

Welfare of Ladakhi youths remains a top priority of UT Admin: LG Kavinder

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Monday visited the Ladakhi Girls Hostel at Muthi, Jammu, as part of his ongoing outreach initiative to assess facilities for students from Ladakh pursuing education outside the Union Territory. He interacted extensively with the students to understand their daily challenges and reviewed the overall functioning of the hostel.



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta during visit to Ladakhi Girls Hostel at Muthi, Jammu.

During the interaction, students and accompanying officials briefed the Lieutenant Governor on issues concerning hostel infrastructure, availability of essential amenities, heating arrangements, sanitation, security and academic support. The students also highlighted the need for improved recreational facilities, upgraded washrooms, efficient heating solutions and consistent maintenance of the building. After inspecting the premises, Shri Gupta directed the officials to immediately prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the comprehensive upgradation of the hostel. He instructed that the DPR should include structural

comfortable and student-friendly accommodation for Ladakhi youth studying across India. He emphasized that the welfare and educational development of students remain a top administrative priority. "Your well-being and academic growth are central to Ladakh's future. The administration stands committed to strengthening educational support infrastructure," he added. Later in the day, Kavinder Gupta also visited the Kargil Girls Hostel at Sidhra, Jammu, where he interacted with students and conducted a similar review.

The Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, briefed him about the facilities currently available and the ongoing efforts to support the students. The students also shared their concerns and expectations, which the Lieutenant Governor assured would be incorporated into the improvement plan. He directed the concerned departments to assess the hostels' requirements and propose appropriate interventions to upgrade both residential and academic environments. Reiterating the administration's commitment, Gupta assured that all necessary approvals and actions would be taken promptly to address genuine concerns and ensure a safe, supportive and enriching environment for Ladakhi students living away from home.



J&K Tourism receives Green Globe Guardian Award; Showcases diverse offerings at IITM Pune 2025



J&K Tourism officers receiving the "Green Globe Guardian Award".

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Tourism made a prominent impact at the India International Travel Mart (IITM) Pune 2025, showcasing its rich and diverse tourism offerings before a wide national and international audience. The three-day (27th-29th November) travel and trade exhibition was held at the Deccan

College Ground, Pune. J&K Tourism received the "Green Globe Guardian Award" in recognition of its exemplary commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly tourism practices. The delegation from J&K Tourism included Aijaz Qesar Malik, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Mohd. Rouf Rahman, CEO Kokernag Development Authority; Tariq Hussain Naik, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority; and Jahid Azad, Assistant Director Tourism Publicity Kashmir. The officers engaged with tour operators, travel agents, media representatives and visitors, projecting Jammu & Kashmir as a stand-alone, four-season destination. The event in Pune witnessed participation from

both national and international stakeholders, including representatives from Malaysia, Nepal and Singapore, alongside leading Indian states such as Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh. During the event, the J&K Officers delegation highlighted the Union Territory's extensive tourism experiences, covering adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism, leisure tourism, MICE tourism and heritage tourism. The team also showcased Jammu & Kashmir's enduring appeal as a leisure destination renowned for its pristine landscapes, scenic beauty and serene environment. The officers reaffirmed the Department's commitment to enhancing visitor experiences through upgraded infrastructure, improved services and adherence to sustainable tourism practices. They extended a warm invitation to stakeholders and travellers to visit Jammu & Kashmir and experience the grandeur, diversity and breathtaking beauty the UT has to offer. J&K Tourism's participation in IITM Pune 2025 further strengthened its national outreach and reinforced the Union Territory's position as one of India's premier travel destinations.

CSIR-IIIM Jammu celebrates 85th Foundation Day, strengthens industry ties

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, on Monday celebrated its 85th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm, marking more than eight decades of scientific contribution and national impact. The event brought together senior scientists, dignitaries, and researchers to reflect on the institute's journey and its expanding influence in integrative medicine, natural product research, and innovation.

Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Former Director of CSIR-CFTRI Mysuru, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered a compelling Foundation Day lecture on "Hidden medicines in your food." She emphasized the global relevance of functional foods, nutraceuticals, and traditional Indian dietary wisdom. Stressing the need for scientific validation of indigenous knowledge, she said quality standards in food and nutraceuticals must be prioritized. She also advocated stronger collaboration between CSIR laboratories and industries to maximize expertise, resources, and impact.

Guest of Honour Dr. Kannan Srinivasan, Director CSIR-CSMCR Bhavnagar, lauded IIIM's excellent student-scientist ratio and its robust translational research ecosystem. He highlighted the critical role of the institute's pilot-scale facilities in helping innovators cross the challenging "valley of death"-the stage between laboratory research and commercialization. He urged researchers to leverage emerging opportunities created through ICMR-supported clinical trials.

Presiding over the function, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, described the 85th Foundation Day as a moment of immense pride. Tracing the institute's evolution from the Drug Research Laboratory of J&K (1941) to RRL (1957) and finally IIIM (2007), he paid tribute to former directors and the legendary Col. Sir Ram Nath Chopra, known as the father of Indian pharmacology. Dr. Ahmed noted that more than 1,000 stu-



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed lighting ceremonial lamp.

dents from schools, colleges, and universities visited IIIM's Jammu, Srinagar, and satellite centres today, reflecting the institute's commitment to inspiring young minds and connecting science with society.

He listed several key achievements over the past year, including large-scale training of women under the Atal Incubation Centre, the e-tractor campaign launched by CSIR-CMERI, and the National Startup Festival that brought together over 75 startups. Highlights also included the Lavender Festival, floriculture conclaves, and major strides in traditional medicine standardisation, skill development, and incubation support. IIIM now runs four incubation centres and has supported more than 125 startups, with 12 already launching market-ready products. The institute also received the Bharat Incubator Award and national recognition for the CSIR Aroma Mission team. On the occasion, IIIM inked two new industry partnerships by signing CDAs with Hapico and Medispace Innovations. The institute also marked the filing of 14 patents-10 foreign and four Indian. Several scientists and technical staff members were felicitated for outstanding contributions across drug testing, fermentation, aroma mission, GLP initiatives, and technology incubation. On the occasion the S&T staff members were also

awarded with appreciation certificates for the impactful work done by them during the preceding year. Dr. Mahendra Kumar Verma, Senior Technical Officer, felicitated for Drug Testing Laboratory; Dr. Asha Chaubey, Chief Scientist and her team for Fermentation Pilot Plant; Dr. Suphla Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist and her team for CSIR Aroma Mission; Dr. Shashank Kumar Singh, Chief Scientist and his team for submission of GLP application and Dr. Saurabh Saran, Senior Principal Scientist and his team for Technology Business Incubator (TBI). Besides this, scientists who filled patents in Abroad and India were also felicitated including Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Er. Anil Katave, Dr. Parvinder Pal Singh, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. S.R. Meena, Dr. P.N. Gupta, Dr. Asha Chaubey, Dr. Yedukondalu Nalli, Dr. Qazi Naveed Ahmed, Dr. Fayaz Malik, Dr. Govind Yadav, Dr. Ramajayan P., Dr. RaiKishore Rai, Dr. Sanket Kumar Shukla, Dr. Gurleen Kour, Dr. Amit Nargotra, Dr. Amol Babasaheb Gade, Dr. Parsoon Gupta, Dr. Kuljit Singh, Dr. Avisek Mahapa, Dr. Mohd. Jamal Dar and others. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head RMBD&IST and Head IIIM (Branch) Srinagar, while proceedings were conducted by Dr. Gurleen Kour.

Own Alliance MP exposes Congress' hypocrisy: Gaurav on Ramzan's statement in Parliament

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP J&K spokesperson and Convener of International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta, on Wednesday strongly criticised the Congress-led I.N.D.I Alliance after National Conference MP Chowdhary Md. Ramzan made remarks in Parliament that, according to Gupta, "exposed the opposition's hypocrisy." During the Winter Session, MP Ramzan stated that the 2024 Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections were conducted freely and fairly, leading to the NC-Congress alliance winning a two-thirds majority and forming the government under Omar Abdullah. His statement surprised many in the opposition benches. Responding to this, Gupta asked, "If Congress and its allies repeatedly claim elections in India are not free and fair, how do they overlook the fact that they themselves secured a two-thirds majority in J&K?" He said Ramzan's words dismantle the Congress narrative of nationwide election manipulation. Gupta added that while Rahul Gandhi and Congress leaders routinely allege rigging, EVM tampering and accuse the Election Commission, they have benefited from the same democratic system in Jammu & Kashmir. He further questioned the credibility of Congress leadership, pointing out



that Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi face FIRs in the National Herald case, yet continue to lecture the nation on democratic integrity. Calling Ramzan's speech "both entertaining and revealing," Gupta said the contradiction within the opposition's narrative is now evident. "On one hand Congress cries foul about stolen votes; on the other hand, its own alliance government in J&K enjoys a clear mandate," he noted. Gupta asserted that such contradictory positions show the opposition's "habitual double standards," where they criticise India's democratic institutions for political mileage while simultaneously enjoying electoral victories. He urged citizens to recognise these tactics, describing the opposition's stance as "political theatrics designed to mislead." Highlighting the contrast in leadership, Gupta said Congress has never matched the "vision, credibility and results" delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under Modi, he said, the country has witnessed transformative development, transparent governance and strengthened electoral processes. "The opposition can make noise, but they cannot compete with PM Modi's performance-oriented and people-centric approach," Gupta concluded.

Devyani Rana thanks Union Railway Minister for restoring DMU Train Service, fulfilling pending public demand

STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: MLA Nagrota, Devyani Rana, on Friday expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Union Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav for the restoration of DMU 74907 and 74906, which had remained suspended have now been resumed for public service.



Rana stated that the resumption of these crucial DMU services comes as a major relief for thousands of daily commuters, students, office-goers, and traders of the Nagrota Assembly Constituency. She said the resumption of these services marks not just the return of a train, but the restoration of a critical lifeline that directly impacts livelihoods and daily routines. She further noted that the restoration has been made possible due to the timely intervention and support of the Central BJP leadership & Union Railway Ministry, which acknowledged and swiftly acted to address the genuine concerns of the people of Nagrota. Rana emphasized that restarting DMU 74907 and 74906 will greatly ease mobility, reduce travel time, and improve the daily lives of residents across several panchayats and villages that depend heavily on rail transport. She reiterated her commitment to continually pursuing development-oriented initiatives in the Nagrota constituency. She said that during the election campaign, the people of the area had urged her to take up the matter of restoring the train service with the concerned authorities. "I sincerely thank the Railway Minister for promptly addressing this long-pending demand of the people of Nagrota," she reiterated gratitude on behalf of the public for fulfilling their genuine demand. Rana said that this timely action reflects the BJP's commitment to strengthening connectivity and addressing local grievances with sensitivity and efficiency in the most efficient and prompt manner.

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF LPG DISTRIBUTORS

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) proposes to appoint LPG distributors under various categories at locations specified below from amongst the candidate belonging to different categories mentioned there in the UTs Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh.

Sr. No.	Oil Company	Location (City/Town/Cluster of Villages/Village)	Gram Panchayat	Subdivision	Block	District	Category	Type of Market/LPG Distributorship (Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak)	Security Deposit (Amount in Lakhs)	Marketing Plan
1.	IOC	Shargole; Tingdoo; Siarjing-Khachey; Karamba; Fokerfoo; Mulbek	Shargole, Karamba, Mulbek	Shakar-Chiktan	Shargole	Kargil	OPEN	Durgam	4	2017-18
2.	IOC	Nardi	Nardi	Akhnoor	Maria-Mandrian	Jammu	ST	Durgam	2	2012-13
3.	BPC	Laipora	Laipora	Sogam	Laipora	Kupwara	OPEN (W)	Durgam	4	2017-18
4.	BPC	Pogal	Pogal	Banihal	Ramsoo	Ramban	OPEN	Durgam	4	2017-18
5.	BPC	Kokernag	Kokernag	Kokernag	Breng	Anantnag	OPEN	Durgam	4	2017-18
6.	BPC	Sounder, Lopara, Chicha Dachhan, Lohma, Janakpur	Sounder, Lopara, Chicha Dachhan, Lohma, Janakpur	Marwah	Dachhan	Kishtwar	Open (W)	Durgam	4	2022-23
7.	IOC	Nowgam, Dharie, Nopachi, Yeerdu, Pathgam, Rinaie, Qaderna, Chanjer, Tiller, Hanzal, Deharna, Mulwarwan	Nopachi, Yeerdu, Rinaie, Qaderna, Chanjer, Deharna, Mulwarwan	Marwah	Marwah	Kishtwar	OBC (W)	Durgam	3	2025-26

- Detailed Advertisement including the eligibility criteria, nomenclatures etc. and online application is available on the website: www.lpgvitarakchayan.in. Before filling up the online application form, candidates are requested to read carefully 'User manual for Applicants - LPG VITARAK CHAYAN' which is available at the portal www.lpgvitarakchayan.in.
- Also guidelines on eligibility criteria for selection of LPG Distributor, infrastructure requirements for LPG godown, showroom, Home delivery of cylinders etc. along with the details of selection process are given in the Brochure for Selection of LPG Distributors, which can be downloaded from any of the Oil Companies' websites - www.iocl.com, www.bharatpetroleum.in, www.hindustanpetroleum.com of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL respectively and website: www.lpgvitarakchayan.in.
- Application for LPG Distributorship along with online payment of Non-refundable application fee, as applicable, should be submitted online by date 31.12.2025 at 17:00 hrs.
- The facility for submission of online application will be withdrawn immediately after the cut-off date and time as mentioned above.
- Applicants, in their own interest, should carefully go through the "brochure" and understand conditions of selection before submitting their application.
- The Corporations (IOCL/BPCL/HPCL) reserves the right to cancel / withdraw / amend this advertisement or extend the due date at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.
- If there is any discrepancy found in the Advertisement published in English, if any, vis-a-vis vernacular language, the directions/information indicated in the vernacular version would prevail.
- Corrigendum, if any, will be published only in the Website www.lpgvitarakchayan.in
- Applicants may also refer to the FAQs and contact Area Offices/Territory Offices/Regional Offices of the respective corporation as per details given on the Website www.lpgvitarakchayan.in