

LG Kavinder calls on Union Health Minister JP Nadda

Seeks stronger support for expanding healthcare infrastructure in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Friday met J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, in New Delhi and held an extensive discussion on key issues relating to healthcare development, medical education, and public welfare in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Kavinder Gupta expressed gratitude to the Union Government for its continued support and briefed the Union Health Minister on the progress of major healthcare initiatives in Ladakh.

He highlighted the significant advancement made toward establishing Ladakh's first Medical College as well as the proposed Nursing College in Leh. The Lt Governor informed that crucial steps including release of central



LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta meeting with J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare.

funds, allotment of land, and submission of detailed proposals for construction and creation of posts have been completed. He urged the Ministry to expedite pending administrative approvals so that both insti-

tutions can become functional at the earliest.

The Lt Governor also drew attention to the need for accelerating the process of upgrading District Hospital Kargil from a 100-bed to a 200-bed

facility. While additional infrastructure is already under construction, he stressed that timely approval for creation of essential posts is necessary for the upgraded hospital to become fully operational and capable of catering to the growing healthcare needs of the region.

Kavinder Gupta further requested the establishment of a CGHS Wellness Centre in Leh, noting that thousands of central government employees and pensioners posted in the Union Territory presently lack access to CGHS services. He also appealed for extending full PMJAY coverage to the entire ST population of Ladakh and revising the premium structure to reflect the higher cost of healthcare delivery in the high-altitude region.

Additionally, the Lt Governor proposed the establishment of a spe-

cialised AYUSH Hospital and sought consideration for setting up an AIIMS campus in Leh to significantly enhance tertiary healthcare and medical research in Ladakh.

He reiterated the UT Administration's commitment to developing a robust and inclusive healthcare ecosystem with sustained support from the Government of India.

Union Minister J.P. Nadda appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the UT Administration and assured full cooperation in strengthening healthcare services and expanding medical education in Ladakh. He stated that the Ministry would carefully examine the proposals and extend all possible support under existing schemes and national priorities.

Wrong interpretations misleading youth: Gaurav urges religious leaders to counter extremism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Suicide is haram (forbidden) in Islam, and the killing of innocents is a "grave sin", said BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta in a sharp and strongly worded statement on the Delhi Red Fort blast and the viral video of accused Dr. Umar Nabi, who attempted to justify "suicide bombing" in the name of religion. Gupta said the video is a dangerous indicator of rising radicalisation, where extremist elements deliberately distort religious teachings to mislead impressionable youth.

Gupta categorically stated that Islam strictly prohibits suicide, and suicide bombing is haram, a position that applies across all major religions.

"No religion - whether Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism or Christianity endorses such violence. A handful of misguided individuals cannot be allowed to put an entire peaceful community under guilt."

Calling the accused a "suicide bomber," Gupta said: "Dr. Umar Nabi spread a poisonous and fabricated narrative to misguide youngsters. No religion teaches violence the real danger lies in those who deliberately twist religious texts for extremist goals."

He urged preachers, imams, clerics, scholars, priests and all community leaders to take responsibility and actively counter such misinformation by presenting the true and peaceful interpretation of religion.

Citing example and drawing a global comparison, Gupta pointed to Saudi Arabia, which once confronted severe radicalisation but reversed the trend through a united stand by scholars, religious authorities and society.

"Saudi Arabia overcame the challenge when its scholars and society came together. India too must respond with similar clarity and collective resolve."

"This is not about attacking any community. This is about protecting our young genera-



Gaurav Gupta speaking at a podium.

tion. Radicalised individuals must not be allowed to tarnish the image of lakhs of peaceful citizens."

Gupta also welcomed AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi's public condemnation of the video. Owaisi stated unequivocally that "suicide is haram in Islam" and termed the act "terrorism and nothing else." Gupta said such clarity is essential and shows that the fight is against radicalisation, not any faith.

Gupta issued a stern warning about external forces, particularly Pakistan-backed terror outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammed, which he said are attempting to push radical narratives inside India.

"Pakistan is injecting radical ideology through its terror networks. Their propaganda thrives only when a few white-collar sympathisers inside India amplify extremist thinking."

Calling for swift internal corrective measures, Gupta said: "India needs an 'Operation Indoors', a national mission to identify, confront and correct extremist mindsets, irrespective of community or background."

He emphasized that national unity and national security are non-negotiable, and India cannot allow either internal radicals or external enemies to destabilize peace.

Gupta concluded with a powerful message: "Terror has no religion, but terrorists misuse religion. As a society, we must stand united to ensure no young person is misled by poisonous ideology. Today, national unity and national security must come above every other consideration."

Tourism will bounce back, subversive minds cannot succeed in derailing our development: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board & Minister of State, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi attended as the Chief Guest the 14th General Meeting & Tourism Promotion Event of Tourist Trade Interest Guild at Srinagar.

The event was graced by Javed Anjum, the Director of Sheikh-ul-Aalam International Airport, Waseem Raja Joint Director Tourism Kashmir, Tariq Ahmad Ghani, eminent business leader & Zahoor Ahmed Karnai Chairman of TTIG among others including prominent businessmen associated with tourism sector.

Representatives of Trade organizations, Hoteliers, Transporters, House Boat Owners were part of the event.

Many prominent businessmen and contributors associated with tourism industry were honoured on the occasion.

In her address Dr Andrabi



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi being honoured.

said, our tourism industry saw a boom in Jammu and Kashmir after 2019, but our enemies don't want us to live in peace and develop as a people and so they plan to reintroduce violence and bloodshed here so that our life stops again.

"We are living in a strong decisive India and we cannot allow such subversive activities to derail us from peace and development. 'Tourism will bounce back here again', said Dr Andrabi. She said that majority of our youth don't

support any kind of violence and terrorism at all. We have seen it during the past six years.

"A few elements are still trying to reestablish their hateful and divisive agenda and reinforce it through terror mechanisms but they will be thrashed and smashed. Violence and hatred has no place in J&K and the rest of the country now. We will re-emerge as a place of peace and tourism boom in J&K", said Dr Darakhshan.

Narco Terrorism big threat to Nation, says Sahil Maharaj

People must connect children with Sanatan, Moral values at early age to prevent them becoming Drug victims: Zorawar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A week-long Shrimad Bhagwat Satwaah has been organized by Shri Hindu Takht, J&K at Jatte-De-Kothe, Pangali Colony, in the Chamb belt, just a few kilometres from the Indo-Pak border, to offer prayers for the eternal peace of the brave martyrs of security forces who sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation.

The religious programme was held under the supervision of Prabhari, Shri Hindu Takht, J&K and Ladakh UTs, Bal Sant Sahil Ji Maharaj along with Chairman, Balbir Singh Chib Bhamu, and Seh-Prabhari, Rakesh Singh Manhas, with the dedicated support of volunteers who ensured smooth conduct of the spiritual event. The gathering also paid floral tributes to the martyrs of the



Bal Sant Sahil Ji Maharaj and BJP J&K Spokesperson, Zorawar Singh Jamwal speaking at a programme.

Chairman, Team Jammu and BJP (J&K) Spokesperson, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, along with Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary Constituency Sangathan Mahamantri, Inderjeet Sharma and volunteers of Team Jammu attended the programme that was full of snatan and moral values delivered by Bal Sant Sahil Ji Maharaj.

Addressing a large gathering, Zorawar Singh Jamwal made a strong and passionate appeal to the people, particularly the youth, to stay away from drugs, substance abuse and anti-social activities, and instead become ambassadors of national unity, peace and social harmony. He strongly emphasized that parents must connect their children with Sanatan values from a very

early age, so that they grow up with strong moral, cultural and spiritual foundations.

He further cautioned that no matter how much pressure anyone puts on them, everyone should firmly refuse to consume drugs. "Even if someone forces you to take drugs, you must not give in under any circumstances," he said, stressing that self-control and strong character are the greatest

strengths of the youth. He underlined that drug abuse has become a serious threat to the future of Jammu and Kashmir and must be fought collectively by families, educational institutions, religious organizations and society at large.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal asserted that the mission of Team Jammu is social and national in character, aimed at strengthening the spirit of nationalism, unity and discipline among the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He stressed that transforming the region into a drug-free zone is not only a social responsibility but a national duty. His strong words resonated deeply with the audience and drew widespread appreciation.

During the programme, Prabhari, Shri Hindu Takht, J&K and Ladakh UTs, Bal

Sant Sahil Ji Maharaj, delivered inspiring spiritual sermons and urged the gathering-comprising women, elders and youth-to strengthen Sanatan Dharma by inculcating religious values, discipline and moral education among children from a very young age within their homes. He lauded the efforts of Team Jammu, under the leadership of Zorawar Singh Jamwal, for launching a strong mass contact and awareness campaign against the menace of narco-terrorism and drug abuse in Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme concluded with collective prayers for national peace, unity and prosperity, while reaffirming the commitment of all participants to uphold patriotic values and protect the younger generation from social evils.

Vice Chairman JKHEC reviews progress of Design Your Degree Program at JU



Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, JKHEC chairing a review meeting at JU.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu on Friday welcomed Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Higher Education Council (JKHEC), who, along with his team, carried out a detailed review of the University's pioneering Design Your Degree (DYD) program. Senior faculty members, mentors, students, and senior officials associated with the program were present during the interaction.

Launched in 2023, the DYD program is the University's flagship four-year undergraduate initiative developed in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It allows students to design

their own academic pathways by choosing courses across disciplines, combining classroom-based learning with hands-on experiences, and building skills relevant to emerging social and professional needs. Guided by the motto 'Teach to Transform, Educate to Empower, Learn to Lead, the program strives to shape confident and well-rounded graduates.

During the review, Prof. Dinesh Singh examined the progress made since the program's inception and interacted closely with both students and mentors involved in the DYD program. He appreciated the clarity with which students articulated their learning choices and acknowledged the efforts

of mentors who guide them through personalised academic planning.

"The Design Your Degree program is a bold and timely initiative. I am pleased to see students engaging with curiosity and confidence, and mentors supporting them with dedication. This model represents the future of higher education, one that values flexibility, imagination, and the individual strengths of every learner," Prof. Singh said. He also held discussions with faculty members on curriculum design, pedagogical innovations, and the University's broader approach to interdisciplinary and student-centred education. The visit allowed the review team to gain first-hand insights into how the program is being implemented on the ground and the support systems built around it. The review marks an important step in further strengthening the DYD program and aligns with the University's resolve to create a flexible, future-ready learning environment in keeping with the vision of NEP 2020.

J&K Bank inks MoU with MDB Group for a luxury housing project



Zonal Head (Kathua) Suresh Choudhary signing MoU with Representative from MDB Group CA Nikhil Garg.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its commitment to providing convenient financial solutions for aspirational homeowners, J&K Bank on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MDB Group for financing 'The Lutyens' - an ultra-luxury high-rise apartment project located along the Delhi-Manali Highway in Mohali.

Zonal Head (Kathua) Suresh Choudhary signed the MoU along with the Representative from MDB

Group CA Nikhil Garg in the presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta at the Bank's Divisional Office in Jammu. Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said, "Through partnerships like this, J&K Bank continues to strengthen its role as a trusted financial partner in the housing sector. This collaboration will enable us to extend seamless and tailored housing finance solutions to customers aspiring for premium living spaces."

He further added that the MoU reinforces the Bank's efforts to strengthen its builder relationships in fast-growing real estate hubs while contributing to residential infrastructure development.

Pertinently, the agreement will facilitate exclusive home loan offerings for customers interested in MDB Group's 'The Lutyens' project, enabling prospective buyers to avail customized financing and personalized services from J&K Bank.

Last rites of the son of the soil and a highly decorated Army officer, Brigadier KK Lakhnupal (Retd) were today held in NOIDA with military honours.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Chief of Army Staff, JAK Rifles, Ladakh Scouts and other units he commanded.

Brig. Lakhnupal died yesterday in a hospital where he was undergoing treatment. He leaves behind a son and two daughters.

He was brother-in-law of

Rifles and was also Brigadier

Trainings at the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

Serving and retired Army officers, civilians and family members attended the last rites.

ADGP CID J&K inaugurates State Intelligence Training School at Miran Sahib



ADGP CID, J&K, Nitish Kumar inaugurating SITS at Miran Sahib, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening intelligence capabilities in the Union Territory, Additional Director General of Police, CID, J&K, Nitish Kumar, on Friday inaugurated the State Intelligence Training School (SITS) at Miran Sahib, Jammu.

SSP CID CI Jammu Randheer Singh presented the welcome address. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Adl. Director SIA, Tahir Bhat, and SSP CID CI Jammu, Amit Gupta, SSP Majid Malik, SSP Girdhari Lal, SSP Perbeet Singh, SSP

Master Popsy DDP Kamal Sharma, CPO Anuj Gupta, Sr PO Shashi Koul and other Senior officers officials of the CID & SIA.

Speaking on the occasion, ADGP Nitish Kumar highlighted the crucial role of professional training in sharpening intelligence workflows, operational readiness, and analytical skills.

He emphasised that the new training school will serve as a specialised centre for capacity building, equipping officers with modern investigative, analytical, and technological competencies essential for contemporary intelligence operations.

The dignitaries also inspected the newly developed infrastructure, training facilities, and workspaces that were recently transformed through dedicated efforts of the staff.

The ADGP appreciated the officers for their meticulous preparation, coordination, and teamwork, which contributed to the successful inauguration of the institution.

The establishment of the dedicated facility for State Intelligence Training School marks a major milestone in enhancing the efficiency and professionalism of the intelligence cadre in Jammu & Kashmir.

