

# LG Kavinder reviews functioning of NHPC Nimoo Bazgo Power Project at Alchi

Stresses integration of Renewable Energy for Ladakh's long-term development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, accompanied by First Lady Bindu Gupta, on Thursday visited the NHPC Nimoo Bazgo Power Project at Alchi and reviewed its overall functioning and operational status.

Sanjay Kumar Rai, General Manager (Mechanical), NHPC Ltd, along with his team, accorded a warm welcome to the Lieutenant Governor and the First Lady.

During the visit, Rai briefed the Lt Governor on various aspects of the project's operations, highlighting peak power generation during the months of May to September, electricity distribution through substations across Ladakh, and factors influencing seasonal variation in power generation.

At the Control & Command Centre and Early Warning Centre, he explained the real-time data collection system monitoring the flow and discharge of the Indus and



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, accompanied by First Lady Bindu Gupta, reviewing operational status of NHPC Nimoo Bazgo Power Project at Alchi.

Zaskar rivers, as well as the spillway gate heating system that ensures uninterrupted dam operations even during extreme winter conditions.

Through a detailed presentation, Rai outlined the project's journey, informing that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted in 2003 and the project became operational in 2013 at a total cost of Rs 985.15 crore. He further shared that the 220 kV Phyang-Alusteng Northern Grid connection was commissioned in 2019, enabling the project to achieve

an annual power generation of 200 million units.

He also highlighted NHPC's contributions to local communities, including the supply of pollution-free electricity, employment opportunities, and a wide range of CSR initiatives such as construction of toilets and classrooms, repair of local infrastructure, internship programs, installation of street lights in Alchi and adjoining areas, and distribution of ice hockey kits to local players.

The Lieutenant Governor

commended NHPC for ensuring an uninterrupted and reliable power supply in Ladakh despite the region's extremely harsh sub-zero climatic conditions. He praised the high level of technical expertise, professionalism, and unwavering dedication of the project team, noting that their consistent efforts, innovation, and commitment have been instrumental in maintaining smooth, safe, and efficient operations of the power project even during peak winter months, thereby supporting essential services and overall development in the region. He further said that such landmark infrastructure projects play a vital role in strengthening the region's energy security, reducing dependence on external power sources, and laying a strong foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth in Ladakh, while also reflecting the importance of resilient engineering and long-term planning in geographically

and climatically challenging areas.

He stressed the need to further strengthen CSR initiatives in key sectors such as education, healthcare, and sports, assuring full support from the UT Administration for projects that positively impact local communities.

Kavinder Gupta also expressed keen interest in the integration of renewable energy solutions tailored to local requirements, emphasizing that sustainable power generation is vital for Ladakh's long-term development.



## Sukhnandan flags grave injustice in CLU charges, demands immediate correction

Seeks CM's intervention for approval in Cabinet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar on Thursday demanded the immediate implementation of the recommendations made by the Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, regarding rationalization of Change of Land Use (CLU) charges, calling the present system "deeply discriminatory and unjust to rural landowners."

Sukhnandan Choudhary, accompanied by Dr Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, Rakesh Pant, President, J&K Kissan Moreha, and Balbir Kumar DDC & Vice President J&K SC Moreha, was addressing a press conference at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Addressing the press briefing, Choudhary referred to an official communication dated March 28, 2024, issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, which clearly acknowledges serious discrepancies in the manner CLU charges are being levied by the Jammu Development



Former Minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar talking to reporters.

Authority (JDA).

Choudhary said it was shocking that landowners in far-flung rural areas, where land values are substantially lower, are being forced to pay CLU charges calculated on the highest stamp duty rates of Gandhi Nagar, one of the most expensive localities in Jammu city. Demanding this correction at an earliest, Sukhnandan sought Chief Minister's intervention into the matter at an earliest. "Get this done in the Cabinet meeting," Sukhnandan suggested CM Omar Abdullah.

"Why should a farmer or a small landowner in a rural village pay CLU charges at par with Gandhi Nagar? This is nothing but economic injustice," he said.

He pointed out that the Divisional Commissioner's letter categorically states that JDA's jurisdiction under the Jammu Master Plan-2032 spans both urban and rural areas across Jammu and Samba districts, each having vastly different market and stamp duty rates. Applying a single, highest-value benchmark for the entire region, Choudhary said, "defies logic, fairness and law."

Quoting the letter, he highlighted that under SO-439 dated 24.12.2021, land valuation should be based on local stamp duty rates, village-wise, as notified under the J&K Preparation and Revision of Market Value Guidelines Rules, 2011 and not on an arbitrary highest-value stan-

dard. "The administration itself has admitted that this method is flawed. Then what is stopping them from implementing people-friendly policy?" Choudhary asked.

He warned that the current practice is placing an unfair financial burden on rural residents, discouraging lawful development and pushing people towards distress and litigation.

The senior BJP leader urged the Housing and Urban Development Department and the JDA to immediately adopt the Divisional Commissioner's recommendation and ensure that CLU charges are fixed strictly on local stamp duty rates, bringing long-overdue relief to rural landowners.

"This is not a political issue; it is an issue of justice. The rural population must not be penalised for living outside premium urban localities," Choudhary asserted.

He said the BJP would continue to raise the issue until a transparent, equitable and lawful CLU policy is enforced across Jammu region.

## Udhampur Airport to start civilian flights in 6 to 7 months: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing a joint high-level meeting to review the progress for developing Udhampur Air Field Station for operationalisation of commercial civilian air flights, at Udhampur on Thursday.

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UDHAMPUR: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday reviewed the progress of operationalising civilian air services from Udhampur, announcing that civilian flights will commence with an interim terminal building within the Air Force Station, Udhampur.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, Dr Jitendra said that close coordination between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is underway to expedite the process. He informed that, with existing facilities and interim arrangements, flight operations are targeted to be operationalised in the next 6-7 months.

Simultaneously, the process of acquisition of adjacent land, measuring nearly 28 acre, and construction of a full-fledged terminal is being undertaken to develop a full-fledged airport within about 3 years, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

The Minister highlighted that the Chenab region has received focused attention after 2014, with close monitoring by the Prime Minister, reflecting the Government's initiative for inclusive and regional development.

Dr Singh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his sustained focus on development and for fulfilling the promise to uplift the downtrodden and remote regions, ensuring multiple connectivity options for the Chenab belt.

The Minister reiterated that a series of proactive meetings led by the Secretary, Civil Aviation have helped fast-track decisions and resolve inter-departmental issues.

Dr Jitendra also shared that a proposal for acquisition of additional land is being pursued, with the support of the Omar Abdullah led UT Government, to enable the development of a full-fledged airport at Udhampur in the coming years. He expressed gratitude to the Indian Air

Force for its cooperation and facilitation in enabling civilian operations from the defence airfield.

Highlighting the multiple benefits of enhanced air connectivity, the Minister said the initiative will significantly ease travel and increase socio-economic activity across the entire Chenab region, benefiting four districts in particular. He added that similar connectivity initiatives are being taken up in Kishtwar under the UDAAN scheme, further expanding regional access.

Dr Jitendra pointed out that Udhampur is emerging as a major connectivity hub, with multimodal options including air, railways and road. He said that the Udhampur Railway Station has been developed as an Amrit Railway Station, and the region is also being connected through an express corridor, enabling convenient travel to Delhi and other major cities.

Describing the meeting as a milestone, the Minister said the decisions

taken today will pave the way for the successful commencement of flight operations. Dr Jitendra thanked officials from all concerned departments for their coordinated efforts and assured continued monitoring to ensure timely execution of the project. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Sameer Kumar Sinha; Secretary, Civil Aviation, Government of J&K, Naveen S.L.; Chairman Airports Authority of India, Vipin Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Executive Director (Planning), Nandita Bhatt besides other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

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KATRA: The International Conference on Recent Advances in Computational Mathematics and Allied Sciences (RACMAS-2026) was inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The inaugural session opened with a welcome address by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Head, School of Mathematics, SMVDU, who warmly welcomed guests and participants, and highlighted the academic initiatives and research culture of the School of Mathematics. This was followed by the conference overview presented by Prof. Vijay Kumar Bhat, Convener, RACMAS-2026, who outlined the objectives of the conference, its thematic focus, international participation, and the overwhelming response from researchers across the globe.

## International Conference on RACMAS-2026 held at SMVDU



The Abstract Booklet of RACMAS-2026 was subsequently released, reflecting the collective scholarly contributions of the participants. Prof. S. K. Wanchoo, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary research and the growing relevance of mathematical sciences in modern scientific advancements. Prof. A. K. Das, Dean, Research and Development addressed the gathering by highlighting the university's commitment to fostering research, innovation, and academic collaboration. Prof.

Pragati Kumar, VC SMVDU in his address, stressed the significance of organizing international conferences at SMVDU to enhance the quality of research and make it more interdisciplinary towards the benefit of society. Prof. Umesh Rai, VC, University of Jammu, spoke on emerging research directions in mathematical sciences and encouraged young researchers to engage in collaborative and impactful research. The inaugural session concluded with an inspiring address by the Chief Guest, Prof. Dinesh Singh, who highlighted the

foundational role of mathematics in science and technology and motivated researchers to pursue originality and academic rigor. Following the inaugural session, the academic programme of Day-1 continued with the keynote address delivered by Prof. Sihem Mesnager, University of Paris, France, which was well received by the participants and set a strong scholarly tone for the conference. During the day several parallel invited lecture sessions were conducted. The invited speakers for the day included Prof. K. C. Das, Prof. R. P.

Sharma, Prof. S. Dharmaraja, Prof. M. Singha, Prof. Romesh Kumar, and Dr. Sartaj Ul Hasan who shared their research insights and experiences with the participants, contributing to rich academic discussions across diverse areas of mathematics and allied sciences. The academic activities of Day-1 concluded with 40 technical paper presentations, conducted in multiple parallel tracks. Researchers, faculty members, and students presented their work Algebra and Discrete Mathematics, Combinatorics and Graph Theory, Mathematical Analysis and Topology, Fuzzy Theory and Applications, and Statistics and Operational Research. The active participation and scholarly discussions made the first day of RACMAS-2026 intellectually engaging and highly successful.

# Substantial unexploited potential around Shivaliks/Chenab/Pir Panchal for commercial Summer/Winter/Pilgrim tourism

Opportunity for J&K to focus on areas outside Valley for a 'one state, one global standard tourist destination'

PM Modi has been the 1st to give idea of promoting a 'one state, one global standard tourist destination'

Omar Abdullah must take on the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

■ DAYA SAGAR

Like the areas in districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Kishtwar & Doda the areas in Rajouri & Poonch districts too have unimaginable large potential for commercial tourism and pilgrim tourism ( Baba Buddha Amarnath Ji Mandir, Ram Kund in Mandher Poonch, Nangli Sahib Gurudawara, The Ziyarat Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (R.A) Shahdara Sharief near Rajouri, Doodhadhari Temple Rajouri, Gurudwara Chhati Padshahi, Balidan Bhavan, Rama Temple, Jama Masjid and Shiv Mandir. Kotranka Budhal 40 Km from Rajouri, Poonch Fort, Noori Chamb less than 46 km from Poonch Surankote, Buffiaz about 40 Km from Poonch, Nandishool waterfall 12 kilometres from Loran, Loran a small village 34 Km from Poonch, about 40 Km from Poonch is Than Pir, Dhanidhar Fort Rajouri Dist and like as well have scope for summer/ winter commercial tourism in upper reaches with enough

possibilities of further linkages with Kashmir Division through Mugal road/ other routes ( 84 Km from Buffiaz is Shopian. Mugal road connects beautiful locations including Buffiaz, Behramgala, Chandimarah, Dugran, Pushana, Chatta Pani, Mansar, and Peer Ki Gali.). A good infrastructure would have been developed with just around a few hundred thousands INR had the areas been duly cared even after independence /during earlier times but now increase in 2025 competitive tourism infrastructure & environment is to be created / for development in such areas in Jammu division outside Kashmir valley there may be utmost need to pump in around min of INR 20000 Crs to 25000 Crs out of the state exchequer in addition to private sector investments in next 5 to 10 years to catch on with the lost pace and surely some more in case World Class acceptance is to be the target. The locals of such area may have lost much more than even atleast INR 35000 - 40000 er that they would have



A Look through the Mist Part-V

earned through direct / indirect means over more than last 7 decades had the business in these areas been promoted with improved tourist flow as well better surface communication. Where as, so far no real benefit has come to the common people of such areas proportionate to thousands of crores of financial assistance extended over the years in other sectors by Government of India. Surely only governments of the past like that of Mufti Mohd Sayeed and the Congress-NC Government that followed in 2008 cannot be solely blamed for all the fall backs.

New Delhi could argue that planning for local infrastructure & development is the responsibility of State Government. But New Delhi cannot deny that the superior cadre civil ser-

vants in J&K have been / are mostly are from GOI/ Central Government Services who hold the superior and decisive positions as regards planning and implementation of programmes. So reasonable amount of short fall as regards assessment of priorities has to be debited to the account of New Delhi as well.

Leads need to be taken by the people outside Kashmir Valley as well as the J&K Government to press for making good the losses / shortfalls. The local civil society that also has many retired bureaucrats and technocrats too needs to work out and push in and follow proposals for framing & sanctions and implementation by the government. The lack of concern on the part of local governments so far could be well gauged from the fact that every second day 'leaders' talk of Basohli Bani > Bhaderwah track and people have been receiving only statements and no meaningful progress on this 'road', not even in last two decades. ( of less than 100 km). Had British seen only commercial prof-

itability there would have been no rail line to Shimla ( Kalka Shimla Railway, a 96.6 kilometer long a single track working rail link was built in the mid-19th century), no line to Darjeeling ( nineteenth century) and like. Recent 'dropped' (somewhere in 2018 or so) Jammu Poonch rail link via Rajouri could be a good quote which had been in 2012 taken as a nation project. Now this line too should be included in the project "one state, one global tourist destination". Otherwise also had the areas being referred herein been given timely inputs for development of communication and tourism infrastructure the inputs would have been not less than a lakh of er INR therefore in case so 'inflated' inputs are made now that would not be something very extra to be given for GOI/ UT government.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should hence catch the bull from the horns for drafting & taking on the projects worth getting through. Narendra Modi ji is Ex-officio chair-

person of NITI ( National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog by virtue of his being the is Prime Minister of India and it is he who has given the call while addressing the 10th General Council meeting of NITI Aayog on 24th May 2025 that suggested < "States should develop at least one tourist destination per state at par with global standards and by providing all facilities and infrastructure - One State: One Global Destination. It would also lead to the development of the neighbouring cities as tourist places." > , so Omar Abdullah has to take the call worth placing the project before him for which PM would surely be obliged to extend all supports, yes the project has to be sound and the J&K areas outside Valley surely qualify for that. Ball is now in Omar's court, will he?

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