LG Kavinder virtually inaugurates infrastructure projects worth Rs 64 crores

Congratulates 6th LAHDC Leh for successful completion of its tenure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today virtually inaugurated a range of infrastructure projects worth Rs 64 crores implemented under various Special Development Package (SDP) schemes across several divisions, as envisioned by the 6th LAHDC Leh.

A total of 35 buildings-including staff quarters, medical blocks, and laboratories serving health, revenue, and other departments-were inaugurated during the virtual event.

The Lt Governor reaffirmed the unwavering support of the UT Administration and the Government of India towards Ladakh's holistic development, ensuring that government schemes and benefits reach every last resident. He further remarked that the inauguration of these projects under the SDP demonstrates LAHDC Leh's commitment to the welfare and progress of the dis-

While congratulating the 6th LAHDC Leh and its Chairman Advocate Tashi Gyalson for the successful completion of their term, the Lt Governor com-



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a meeting.

mended the Hill Council for undertaking numerous development initiatives aimed at fulfilling the aspirations and expectations of the people of Leh district. He highlighted that, despite historical discrimination by the erstwhile J&K government, Ladakh has emerged among the country's leading union territories, owing to the dedication and efficiency of both the Hill Councils and officers. government

Addressing the importance of the tourism sector for generating livelihood opportunities and fostering self-employment in Ladakh, the Lt Governor acknowledged the pivotal role of both Hill Councils and their initiatives to promote tourismeven in border areas-to expand economic avenues for residents.

The Lt Governor also urged swift action for the handover and takeover of new staff quarters, emphasising the welfare of government employees posted in Ladakh's remote regions. He underlined the necessity of providing reliable access to clean drinking water and uninterrupted electricity for these staff members, enabling them to serve the region without hardship. In his address, Advocate Tashi Gyalson conveyed his gratitude to the Government of India, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, for its instrumental support-highlighting schemes

such as Jal Jeevan Mission, which has brought tap water connections to remote locations like Demchok. He further thanked the UT Administration and the Government of India for enabling access to resources essential for serving the people of Ladakh. He also outlined various development and welfare measures undertaken by the 6th LAHDC Leh to meet the expectations of Leh district's residents and safeguard the interests of government staff in remote areas.

The Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, in his remarks, reviewed the extensive administrative reforms implemented in Ladakh following its elevation

to union territory status and noted the profound transformation experienced by the region in the post-UT era. He emphathat the Administration and Councils have worked collaboratively to drive development and improve welfare for all citizens of Ladakh. Tsering Angchuk, Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh; Dr S.D Singh Jamwal, DGP Ladakh; Executive Councillors and Councillors from LAHDC Leh; Administrative Secretaries and other senior government officials were present during the



Devyani Rana's victory will mark new chapter of inclusive growth, empowerment in Nagrota: Priya Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) intensified its campaign for the upcoming Nagrota Assembly by-elections on Thursday, with Vice President BJP and former minister Priya Sethi leading a spirited campaign in support of Devyani Rana, the BJP's official candidate and daughter of late Nagrota MLA Devender Singh Rana

Addressing a public meetings in the Mandal office in the Nagrota constituency, Priya Sethi, BJP J&K Vice President, described Devyani Rana as a "young, dynamic, and dedicated leader who embodies the aspirations of the youth and the vision of her late father."

"Devyani is not just continuing a political legacy; she is bringing with her a modern perspective, fresh energy, and a strong commitment to serve the people of Nagrota. Her father, Devender Singh Rana, was the 'Voice of Nagrota,' and Devyani is ready to carry that legacy forward with even greater resolve," said Sethi, addressing an enthusiastic gath-

The BJP, earlier this week, formally announced Devyani Rana as its candidate for the Nagrota by-poll. Her candidature has been met with widespread interest, as she steps into active politics less than a year after her father's demise in October last year.

"In January 2025, Devyani Rana was appointed as the Vice President of the

Vice President BJP Priya Sethi leading campaign in support of Devyani Rana. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), marking her first official political role. Since then, she has been actively engaging with the people of Nagrota, addressing local concerns, and participating in developmental activities, Priya Sethi said.

"Her educational background, professional experience, and exposure make her well-equipped to represent Nagrota in the Assembly," Priya Sethi said. "She is young but deeply rooted in the values her father stood for - development, dignity, and a strong Jammu identity."

Speaking on the emotional connect between the Ranas and the people of Nagrota, Priya Sethi said that Devyani Rana's candidature symbolizes "continuity with change."

"This election is not just about winning a seat - it's about fulfilling the unfinished dreams of Devender Singh Rana and realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Jammu and Kashmir'. The people of Nagrota deserve a representative who understands both tradition and transformation, and Devyani perfectly fits that role," Sethi added.

She appealed to voters, especially women and first-time voters, to come out in large numbers and support the

"Women have always been at the forefront of change. Devyani represents the strength, determination, and modern aspirations of women in Nagrota. Her victory will mark a new chapter of inclusive growth and empowerment," said Sethi. Concluding her address, Priya Sethi said, "The people of Nagrota know the dedication with which Devender Singh Rana served them. Today, Devyani comes to you with the same sincerity and renewed commitment. Together, let us strengthen Nagrota and make it a model constituency under her

J&K Bank accelerates progress under Mission YUVA participated in the event virtually besides all spirit, so that every sanctioned case truly

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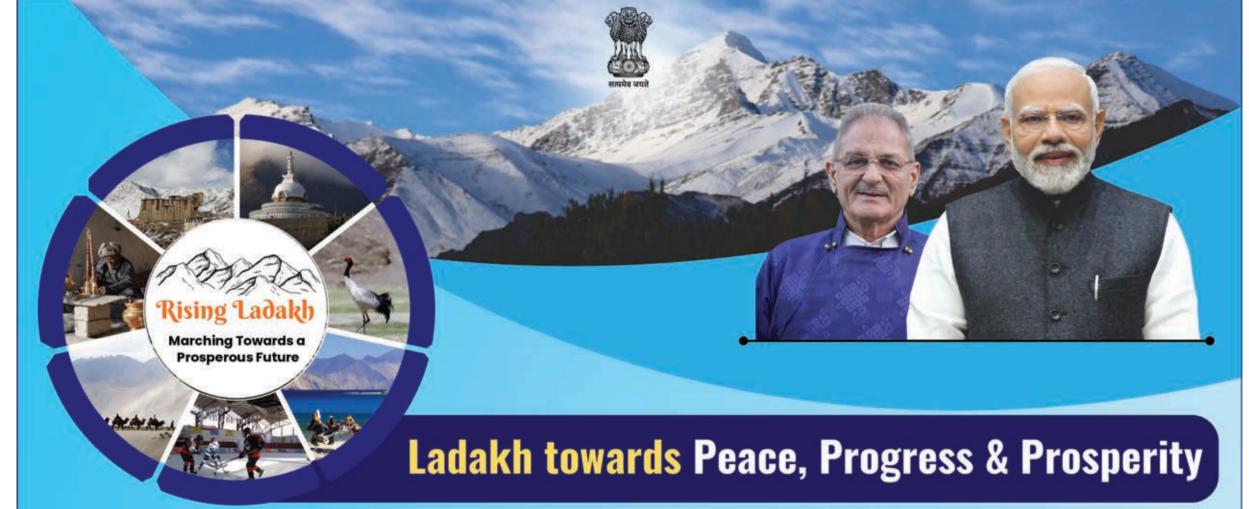
SRINAGAR: Reaffirming its commitment to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's flagship program aimed at empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship, J&K Bank on Thursday observed "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" across the UT to fast-track disbursements under the initiative. Marking the successful conclusion of the single-day disbursal exercise, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee pressed a symbolic button culminating in 1250 disbursements under Mission YUVA against a set target of 1000. The event was attended by Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar, General Managers Rakesh Magotra and Nishikant Sharma, DGM Aneet Kanwal Singh, and other senior officers at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta

the Zonal Heads of J&K. The MD & CEO congratulated all the operational heads and frontline teams for surpassing the day's milestone and lauded their commitment towards the successful implementation of the program.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "J&K Bank has been playing a pivotal role in implementing Mission YUVA across Jammu & Kashmir. Today's focused and highly successful disbursal drive reflects our commitment to ensuring that every sanctioned case swiftly turns into a productive asset on the ground." "While we make consistent efforts to achieve our numerical targets, it is equally important that we work tirelessly to realize the broader vision of the Government behind this transformative initiative. To that end, a robust and continuous monitoring mechanism must be ensured by all stakeholders, in letter and translates into a sustainable livelihood opportunity", he added. MD & CEO also remarked that the Bank was well on course to meet the objectives of Mission YUVA, which stands as a testament to the unprecedented coordination and synergy between the Government and the Bank. Meanwhile, the Bank has so far sanc-

tioned around 8000 cases under Mission YUVA, reflecting its steadfast commitment to empowering the youth through sustainable livelihood opportunities. Notably, as part of the special drive, all branches across Jammu and Kashmir

proactively reached out to beneficiaries to complete pre-disbursement formalities and ensuring readiness for same-day credit. The Bank's zonal-heads actively monitored progress throughout the day, providing onthe-spot support to branches to ensure smooth and timely credit flow.



- Over 3.7 lakh tourists visited in 2024, showcasing Ladakh's growing appeal as a global destination.
- Shinkula La and Zojila tunnels under construction to promote all-weather connectivity.
- 100 percent of villages electrified, empowering each household with reliable electricity.
- Over 97 percent of rural households, comprising nearly 40 thousand families, provided with functional tap water connections ensuring water security for all.
- All 240 villages declared Open Defecation Free Plus.
- 100 percent saturation achieved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen).
- E-Office implemented across all departments ensuring transparency and efficiency.
- 100 percent online fund allocation through the Integrated Financial Management System enabling realtime monitoring.
- Over 13,600 MSMEs established, generating employment for 50,000 people across the UT.
- More than 2 lakh Ayushman Bharat cards issued to eligible beneficiaries.
- The UT spends around 8.76 percent of its budget on health-higher than the 8 percent recommended under the National Health Policy.
- Projects worth over ₹300 crore underway to promote sports and youth engagement.

Celebrating 6th UT Foundation Day

Government of Ladakh