

LG Kavinder reaffirms his commitment to preserve Ladakh's Cultural Legacy

Meets Thiksey Rinpoche; discusses Ladakh's development roadmap

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday attended the annual Thiksey Gustor Festival at the historic Thiksey Monastery, a vibrant celebration that upholds Ladakh's timeless spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Thiksey Gustor, renowned for its sacred masked dances (Chhams) and ancient monastic rituals, symbolises the victory of good over evil and spreads a universal message of peace, harmony, and compassion.

In his address, the Lt Governor observed that monastic festivals like Thiksey Gustor are living testaments to Ladakh's rich cultural and spiritual legacy, embodying centuries-old tra-



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta meeting His Eminence Thiksey Rinpoche at Leh.

ditions, beliefs, and social values.

"The vibrant culture of Ladakh, deeply rooted in Tibetan Buddhism, is a living tradition that touches every visitor to this land. Festivals like Thiksey Gustor are not mere spectacles—they are soulful expressions of our heritage and the enduring wisdom of our ancestors," the Lt Governor said.

He further underlined the pivotal role of monasteries in sustaining Ladakh's identity,

noting that they serve as centres of faith, education, and community life. "Monks not only embody but also impart the teachings of Lord Buddha-of ahimsa, compassion, and moral discipline-guiding society toward harmony and self-awareness. Monasteries are the spiritual heartbeats of Ladakh, nurturing peace and collective consciousness," he added.

During the ceremony, the Lt Governor met His Eminence Thiksey Rinpoche and received his blessings for lasting peace, prosperity, and development in Ladakh. He was accompanied by First Lady Bindu Gupta.

The Lt Governor also interacted with community members and spoke about Ladakh's developmental priorities, emphasising environ-

mental preservation, safeguarding of cultural heritage, and empowering the youth through education and innovation.

The Thiksey Gustor Festival continues to attract devotees, pilgrims, and visitors from across the region and beyond, offering an immersive spiritual experience through its mesmerising mask dances, intricate sand mandalas, and profound symbolic rituals-celebrating the eternal triumph of light over darkness.

DC reviews progress of RDD works under Distt Capex

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas on Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Rural Development Department works being executed under District Capex and flagship schemes - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). Dr. Minhas conducted a block-wise review of ongoing rural development works and directed officers to ensure achievement of targets under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and SBM(G). He also



DC Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas chairing meeting in Jammu.

instructed to initiate works promoting village sanitation and rural livelihood enhancement. DC issued strict directions to expedite expenditure under the District Capex budget, ensuring that all RDD works allotted are executed without delay. He emphasised

that land related issues must be resolved on priority by the concerned Tehsildars to avoid delays in execution. Officers were also instructed to take up supplementary plan works immediately and ensure timely completion of all projects on the ground.

Yudhvir Sethi starts lane and drain work at Baba Lal Ji Gali in Ward No 3

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant step toward improving civic infrastructure, Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi today inaugurated essential lane and drain development work with the cost of Rs 8.50 lakh at Baba Lal Ji Gali, Ward No. 3 of the Jammu East Constituency. The project aims to strengthen basic amenities and provide better facilities to the residents of the area.

Yudhvir Sethi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav for his proactive support and commitment toward the city's development. He added that such coordination between elected representatives and administrative officials is key to achieving the shared vision of a clean, progressive, and well-developed Jammu East Constituency.



Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating lane and drain development work.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by JB Saksham, Ajesh Sharma, Adnesh Jatiar, Narotam Sharma, Anu Radha Sharma, Sanjeev Verma, Sanjay Abrol, Preeti, Rakesh Sharma, Amit Khanna, Subash Sharma and Ajay (Lucky) besides ward representatives, and prominent citizens of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that the developmental works are part of his commitment to ensuring all-round progress in every ward of Jammu East constituency.

He emphasized that civic development, sanitation, and improved drainage systems are vital for a healthy and comfortable living environment. "Our focus is to provide lasting infrastructure solutions that directly benefit the common people. The work being initiated today is a step toward making Baba Lal Ji Gali cleaner, safer, and more accessible," he added.

He further said that the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prioritized development at the grassroots level through various schemes and urban renewal missions.

"We are ensuring that no lane or locality is left behind in terms of progress. The people of Jammu East have always supported development-oriented politics, and together, we are shaping a modern, vibrant Jammu East Constituency," Sethi stated.

Local residents expressed gratitude to Yudhvir Sethi for his consistent efforts in addressing civic issues and initiating timely infrastructure upgrades.

They said that the new drainage and lane works will resolve long-standing problems related to waterlogging and uneven roads, improving daily convenience for the people.

Yudhvir Sethi assured the gathering that more developmental projects will soon be taken up to ensure comprehensive improvement across Jammu East. "Development is our identity, and people's satisfaction is our strength," Yudhvir Sethi remarked while interacting with locals.

Neglected regions received their due under Modi, Nagrota got IIT, IIM: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JINDRAH: Union Minister and senior BJP leader Dr Jitendra Singh said on Saturday that the earlier governments and the elected representatives from far flung areas like Nagrota in Jammu & Kashmir, had not only deliberately neglected the region, but also consciously exercised discrimination as a part of appeasement policy to keep a certain vote bank in good humour.

It was only after Narendra Modi came as Prime Minister in 2014 that the decades of discrimination ended, said Dr Jitendra, and the region started getting its due and legitimate share.

Addressing a mammoth byelection rally here in support of the BJP candidate Devyani Rana, Dr Jitendra noted that it was only in the last eleven or twelve years that even a backward place like Nagrota became a part of India's mainstream region and witnessed overnight transformation with the opening up of high profile institutions like the IIT and IIM, one after the other.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing BJP election rally at Jindrah in Nagrota.

Dr Jitendra hailed Jugal Kishore Sharma MP and Nand Kishore District President as senior committed leaders who had stood by the party in most difficult times despite all temptations from the then ruling parties and who had mobilised the party cadre to pull out this region from the dubious state of backwardness and

under-development. Recalling the state of affairs before, for the first time, Jugal Kishore was elected as a BJP MLA, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the main road to Jindrah was in a shambles and the water scarcity was so acute that people here had never even seen a tubewell.

Dr Singh said, connectivity and delivery of basic services has been significantly improved to bring Jammu and Kashmir at par with the rest of India. He said, the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway corridor, passing through Nagrota, is nearing completion and will reduce travel time to just about least six hours or so for Delhi.

The Modi government has sought to change the political culture to reach out to those who need us the most without consideration of vote bank, said Dr Jitendra Singh and cited schemes like PM Ujjwala yojana for

woman which provided a gas cylinder to every needy housewife regardless of whom she had voted for PM Awas Yojana providing a house to homeless regardless of whom the householders voted for.

Stating that BJP has brought fruits of development to the doorstep of every section of society, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the party does not engage in vote bank politics. He said, the party believes in justice for all, rising above narrow considerations of caste, creed and region. He said Prime Minister Modi ushered in a new culture of governance to ensure equitable development of all regions.

Making a special appeal to the youth, whom he described as key voters of today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the youth today has a mind of his own which cannot be swayed easily and therefore he was not here to persuade the youth through any political jargon, but he

wanted them to go home and ask themselves where their future was safe and promising, and they will themselves draw the conclusion that there was no better alternative than a party which was led by Modi, guided by Modi and also whose each worker was accountable for his or her performance.

Striking a personal cord with the voters, Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed that his grandmother Durga Devi, who passed away 25 years back at the age of around 93, hailed from Jindrah. That was early 20th century, he recalled, when a girl child was painfully deprived of the attention or grooming available to her male siblings.

Senior BJP leaders, including MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, party's district president Nand Kishore Sharma, MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Dr Manyal and Dr Bhagat were among those who also addressed the rally.

Fake news portals tarnishing journalism's image: PCJ's founder member M K Bangroo demands crackdown on 'Blackmail Media'

Former PTI Chief backs strong legal action; warns against misuse of Assembly access

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Voicing grave concern over the unchecked rise of unregistered and blackmailing digital platforms, a senior journalist from Jammu and Kashmir and founder member of Press Club of Jammu (PCJ) M K Bangroo on Saturday has called for immediate government intervention to safeguard the integrity of journalism and protect citizens from online extortion in the name of news.

In a strongly worded statement, Bangroo said that the proliferation of unverified "news" portals and self-styled digital reporters has reached alarming proportions.

"Many of these portals operate without registration, without accountability, and purely for personal gain and

to blackmail businessmen, government officials and politicians. Their activities are eroding public trust and bringing disrepute to the noble profession of journalism," Bangroo said.

Citing the recent STATE TIMES expose of an unregistered portal - The Daily Truth News - whose operator allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 to delete a video, the former PTI chief M K said such cases are a "symptom of a deeper rot" in the unregulated online media ecosystem.

He lauded STATE TIMES for its "fearless and responsible journalism" in exposing blackmailers masquerading as reporters, and urged law enforcement agencies to launch strict action against similar offenders across the

Union Territory. "A clear distinction must be drawn between genuine journalists devoted to public service and those exploiting media access for blackmail and intimidation," Bangroo emphasized.

Echoing with the senior journalists' voice against the working of the portal was exposed when snatcher cum blackmailer reporter Shubham, who claimed to be a journalist, demanded Rs 20,000 to delete a video posted on The Daily Truth News - an act that clearly amounts to blackmail and extortion, M.K. Bangroo, founder of the Press Club of Jammu and former PTI Chief, expressed serious concern over the erosion of media ethics and unchecked misuse of digital platforms.

This development has sent shockwaves through the journalistic community, particularly as one of the portal's so-called "reporter", Shubham, who was already booked by Channi Himmat Police in snatching case in the year 2023 under Section 382 IPC. The case is under judicial consideration in the court of law.

Bangroo further said, "The journalism we built was founded on truth, credibility, and accountability. These unregistered blackmail portals are a disgrace to the profession and a danger to society. The government must act firmly before this disease spreads further," Bangroo said.

Bangroo also questioned how certain unregistered portals and self-proclaimed

reporters managed to secure Assembly entry cards, terming it a "serious breach of professional norms and potential security risk."

"Granting such access to unverified individuals not only undermines accredited media but also threatens institutional security," he warned.

Moreover, it is very strange that within unregulated digital media operations, Onkar Singh, the Editor-in-Chief of this unregistered online portal, "The Daily Truth News", has been found to possess an official Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly entry card - despite the portal having no registration or accreditation with the Department of Information and Public Relations.

He also welcomed the

Lieutenant Governor's firm stance against fake journalists, urging authorities to expedite a regulatory framework for online media. Bangroo maintained that only accredited journalists and registered organizations should be allowed official access to government or institutional events.

"We all accredited journalists stands united against the menace of blackmailing portals. We demand that FIRs be registered against those involved in extortion and that strict legal consequences follow. Journalism must remain a pillar of democracy - not a tool for intimidation," Bangroo said, concluding with a collective appeal to restore dignity, transparency, and truth in media practice across Jammu and Kashmir.

Those aren't born who will stop BJP in Kashmir: Sunil



LOP Sunil Sharma addressing public rally at Narbal.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BUDGAM: Leader of Opposition and Senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma today addressed a massive public rally at Narbal in support of BJP Assembly Candidate from Budgam, Aga Mohsin.

While speaking to an enthusiastic gathering, Sharma said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected decades of deceit and dynastic politics of the National Conference (NC), and are now rallying behind the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a developed and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir.

"On November 14, the people will write a new chapter in Budgam's political history. NC will face a crushing defeat, and BJP will emerge victorious because people have seen the difference between hollow promises and real development," Sharma asserted.

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition, LoP Sunil Sharma thundered, "Those aren't born

who will stop BJP in Kashmir. The people of Kashmir have made up their minds - the era of fear and falsehood is over. Now, the lotus will bloom in every village and town of the Valley."

He praised Aga Mohsin for his dynamic leadership, strong grassroots connect, and unwavering commitment to public service, adding that Budgam deserves a young and energetic voice in the Assembly who can carry forward the message of change and inclusive growth.

"The days of corruption, nepotism, and emotional exploitation are over. Now is the time for empowerment, accountability, and progress under the BJP's banner," Sharma said amid loud cheers and slogans in support of the party.

The rally witnessed huge participation of locals, youth, and BJP workers, reflecting the growing acceptance of the BJP's development-oriented politics in the heart of Kashmir.

Nagrota set to pay 'Sachchi Shradhanjali' to Rana Sb on Nov 11: Devyani Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: Bharatiya Janata Party candidate for the bye-elections to the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Devyani Rana, on Saturday intensified her election campaign, reaching out to people across various parts of the constituency and seeking their blessings and support.

Addressing a series of meetings and door-to-door interactions, Rana said that her campaign was not merely about seeking votes, but about connecting with people, understanding their expectations, and reaffirming her commitment to serve them with sincerity and



BJP candidate for Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Devyani Rana addressing public meeting.

commitment. "People's support is crucial to sustaining the developmental momentum and collective effort is imperative to take Nagrota to greater heights," Rana said, adding that Nagrota is set to pay

'Sachchi Shradhanjali' to Rana Sb on Nov 11. Referring to the BJP's philosophy of inclusive governance and equitable growth, Rana said the empowerment of women, youth, and marginalised groups has been at

the core of the party's policies. She said that the BJP stands for opportunity, dignity, and empowerment for all, irrespective of region, region or caste in true spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cherished agenda of

Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.

The progress witnessed across Jammu and Kashmir during five years after 2019 is testimony to the party's commitment to holistic and inclusive growth, she said.

Recalling the contribution of her late father, Devender Singh Rana, she said his vision for a progressive and self-reliant Nagrota continues to guide her journey.

"My father believed in politics of service, not slogans. I will carry forward that legacy with humility and hard work," she said, adding that during his tenure as representative of the people,

Nagrota Constituency has registered enviable progress in every sector.

Expressing gratitude for the warm response she received during her campaign, Devyani Rana said that the affection and faith of the people give her renewed strength to work for their welfare. She appealed to voters to come out in large numbers on the polling day and exercise their democratic right responsibly. Every single vote will be a step towards shaping the future of Nagrota, she said, urging people to join the BJP's mission of development and empowerment.

