP leader and MLA, Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia, and Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal jointly released a new Dogri video album titled "Duggar Daa Maan Bhadaayo" amid an enthusiastic gathering at Royal Estate Banquet, Toph Sherkhania here on Sunday.

The album, produced and presented by Duggar Baradari and Team Jammu,

features lyrics penned by noted Dogri poet Brij Mohan, vocals by Rakesh Kumar and Sohan Lal, music composed by Naresh NB, and direction by Rajesh Khajuria. Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal Sharma, who was the chief guest on the occasion, lauded Duggar Baradari & Team Jammu for its continuous efforts in promoting Dogri culture through creative and cultural initiatives. He said the rich Dogra heritage symbolizes unity and coexistence, representing shared cultural pride among Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians.

"Just as Punjabi achieved international recognition

through strong cultural and artistic support, Dogri too must be promoted with sincerity and collective effort," Sham Lal Sharma emphasized, urging people to take pride in speaking their mother tongue.

In his address, Balwant Singh Mankotia expressed concern over the declining use of Dogri among the younger generation, attributing it to the growing influence of Western culture. He cautioned that this disinterest could erode Dogra identity and stressed that educational institutions must take an active role in integrating Dogri into their curriculum to inspire linguistic pride among

students.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal, while addressing the audience, called for a proactive approach by intellectuals, artists, and community groups to revive the vibrancy of the Dogri language. "It is easy to talk about preserving our mother tongue, but real progress demands collective action," he said. "English is important, but Dogras must never feel hesitant to speak their own language. If people in other regions proudly use their mother tongues, why shouldn't we?"

Families of martyrs Captain Tushar Mahajan (Shaurya Chakra), Captain Veer Udayman Singh (Sena

Medal), and Major Akash Singh (Shaurya Chakra) were also present on the occasion. They appreciated the efforts of Team Jammu in promoting Dogra culture and expressed pride in seeing the organization work towards preserving the region's glorious heritage.

Earlier, Randheer Singh Raipuria, Convenor of Duggar Baradari, welcomed the dignitaries, chief guests, and families of martyrs, while the programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Heena Mahajan, Co-Convenor of Duggar Baradari.

The event witnessed a large turnout of men, women, and youth, reflecting growing enthusiasm among people to reconnect with their linguistic and cultural roots.

During the function, all dignitaries present observed two minutes of silence to pay heartfelt homage to Late Gulechain Singh Charak Ji, a distinguished leader; former minister, and President of Dogra Sadar Sabha, who dedicated his life to public service and the promotion of Dogra culture and heritage.

# Dr. Hedgewar Smriti Nyas organises Diwali Parivar Milan at Keshav Bhawan

Hundreds of swayamsevak attended the event along with their families

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JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, a Diwali Parivar Milan was organized at the Keshav Bhawan, the provincial headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The event was hosted by Dr. Gautam Mengi, Prant Sanghchalak, and Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Sah Prant Sanghchalak, along with other senior RSS functionaries.

A large number of dignitaries from the city and Swayamsevak, accompanied by their families, participated in the event. The program, which lasted for over two hours, featured patriotic songs and various cultural performances that captivated the audience. The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and concluded with the Aarti of Bharat Mata.

In his address, Dr. Gautam Mengi, the Prant



Dr. Gautam Mengi, Prant Sanghchalak performing Aarti.

Sanghchalak, extended Diwali greetings to everyone present and highlighted the significance of five key transformations, civic responsibility, social harmony, family enlightenment, environmental protection and promotion of indigenous (Swadeshi) practices.

He emphasized that during festivals and celebrations, people should promote Swadeshi by purchasing and gifting indigenous products.

Earlier in the event, children of Swayamsevak families and other participants

presented performances based on Indian culture. At the end, all attendees stood together holding lamps in their hands and performed the Aarti of Bharat Mata.

The Aarti was led by Dr. Gautam Mengi, Dr. Vikrant Sharma, and office-bearers of Dr. Hedgewar Smriti Nyas in front of the portrait of Bharat Mata.

Prant Vyavastha Pramukh Nagarmal Gupta was also present on the occasion. With this, the program concluded gracefully.

# Satish conducts extensive development tour of Chhamb Constituency

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JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Sunday conducted an extensive development tour of Chhamb Constituency, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for a series of public welfare projects aimed at strengthening local infra-

structure and improving civic amenities.

During the tour, the Minister inaugurated the macadamization works at Mohalla Bodh Raj, Gajuban and enhancement work of Shmashan Ghat near Mata Mandir Dhaleri. He also laid the foundation stone for Guest House near the BDO Office, Khour, which will serve as a facility for visiting officials and general public.



Satish Sharma further inaugurated the construction work of a lane and drain at Rakh Malal and also laid the foundation stone of Community Hall at Jai Baba Kaliveer Dev Sathan, Mattoo, reaffirming the Government's resolve to ensure inclusive growth and development across all regions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the Government's focus on balanced and

need-based development in both rural and urban areas. He said that these initiatives are part of a broader effort to enhance public convenience, boost civic infrastructure, and encourage community participation in development activities.

During his interaction with local residents and officers, Satish Sharma directed concerned departments to ensure expeditious completion of all

ongoing works with strict adherence to quality standards.

Later, the Minister held a Public Darbar at Mattoo village, where he listened to public issues and grievances, assuring that necessary measures would be taken for their timely redressal.

Senior officers from district administration and concerned departments accompanied the Minister during the tour.