

Says women athletes making Ladakh proud

LG Kavinder reinforces UT Admin's commitment to Sports & Holistic Development in Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, lauded the region's women sports-persons for bringing immense pride to Ladakh through their exceptional achievements. He said these athletes are powerful role models whose success breaks stereotypes and motivates younger generations, showcasing the values of dedication, resilience, and talent across diverse sporting disciplines.

The Lieutenant Governor made these remarks during interactions with the Women's Horse Polo Team and members of the Ladakh Pencak Silat Association at the LG Secretariat.

Emphasising the transformative power of sports, the Lt Governor said that women's active participation builds discipline, confidence, and independence while chal-



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta interacting with Women's Horse Polo Team and members of the Ladakh Pencak Silat Association.

lenging traditional gender roles and fostering social progress. "Sports not only promote physical and mental well-being but also open new career avenues for women, contributing to national development," he noted.

Highlighting the stellar performances of Ladakh's women athletes, Kavinder Gupta mentioned their success in traditionally male-dominated sports such as ice

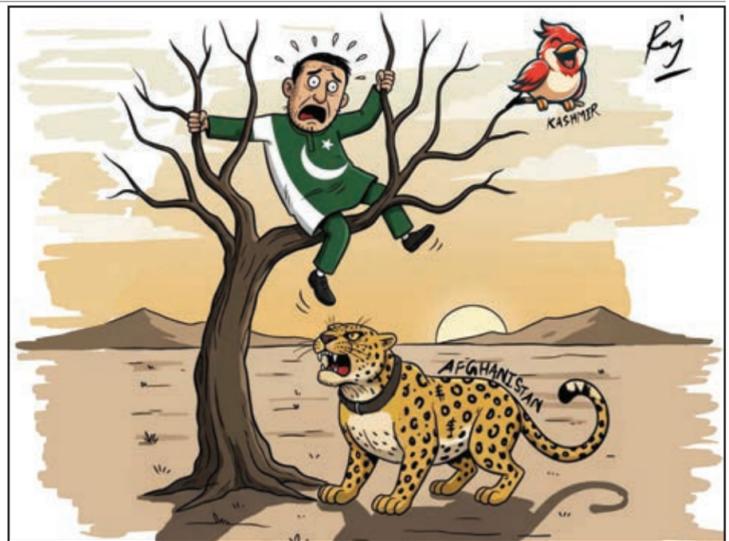
hockey, where they have won laurels at events like the Khelo India Winter Games and the IIHF Asia Cup. He said the UT Administration continues to strengthen support through modern sports infrastructure, equipment, and expert coaching facilities.

The Lt Governor also observed that more girls are now joining sports clubs and participating in national-

level competitions, making Ladakh a model of gender empowerment through athletics. Reaffirming the Administration's commitment, he assured continued efforts to promote varied sports disciplines and facilitate national and international exposure for local athletes.

In addition, the Lieutenant Governor met delegations from Yes Bank, IndusInd Bank,

Temisgam village, and Ladakh Rikjung Public School. He held constructive discussions on collaborative initiatives for Ladakh's progress and reiterated the Administration's focus on holistic development in sectors like health, education, tourism, and renewable energy. He also assured that the Administration is actively addressing local concerns such as waste management and stray dog issues through sustainable and practical solutions.



University of Jammu all set for 19th Convocation

Girls outshine at Jammu University Convocation-Three times more than boys Vice Chancellor highlights academic milestones, new initiatives

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over 400 girls out of total 600 candidates will receive their medals during the 19th Special Convocation, said Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai while addressing the media during curtain raiser press conference held here this afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor said that this convocation is a special one because female scholars have outperformed their male counterparts by a ratio of nearly three to one in securing Ph.D. degrees and gold medals this year, a proud reflection of women's growing leadership in higher education.

Prof Umesh Rai apprised that during the Convocation, 425 Ph.D. Degrees from 2020 to 2024, including 71 degrees of 2020 batch, 62 of 2021 batch, 83 of 2022 batch, 105 of 2023 batch and 104 of 2024 batch. Similarly, Gold Medals shall be awarded to 178 candidates from 2020 to 2023, including 43 candidates of 2020 batch, 85 of 2021 batch, 41 of 2022 batch and 39 of 2023 batch.

He emphasized that the University aims to return to an annual Convocation schedule from the next year.

Highlighting the academic report card to be presented before the Chancellor and



Vice Chancellor JU, Prof Umesh Rai addressing a press conference.

Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Rai shared that the University's flagship Design Your Degree (DYD) programme has been officially appreciated by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, which described it as a "unique initiative" and recommended its integration with the national curriculum through the Ministry of Education and the UGC.

Prof. Rai also spoke about the innovative College on Wheels programme, which provided, 800 girl students accompanied by 100 mentors, a transformative learning experience beyond classrooms.

He further highlighted that the University has expanded its research base through internal R&D, SEED, and transdisciplinary research grants, while securing significant extramural funding

from agencies such as UGC, DST, DBT, and CSIR.

Looking forward, Prof. Rai announced the launch of an Integrated UG-PG Programme from the next academic session, modeled on DYD, with skills, entrepreneurship, and innovation at its core. The new curriculum will empower students from any stream to select their specialization after foundational multidisciplinary training in data, IT, AI, and communication, enabling them to pursue self-employment and startup ventures.

Prof. Umesh Rai was flanked by senior functionaries Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar and committee members of the convocation.

Earlier, Prof. Rai informed that Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chancellor, University of Jammu shall grace the occasion as the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation address. Chief Minister, UT of J&K, Omar Abdullah who is also the Pro-Chancellor, University of Jammu shall be the Guest of Honour and address the Convocation.

Dignitaries including the members of Parliament, Chairperson Waqf Board, Advisor to Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Vice-Chancellors of Central and Cluster Universities, Padmashri Awardees, senior bureaucrats, senior police officers of Jammu region, eminent academicians and prominent members of the civil society are expected to attend the event.

White-collar radicalization-a new face of terror India must confront: Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Gaurav Gupta has expressed grave concern over the disturbing trend of white-collar radicalisation emerging across the country, warning that educated professionals including doctors, engineers, and researchers are increasingly being drawn into terror networks.

Condemning the recent spate of terror incidents, including the Delhi Red Fort blast, the Faridabad explosives recovery, and the chilling Ricin bio-terror conspiracy uncovered in Gujarat, Gupta described them as "a new and extremely dangerous phase in India's fight against terrorism."

"It is deeply worrying to see individuals from respected professional backgrounds being radicalised and weaponised. The nation must take serious note of this pattern where intellect, access, and technical knowledge are being misused to fuel extrem-



ism," Gupta said.

Referring to the Delhi blast, which claimed several innocent lives, he said, "Such cowardly acts are a brutal assault on India's peace and unity. Our security agencies are working tirelessly under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure that those behind these attacks are brought to justice."

Highlighting the Faridabad terror bust, where bomb-making materials were recovered from individuals with professional qualifications, Gupta termed it a "grim warning that terrorism is no longer

confined to remote camps or uneducated recruits it has now crept into our classrooms, laboratories, and hospitals."

He also drew attention to the Ricin bio-terror plot recently foiled by Gujarat ATIS, describing it as "a red alert for the entire nation."

"The use of Ricin one of the deadliest biological toxins in a terror plan is a frightening indicator of how terror outfits are experimenting with chemical and biological warfare. This is not just an act of terror; it's a war on humanity," he cautioned.

Gupta praised India's intelligence and security agencies for their timely and coordinated efforts in neutralising these threats but urged the government and society to remain alert to the shifting patterns of radicalisation.

"Terrorism today is evolving rapidly. It is no longer just a battlefield challenge it's intellectual, ideological, and digital. India must strengthen counter-radicalisation pro-

grams in educational and professional spaces and monitor the misuse of technology and research for anti-national purposes," he emphasised.

Calling for nationwide awareness and vigilance, Gupta said, "We must recognise and fight this sophisticated form of terrorism before it corrodes the foundations of our professional and social institutions. The BJP stands firmly with our security forces and the people of India in this united battle against every form of terror be it physical, ideological, or biological."

Expressing solidarity with the victims of recent terror incidents, Gupta concluded, "The people of Jammu & Kashmir, who have faced the scourge of terrorism for decades, stand shoulder to shoulder with the nation. Together, through vigilance, education, and unity, we can dismantle these emerging white-collar radicalisation networks and protect India's peace, progress, and future."

NCB Jammu busts Inter-State Drug Trafficking Network; notorious receiver arrested with 12.8 Kg poppy straw

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major breakthrough, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Jammu Zonal Unit has successfully dismantled a notorious inter-state drug trafficking network operating between Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

The operation marks another decisive step in the Government of India's ongoing efforts to combat drug trafficking and protect the nation's youth from the menace of narcotics.

Acting on sustained intelligence and surveillance, a team from NCB Jammu, with assistance from Kapurthala Police and NCB Amritsar, arrested the wanted receiver of the network, Lakhwinder Singh, son



of Amrik Singh, resident of Bhadas, Kapurthala (Punjab), during a follow-up operation in Crime No. CR-10/2025. A total of 12.878 kg of poppy straw was recovered from his car bearing registration number PB10CQ-9797 on Wednesday. The vehicle and contraband were seized on the

spot. Earlier, on October 2, 2025, NCB Jammu had seized 221.97 kg of poppy straw cleverly concealed in apple boxes loaded on a truck (JK22A-1016) during an operation in which two carriers - Khurshed Ahmad Mir and Mubashir Ahmad from

Anantnag-were arrested. The contraband quantity was more than four times the commercial limit under the NDPS Act. Based on their disclosure, the supplier Abdul Hamid Chopan, son of Abdul Gani Chopan from Malpora, Achabal, Anantnag, was arrested on November 8, 2025.

According to a senior NCB official, "The arrest of Lakhwinder Singh completes the chain of this inter-state trafficking network - from supplier to carrier to receiver. Sustained surveillance and discreet follow-up efforts by our teams ensured that no link of this network escaped the law."

The official further stated that Lakhwinder Singh is a

notorious drug trafficker with six previous NDPS cases registered against him, including a recent FIR (No. 200/2025) at PS Udhampur involving the recovery of 30 kg of poppy straw from the same vehicle.

"Despite being on bail, he continued his illegal activities, which shows his deep involvement in organized drug trafficking," the official added.

The NCB's investigation revealed that Lakhwinder Singh had traveled to the Kashmir Valley on November 10, 2025, to procure another consignment of poppy straw. NCB teams tracked his movements and intercepted him on his return, leading to

his arrest and the recovery of additional contraband.

"The Jammu Zonal Unit of NCB remains committed to uprooting such inter-state drug trafficking networks with an iron hand," said the NCB spokesperson.

"This case highlights the increasing trend of traffickers attempting to move narcotics from Kashmir to other states, and the urgent need for sustained coordination between enforcement agencies."

With the arrests of the supplier, carriers, and receiver, the NCB Jammu has effectively busted the entire trafficking chain, reinforcing its unwavering resolve to safeguard society from the growing threat of narcotics.

Conference-cum-Workshop on AI driven Innovations in Drug Discovery begins at BIRAC-BioNEST Incubator

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A 3 day Conference-cum-Workshop on "AI-Driven Innovations in Drug Discovery and Agriculture (AI-D2A 2025)" commenced here on Wednesday at BIRAC-BioNEST Incubator, Industrial Biotech Park, Ghatti, Kathua, under the aegis of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, BIRAC-BioNEST Incubator and CSIR-Jigyasa.

Dr. P.C. Panchariya, Director, CSIR-CEERI Pili, inaugurated the event as Chief Guest while Dr. Surinder Kumar Atri, Principal, GMC Kathua was the guest of honour.

Dr. Panchariya highlighted how AI-driven innovations can accelerate scientific breakthroughs, optimize processes, and contribute to sustainable development in

healthcare and agriculture. He also shared the CSIR-CEERI's path breaking achievements in making of semi-conductor devices, electronic tongue, adulteration detection sensors for dairy and edible oils.

Dr. Atri, the guest of honour, mentioned that AI is being used in various areas of medicine, such as radiological diagnosis, assisting physicians in decision making.

He added that CSIR-IIIM, a premier R&D institution with strength in the drug discovery and crop improvement, has adopted the integra-



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu lighting ceremonial lamp.

tion of AI tools to fasten the research, improvement of varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants besides the capacity building and said, "the conference provides a unique opportunity for skill development, capacity building, and entrepreneurship promotion among all stakeholders."

"Hosting it at the Biotech Park makes it even more significant-not just for participants, but also for the surrounding community-motivating them to engage with science and technology," he said.

A spokesperson informed that a total of 75 participants from all over India

have registered for the workshop and 15 participants from GDC Kathua and Jammu University, Kathua Campus were provided free registration for the course.

Earlier, Organising Secretary, Dr. Amit Nargotra, Principal Scientist & Group Leader

Discovery Informatics Lab, NPMC Division, underlined the potential of AI in transforming drug discovery and agriculture, stressing that the conference aims to foster innovation, collaboration, and skill development.

He highlighted, "The AI-D2A conference serves as a platform to nurture innovation, facilitate collaboration, and create opportunities for students, startups, and researchers, while showcasing India's growing capabilities in AI-driven biotechnology and agriculture."

Organisers said that AI-D2A 2025 would feature technical sessions, keynote talks, interactive discussions, hands-on workshops and practical demonstration sessions through next three days.

The sessions will focus on the use of AI tools to accelerate drug discovery, enhance crop productivity,

and develop data-driven agricultural models. AI-D2A 2025 will offer a dual experience - conceptual sessions on AI applications in biological research, along with practical training modules demonstrating how machine learning can assist in molecular design, compound screening, and Agri-data analytics.

Day one of the conference featured sessions on AI models for genomics and transcriptomics, AI-driven cheminformatics for anticancer drug discovery, multidimensional AI strategies for therapeutics, and machine learning frameworks for predicting molecular interactions.

The conference is being live-streamed on CSIR-IIIM's social media platforms, ensuring wider participation from students, researchers, and professionals unable to attend in person.

The proceedings of inaugural event was conducted by Dr. Vidushi Abrol and Dr. Saurabh Saran presented the formal vote of thanks.