

# LG Kavinder meets Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in Delhi

Proposes hosting of 6th Khelo India Winter Games in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday met Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, in New Delhi and discussed several crucial initiatives aimed at strengthening Ladakh's emerging sports ecosystem, enhancing youth engagement, and accelerating the development of world-class sports infrastructure in the Union Territory.

While submitting a memorandum of demands to the Union Minister, the Lt Governor highlighted Ladakh's growing reputation as a winter sports destination, noting the successful conduct of the Ice Events of the 4th and 5th Editions of the Khelo India Winter Games in 2024



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta calling on Union Sports Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi.

and 2025. With the completion of the all-weather NDS Ice Hockey Rink equipped with mechanical chilling facilities, Ladakh now offers year-round ice sports opportunities-an advancement that earlier was restricted to just two winter months. He proposed that the 6th Edition of the

Khelo India Winter Games (Ice Events) be allotted to Ladakh in January 2026, reaffirming the UT's preparedness for hosting larger winter sports events.

Kavinder Gupta also sought early sanction for the establishment of the High-Altitude National Centre of Excellence

(HANCE) at Leh, citing Ladakh's natural suitability for high-altitude sports training. He informed the Minister that the Executive Director of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Regional Centre Chandigarh, had recently visited Leh and held detailed discussions with senior UT officials. He stated that the proposed Centre would significantly contribute to grooming national-level athletes and promoting advanced sports science support in the region.

The Lt Governor further highlighted the status of ongoing projects, including the Gym/Fitness Centre at NDS Stadium, Leh, where the sanctioned funds have been fully utilised, seeking additional funds to complete the remaining works and make the facility fully functional.

tional.

Kavinder Gupta also expressed sincere gratitude to the Ministry for establishing the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) at Leh in Athletics, Boxing, and Archery. The Centre, now operational at the newly inaugurated Open Stadium at Spituk, has already begun talent identification and development activities, receiving strong participation from local youth, he said, adding that the KISCE would play a vital role in nurturing Ladakh's emerging sports talent.

The Union Sports Minister assured the Lt Governor of continued support in strengthening sports and youth development initiatives in Ladakh.

## Priya Sethi pays tributes to General Bikram Singh on his Death Anniversary

Demands JKBOSE should include a chapter on Gen Bikram Singh



BJP Vice President, Priya Sethi paying floral tributes to Lt. General Bikram Singh at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The General Bikram Singh Yaadgar Committee, Jammu, on Saturday organized a solemn remembrance ceremony at Bikram Chowk to mark the death anniversary of Lt. General Bikram Singh, a decorated Army officer remembered for his exceptional service and sacrifice for the nation.

Former Minister and BJP Vice President, Priya Sethi, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. In her address, she paid heartfelt tributes to Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh and highlighted the importance of honoring national heroes who dedicated their lives to safeguarding the country. She lauded the committee for its

continued efforts to preserve the legacy of the late General and inspire future generations.

Priya Sethi demanded that the Jammu & Kashmir education board should include a chapter on Gen Bikram Singh in books so that such personalities in school textbooks will ensure that real heroes are remembered by future generations.

According to her highlighting the contributions and sacrifices of local heroes will help inspire students and strengthen their understanding of regional history and culture.

Committee members extended a warm welcome to the chief guest and thanked her for gracing the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Kanchan Singh recounted an important incident from the General's life, stating that moments before the fatal crash, Gen. Bikram Singh managed to throw crucial Army files out of the aircraft to prevent vital national information from being damaged or compromised. He thanked all guests, members, and participants for attending the event.

While concluding the function, Charanjeet Singh Raina, President of the Committee, expressed gratitude to all attendees and reaffirmed the committee's commitment to honoring the memory of the brave General.

Prominent persons present at the event included Paramjeet Singh Raina (Ex-Corporator), Parveen Sharma, Deepak Gupta, Kamaljeet Singh, Upender Singh, Darshan Singh, Sunil Gupta, Ashwani Bhalla, Darshan Singh, Parlaahaad Singh, Jagdev Singh, Kamaljeet Kour, Raman Sharma, Anuradha Sharma, Sartaj Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Rakesh Bhalla, Rohit Kumar, and others.

The ceremony concluded with participants pledging to uphold the values of courage, unity, and national service exemplified by Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh.

## Dept of Archives, Archaeology & Museums facilitates visit of orphan students to Bahu Fort, Dogra Art Museum



Director, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha interacting with students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a unique initiative amid the world heritage week celebration, the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museum, J&K, under the supervision of its Director, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, facilitated an extensive visit of children of Ved Mandir Bal Niketan, Orphanage Ambphalla to Dogra Art Museum and Bahu Fort Jammu to acquaint them with the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Department organized this special visit for nearly 60 children along with their staff. The children were taken for a guided tour of Bahu Fort and various galleries of the Museum to aware them about history and significance of their past.

During the visit, the students engaged with interactive displays, asked curious questions

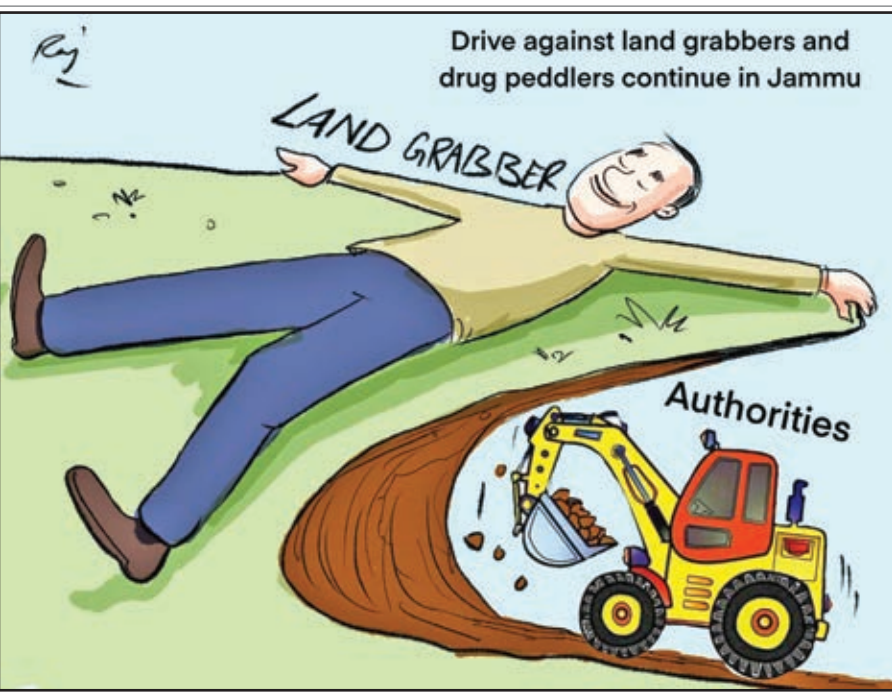
and learned about the significance of each exhibit. The visit aimed to broaden the student's horizon, spark their curiosity and inspire their imagination and acquaint them with their culture and history.

On the occasion, the Director urged the students to act as ambassadors to spread mass awareness about our Art, Culture and Heritage.

The Director emphasised the importance of Museums and Monuments as repositories of rich cultural heritage for the future generations.

Pertinently, the Department is celebrating the world heritage week on a larger scale with different programs aligning with each day.

The event was coordinated by Curator Dogra Art Museum Mukul Magotra under the guidance of Assistant Director Dr. Sangeeta Sharma.



## MP Jugal, LoP Sunil Sharma call on LG



BJP MLAs delegation led Sunil Sharma, LoP in JKLA, calling on LG, Manoj Sinha.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Saturday.

Later, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative

Assembly, also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Members of Legislative Assembly-Sham Lal Sharma, Surjit Singh Slathia, Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal and Ranbir Singh Pathania.

## DGPC Jammu to organize Samagam on 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib on Nov 24



Balvinder Singh, Vice President DGPC Jammu talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balvinder Singh, Vice President DGPC Jammu, along with Surjit Singh, General Secretary DGPC, and Tejinder Singh, Member DGPC Jammu, Ajeet Singh, & members from Local Sangat which includes Santokh Singh, Baldev Singh, Joginder Singh, Balbirt Singh, Harmeet Kour Harjeet kour and Gurmeet Kour shared details with the media about how the Committee is

commemorating the 350th year of the supreme martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib.

The District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu is organizing a special Samagam on 24th November at Gurdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, Satwari, Jammu. The Samagam will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

This sacred event has been arranged to pay homage to the

unparalleled sacrifice of Guru Sahib, who embraced martyrdom to defend religious freedom, dignity, and the human rights of the oppressed. His legacy continues to inspire generations to uphold justice, truth, and humanity.

The Samagam will feature soulful Gurbani Kirtan by the Hazuri Ragi Jathas of DGPC Jammu, including Bhair Sahib Bhair Davinder Singh and Bhair Tarvinder Singh, who will perform Shabads reflecting the teachings and spiritual greatness of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib.

Adding further spiritual depth to the occasion, Mannohan Singh, a respected Parcharak from Poonch, will especially attend the Samagam and deliver enlightening vichar on the historical and contemporary significance of Guru Sahib's martyrdom.

DGPC Jammu warmly invites the entire Sangat of Jammu and surrounding areas to join this solemn and inspiring religious gathering. Langar shall be served to all devotees.

The Committee humbly urges the Sangat to participate in large numbers and be part of this collective homage to Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji's supreme sacrifice.

# DSEJ reviews academic, school infra development in Jammu Dist

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director School Education Jammu (DSEJ) Naseem Javed Choudhary on Saturday chaired a meeting here at Convention Hall to assess the academic activities, infrastructure development, counselling and digital initiatives being implemented in the schools of District Jammu.

The meeting was attended by the Personal Officer DSEJ, Joint Director (Secondary), Joint Director (Elementary), Joint Director JSK and Chief Accounts Officer DSEJ.

The Chief Education Officer Jammu gave a comprehensive presentation on the schemes being implemented in district Jammu. The Director School Education Jammu evaluated the overall progress of the district in the education sector and implementation of the schemes including UT Capex, District Capex, Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN.

Additionally, the Director reviewed the functioning of VSK Jammu and different digital initiatives. It was informed that out of 1187 schools in the district, 1173 schools have adopted the Live Attendance Bot, which



DSEJ Naseem Javed Choudhary chairing a meeting.

enables real-time monitoring of staff/student attendance. The Director also reviewed the progress of JK Study Buddy. He issued directions to ensure timely completion of all digital surveys and reporting processes.

The progress under PM

POSHAN, as reflected on the ARMS Portal as on 21 November 2025, was also reviewed. The Director instructed the concerned officers to ensure proper implementation of the scheme and submit reports regularly to maintain transparency and efficiency in

the delivery of midday meals.

Reviewing Early Childhood Care and Education, the Director noted that 944 schools are currently running pre-primary classes with a cumulative enrolment of 7561 children. He also discussed the status of Aaya workers and their salary disbursement and emphasized strengthening foundational learning by ensuring adequate support staff and proper facilities for young learners.

The Director further reviewed the various RTE entitlements and interventions under Samagra

Shiksha. He emphasized the need for optimal sharing of resources among schools to enhance effectiveness, avoid duplication and ensure that all students benefit equally from available materials and support structures.

A detailed presentation on civil works was also made during the meeting, showcasing the recently completed buildings and ongoing construction activities under Samagra Shiksha, District CAPEX and UT CAPEX. The Director examined the progress visually and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of pending

works while maintaining the highest quality standards.

In conclusion, the Director School Education appreciated the efforts of the entire departmental team and instructed all field officers and Heads of Institutions to strengthen instructional delivery, enhance student-centric services and ensure efficient execution of all ongoing schemes and initiatives across District Jammu. The meeting was attended by Cluster Principals (All), Zonal Education Officers (All) and HOIs of PM Shri Schools.

# Government of India too needs to appoint Department of Government Efficiency as has been appointed by US President

■ DAYA SAGAR

In brief India is a welfare state and governments have extended many special welfare schemes for the people of lower socio economic levels but still the position is such that in India even after 77 years of independence nearly 2/3rd population depends on the supply 5 kg per month per capita free ration by government for their survival. Questions are also raised over running of the infrastructure projects both in time & money . One would ask why the returns are not proportional to the inputs made by the government when we have such superior & comparatively adequately paid & with secured service conditions government servants on the overall when compared in general with those employed in private sector ? There could be no better an answer that reasons lie in lack of efficiency in delivery of services in one form or the other .So India too needs to establish a department of Government Efficiency , rather more than that what

was the need in USA so as to make India also an economy per capita wise also atleast number 4th in the world like her being 4th world economy on mass basis with a population estimated at around 1430 million..

Every new government on taking oath in India is found blaming the earlier government for having allowed corrupt practices on the state funds / resources to grow inspite of the anticorruption organisations remaining the same as were there in earlier days. The political government is elected for 5 years and is followed by another elected government . Those in government have to go to people after five years seek their mandate again and people can reject had they not worked properly in the earlier term. It is the bureaucracy that has not to go to the people seeking their confidence at any time and are the link chain for the affairs to continue. Political government changes but the bureaucrats remain for 25 to 35 years in service so

much depends on the performance & efficiency of the bureaucrats. The political leadership is for policies and sanctions where as it is the bureaucracy that executes, delivers services, make assessments and constructs plans & programme drafts . Identification & valuation of needs on ground are made by the bureaucrats , feed backs & performance reports are drawn by the bureaucrats and all evaluations are done for politicians by the bureaucrats. So what happens on ground depends how the bureaucracy works. In a democracy like India one may find it easier to meet a politician / MLA/MP/Minister at his/ her residence or office but it may not be that easy / comfortable to meet a bureaucrat at his place. A politician cannot force to make a bureaucrat do some wrong action unless the bureaucrat also finds it of



### A Look through the Mist Part-II

profit to go by what the politician says otherwise the civil service conditions are so secure that except transferring a government servant the politician cannot do any other harm. So blaming politicians for all bad is not fair. Hence there is need for keeping an eye on the efficiency of government machinery and public service delivery system. The need for that is more in India since inspite of so many government initiatives for building physical infrastructures & socio economic support system for the socio economically poor citizens of India the position is still discouraging even after nearly 8 decades of Independence. The government servant is comparatively very well secure part of the society these days but the service delivery system managed by same government servant does not carry the trust of common man adequately which well reflects

from the reputation of government schools and hospitals even in major cities.

The elders who drafted the constitution of India had felt the need for providing special supports to the socially & educationally backward citizens of India and hence provided provisions in the constitution of India in 1950 for reservation of seats in the Parliament ( Lok Sabha) and the Legislative Assemblies of states for SC and ST for 10 years from 1950 hoping that the those who would be holding to the affairs of independent India would work concernedly for the welfare of their socially & educationally backward fellow citizens for building their status but those who held the reins of governance in independent India could not deliver fairly and the reservations in legislature/ services/ educations are still continuing even after 7 decades since the benefits could not be made to adequately reach the real target benefi-

ciary inspite of so many welfare schemes , every second leader in government and almost all the political parties in opposition too expressing apparently very serious concern for socially & educationally backward segments of the Indian society ( SC & ST) and a few more segments of other backward classes identified as needing special supports in addition to SC & ST after independence . It is not out of place to mention here that these days the open merit vacancies in government services & educational institutions have been reduced to maximum 40% and that has started nursing heart burning in some segments of society. So the need for establishing Department of Government Efficiency is sure need of the day in India today.

To be continued  
(The writer is Sr Journalist & analyst of J&K affairs  
dayasagar45@yahoo.com  
0419796096)