

# LG Kavinder stresses strengthening MSMEs, empowering women SHGs in Ladakh

## STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, stressed the need to strengthen and empower MSMEs in Ladakh, with special emphasis on women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to boost livelihoods and promote Ladakhi handloom and handicraft products.

"Unlocking the full potential of Ladakh's MSME sector will help create a thriving environment for sustainable economic growth," he stated.

Chairing a meeting to review the implementation of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme in the Union Territory, the Lt Governor underscored the crucial role of the MSME sector in promoting local entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities, and driving inclusive growth across Ladakh. He appreciated the efforts being made to align the RAMP scheme with Ladakh's unique socio-economic strengths and cultural heritage.

The Lt Governor lauded local entrepreneurs, artisans, and



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta after the meeting at Leh.

SHG members for taking Ladakh's indigenous products, particularly pashmina, to national and international markets. He reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to fostering skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship among Ladakhi youth.

"Every achievement brings us closer to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. I urge Ladakhi youth to actively engage in entrepreneurship programmes and build their skills through training and capacity-building initiatives," he added.

The meeting was attended by

Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Rudra Goud PT, who presented an overview of the RAMP scheme and its potential to enhance credit access, market linkages, technology adoption, and institutional capacity for MSMEs.

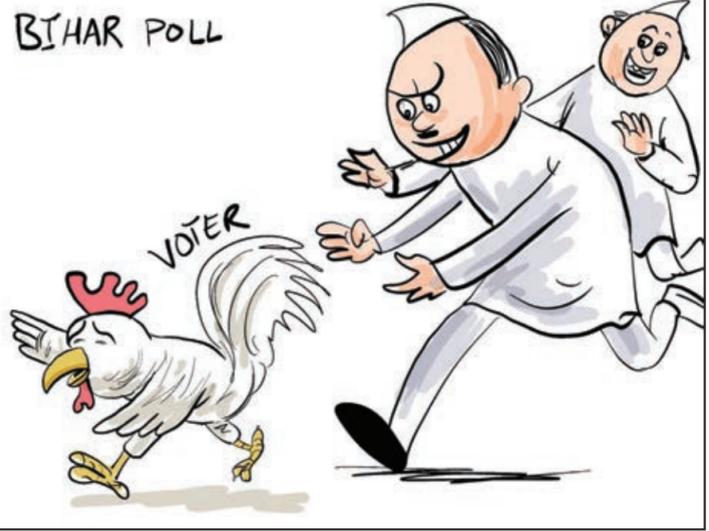
He also highlighted the Ladakh Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) as the guiding framework for RAMP implementation, aimed at ensuring innovation-driven and sustainable MSME growth in the UT. Amit Kumar Dwivedi, Regional Director (Northern Region), Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India

(EDI)-the Project Management Unit (PMU) for the scheme-outlined the ongoing initiatives under the Enterprising Ladakh programme. The programme focuses on promoting entrepreneurship in higher education institutions and local communities through education, training, and advisory support.

Dwivedi detailed a series of interventions planned for Ladakh's MSMEs, including buyer-seller meets, Brand Ladakh stalls at airports, MSME facilitation desks, branding and marketing workshops for artisans, training for

women SHGs, e-commerce awareness, business incubators for fruit and yak-based products, support for the hospitality sector; and digital promotion platforms for Ladakh's unique offerings. Funding has been earmarked for the successful rollout of these activities, which will be implemented in collaboration with the Department of Industries and Commerce, UT Ladakh. The Lt Governor directed officials to ensure that all initiatives under RAMP are executed efficiently and inclusively to empower local entrepreneurs and strengthen the region's economic resilience.

## BIHAR POLL



# Yudhvir Sethi holds Public Darbar, listens to public issues

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To strengthen public outreach and address grievances at the grassroots level, MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, today held a Public Darbar at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni, where he interacted with a large number of residents, traders, and representatives of various local organizations.

The programme was aimed at resolving civic, infrastructural, and administrative issues faced by the people of Jammu East constituency.

During the interactive session, locals raised concerns related to drainage systems, sanitation, street lighting, and the need for better civic amenities.

Representatives from different wards also brought forth issues of traffic congestion, parking facilities, and encroachments in congested areas.

The Darbar was attended by Secretary BJP Jammu District Perveen Kerni, BJP Mandal President Amphalla Swati Sharma, along with party members, who extended their support and coordinated the event to ensure smooth interaction between



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi listening to issues at Public Darbar.

the MLA and residents.

Yudhvir Sethi gave patient hearing to all delegations and directed officials from the concerned departments to ensure speedy redressal of genuine grievances.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that the Public Darbar initiative is an important platform for direct communication between the public and their elected representatives.

"The BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah is fully committed to ensuring good governance and citizen-centric administration. My aim is to take the

government's welfare schemes and development initiatives to every doorstep," he stated.

He further added that developmental works in Jammu East are progressing at a rapid pace under various schemes such as Smart City Mission, AMRUT, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

"Our focus remains on strengthening civic infrastructure, promoting cleanliness, and enhancing public facilities. We are working tirelessly to make Jammu a model constituency," Sethi said.

The MLA also emphasized that feedback from citizens helps in identifying

local issues more effectively and ensures better coordination between public representatives and administrative departments.

"Public participation is the foundation of democracy, and such interactions ensure transparency and accountability in governance," he remarked.

Yudhvir Sethi assured the gathering that all genuine issues will be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt resolution. He also appealed to the public to cooperate with government agencies in maintaining cleanliness and preserving the heritage of Jammu.

# Judicial Inquiry Commission urges public to submit evidence on Sept 24 Leh incident

## STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Judicial Inquiry Commission held a press briefing on Thursday at the Commission Office, ADR Centre, Melongthang, Leh.

The briefing was addressed by the Administrative Secretary of the Commission, Tushar Anand, and the Joint Secretary to the Commission, Rigzin Spalgon. They urged the public to submit any evidence related to the law-and-order incident that occurred in Leh on September 24, 2025.

During the briefing, officials informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a Judicial Inquiry Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Justice B.S. Chauhan, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.



They further stated that Mohan Singh Parihar has been appointed as the Judicial Secretary to the Inquiry Commission, Tushar Anand as the Administrative Secretary, and Rigzin Spalgon as the Joint Secretary. The officials noted that the Commission commenced its proceedings on

October 27, 2025, marking the formal beginning of the investigation. Subsequently, on October 28, 2025, the Commission issued a public notice inviting individuals, organisations, and witnesses possessing any relevant evidence, oral, written, or electronic, regarding the September 24 incident, to submit the same at the ADR Centre, New Court Complex, Melongthang, Leh, by November 28, 2025.

To ensure maximum public outreach and participation, the public notice was published in both Ladakhi and Urdu languages, enabling citizens from diverse backgrounds to access and respond to the inquiry process.

The Judicial Inquiry Commission reiterated its appeal to the public to submit any evidence related to the incident on or before November 28, 2025.

# PCJ Secretary General condemns rise of 'blackmailing' portals in Jammu, calls for strict action

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing serious concern over the growing menace of blackmailing digital portals operating under the guise of journalism, Dinesh Manhotra, Secretary General of the Press Club of Jammu (PCJ), has called for strict action against unregistered and extortionist online platforms that are tarnishing the image of genuine media professionals.

Referring to the recent STATE TIMES expose titled 'Blackmailing Portals on Rise in Jammu; FIR Lodged against 'The Daily Truth News' for Extortion Attempt wherein he demanded Rs 20,000 for deleting a video from his unauthorised portal," Manhotra lauded the publication for what he described as "commendable and courageous journalism" that exposed fake reporters misusing digital platforms for personal gain.

"This blackmailer reporter of 'The Daily Truth News' portal, identified as Shubham Manswalia alias Shivam, is already facing criminal charges in a snatching case under Section 382 of the IPC, with FIR No. 91/2023 registered

at Channi Himmat Police Station. This clearly exposes his true character as a habitual offender masquerading as a journalist. Such elements must face the strictest legal action to protect the integrity of the media profession," Manhotra asserted.

Manhotra warned that the proliferation of unregistered and unethical digital portals has led to increased cases of blackmail, harassment, and defamation, bringing disrepute to the media fraternity. He also appreciated Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's direction to act tough against fake journalists and ensure that only bona fide media professionals are recognized and engaged by government departments.

"The Lieutenant Governor's firm stance against fake journalists is a welcome step. It is essential to distinguish between true journalists committed to public service and those exploiting digital media for personal gain," Manhotra said.

"The exposure of such fraudulent individuals, including Shubham of The Daily Truth News, is a wake-up call for the authorities to act decisively against

those who exploit the name of journalism for extortion and intimidation," PCJ Secretary General Dinesh Manhotra said.

He cautioned that the unchecked proliferation of unregistered portals and YouTube channels in the region poses a serious threat to the credibility of legitimate media and has led to growing instances of harassment, defamation, and blackmail.

"These self-styled 'digital journalists' neither follow ethical journalism nor hold any legal recognition. They misuse social media platforms to blackmail businessmen, officials, and common citizens under the pretext of news reporting," Manhotra stated, adding that such practices have brought disrepute to the noble profession of journalism.

The Press Club of Jammu, he said, strongly supports ethical, responsible, and fact-based journalism and will continue to raise its voice against those who bring shame to the media fraternity.

Manhotra has raised a serious question regarding the process through which unregistered portal editors are being issued Assembly entry cards. He

questioned how individuals or online unregistered platforms without proper verification are gaining access to such privileges, which are meant exclusively for recognized media organizations and accredited journalists.

Manhotra emphasized that this practice not only undermines the credibility of professional journalism but also poses a potential security risk within sensitive government institutions.

He urged the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and registered FIR against Shubham for demanding Rs 20,000 to delete the video.

"The government must immediately identify and initiate legal proceedings against unregistered digital news platforms operating without authorization. A regulatory mechanism is essential to protect both the freedom of the press and the public from extortionists posing as journalists," Manhotra emphasized.

He also urged law enforcement agencies to ensure speedy investigation and strict punishment for offenders involved in such cases, while commending STATE TIMES for taking a bold stand in defense of journalistic integrity.

# Daily wagers march to CM's residence in Jammu, demand regularisation

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Demanding regularisation, implementation of minimum wages and release of pending payments, daily wagers marched towards Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's residence here on Thursday, prompting police to stop them and detain their leader.

All Daily Wagers Jammu Kashmir Sangarsh Samiti, a conglomeration of daily wagers, daily-rated employees, and ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers, has been demanding regularisation, the release of pending payments, and the implementation of minimum wages.

Led by Samiti's Chairman Sunny Kant Chib, scores of daily wagers and casual workers from several departments, including women, took to the streets to protest against the Omar Abdullah-led government for failing to address their long-pending "genuine



Daily wagers taking out protest rally in Jammu.

demands". Raising slogans against the chief minister and the government, they marched towards the CM's residence on the Residency Road but were stopped by a large police contingent at Shaheedi Chowk.

The police detained Chib, prompting women workers to sit on a dharna at the chowk, seeking an audience with the chief minister to address their demands.

"We have been demanding

regularisation of hundreds of daily wagers, release of wages of a large number of casual workers and implementation of minimum wages, but the government has done nothing," Chib told reporters before his detention.

He said that injustice has been done to hundreds of daily wagers and casual workers for years. "We wanted to meet the CM to urge him to address this concern," he said.

# Priya Sethi appeals people to join Vande Mataram@150 celebrations across J&K

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Vice-President and former Minister Priya Sethi, Abhiyan Incharge for programmes to be conducted by BJP under the Vande Mataram@150, urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to enthusiastically participate in the ongoing Vande Mataram@150 Abhiyan being celebrated across the Union Territory to mark 150 years of the historic national song.

Priya Sethi appealed to citizens to join the mega event scheduled to be held at Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Park on the banks of River Tawi on Friday, dedicated to celebrating the undying spirit of Vande Mataram.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, along with Abhiyan Co-Incharge Pawan Sharma and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge J&K BJP, Priya Sethi said that under



BJP Vice-President Priya Sethi briefing media.

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has decided to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram as a national event and transform it into a nationwide public awareness campaign.

Sethi said that under the guidance of BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda, a series of collective Vande Mataram singing programmes will be held across India from November 7 to November 26-Constitution Day. The national song will

be sung at 150 prominent locations including Kargil War Memorial, Cellular Jail (Andaman & Nicobar Islands), Somnath, Statue of Unity, Gateway of India, and Namoo Ghat. Schools and colleges will also organize essay, poetry, and painting competitions themed on the freedom struggle to revive patriotic fervour among students.

Recalling the glorious history of Vande Mataram, Priya Sethi said that this song became the soul of India's freedom movement,

a mantra that inspired countless revolutionaries like Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to sacrifice everything for the nation. The words of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and the rendition by Rabindranath Tagore ignited the flame of nationalism that ultimately freed our motherland, she added.

Priya Sethi emphasized that this campaign is a tribute to the great revolutionaries of India's independence movement, honoring their supreme sacrifices and inspiring the youth to uphold unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation. She lamented that Vande Mataram had faced unwarranted objections and political intolerance over the decades but said that under PM Modi's leadership, "the song once again echoes as the anthem of India's cultural identity and national pride."

# Others parties in contest against Devyani Rana will forfeit deposits: Zorawar

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Spokesperson Zorawar Singh Jamwal on Thursday asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party is heading for a historic and record-breaking victory in the upcoming Assembly elections from the Nagrota constituency, with party candidate Devyani Rana set to "forfeit the bails" of her rivals from the other parties. In a statement issued here, Zorawar said that the massive public response to BJP's door-to-door campaign in Nagrota constituency reflects people's overwhelming faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and their determination to carry forward his vision of a prosperous and developed Jammu and Kashmir.

"Every household in Nagrota is echoing with the slogan of Modi's guarantee, and the people are ready to give a decisive mandate to BJP's young and dynamic candidate Devyani Rana," he stated. Zorawar said that people of Nagrota are emotionally connected with the legacy of late Devender Singh Rana, and they see in Devyani Rana a leader capable of fulfilling his dreams of transforming Nagrota into a model constituency of Jammu and Kashmir.

"By voting for Devyani Rana, people



will not only ensure the victory of BJP but will also pay their heartfelt tributes to late Devender Singh Rana, who dedicated his life to the development and upliftment of this region," he said.

He further added that the enthusiasm among voters, especially the first-time and second-time voters as well as senior citizens, is unprecedented.

"The people of Nagrota, cutting across age and section, are eagerly waiting for November 11 to cast their votes in favour of the BJP. Their resolve to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to witness the realization of 'Viksit Bharat' at the grassroots level is stronger than ever," Jamwal emphasized. Highlighting the ongoing outreach campaign, the BJP leader

informed that Devyani Rana's door-to-door interactions have generated tremendous response across all Panchayats and urban pockets of the constituency. "Her humble approach, clear vision, and deep commitment to development have struck a chord with every section of society. The people have already made up their minds, and the results on November 11 will reflect the people's confidence in BJP's agenda of progress, peace, and prosperity," he added. Confident of a sweeping victory, Zorawar declared, "The way people are responding to BJP's campaign clearly indicates that Devyani Rana will register a record margin of victory in Nagrota constituency. The other opposition parties stand completely rejected by the electorate."