

UT administration committed to building a self-reliant, inclusive, prosperous Ladakh: LG Kavinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to building a self-reliant and economically empowered Ladakh, where every citizen has access to opportunities for growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

He said that the vision of Atmanirbhar Ladakh can only be realized through inclusive development, ensuring participation of women, youth, artisans, and marginalized communities. "Economic empowerment is the key to self-reliance, and every step taken today will shape the future of Ladakh as a model of sustainable development," he stated.

The Lt Governor was speaking at the Loan Distribution Ceremony organized by the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO) at the Rural Development Department Hall, Agling, Leh.

Addressing beneficiaries and entrepreneurs, he said the event marks a milestone in Ladakh's journey toward financial inclusion and self-sufficiency. He appreciated SIDCO



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta speaking at a programme.

for successfully implementing schemes that encourage citizens to move from dependency to entrepreneurship.

Highlighting Ladakh's economic growth, Gupta informed that over 13,600 MSME units have been established, creating employment for more than 50,000 individuals.

Additionally, 147 Industrial Estate Units are now operational, generating new opportunities for local manufacturing and small-scale industries. These achievements, he said, reflect the determination of Ladakh's

people to drive the Union Territory's progress.

The Lt Governor commended SIDCO for promoting empowerment among weaker sections, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, minorities, persons with disabilities, and sanitation workers.

He lauded SIDCO's initiatives such as the Virasat Scheme for traditional artisans, the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSJ) for empowering tribal women, and the Educational Loan Scheme for students. Loans are being provided at

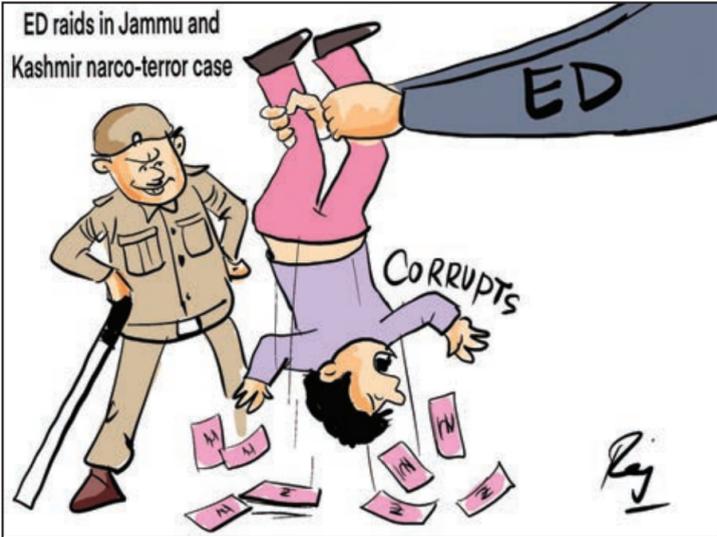
concessional rates between 4% and 10%, ensuring wider access to credit.

He further informed that 89 beneficiaries in Leh and 48 in Kargil have been approved for loans worth Rs 16.17 crore. Additionally, 4,188 artisans have been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, while 'Brand Ladakh' showrooms in Leh and Delhi are showcasing Made in Ladakh products. Under SIDCO's programmes, Rs 1.19 crore has been provided as seed capital to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Encouraging youth to become job creators, Gupta urged them to leverage government initiatives such as PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, and Start-Up India.

Concluding, he said, "Each beneficiary must treat this loan not just as support but as a responsibility to fulfill their dreams and contribute to Ladakh's progress."

The ceremony also featured addresses by Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary, IAS, and Senior Managing Director Sonam Norboo, with officials including Secretary Higher Education Bhanu Prabha, and DC Leh Romil Singh Donk, in attendance.



'I am in love with AIIMS Jammu,' says Dr. Krishnan Ganapathy

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu hosted Dr. Krishnan Ganapathy, M Ch (Neurosurgery), FACS, FICS, FAMS, PhD - a Distinguished Professor at Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, and a globally acclaimed pioneer in Telemedicine and Digital Health.

A visionary in the field, Dr. Ganapathy has been instrumental in introducing telemedicine and digital healthcare solutions across India, serving as the former President of the Telemedicine Society of India and the Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation.

During his week-long visit to AIIMS Jammu from 31st October to 7th November 2025, Dr. Ganapathy interacted with faculty, residents, and students through a series of thought-provoking lectures on Work-Life Balance in the Medical Profession, Role of Technology in Healthcare 2030-A Peep into the Future, and Neurosurgery in India: Past, Present & Future.

The highlight of his visit was the Institute Oration delivered on 6th November 2025 at the Convention Centre, AIIMS Vijaypur, on the topic "AI in Healthcare: A



ED & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta honouring Dr. Krishnan Ganapathy.

Clinician's Perspective." He emphasized that Artificial Intelligence should be viewed as "augmented intelligence," assisting clinicians to make more informed, efficient, and compassionate decisions rather than replacing them.

Impressed by the institute's modern infrastructure and technological capabilities, Dr. Ganapathy said, "I am in love with AIIMS Jammu. The infrastructure, the technological advancements, and the commitment of its leadership are truly impressive. If given an opportunity to collaborate, I would be delighted to contribute to this remarkable institution."

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director &

CEO, AIIMS Jammu, extended a welcome and appreciation to Dr. Ganapathy.

He remarked, "Dr. Ganapathy's oration has been deeply inspiring for our students and faculty. His pioneering contributions to Telemedicine and his vision for a digitally empowered healthcare system align perfectly with AIIMS Jammu's mission of integrating technology with compassionate care."

The event was attended by faculty members, residents, nursing officers, and students, who expressed immense appreciation for Dr. Ganapathy's insightful address and his words of encouragement for AIIMS Jammu's growing legacy.

Dr Jitendra leads 'Vande Matram' march on IB Zero Line, announces land compensation

STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: As part of the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram", Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday led a Vande Mataram padyatra in the border village of Londi More, near the Zero Line on the International Border (IB) in Hiranagar sector, Kathua district. The event was organized to celebrate the national song's historic legacy and inspire patriotic unity among citizens.

Dr Jitendra Singh, joined by a large gathering of BSF jawans, students, youth, women, local residents, and police personnel, led the padyatra from Primary School, Londi More, to Border Out Post (BOP) Tapan amid the resonant chants of "Vande Mataram"



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh participating in Padyatra to mark 150 Years of the national song "Vande Mataram", in the far-flung border area of Hiranagar, Kathua on Friday.

and rhythmic beating of drums. The Minister said the celebration was held in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directive to observe nationwide celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the national song.

Addressing the gathering at BOP Tapan, Dr Jitendra

Singh highlighted the profound historical and emotional significance of "Vande Mataram", saying it embodied India's strength, prosperity, and divinity while inspiring unity and self-respect during the freedom struggle. "Vande Mataram gave poetic expression to India's awakening spirit and became an

enduring symbol of devotion to the nation," he said.

The Minister announced several developmental and welfare measures for border residents, including the Government of India's decision to compensate locals who donated their land for the establishment of BSF pickets and security posts near the Indo-Pak border. He informed that the district administration has been directed to finalize the modalities for disbursing financial aid to these beneficiaries.

In a significant announcement, Dr Jitendra Singh revealed that the government has approved the creation of an all-woman battalion for border areas, with recruitment to begin soon. This, he said, will enhance women's participation in national service and

strengthen border security.

Paying rich tributes to the Border Security Force, Dr Jitendra said, "It is because of the alertness and dedication of our jawans that citizens across the nation sleep peacefully. This padyatra is a humble gesture of gratitude to their unwavering nationalist spirit."

He further noted that launching the celebration from the Zero Line in Kathua symbolizes the unity of citizens with the nation's defenders. He also highlighted that the ongoing commemorations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 100th birth anniversary reaffirm the government's resolve to honour India's national icons and uphold their legacy of unity and integrity.

Spirit of Bharat cannot be silenced by regressive voices: Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid the ongoing debate over the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, BJP J&K Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta strongly defended the national song, terming it the "soul of Bharat" and a "sacred expression of unity and patriotism."

Condemning objections raised by certain religious and political groups, Gupta said that Vande Mataram transcends religious boundaries and symbolizes India's civilizational ethos.

"Vande Mataram is not merely a song but a sacred expression of India's unity, culture, and freedom struggle," Gupta said. "It inspired revolutionaries to lay down their lives for the nation. It is the soul of Bharat, not a symbol of division. Every citizen, irrespective of faith, owes respect to the motherland."

Calling the opposition to the song's celebration "unfortunate and misplaced," Gupta accused certain vested interests of viewing national symbols through a communal lens.



"Those who divide patriotism on religious lines insult the sacrifices of freedom fighters who gave their lives chanting Vande Mataram," he added. "The spirit of Bharat cannot be silenced by regressive voices."

Aligning his remarks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national vision, the BJP spokesperson said the message of Vande Mataram perfectly reflects the Prime Minister's philosophy of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

"Prime Minister Modi's vision emphasizes unity in diversity and respect for all faiths while keeping the nation first. No ideology, however rigid, can stand above the idea of India," Gupta asserted.

He urged people across Jammu and Kashmir and the nation to participate in the Vande Mataram commemorations with pride and enthusiasm, calling it a moment to "reaffirm our faith in the unity and integrity of the nation." "Celebrating Vande Mataram is celebrating Bharat itself," Gupta concluded.

BJP J&K commemorates 150th Anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' with programmes in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir commemorated the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' with an event held at Rajbagh, Srinagar.

J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul and former President, J&K BJP Ravinder Raina were the chief guests on the occasion.

Among other prominent leaders present were State Vice President Dr Shehnaaz Ganie, Secretary Arif Raja, Social Media Co-Incharge & Programme Incharge Sajjad Raina, and Media Incharge Kashmir, Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah, State Spokespersons Altaf Thakur & Sahil Bashir Bhat, District President Srinagar Sheikh Salman



BJP senior leaders attending 'Vande Mataram' event at Srinagar.

along with other district presidents and senior party leaders.

While addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul said, "Vande Mataram", which served as a motto for the country's independence, inspired millions of revolutionaries. Many freedom fighters went to the gallows

while chanting 'Vande Mataram' and endured the oppression of foreign invaders. It emerged as a powerful mantra for India's liberation from the British."

Koul further highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp and coin on this historic occasion,

and also launched a dedicated portal marking the 150th anniversary of the National Song 'Vande Mataram'.

He added that the celebrations witnessed mass singing of the full version of 'Vande Mataram' across public spaces with enthusiastic participation from citizens across all walks of life, in conjunction with the main programme.

Prime Minister Modi himself participated in the mass singing event held at the IGI Stadium, reflecting the emotional and patriotic fervour attached to the day.

Addressing the party workers and the media, Ravinder Raina passionately raised his voice in solidarity, proclaiming, "Vande Mataram! With unwavering pride and conviction, he

said, "Today, as we gather here, we are not just united by a political cause, but by the deep-rooted love and respect we have for our motherland. It is the spirit of our nation its cultural heritage and its glorious future that motivates us every day. Let us continue working with dedication and determination, ensuring that the ideals of our great country freedom, unity, and progress remain the guiding lights of our mission. Together, we will overcome every challenge and take our nation to greater heights."

Later, BJP leaders and workers took a pledge to adopt Swadeshi and promote local products, reinforcing the spirit of self-reliance and national pride that 'Vande Mataram' symbolises.

Press Club of Kathua condemns rise of 'blackmailing' portals; seeks strict action against fake journalists

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Expressing serious concern over the growing menace of blackmailing digital portals operating under the garb of journalism, the Press Club of Kathua has called for stringent action against all unregistered and extortionist online platforms tarnishing the reputation of the media fraternity.

In a strongly worded statement issued today, Press Club of Kathua President Sanjay Pathak said that the unchecked proliferation of fake and unregistered news portals has become a major threat to ethical journalism.

"These self-styled digital reporters are misusing social media platforms to defame, harass, and blackmail individuals, government officials, and businessmen under the pretext of journalism. Such acts not only damage public trust but also bring shame to the noble profession," he said.

Referring to the recent STATE

- ▶ Fake portals bringing disrepute to journalism
- ▶ Unregistered portals pose threat to media credibility
- ▶ Concern over Assembly Entry cards to fake portals

TIMES expose revealing how an unregistered portal - The Daily Truth News - was involved in an extortion attempt by demanding Rs 20,000 for deleting a video, the President said, "This is not an isolated incident - it reflects a disturbing trend where unverified individuals exploit digital platforms for personal gain. Strict legal action must be taken against such offenders."

He appreciated STATE TIMES for its fearless and responsible journalism in exposing such fraudulent elements and urged law enforcement agencies to take note of the growing misuse of digital media for blackmailing in the name of journalism.

The President of Press Club of Kathua stressed that the govern-

ment must immediately formulate a regulatory mechanism to identify and penalize unregistered portals operating without authorization. "A clear distinction should be made between genuine journalists committed to ethical reporting and those using media as a tool for extortion," he emphasized.

The Kathua Press club also endorsed the statement, asserting that only accredited and recognized media professionals should be allowed access to government and institutional events.

Welcoming the Lieutenant Governor's firm stance against fake journalists, the President said it was a much-needed step to uphold the sanctity of the media profession. "It is essential to distinguish between true jour-

nalists committed to public service and those exploiting digital platforms for personal gain," he stated.

Pathak described the STATE TIMES expose as a "wake-up call" for the authorities to act decisively against those who misuse journalism for extortion and intimidation.

He further cautioned that the unchecked rise of unregistered portals and YouTube channels poses a serious threat to legitimate media credibility, leading to increased cases of harassment, defamation, and blackmail.

"These self-styled 'digital journalists' neither adhere to ethics nor possess any legal recognition. They misuse social media to target businessmen, officials, and common citizens under the pretext of reporting," he said, adding that such unethical practices have brought disrepute to the noble profession of journalism.

Raising serious questions over unregistered portal operators

being issued Assembly entry cards, the President PCK said, "It is alarming that individuals or online platforms without verification or accreditation are gaining access to privileges meant exclusively for recognized journalists. This not only undermines professional credibility but also poses a potential security risk to government institutions."

Reiterating the Club's commitment, the President Sanjay Pathak said the Press Club of Kathua will continue to uphold the values of truthful, ethical, and fact-based journalism. He urged authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and register FIRs against those involved in blackmail and extortion attempts, ensuring that such offenders face strict legal consequences.

"The Press Club of Kathua stands united against those who malign the credibility of the media profession for blackmailing and extortion," the statement concluded.

JKSTD organises workshop on GST Prime Analytics Tool, e-Way Portal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir State Taxes Department (JKSTD) on Friday conducted a comprehensive one-day orientation workshop on the GST Prime Analytics Tool and e-Way Portal for officers of the department at Excise and Taxation Complex here.

The workshop was graced by P. V. Bhat, Scientific Director, e-Way Bill and GST Prime Portal, who delivered an insightful session on the advanced features and practical applications of the GST Prime Analytics Tool and the e-Way Portal.

He highlighted various utility tools designed to streamline compliance, enhance data analytics, and improve operational efficiency for tax administration.

He also addressed queries raised by the participating officers, providing clarity on technical and procedural aspects.

The event was presided over by Commissioner, State Taxes Department, P K Bhat. In his address, he commended the resource person and participants for their active engagement. Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Jammu), Namrita Dogra, in her welcome address emphasized on the importance of digital tools in modern tax governance and the department's commitment to capacity building.

All Deputy Commissioners of Enforcement wing, Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Officers (STOs) from both the Divisions, including those from outstation locations, participated in the workshop through virtual mode, ensuring wide outreach and inclusivity.

Perthently, the workshop marks a significant step towards empowering tax officials with cutting-edge digital tools to strengthen GST compliance and enforcement in the region.