

LG Kavinder meets Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi

Discusses humanitarian assistance & air connectivity for Ladakh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and held a detailed discussion on strengthening welfare initiatives and connectivity measures for the Union Territory, particularly during the winter months when Ladakh remains cut off from the rest of the country.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor apprised the Defence Minister of the unique challenges faced by the people of Ladakh owing to extreme climatic conditions and limited accessibility during the prolonged winter season. He sought the Ministry's continued support in extending humanitarian assistance under Operation Sadbhavana, an initiative of the Indian Army that has been instrumental in promoting goodwill, education, healthcare, and community welfare across remote regions of Ladakh.

Kavinder Gupta emphasised the need to further



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta calling on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.

augment air connectivity to ensure uninterrupted supplies and emergency movement during the winter period. He requested the continuance of air services between Kargil-Thoise-Chandigarh and also proposed enhanced air maintenance services between Leh and Delhi to facilitate essential logistics, passenger movement, and medical evacuations when

Singh appreciated the concerns raised by the Lt Governor and assured all possible assistance from the Ministry of Defence in coordination with relevant agencies to improve connectivity and extend the scope of humanitarian outreach in Ladakh.

Meanwhile, The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, emphasised that the dairy and allied sectors play a pivotal role in building self-reliant and resilient communities across Ladakh by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, empowering rural households, and reducing dependence on external markets.

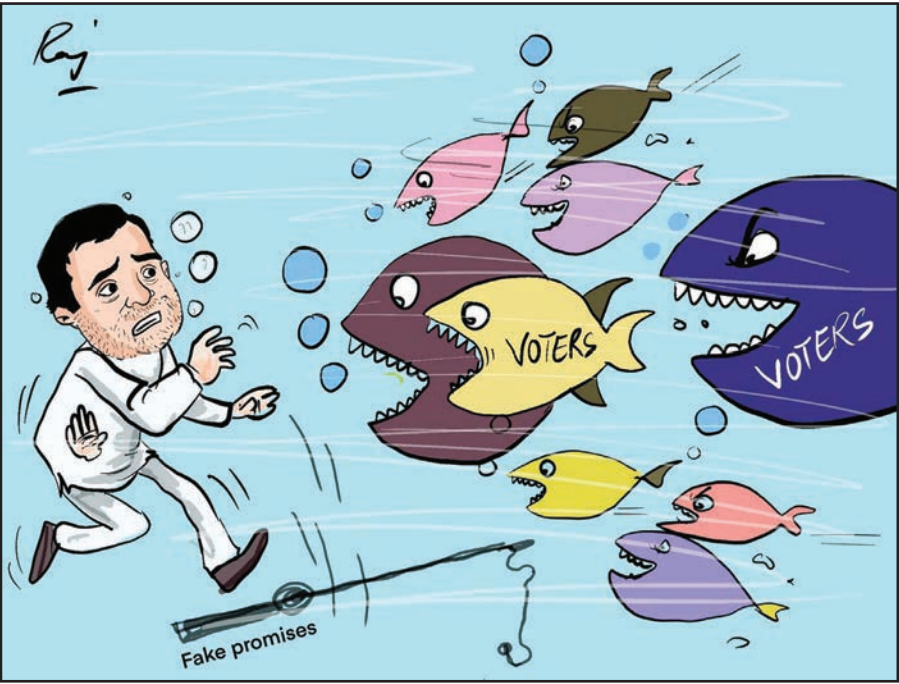
He said this while interacting with a delegation of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) led by its Chairman, Dr. Meenesh Shah, in New Delhi today.

The Lt Governor noted that focused interventions in animal husbandry, milk processing, and cold-chain logistics would enhance farmers' incomes and contribute to realizing the vision of a

Viksit and Atmanirbhar Ladakh, aligned with the national goal of inclusive and sustainable rural development.

The Lt Governor reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to work closely with NDDB and local stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability, improved farmer incomes, and inclusive rural development.

He assured full support from the Administration to translate NDDB's initiatives into tangible benefits for the people of Ladakh, advancing the shared vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Ladakh.



Sakeena reviews functioning of SED across Jammu Div

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo on Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the performance and functioning of School Education department across Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakwal; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Chief Education Officers of all districts of Jammu and other concerned officers of School Education department.



Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo chairing a meeting on Monday.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes, infrastructure development projects, academic reforms, and digital learning initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education across government schools.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the efficient and transparent utilisation of public funds to strengthen the education ecosystem. She stressed that every rupee allocated for education sector must be spent judiciously and with measur-

able outcomes.

She directed officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects, particularly those related to school infrastructure, ICT labs, teacher training, and learning enhancement programmes. She asked them to address bottlenecks on priority and submit regular progress reports to the department.

The Minister called for the adoption of transparent monitoring mechanisms and periodic audits to prevent fund lapses and ensure that benefits reach the grassroots level. She further instructed officers to strengthen community participation through School Management committees and promote accountability at every administrative tier.

Highlighting the govern-

ment's focus on inclusive and equitable education, the Minister also underscored the importance of bridging learning gaps, enhancing the teaching-learning process, and improving student learning outcomes, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to transforming the education sector, the Minister assured that the government would continue to support initiatives that empower teachers, modernize classrooms, and create a robust learning environment for all students.

"Education is the foundation of any progressive society. Transparent utilisation of funds and effective monitoring of schemes will ensure schools becom-

ing centres of excellence," the Minister stated.

While reviewing other aspects of the department, the Minister strictly instructed the CEOs that school children shouldn't be sent to Government functions, particularly during peak academic and examination session, without prior approval and permission of respective Directors.

The Education Minister further asked the CEOs to take reviews in their respective districts from the Assembly Constituency level and prepare all data accordingly so that the MLAs are provided timely information. She also asked them to take MLAs on board while initiating any new developmental projects in their respective districts.

Ex-Presidents of Jammu Press Club demand ban on 'Blackmailer' Portal 'The Daily Truth News'; hail ST for expose

Sr journalists welcome LG's directive to weed out fake reporters

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Strongly condemning the growing menace of blackmailing digital portals in Jammu, former Presidents of the Press Club of Jammu, Manu Shrivatsav and Ashwani Kumar, have called for stringent action against unregistered and extortionist online platforms masquerading as news outlets.

Referring to the STATE TIMES expose titled "Blackmailing Portals on Rise in Jammu; FIR Lodged against 'The Daily Truth News' for Extortion Attempt," both veteran journalists lauded the publication for its "commendable and courageous journalism" in unmasking fake reporters such as Shubham of The

Daily Truth News.

"Such blackmailer portals are a blot on the noble profession of journalism. They must be immediately banned, and strong legal action should be initiated against individuals misusing the media for extortion and blackmail," said Manu Shrivatsav, noting that the unchecked proliferation of unverified portals has "deeply eroded public trust in the media."

He urged the government and police to take serious cognizance of the issue and ensure that individuals misusing digital platforms for blackmail and intimidation are booked under relevant laws.

"The administration must regulate digital media and

prevent misuse of press credentials by self-styled reporters who have nothing to do with real journalism," he added.

Echoing similar concerns, Ashwani Kumar said that the rise of blackmailer portals poses a "serious threat to media credibility and ethics."

"Freedom of the press should never be used as a shield for extortion. Genuine journalists follow ethics and accountability, while such elements misuse the name of media for personal gain," he asserted.

Ashwani Kumar appreciated STATE TIMES for "upholding the spirit of true journalism" and standing firm against unethical practices.

"The paper deserves appre-

ciation for fearlessly exposing those who bring disrepute to the fraternity. This kind of responsible reporting restores faith in the institution of media," he added.

Both senior journalists also appreciated the Lieutenant Governor's directive to administration and the Information Department to frame a comprehensive policy for registration, verification, and accountability of online news portals in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The time has come to separate real journalists from blackmailers in disguise. Strict registration norms, verification processes, and licensing guidelines are essential to safeguard the credibility of journalism," they concluded.

CBC Jammu organises workshop on Public Information Disclosure and Protection of Informers Resolution

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Regional Office Jammu on Monday organized a workshop on Public Information Disclosure and Protection of Informers Resolution (PIDPI).

The workshop was organized as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week -2025, to sensitize the employees at regional and field levels to create greater sensitivity about the need for ethics and transparency in governance and public administration.

In a keynote address



Ghulam Abbas, Director, CBC Regional Office, J&K and Ladakh with other dignitaries.

Ghulam Abbas, Director, CBC Regional Office, J&K and Ladakh region impressed upon the officers and officials to promote

Deputy Director, CBC, Jammu outlined the objectives of the workshop. Puri also highlighted the vision behind the annual observation of the Vigilance Awareness Week.

Kamal Sangra, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K gave a detailed presentation on Public Information Disclosure and Protection of Informers Resolution (PIDPI).

He highlighted the key points of the 2014 resolution deliberating upon the importance of the resolution in the fight against corruption, particularly the protection of whistleblowers.

Sangra made special reference to the cases of the crimes against whistleblowers in India, pointing out the need for a framework like PIDPI-2014. He said that this year's theme - Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility, puts limelight on collective responsibility of citizens to curb corruption.

Others who participated in the workshop included Naseer Ahmad Rather, Field Publicity Officer (FPO) Srinagar, Shahid Mohammad Lone, FPO, Anantnag, Ashwani Gupta, Senior Accounts Officer, CBC Jammu and Omprakash Maurya, Administrative Officer, CBC Jammu.

Yudhvir attends Jagtyal Baladri congregation, urges support for BJP candidate Devyani Rana



MLA Yudhvir Sethi addressing at annual congregation of the Jagtyal Baladri at Jagti.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi attended the annual congregation of the Jagtyal Baladri held at Devsthan Bawa Mahanu Dev Ji, Jagti (Nagrota), where a large number of devotees gathered to seek blessings of Bawa Mahanu Dev Ji.

The religious event began with a Hawan and Pooja, followed by a Bhandara (community feast). Over a thousand Baladri members along with their families participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi extended greet-

ings to the Jagtyal Baladri and lauded their efforts in preserving age-old traditions and community unity.

He urged devotees to uphold the spiritual and cultural heritage of the region, emphasizing that such congregations strengthen the social fabric of society. Appealing to the gathering, Sethi called upon the people of Nagrota constituency to extend their full support to BJP candidate Devyani Rana in the upcoming Assembly elections.

He said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has brought unprecedented development, peace, and progress across

Jammu and Kashmir. It is now our duty to strengthen his vision by supporting the BJP and ensuring Nagrota becomes a model constituency."

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government, Sethi cited the implementation of welfare schemes, improved infrastructure, women empowerment initiatives, and youth-oriented employment programs as examples of the Centre's commitment to inclusive development. Taking a strong dig at the National Conference (NC) and Congress, Sethi accused both parties of neglecting the Nagrota constituency for decades. He said that the region remained deprived of basic infrastructure and employment opportunities due to their indifference and lack of vision.

Sethi reaffirmed BJP's commitment to the holistic development of Nagrota and assured that under the leadership of Devyani Rana, the constituency would witness rapid transformation and better public services.

Priya Sethi reviews preparations for '150 Years of Vande Mataram' celebrations

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: J&K BJP Vice-President and former Minister Priya Sethi, who is also the convener of the "150 Years of Vande Mataram" celebrations for Jammu and Kashmir BJP, accompanied by Gopal Mahajan, General Secretary, J&K BJP chaired a meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review the preparations for the upcoming event.

The meeting was also attended by Pawan Sharma, Secretary and Co-Convener of the programme, and several team members including Munish Khajuria, Ravikant, Anil Massom, Ramesh Gupta, Sandhya Gupta, Bharti Gupta, Narinder Singh and others.

Addressing the meeting, Priya Sethi said that the BJP, under the guidance and inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,



J&K BJP Vice-President Priya Sethi chairing party workers meeting.

is organizing this historic celebration across the nation to pay tribute to the soul-stirring national song 'Vande Mataram', which has united generations in the spirit of patriotism and national pride.

She emphasized that the party in Jammu and Kashmir will mark the occasion by organizing a grand function at Maharaja Hari Singh ji Park, Jammu, which will be graced by the presence of senior party leadership.

"The 'Vande Mataram' celebrations are not just an event but a tribute to the cultural and emotional essence of Bharat Mata. It reflects the spirit of unity, sacrifice, and devotion that continues to inspire every Indian," she added.

Gopal Mahajan said that the BJP cadres across the Union Territory will work enthusiastically to make the event a memorable expression of national pride. He said that the event will witness the participation of prominent

social, cultural, and educational representatives, along with enthusiastic citizens.

The celebrations will echo the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' as envisioned by the Prime Minister. This is a moment to remind ourselves of the values and ideals that the song stands for unity, faith, and collective strength, he added.

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Devyani Rana attends cremation of PDD daily wager Shubam Manhas, seeks safety mechanism for maintenance staff

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NAGROTA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate for the upcoming by-elections to the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Devyani Rana, on Monday met the grieving family of Shubham Manhas, a daily wager with the Power Development Department (PDD), who tragically lost his life while performing his duty.

Rana met the grieving family, other mourners and people from the area at the National Highway where they were staging protests over the incident, seeking accountability for negligence.

She also joined the mourners at the cremation ground where the mortal remains of the deceased were consigned to flames amid mantras.

At his residence, Devyani Rana expressed her profound sorrow over the



tragic death, offered condolences and expressed solidarity. She said the loss of Manhas is a huge tragedy for the family and no words can truly ease their pain.

She prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss. Interacting with the mourners, Devyani Rana expressed deep

concern over the growing occurrences of such tragic mishaps involving power department field staff. She said that these repeated incidents point to serious gaps in safety protocols and must be examined at the highest level to evolve a robust and foolproof system that ensures the protection of workers performing

high-risk duties. Rana emphasized that the safety of maintenance and technical staff cannot be compromised under any circumstances, and called for immediate corrective and preventive measures to minimize such accidents in the future. She reiterated that those working tirelessly to maintain essential services deserve a safe and secure work environment, equipped with proper gear, training, and supervision. She further urged the concerned authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to this unfortunate incident, to determine accountability and prevent recurrence. Rana also sought immediate and adequate compensation for the bereaved family, along with all possible institutional support to help them rebuild their lives in this hour of immense loss.