

Hindi acts as a bridge between India & Nepal: LG Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday attended the World Hindi Day Conference and Felicitation Ceremony organised by the Vishva Hindi Parishad in collaboration with the Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi. The event brought together eminent leaders, scholars and cultural figures to celebrate the growing global presence and relevance of the Hindi language.

Several distinguished personalities were present on the occasion, including Murli Manohar Joshi, former Union Minister for Human Resource Development; Sunil Ambekar; Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh; Kirti Vardhan Singh, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and for Environment, Forest and Climate Change;



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta with other dignitaries at World Hindi Day Conference.

Swami Chidanand Saraswati Maharaj, President, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh; Dr Subhash Chandra, Ram Chandra Jangra and Dr Sangeeta Balwant, Members of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; and Acharya Balakrishna Lakshmi Prasad (Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan), National President, World Hindi Council.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed happiness at being

part of an event that underscored the strength, identity and expanding international footprint of Hindi. He said that Hindi is not merely a language, but a powerful medium that connects people, cultures and emotions across geographical boundaries. He also appreciated the Embassy of Nepal for its commendable role in organising the programme and promoting linguistic and cultural harmony.

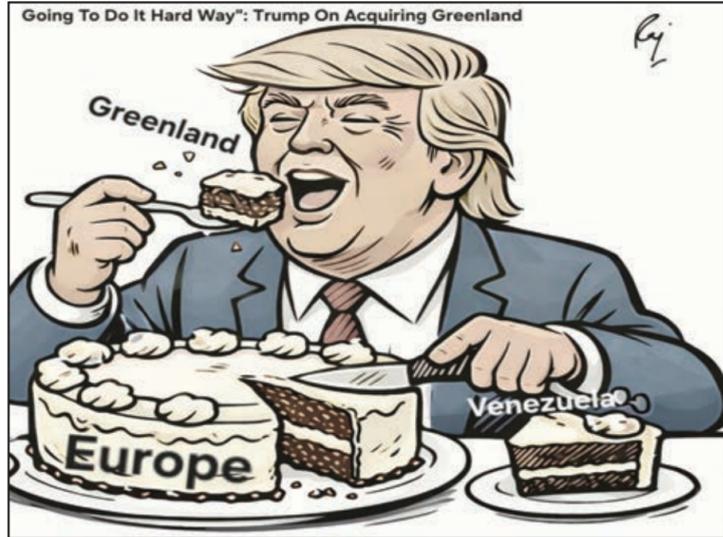
Reflecting on the past,

Kavinder Gupta noted that for decades Hindi did not receive the recognition it deserved in administration, education and public life, which affected the younger generation's connection with the language. However, he observed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, sustained efforts have been made to restore the pride and prominence of Hindi. Its confident use at national and interna-

tional platforms, promotion in governance and strong presence in digital media reflect a positive transformation.

Highlighting the historic and cultural ties between India and Nepal, the Lt Governor said that the two countries share deep religious, linguistic and cultural bonds, with Hindi playing a significant role in strengthening people-to-people relations. He also spoke about Ladakh as a multilingual and multicultural region, where Hindi serves as an effective link language fostering communication, social cohesion and national unity.

The Lt Governor congratulated Hindi scholars, writers and language enthusiasts, particularly from Nepal, for their contributions to strengthening India-Nepal relations. He expressed hope that such initiatives would continue and help Hindi gain greater global recognition and acceptance.



Vishva Hindi Diwas celebrated in Melbourne with enthusiasm



Professor Arnold Dix-Mine Evacuation Expert, Dr. Peter Friedlander and Dr. Ved Vyathit and others dignitaries at Vishva Hindi Diwas celebration at Melbourne.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MELBOURNE: Vishva Hindi Divas was celebrated in Melbourne with great enthusiasm on Saturday. The event was organised by Dr. Subash Sharma at the Indian Consulate Journal Hall. Many reputed Australian guests attended the programme, making it a truly multicultural gathering. Professor Arnold Dix-

Mine Evacuation Expert, Dr. Peter Friedlander and Dr. Ved Vyathit were main guests.

The event featured a variety of cultural performances presented by school children, along with poetry recitations by renowned poets from Australia. The highlight of the programme was the soulful flute performance by Naresh

Sharma, which became the main attraction of the evening.

Naresh Sharma's melodious flute recital deeply moved the audience and was highly appreciated by the people of Melbourne. The programme successfully promoted the Hindi language and Indian culture, strengthening cultural ties between India and Australia.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta completes tenure as ED & CEO, AIIMS Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta today completed his tenure as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu.

With the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the additional charge of the post of Executive Director, AIIMS Jammu has been assigned to Dr. Daya Nand Sharma, Executive Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rewari, for a period of three months w.e.f. 10.01.2026, or until the appointment of a regular incumbent, whichever is earlier.

Established under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AIIMS Jammu was envisioned as a premier institution to strengthen tertiary healthcare, medical education and research in the Union Territory of



Dr. Daya Nand Sharma taking charge of ED & CEO AIIMS Jammu.

Jammu & Kashmir. Under Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta's leadership, this vision was translated into reality within a remarkably short timeframe.

One of the most significant achievements during his tenure was the completion of 43 major buildings in a record time of just three and a half years, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This achievement laid a strong founda-

tion for the Institute's clinical, academic and research expansion.

During this period, AIIMS Jammu witnessed rapid growth in advanced clinical and super speciality services, strengthening of emergency and critical care facilities, and steady progress in academics and research, positioning the Institute as a fast-emerging centre of excellence at the national level.

AIIMS Jammu commenced its Outpatient Department (OPD) services from 1st August 2024, offering comprehensive care across 34 departments, including 20 speciality and 14 super-specialty disciplines.

Under Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta's leadership, the Institute has developed advanced interventional and surgical facilities across these departments, enabling complex procedures in cardiology, neurology, gastroenterology, orthopaedics, urology, and other

critical areas. These initiatives have greatly enhanced patient access to state-of-the-art treatments, establishing AIIMS Jammu as a leading centre for tertiary and super-specialty healthcare in the region.

In recognition of its achievements, AIIMS Jammu secured the 7th position in Outlook Magazine's 2025 Government Medical Universities Ranking, emerging as the second-highest ranked institute after AIIMS Delhi-an exceptional milestone achieved in record time.

The AIIMS Jammu fraternity places on record its sincere appreciation for the visionary leadership and dedicated service of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, whose tenure has laid a strong and enduring foundation for the Institute's future growth, and extends best wishes to Dr. Daya Nand Sharma in his additional responsibility.

JKMSME Health Clinic conferred SKOCH Gold Award in SKOCH Summit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (JKMSME) Health Clinic, a flagship initiative of the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award in recognition of its impactful implementation and transformative contribution to the MSME sector at 104th SKOCH Summit held in New Delhi.

The JKMSME Health Clinic initiative was conceptualised under the guidance of the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and is being implemented by the Industries and Commerce Department under the supervision of Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh.

The award was received by Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Dr. Arun Manhas on behalf of J&K Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Arun Manhas termed the JKMSME Health Clinic as a critical institutional mechanism for safeguarding the back-



Director, I&C Jammu, Dr. Arun Manhas on behalf of J&K Government receiving SKOCH Gold Award.

bone of the local economy and enabling timely redressal of industrial stress. He further stated that the clinic is one of the first attempts in the region to treat MSME distress the way a physician treats early symptoms: detect early, intervene precisely, and monitor continuously.

He added that the program marks a shift from reactive relief to preventive economic care, combining data, field intelligence and expert-led mentoring.

Launched in July 2025, JKMSME Health Clinic has emerged as a pioneer-

ing institutional mechanism aimed at building a resilient, growth-oriented industrial environment in the Union Territory. The initiative is designed to identify stress factors affecting industrial units at an early stage and facilitate systematic assessment and customised remedial measures to enable timely revival and sustainable growth of MSMEs.

Pertinently, the SKOCH Award stands as a testament to the Industries and Commerce Department's commitment towards creating a transparent, responsive and growth-enabling industrial ecosys-

tem especially for MSMEs reinforcing Jammu and Kashmir's position as a progressive and investor-friendly destination. The recognition underscores the department's focused efforts towards strengthening the MSME ecosystem through structured diagnostics, data-driven governance and targeted institutional interventions.

DM Jammu bans transportation of bovines

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu Rakesh Minhas, in exercise of powers vested under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), on Saturday ordered that no bovine animals such as cow, buffalo, oxen, bulls, calves etc be transported from Jammu to other districts, except with written permission from District Magistrate Jammu or Additional District Magistrate, Jammu under certain conditions imposed by DM office, from time to time.

"This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from date of its issue or till the order is rescinded whichever is earlier," the order added.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Farmers' Awareness and Training Camp aimed at promoting modern horticultural practices and sustainable income generation was held on Saturday here at Raipur Domana. The event drew enthusiastic participation from farmers across adjoining areas.

The programme was graced by MLA, Sham Lal Sharma as Chief Guest alongside Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayeed, Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, R.K. Kotwal, Horticulture Development Officer Bhalwal, Ravinder Kumar and officials from all departments of the Bhalwal Zone.

Addressing the gathering, MLA, Sham Lal Sharma

Farmers' awareness, training camp held at Raipur Domana



Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayeed speaking at a camp.

stressed the significance of Integrated Crop Production. He advocated for crop diversification, balanced nutrient management, efficient water use, integrated pest and disease management and mechanization. He encouraged farmers to combine horticulture with traditional agriculture to achieve higher and more stable incomes while

ensuring soil health and sustainability.

The Chief Horticulture Officer emphasized the potential of high-value crops such as dragon fruit and strawberry. He provided technical guidance to farmers on improved varieties, scientific cultivation, nutrient management and plant protection measures. Director Horticulture Gul

Sayeed highlighted the importance of Post-Harvest Technology, underscoring grading, packaging, storage, cold chain infrastructure, processing and value addition as key to reducing losses and boosting profitability. He also informed farmers about government schemes supporting post-harvest management.

The camp concluded with an interactive session where farmers received expert advice and learned about departmental schemes and technical support. The event ended with a collective call to adopt integrated crop production, modern horticultural practices and post-harvest technologies for sustainable farming and the overall development of agriculture and horticulture in the region.

IIM Jammu to host 6-day Int'l Painters' Symposium next week

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu will organise a six-day international painters' symposium from January 12, aimed at promoting artistic exchange and intercultural dialogue, an official said on Saturday.

The symposium will bring together 21 eminent painters from India and abroad, along with 25 emerging

artists and 90 art student, he said.

Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta will attend the inaugural ceremony as chief guest, and Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, Dr Milind Kamble, will preside over the ceremony, the official said.

Artists from across the country, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Odisha,

Mohali, Jaipur, Goa, Pune, Varanasi, Kurukshetra and Jammu, besides international participants from Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan, will participate in the symposium.

The event seeks to provide a platform for collaboration among established artists, young talents and students, while strengthening cultural engagement through visual arts, the official added.

Jammu Pensioners' Post Released

CGPWA concerns over ToR of 8th CPC, writes to PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: At an impressive function organised here on Saturday, the second issue of Jammu Pensioners' Post, a quarterly Newsletter of the Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu, was released by its President Kuldeep Khoda and other dignitaries.

The 16-page Newsletter carries the comprehensive representation sent by Khoda to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, MoS pension and Chairperson of the 8th Central Pay Commission against enactment of "Validation of the Central Services (Pension) Rules" in the Finance Act, 2025 and inclusion of 'revision of pension of existing pensioners' in the Terms of Reference



President Kuldeep Khoda and other dignitaries releasing second issue of Jammu Pensioners' Post, a quarterly Newsletter of the Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu.

(ToR) of the 8th CPC. The representation made strong arguments against these two major issues that would affect the future pension revision of lakhs of pensioners of the Old Pension Scheme.

In his address after the release, Khoda said that with pressure building on the cen-

tral Govt against these two issues, the Finance Minister on the floor of the parliament and later the Secretary Expenditure have assured that interests of the old pensioners will be protected but neither any order is issued nor ToR amended to include the pensioners in its mandate that is worrying pen-

sioners across the country. He said that CGPWA, Jammu is in touch with other Associations and will put up a coordinated stand on discriminatory move of the Govt.

Referring to the resolution of pensioners' demands, he thanked the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo for addressing

these. He hoped that other pending issues would also be addressed shortly.

Being the first meeting of the New Year, Khoda wished every member a happy new year by presenting a rose flower.

Among others, former chief secretaries, C Phunsog, B R Kundal, B R Sharma, for-

mer DGP, Dr Ashok Bhan and former DG, IMPA Pramod Jain also spoke on the occasion and lauded the impressive functioning of the CGPWA, Jammu which is now rated as one of the most vibrant Pensioners' Association in the country.

Earlier, the General Secretary K B Jandial in his

welcome address, listed the activities of the Association during 2025 and said that many new initiatives including organising Sangeet Sandhya, health camps, health talks, celebrations of national and international Days related to the welfare of pensioners and senior citizens, excursion, and monthly

birthday celebrations.

Pensioners' Post carried an article by C Phunsog on Cryospheric Changes and their Impact on Ecosystem services. On the health side, it published the article of Dr. Rohan Gupta, Consultant ENT at SMVDNS Hospital on hearing loss and cognitive decline.

Vice President, Dr Sudarshan Kumar presented the formal vote of thanks. He suggested taking up an initiative for awareness and civic education in rural areas.

The artists of the Information Department presented a half an hour musical program. Nisar Ahmad conducted the proceedings impressively dotted with suitable Urdu couplets.