

# Youth must adopt, innovate & lead India's march towards a self-reliant, Viksit Bharat 2047: LG Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

INDORE: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday called upon the youth of India to take the lead in shaping a Self-Reliant, Modern and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Addressing the Fifth Convocation Ceremony of SAGE University, Indore, the Lt Governor said that the coming decades will be decisive for India's global rise, and the youth must embrace innovation, responsibility and purpose-driven learning to guide this transformative journey.

In his keynote address, LG Kavinder Gupta highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047, stressing that young citizens are central to national progress. He reminded the graduating students that convocation marks not an end but the beginning of applying knowledge with integrity, courage and societal commitment. "Young minds must adopt new ideas, innovate with confidence and lead India's transformative progress with determination," he said.

Emphasising the importance of innovation, futuristic learning and skill development, the Lt Governor noted that India needs creators, thinkers, researchers and leaders capable of strengthening the country's techno-



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta honouring Anuradha Paudwal, Padma Shri Awardee at Fifth Convocation Ceremony of SAGE University, Indore.

logical and economic foundation. He urged students to cultivate modern skills, nurture creative thinking and channel their efforts toward nation-building. "The success of Viksit Bharat depends on how effectively our youth transform knowledge into innovation and innovation into impact," he remarked.

Sharing insights into Ladakh's rapid development, LG Kavinder said the Union Territory is emerging as a national hub for education, mountain ecology, renewable energy, climate studies and advanced research. He highlighted significant achievements in modernising school infrastructure, integrating technology into classrooms and expanding quality higher education across the region.

He reiterated Ladakh's commitment to building an

ecosystem where youth become job creators through entrepreneurship, research and sustainable development.

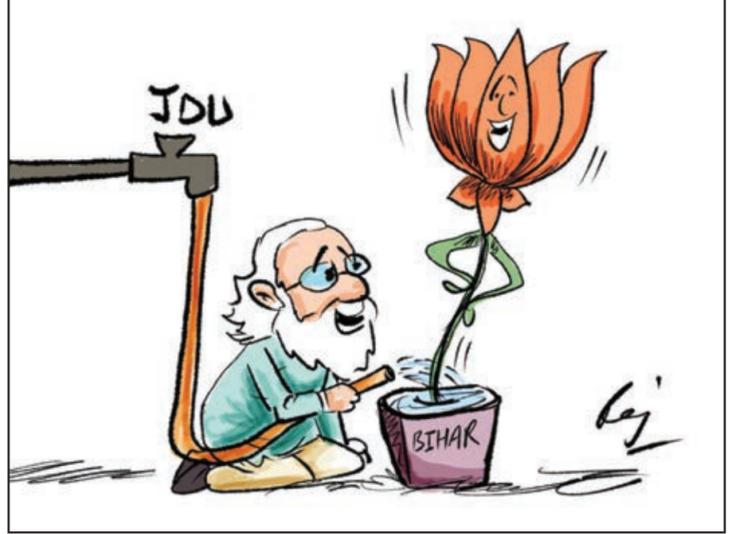
The Lt Governor also commended SAGE University for its excellence in education, modern facilities and strong industry linkages. He noted that the University's NAAC A+ accreditation reflects its dedication to academic quality, innovation and holistic student development.

Earlier in the ceremony, the Lt Governor conferred 5 D.Litt., 35 Ph.D. degrees, and a large number of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in diverse fields including Management, Journalism, Science & Technology, Commerce, Arts, Agriculture, Design, Pharmaceuticals, Advanced Computing and Law. Chancellor Er. Sanjeev

Agrawal congratulated the graduates, urging them to

use their education meaningfully for personal and societal growth. He said the University's values and academic foundation will empower students to contribute positively to the nation.

The convocation was attended by distinguished personalities including A.S. Kiran Kumar, Padma Shri Awardee & Chairman, Space Commission; Anuradha Paudwal, Padma Shri Awardee; Khem Singh Daheriya; senior officials of SAGE University; industry leaders; and international educationists.



## AIIMS Jammu invites diaspora medical professionals to strengthen healthcare back home

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu urges global diaspora doctors to join its expanding academic, clinical and research programs, highlighting new tech, collaborations and services, and offering honorarium plus travel and stay.

Seeking to reverse the longstanding trend of medical brain drain amid shortage of specialised human resources, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has called upon medical professionals from Jammu & Kashmir working abroad to support the institution's growth and contribute to healthcare delivery back home.

In an official communication, Executive Director and CEO Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta has invited members of the global medical community-and particularly those with roots in the region-to join AIIMS Jammu in its growing academic, clinical, and research ecosystem.

Prof. Gupta, an alumnus of AIIMS Delhi and a noted administrator, said the institute is entering its second year of operational excellence and is rapidly emerging as one of India's leading centres of medical education and healthcare delivery.

The communication highlights the institute's expanding collaborations, including partnerships with IIT

Jammu, IIM Jammu, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), USA, aimed at bolstering translational research, innovation, and global academic exchange.

AIIMS Jammu has introduced several digital and patient-centred initiatives, including an Indoor Navigation App, Patient Care Coordinators, Rogi Sahayak Mitras, and the extensive use of Artificial Intelligence in radiology, pathology, and clinical decision support.

"Healthcare outreach has also been strengthened through camps, OPDs in remote and border regions, telemedicine programmes, and public-awareness campaigns," said Dr Gupta.

The Institute's Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine is conducting pioneering work in precision oncology and genetic research, with samples and research support drawn from agencies such as the ICMR, SERB, and NAMS.

New clinical services, including Radiation Oncology and Chemotherapy Day Care, have expanded cancer treatment options in the region. AIIMS Jammu has also been designated a "Pain-Free AIIMS" by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, recognising its commitment to

safe and compassionate pain management.

Upcoming upgrades such as Total Laboratory Automation (TLA) and dry-slide biochemistry platforms are expected to further strengthen diagnostic accuracy and sustainability. The institute has also invested heavily in a state-of-the-art Digital Library to support research, learning, and academic collaboration.

Prof. Gupta emphasised that diaspora professionals could play a transformative role across teaching, research, observership, mentorship, and patient-care domains.

"Your contribution through collaboration, innovation, and shared expertise will inspire us to reach greater heights in healthcare delivery," he stated, adding that AIIMS Jammu "looks forward to hosting you on its green, vibrant, and inspiring campus-where knowledge blooms and collaboration

thrives."

As a gesture of appreciation for their service, AIIMS Jammu has announced a token honorarium of Rs 5,000 per day, along with free lodging and travel facilities for visiting medical professionals.

Welcoming the initiative, Prof. K. Ganapathy, eminent neurosurgeon, Past President Neurological Society of India and PP Telemedicine Society of India said, alumni and senior professors could play a pivotal role by teaching, supporting research, mentoring students, and sharing their global expertise.

Recalling his visit to AIIMS Jammu a fortnight ago, Dr. Ganapathy lauded the institution's faculty, state-of-the-art infrastructure and innovative use of technology in healthcare. "It is impossible to separate excellence in medical education from robust infrastructure and advanced technol-

ogy. AIIMS Jammu has set benchmarks in both," he said, noting initiatives such as the first-of-its-kind MBA programme in hospital administration offered by AIIMS Jammu jointly with IIT Jammu and IIM Jammu.

However, he emphasised that the institution's greatest need now is human resources. Joining AIIMS Jammu is a great opportunity for professional growth. "I wish I was several decades younger" he remarked, adding that experienced specialists and super-specialists from other parts of India and overseas spending time at this AIIMS can make a difference.

Prof. Ganapathy added that he would recommend this excellent initiative to his colleagues practicing in the UK, US and other countries and encouraged overseas clinicians to actively consider contributing to the institution's growth.

## Dr Jitendra launches Rs 924 cr new, Rs 86 cr completed road projects, underlines rural connectivity



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh laying Foundation Stone of PMGSY road at Udhampur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Saturday reiterated the Modi Government's unwavering commitment to strengthening rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

He said the ongoing works across Jammu division demonstrate the government's resolve to connect unserved habitations and bring equitable development to the remotest parts of the country.

Dr. Singh made these remarks while laying the foundation stone and inaugurating various PMGSY projects across the districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban through electronic mode. He laid the foundation stone for 45 road projects and inaugurated nine completed roads. The 45 new projects across five districts involve a total cost of Rs 924.23 crore, while the nine completed projects dedicated to the public were built at Rs 86.77 crore.

The Union Minister empha-

sized that most of these projects were initiated based on requests from local representatives, whose understanding of ground realities ensures better planning and accountability. He highlighted that the present government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed project implementation through a bottom-up approach, ensuring decisions reflect real public needs. Dr. Singh noted that Kathua district has emerged as one of the top-ranked districts in the country for road infrastructure development in recent years, showcasing the Centre's dedication to balanced regional growth. Addressing the strategic relevance of several road projects, he said the government is working in coordination with security agencies, particularly after Operation Sindoor, to ensure smooth road construction in sensitive areas.

Referring to the widening of Dhar Road, Dr. Singh said the project had been cleared by the Defence authorities and would be taken up soon, easing movement for both civilians and defence personnel.

He said the virtual launch of multiple road projects reflects the government's broader mission of improving rural infrastructure, enhancing connectivity and uplifting the lives of people in remote areas.

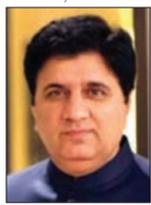
During the event, Dr. Singh also laid the foundation stone for the 3.350-km Channi Morh-Lower Southan link road in Udhampur, sanctioned at Rs 7.99 crore, which will benefit around 755 residents. He urged the administration to ensure timely clearances, strict quality control and coordinated execution to maximise public benefit and reduce travel hardships.

Dr. Singh said these road projects will significantly stimulate economic activity, improve access to healthcare, education and markets, and serve as a lifeline for rural communities. The event was attended by DDC Chairperson Lal Chand, MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Sunil Bhardwaj, along with DCs and BDCs of multiple districts who joined through online mode.

## JKCA Sub-Committee Member Sunil Sethi resigns

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sunil Sethi, Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) Sub-Committee, has tendered his resignation, addressing his letter to Mithun Manhas, President BCCI.



The Resignation Letter issued by Sunil Sethi reads, "I was appointed as member of sub Committee to look after JKCA affairs in 2021 and have been working as such. As Supreme Court has directed holding of elections of JKCA and effort to appoint new Ombudsman hasn't been approved by

Election Officer till formation of General Body, unfortunately back dated orders are being issued by former Ombudsman now dating it back to March 2025 when no such order was passed then now anything was reported to me. These orders are changing the club management and voting rights. This is to change the voting nomenclature which I don't want to be party in. As such I tender my resignation from member sub Committee. Please accept and relieve me. I am thankful for the opportunity the Board has bestowed on me."

## LIC stall inaugurated at 44th India International Trade Fair



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: LIC stall at the 44th India International Trade Fair was inaugurated by J P S Bajaj, Zonal Manager, Northern Zone. The occasion was also graced by senior officials of LIC.

During 14 day period of the India International Trade fair, information regarding various plans of the Corporation and Career opportunity for recruitment as agents will be available. Information regarding LIC's e-services and other online services will also be shared.

LIC has also initiated further steps in direction of moving towards a paperless office. In the changing sce-

nario, the Corporation has made policy servicing more easy and accessible through the adoption of various tools. Policyholders can pay premiums through different online modes. Customers can get information regarding their policies using the virtual assistant "LIC Mitra" by visiting LIC website www.licindia.in. Alternatively, they can get this information through IVRS by dialing 022-68276827. All policy holders can also connect for information and services of their policies through LIC WhatsApp No. 8976862090.

LIC is celebrating its 69th Anniversary this year. Being one of the major

financial institutions of the Country, it has catered to a large number of people for their insurance needs. It has regularly introduced innovative products, keeping the changing preferences of the insurable population in view. Along with Insurance, LIC also fulfills its social obligation through LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation that contributes towards education, medical and other social services. LIC has also been contributing towards nation building projects.

LIC's Motto "Yogakshemam Vahamyaham" from Srimad Bhagwad Geeta meaning "Your welfare is our responsibility" truly sums up the objective of the Corporation.

# Government of India too needs to establish Department of Government Efficiency as has been established by US President

■ DAYA SAGAR

Donald Trump took oath of the office of President of United States of America (USA) on 20 Jan 2025 and one of priority actions that would attract the attention of developing democracy was his decision to appoint a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) which was what that also sounded unique to me since the reference was surely in relation to the delivery of services with level of quality & efficiency by a democratic government run with whatever the contributions are made by individual citizens out of whatever earned by services rendered by individual citizen as also out of one's right on the 'national' resources to the State Exchequer. No doubt in every government, in whatever form it may be, there could be found also existing anti-corruption departments/organisations, but still 'often' questions are not uncommon as raised on the truthfulness and efficiency of the government machinery. Most of the anti corruption departments / units / agencies are often seeing only

taking to financial complaints / irregularities and there could be microscopic cases where some delivery of services by a public servant proportional to the wages / authorities delegated are investigated. So, going by that I felt that India too needs to appoint a Department of Government Efficiency like the one that Mr Trump had slated on 20th January 2025 itself. USA Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is an initiative by the second Trump administration in the United States with it's stated objective like to modernize information technology, maximize productivity, and cut excess regulations and spending within the federal government briefly summing focus on three major kinds of reforms, including regulatory rescissions, administrative reductions, wasteful cost savings and improving input (resource / funds) use efficiency. India too surely needs such a department where more focus would be on the money use efficiency of inputs made by India as a welfare state. Need for such a department has more increased in India after

scores of welfare schemes / programmes introduced by the NDA Governments lead by Sh. Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister after 2014 as well as also by some state governments. Sh Narendra Modi has the credit of initiating almost all the welfare programmes of Central Government and so it has become utmost requirement of the day so that the scarce resources placed in the public domain deliver with efficiency and reach the real needy so that Prime Ministers pious intention deliver maximum on the ground. Identification of the real beneficiaries and the beneficiary audit need to go simultaneously in a country as vast as India. Financial audits cannot meet these requirements. For instances Ex Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had in late 1980s very painfully opined that out of whatever the government allocates for the common welfare what actually reaches the real beneficiary 'is' not more than 15% of the

### A Look through the Mist Part-I



allocated resources / funds and even after over three decades of that still every new prime leadership accuses the earlier governments by quoting that and many may be saying that position has not much changed yet since even in 2025 over 82 cr population (2011 census) of Bharat is dependent on 5 kg / per capita / month free ration for meeting their needs for two square meals and would still need such props atleast upto 2029 in a country which on the overall is said to be 4th largest economy of the world. At the same time it is also very relevant to quote here that that in 1960 (as I remember) the pay scale of a Junior Asstt (lowest level clerk above Class IV in J&K) was Rs.70-06-130 with almost negligible allowances whereas scale of a Jr Assistant on 1-1-1973 in central government was 330-8-370-10-400-EB-10-480 plus allowances (lowest level clerk) and as on 01-07-2025 the pay scale is Level - 4 (25500-81100) with 58% DA plus HRA

plus (city compensatory allowance (CCA) plus transport allowance plus child education allowance plus child hostel subsidy allowance plus medical allowance i.e minimum basic pay plus DA is 40290/pm for a fresh appointee (CCA plus transport allowance plus child education allowance plus child hostel subsidy allowance plus medical allowance). Not only that the social status of those in government services in India is so well placed that even top brass from the educational institutions (even engineering graduates from professional institutions like IITs and doctors from medical colleges) prefer to join the India Administrative / Indian police services in view of the service conditions including possibilities for rising to the highest levels of bureaucracy. Highest posts even in state governments are held by officers belonging to Central Government services like IAS/IPS in the states and so are under the management / administration of the officers belonging to central services. Whenever there is change in government the new governments blame the earlier governments for

the shortfalls and falls backs in the development and education & health services in particular. India is a welfare state but the two basic input departments of the government i.e education & health do not hold to the trust of the common beneficiary since they do not deliver worth matching the inputs made by the state exchequer. Those who hold the reins of the service departments do not themselves prefer to avail the hospitals & schools they manage / control and are found availing services in the private sector.

Hence emerge the indicators of there being a need for establishing The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in India like the one has been established by US President. The terms of reference for India would surely be different like focusing on the State welfare programmes and direct benefit extensions to the socio economically backward masses and like sectors.

To be continued (The writer is Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com 0419796096)