

LG Kavinder stresses need to foster Scientific Temper among students for a ‘Progressive Ladakh’

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Wednesday emphasised the need to foster a scientific temper among students to build a progressive and innovative Ladakh.

He said that nurturing curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in young minds is essential for creating a modern society capable of meeting future challenges through knowledge, research, and innovation.

The Lt Governor was speaking after inaugurating the 52nd Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RBVP) State Level Programme, organised by the Department of Education, UT Ladakh, at the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC), Kargil.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students and teachers from various schools across Leh and Kargil districts, who showcased creative models and scientific innovations reflecting real-life applications of science and technology.

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta underlined that developing a scientific outlook among students is



Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta felicitating a student.

vital for building a society rooted in evidence-based reasoning and innovation.

"Developing scientific temper is the key to a modern, knowledge-based society. The future of Ladakh lies in the hands of these young innovators who will transform challenges into opportunities through science and technology," he said.

The Lt Governor also interacted with the participating students and teachers, commending their creativity, confidence, and understanding of scientific concepts.

Highlighting the Administration's commitment to educational excellence, the Lt Governor announced that 350 teachers from Ladakh will soon

undergo specialised capacity-building training to strengthen the teaching ecosystem.

He emphasised that teachers play a pivotal role in shaping future generations and urged them to discharge their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication.

The Lt Governor also felicitated students who excelled in various categories of the exhibition. He appealed to the students to cultivate curiosity, question assumptions, and apply scientific reasoning in their daily lives.

He urged them to use their knowledge not only to excel academically but also to find innovative solutions to the challenges faced by their communities. He encouraged

the young minds of Ladakh to dream big, embrace creativity, and contribute to building a self-reliant and progressive nation through science, technology, and innovation.

In their respective addresses, Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angehuk, and Acting CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Mohd Feroz, lauded the initiatives taken by the UT Administration and LAHDCs to enhance educational standards in Ladakh.

They called for sustained efforts to improve student performance, fill vacant teaching positions, and continue special programmes such as winter coaching for

students. Secretary Education, UT Ladakh, Bhanu Prabha, reaffirmed the Department's focus on ensuring quality education and improving the working environment for staff and teachers. She highlighted ongoing reforms to make the education system more inclusive and skill-oriented.

The event was attended by Executive Councillors of LAHDC Kargil, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, SSP Kargil, Principal DIET, Chief Education Officer, and a large number of teachers and students from across the Union Territory.

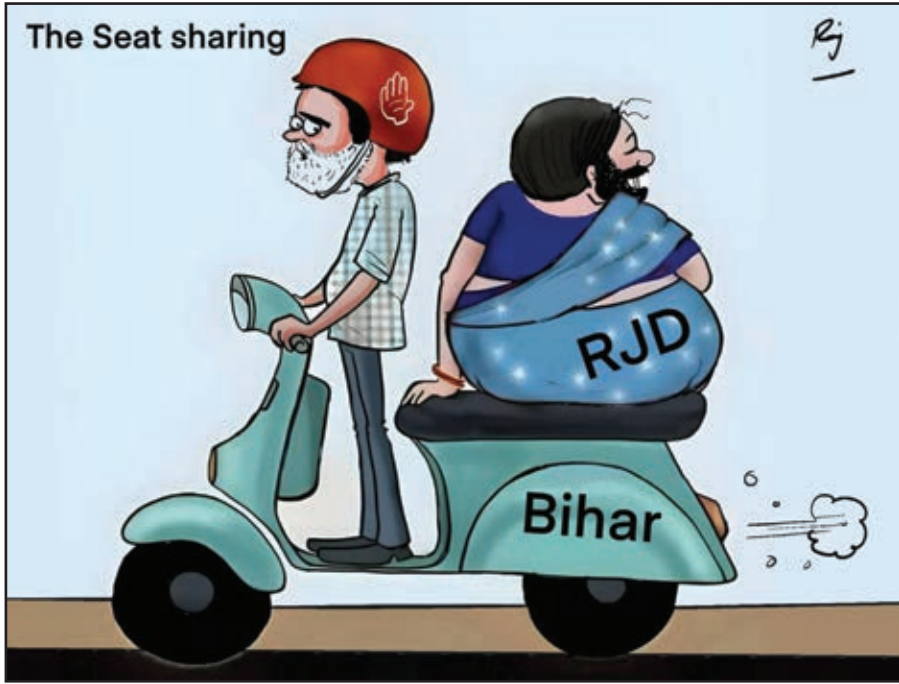
Dr Jitendra felicitates school girl toppers from his constituency, underscores democratisation of opportunities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday felicitated school girl toppers from his Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency by presenting a Laptop each to the toppers in the Board examination of Class 10 from each of the five districts.

Quite a few of the topper school girls, who were invited to the Minister's Trikuta Nagar residence this morning for breakfast and sweets distribution, hailed from far flung areas like Chhatroo and Padar in district Kishtwar, and Pogal in district Ramban. This , Dr Jitendra Singh said, could serve as a real Diwali gift for these promoting little girls for whom over the last one decade , Prime Minister Narendra Modi had rolled out a series of schemes and initiatives for easy, accessible options to prepare for competitive exams but many of them sometimes found it difficult to afford certain essential gadgets for round the clock facility at home.

While presenting laptops to two topper girls each from the districts of Udhampur, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Kathua, city, Dr Singh expressed happiness that the students facilitated today hail from little-known vil-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh felicitating and interacting with school girls from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda LS constituency on Wednesday.

lages and towns of these districts. He said the laptops presented to students as a Diwali gift would encourage them to continue their academic pursuits. While interacting with the students, Dr Jitendra said, in the last 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has ensured ease of education and preparation for students in view of a surge in their aspiration. He said the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) has given students freedom to choose subjects according to their aptitude. He said the policy has given them wings to fly high in pursuit of their dreams and aspirations.

The students today, the Minister, are no longer prisoners of their parental choice of subjects, adding that they now enjoy the freedom to make a choice out of a broad

range of options, depending on their aptitude and evolving preferences. There is true democratisation of opportunities and aspirations in this country today, he said.

Dr Jitendra said, he was prompted to start this novel tradition of felicitating and facilitating girl students after learning from his experience in the Ministries which deal with students and youth. He revealed that out of around 1.75 lakh registered StartUps in India today, nearly fifty to sixty thousand were women led StartUps.

As for Civil Services/ IAS Examination, even this year all the three All India toppers were girls while in the 2022 Civil Services Exam, 11th All India topper was a girl from Poonch Degree College. He also recalled that in 2014, 15 and 16, for three

consecutive years , the all India topper in the Civil Services Exam was a girl. Even in the Space sector, he noted that important projects like Aditya L1 and Chandrayaan 3 had women in the leading role.

Urging the students to leverage technology for their academic growth and betterment of society, Dr Jitendra said, the government has also ensured democratisation of opportunities for students belonging to all sections of the society and all genders.

He said, the objective is to equip them with requisite skills so that they can stay fully-empowered. He said the NEP 2020 is a modern, transformative policy for India's education system, focusing on access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability.

Secy ITD reviews progress of projects under Capex Budget 2025-26



Secretary ITD, Dr. Piyush Singla chairing a meeting on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary, Information Technology Department (ITD), Dr. Piyush Singla on Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior officers to discuss and review the physical and financial progress of different projects of the department under Capex Budget 2025-26 at Civil Secretariat here.

Chief Executive Officer, JKEGA; Special Secretary, ITD; Director Finance, ITD;

Additional Secretary, ITD, Deputy Director (Planning), ITD; Head SeMT J&K; Incharge IT Cell; besides, other officers and officials attended the meeting through virtual mode. During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on various issues regarding the present status of current year projects under Capex Budget 2025-26 and shelf of projects for next year budget.

The meeting also discussed

other issues pertaining to different projects like establishment of Centre of Excellence, upgradation of IT skills, new e-governance initiatives in UT of J&K, digitalization of office Records development of IT Hub/Park at Jammu & Srinagar and others.

Secretary IT emphasized upon the concerned officers to clear all bottlenecks for early completion of all ongoing projects of IT department. He also

directed the officers to take proper workout on under process DPRs and other issues so that the works on the different projects could be completed in time-bound manner.

During the meeting, Director Finance and other concerned officers briefed the Secretary and gave a power point presentation about the status of various projects, besides action taken on physical and financial status of Capex Budget 2025-26. The meeting was also informed about present status of physical and financial progress of total number of ongoing and new projects including upgradation of State Data Centre, setting up of wired LAN for Civil Secretariat Jammu, setting up of dedicated 2Gbps internet Lease Line for both Secretariats at Jammu & Srinagar and setting up of MPLS for e-office.

BJP to hold legislature party meeting tomorrow: LoP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu& Kashmir has called a meeting of its legislatures on Thursday morning in Srinagar to chalk out a strategy for the autumn session of the Legislative Assembly.

Leader of the Opposition and firebrand BJP leader Sunil Kumar Sharma will chair a meeting of all BJP legislators to formulate a strategy to corner the government on a range of issues.

"We are holding a meeting tomorrow at 8:30 AM to discuss the issues to be raised during the session," said Sunil Sharma.

Sharma had earlier stated that the BJP would demand accountability from the National Conference-led government for what he described as a "betrayal of electoral promises." "The government has failed to deliver on its commitments made during the elections, whether it is the promise of 200 free units of electricity, 12 LPG cylinders per household, or other assurances given to the people," Sharma said.

Sunil Sharma further added that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would question the government on its inability to create employment opportunities for the youth. "In the election, the government promised to create one lakh jobs for the youth, but they have done nothing. We will ask them what they have done for the youth in the past year," he said.



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of its ongoing efforts to modernize urban infrastructure and rehabilitate street vendors in a structured and transparent manner, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) organized a draw of lots for the allotment of newly constructed modern kiosks at Below Gummat Steps, Jammu.

Earlier, a total of 82 existing old kiosks located at the site were dismantled by the Corporation to pave the way for the development of a new and upgraded vending zone. The initiative was undertaken with the objective of providing improved, aesthetically designed, and hygienic kiosks to small traders and vendors operating in the area.

The newly constructed kiosks have been designed in three different standardized sizes - 4x10 ft, 6x10 ft, and



JMC officials conducting draw of lots for allotment of newly constructed modern kiosks.

8x10 ft - to cater to the varied business requirements of vendors. Each kiosk has been constructed using modern building techniques to ensure durability, better ventilation, and uniformity in appearance, contributing to the city's visual appeal and organized vending environment.

The allotment process was

carried out through a transparent draw of lots under the chairmanship of the JMC Commissioner in the presence of Joint Commissioner (Revenue & Enforcement), Joint Commissioner (Administration), Joint Commissioner (Works), Deputy Commissioner (S), Chief Accounts Officer, Deputy Legal Remembrance

and Chief Revenue Officer.

The event witnessed the gracious presence of Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jammu (East) Yudhvir Sethi as the Chief Guest, who appreciated JMC's efforts to provide modernized vending facilities to eligible beneficiaries while maintaining fairness and transparency in the process.

The MLA commended the Corporation for aligning its initiatives with the principles of Smart City Development and promoting livelihood opportunities alongside urban aesthetics.

On the occasion, the Commissioner, JMC emphasized that the newly built kiosks represent a model of urban renewal aimed at balancing vendor welfare with city beautification.

The Commissioner further announced that the modern market area will soon undergo additional beautification measures, including the installation of sitting benches for visitors, placement of flower pots, and development of an open cafeteria on the terrace to serve the general public. These additions are expected to transform the area into an attractive and people-friendly urban space.

The beneficiaries, who were earlier displaced due to the

removal of old kiosks, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the JMC for providing them with well-designed vending spaces through a transparent and equitable system. They lauded the Corporation's initiative as a step toward promoting both livelihood and dignity for small traders.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation reiterated its commitment to upgrading civic infrastructure, improving public amenities, and ensuring inclusive urban growth under its mandate.

The Corporation assured that similar modernization projects would continue to be taken up in other parts of the city to enhance Jammu's overall urban experience.

Further all the allottees were apprised about keys alongwith allotment orders were handed over to them after completing the codal formalities under rule.

Black Day: SOS International pays tribute to PoK Martyrs, slams continued Govt apathy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SOS International - An Organization for PoK Displaced Persons observed Black Day to honour the martyrs who sacrificed their lives defending Jammu & Kashmir from the Pakistani Army and tribal invaders on October 22, 1947. Participants from Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Poonch, and Gilgit paid floral tributes, followed by a two-minute silence and Sarva Dharma Prarthana in memory of those who resisted the invasion.

Chairman Rajiv Chuni, along with prominent voices including VK Datta, Ved Raj Bali, Bhai Ram Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Jagjit



SOS International chairman Rajiv Chuni with PoK refugees raising slogans.

Singh, Daleep Singh Chib, and Dharam Vir Gupta, addressed the emotionally charged gathering.

Chuni said the first bullet to resist the invaders was fired by a PoK displaced person, yet 70,000 unarmed

civilians were butchered, and countless women were abducted and raped during what he described as J&K's darkest day.

"We are the saviours of Jammu & Kashmir, but three generations of PoK DP's have

been left to rot in unhygienic camps for eight decades," Chuni declared. He criticized the government for not fully implementing the 2016 relief package recommended by the Omar Abdullah-led government. Of the Rs 9,096 crore package, only Rs 2,000 crore was sanctioned, and just Rs 1,200 crore disbursed. The remaining funds, jobs, and educational benefits remain elusive.

Mocking India's claim over PoK, Chuni questioned the government's inaction against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects on ancestral lands. "If PoK is ours, why allow railway lines and dams there?" he asked.

He also denounced the discriminatory treatment of PoK DP's post-abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. "Valley migrants benefited from central schemes, visits from top officials, and satellite towns. PoK DP's got nothing."

Demands included eight reserved assembly seats, a PoK DP's Development Board, smart ID cards, and satellite townships, along with youth recruitment in national services.

Speakers Jagjit Singh and Dharam Vir Gupta emphasized the need to preserve PoK DP culture, enhance education, and recognize their patriotism to strengthen India's national fabric.

MD DJAY-S establishes help desks for enumeration, socio-economic profiling of urban poor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Deendayal Jan Aajeevika Yojana-Shehri (DJAY-S), has announced the commencement of the Enumeration and Socio-Economic Profiling survey of urban poor households in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

This crucial exercise is being undertaken under DJAY-S to identify and register eligible urban poor households for facilitating their access to various Centrally Sponsored Social Security Schemes.

The enumeration process is being carried out by dedicated field teams through door-to-door visits, cover-

ing all wards of Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporations to ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible beneficiaries. The collected data will be uploaded on the Convergence Portal of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

In order to assist and facilitate the urban poor, Help Desk's have been established at Srinagar city in the Office's of the Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency Kashmir (UDAK), Habitat Centre, Bemina Srinagar (Contact Numbers: 7006444930, 7006956457) Email id

djaysrinagar@gmail.com. Similarly, Help Desk for Jammu city has been established at Jammu Urban Development Agency (JUDA), Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Chowk, Narwal Road, Jammu Contact Number (8825061185, 9697203858) Email id: helpdeskdjays@gmail.co.

The Mission Director has urged all eligible urban poor households to actively participate in the survey and make use of the Help Desks for any queries or support related to the enumeration process. The Help Desks will remain operational during office hours on all working days.