

Empowering farmers through Clean Energy & Reliable Irrigation priority of UT Administration: LG Kavinder

Assures all possible support for Solar Submersible Pumping Systems in Kargil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: The Lt Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday emphasised that empowering farmers through reliable infrastructure and clean energy remains a priority of the Ladakh Administration, especially in far-flung and climatically challenging areas like Kargil. This was stated by the Lt Governor while interacting with a delegation headed by Sheikh Nazir-Ul-Mehdi, President Islamia School Kargil and Adv. Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Nominated Councillor,



LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta interacting with a delegation.

LAHDC Kargil, in Kargil. During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Lt Governor about issues related to irrigation challenges faced by local horticulturists, particularly concerning the apricot orchards in the region. They

highlighted the need for sustainable irrigation solutions in view of unreliable conventional power supply and stressed the importance of solar-based alternatives to ensure uninterrupted water availability. The Lt Governor was informed about the proposal for installation of a Solar Submersible Pumping System aimed at strengthening irrigation infrastructure, enhancing apricot production, and supporting the livelihood of local farmers. The delegation emphasized that such initiatives would

promote eco-friendly practices while contributing to the overall economic well-being of the farming community. Kavinder Gupta gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and reiterated the Administration's commitment to promoting renewable energy solutions and sustainable development in Ladakh. He assured that the proposal would be examined on merit, keeping in view the larger public interest and the long-term development of the horticulture sector in the region.



AIIMS Jammu launches Advanced Endourological Services for Prostate, Bladder Tumour Surgeries

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening tertiary urological care in the region, the Department of Urology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu, has successfully commenced advanced endourological services, including Transurethral Resection of Prostate (TURP) and Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumour (TURBT).

These services have been initiated under the visionary leadership of the Executive Director & CEO, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, with the objective of providing state-of-the-art, minimally invasive urological treatment to patients within Jammu and the adjoining regions, thereby reducing the need for referrals to distant tertiary centres.

Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, stated "The introduction of advanced endourological procedures such as TURP and TURBT at AIIMS Jammu marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to strengthen superspecialty healthcare services. Our aim is to ensure that patients in this region receive high-quality, modern and evidence-based medical care closer to home."

The procedures were performed by Dr. Yaser Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Urology, and assisted by Dr. Mohammad Yaseen, Senior Resident. The surgeries were conducted with the dedicated support of the Anaesthesia team, headed by Dr. Sunaina Gupta, along with Dr. Shruti Sharma and Dr. Sandeepika Dogra, ensuring optimal perioperative care and patient safety. The surgical team was further supported by skilled Operation Theatre (OT) technicians Disha Daksh and Mohit, whose technical expertise contributed to the smooth conduct of the procedures.



AIIMS Vijaypur Doctor with team after performing surgery.

TURP (Transurethral Resection of Prostate) is a gold-standard minimally invasive procedure for the management of urinary obstruction caused by benign enlargement of the prostate, a common condition affecting elderly men. TURBT (Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumour) is a critical diagnostic and therapeutic procedure for patients with bladder tumours, enabling accurate diagnosis, staging, and timely treatment.

Both procedures are minimally invasive endoscopic surgeries performed without any external incision. These techniques are associated with shorter hospital stays, reduced postoperative discomfort, faster recovery, and early resumption of normal daily activities, leading to improved patient outcomes and quality of life.

Highlighting the clinical significance of the newly introduced services, Dr. Yaser Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Urology, stated that the availability of TURP and TURBT at AIIMS Jammu will enable timely and minimally invasive management of common urological conditions such as benign prostatic enlargement and bladder tumours. He added that these procedures will help reduce hospital stay, ensure faster recovery, and significantly improve patient outcomes.

The launch of these advanced endourological services underscores AIIMS Jammu's commitment to providing comprehensive, high-quality, and patient-centric healthcare using modern surgical techniques. With this development, patients suffering from prostate-related urinary obstruction and bladder tumours can now access advanced urological care closer to home. The Department of Urology, AIIMS Jammu, plans to further expand its portfolio of minimally invasive and endoscopic urological procedures in the near future, in alignment with the institute's mission of excellence in patient care, education, and research.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Yudhvir Sethi on Tuesday inaugurated a series of heritage and urban upgradation projects in Jammu, including the statue of Raja Jambu Lochan, theme-based cultural statues at Indira Chowk, and the upgraded Brigadier Rajinder Singh Rotary.

The projects have been executed by Jammu Smart City as part of its vision to integrate heritage conservation with modern urban development.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi, accompanied by CEO Jammu Smart City Dr. Devansh Yadav, unveiled the statue of Raja Jambu Lochan, the legendary founder of Jammu, at Old Mandi Park. The statue commemorates the historical legacy of Raja Jambu Lochan, after whom the city derives its name. Yudhvir Sethi said that Maharaja Jambu Lochan, the founder of Jammu, holds immense historical significance and his contribution must be highlighted for future generations. On the same occasion, theme-based cultural statues installed at Indira Chowk were also unveiled.

"These installations depict traditional Dogra art forms and cultural expressions, including folk musicians and



MLA Yudhvir Sethi, CEO Jammu Smart City Dr. Devansh Yadav at inauguration ceremony.

performers, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region," Yudhvir Sethi said and added, "The initiative aims to transform Indira Chowk into a cultural landmark while enhancing the aesthetic appeal of one of the city's busiest traffic junctions." The MLA also inaugurated the upgraded Brigadier Rajinder Singh Rotary, redeveloped as a memorial to honour Brigadier Rajinder Singh, the first recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra. "A hero of the 1947 conflict, Brigadier Rajinder Singh is remembered for courageously delaying enemy advances with a small contingent of soldiers, an act widely credited with safeguarding Jammu and Kashmir during a critical period," Sethi said. Addressing the gathering, MLA Yudhvir Sethi lauded the efforts of Jammu Smart City

and the Jammu Municipal Corporation for reviving and showcasing Jammu's history and culture through public art and urban renewal projects.

He said such initiatives strengthen the city's cultural identity, instil pride among residents, and contribute to heritage-based tourism.

He further added that development projects rooted in history and culture can help boost tourism, support local businesses, and provide new economic opportunities for traders, while giving Jammu a distinct and recognisable identity. Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is dedicated to enhancing and upgrading parks and public spaces across the city, combining modern amenities with the preservation

of their historical and cultural character. He highlighted that the upgradation of Brigadier Rajinder Singh Ji Park will include comprehensive landscaping, improved and well-paved pathways, better seating arrangements, upgraded lighting facilities, and strengthened cleanliness measures. BJP Jammu East Mandal President Adarsh Kumar Jathiar, Amphala Mandal President Swati Sharma, Ex-Corporators Anil Masoom, Dr. Akshay and Suneeet Raina, District Mahila Moreha president, Anuradha, BJP leader Narayan Sharma, Raman Sharma and senior officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCIL), along with local residents, were present on the occasion.

Anti-Bangladesh protests held in Jammu, Rajouri



Lawyers raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association on Tuesday protested the lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to either bring Hindus to India or ensure their protection there.

The lawyers also demanded that illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants be evicted from Jammu.

"We condemn the repeated attacks and killings of Hindus in Bangladesh. We want the protection of Hindus. We want

to send a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Home Minister Amit Shah ji that the entire country stands with them to take stern steps to ensure that atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh are stopped," the bar's president, Nirmal K Kotwal, said.

"There are two solutions - either bring Hindus to India or ensure their protection there. Our country is capable of doing it," he said.

On December 18, Dipu Chandra Das, a 25-year-old garment factory worker, was lynched by a mob and his body

set on fire over blasphemy in Baluka in Mymensingh.

According to the police, Das was first beaten up by a mob outside the factory and then hanged from a tree. The crowd left the body of the deceased by the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway and later set it on fire.

Meanwhile, the Shiv Sena Dogra Front also held a protest in the Rani Park area of Jammu against alleged Hindu subjugation in Bangladesh.

"We condemn the killings of Hindus in Bangladesh. They are killing Hindus there, while illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya settlers are being provided facilities in Jammu," the outfit's president, Ashok Gupta, said. Several Hindu right outfits under the banners of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal demonstrated at Panja Chowk in Rajouri district against the lynching. An effigy of Muhammad Yunus, the chief advisor of the interim government in Bangladesh, was set ablaze during the protest.

Amit terms Digital Census 2027 as a 'game changer' for Bharat in Deloitte Arohana 2025 Summit



DCO & DCR, GoI, MHA for UTs of J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma speaking at panel discussion.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amit Sharma, Director Census Operations (DCO) & Director Citizen Registration (DCR), Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs for the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, termed upcoming Digital Census 2027 to be the real 'game changer' for the nation during an important national event namely, Arohana 2025 - Growth with Impact, Government Summit organized by Deloitte in New Delhi over last two days.

Amit had been invited as a subject-specialist and a keynote speaker to lead a highly powered panel discussion around the theme of 'India's First Digital Census: Redefining

Digital Census 2027 to be the real 'game changer' for the nation during an important national event namely, Arohana 2025 - Growth with Impact, Government Summit organized by Deloitte in New Delhi over last two days. Amit had been invited as a subject-specialist and a keynote speaker to lead a highly powered panel discussion around the theme of 'India's First Digital Census: Redefining

efficient policy making, corporate decisions, global economy boosting, etc.

He also shared that the Data Centres of Office of Registrar General of India set-up in different geographical locations like Bengaluru, Lucknow and Delhi are fully geared-up for this humongous data processing, after successful culmination of both the rounds of HLO and PE. Amit Sharma also shared a unique novel initiative of upcoming Digital Census which is 'Self Enumeration' which simply means that public shall be given the facility of filling-up their information directly through the requisite application made for it, which shall be verified during the visit of enumerators and supervisors at their respective households. Amit requested the gathering to become their messengers and supporters in successful conduct of Census 2027 thereby sharing that a big nationwide publicity campaign with star appeal and wide scale usage of social media tools.

Govt approves 18 pc fare hike from Jan 1: AJKTWA



AJKTWA members with Govt. officials at a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) held a meeting with the Finance Department regarding revision of transport fares, resulting in the approval of an 18 per cent hike.

The revised rates will come into effect from January 1, 2026. AJKTWA Chairman Karan Singh Wazir, he said, "The fare revision was long pending due to rising operational costs. We welcome the government's decision, which will provide much-needed relief to transporters."

The meeting was attended by transporters Vijay Singh Chib, Mohd Yousuf, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Mohd Latif, Ghoolam Rasool, Sanjeev Choudhary, Vijay Dogra, Parvinder Singh, Pankaj Verma, Kuldeep Singh, Gurdeep Singh, and Labh Singh.

BDC Vice Chairman Rajouri honours Vishal Chopra as Chairman NATF



BDC Vice Chairman Rajouri, Sanjeev Kumar (Mangu) honouring Chairman NATF, Vishal Chopra.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BDC Vice Chairman Rajouri, Sanjeev Kumar (Mangu), honoured Vishal Chopra on his appointment as Chairman of the National Anti-Terrorism Front (NATF). During the ceremony, Vishal Chopra declared: "I will never allow my country, Bharat, to bow down."

BDC Vice Chairman

Sanjeev Kumar (Mangu) extended his full support to the newly appointed Chairman, affirming his commitment to stand firmly with the National Anti-Terrorism Front in its mission. BDC Vice Chairman invited Vishal Chopra to visit the Rajouri-Poonch border area, underscoring the importance of unity and vigilance in safeguarding the nation.

1971 Chhamb Displaced families face fresh ordeal over 'No Man's Land' claim Sukhnandan appeals to govt to resolve revenue issue of border residents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hundreds of families displaced during the 1971 Indo-Pak war from the Chhamb sector are once again facing uncertainty and distress after being told that the land they have been cultivating for decades now falls in a so-called "No Man's Land" near the International Border (IB).

The affected families originally belonged to villages Chakla, Barsala, Gogi, Karni, Chak Pandita and adjoining areas of Chhamb. Following the 1971 conflict, these families were shifted to relief camps at Majalata, and later relocated to Marh, Beliasmath and Lalyala areas, including Lalyala Camp and Kanalechak Camp.

According to residents, land was formally allotted to them in 1976, during the



Former minister and senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Kumar addressing the media.

tenure of the then Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah government. However, due to changes in the alignment of the International Border, the land originally earmarked for them fell on the other side of the IB. As a result, alternative land was allotted to other families in 1973 and 1976, while the displaced Chhamb

families were left in limbo, stated former minister and senior BJP leader Sukhnandan Kumar while addressing the media at BJP headquarters in Jammu on Tuesday.

Despite this confusion, these families have been cultivating the present land for over 30 years, and were even

issued Intiqal (mutation) in 1992, strengthening their belief that the land legally belonged to them, Sukhnandan said.

The crisis resurfaced recently during the border fencing work, when the affected residents were informed by authorities that the land they are cultivating

lies in "No Man's Land" and that their original allotment is on the other side of the International Border - land that is now inaccessible and unusable.

Senior BJP leader Ch Sukhnandan Kumar, who has taken up the issue and appealed to the UT government to immediately intervene and resolve the matter. He said it was unjust to penalize families who have suffered displacement, uncertainty and administrative lapses for over five decades.

"No one is asking about the sufferings of these displaced families caused by revenue department mistakes. If the issue is not resolved urgently, people will be forced to come out on the roads," Sukhnandan Kumar warned. He further pointed out that

while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has repeatedly stated that the LG administration is not allowing elected governments to function, the real question remains - who will resolve the genuine problems of border residents who are being rendered landless due to bureaucratic confusion, during tenure of Sheikh Abdullah

The displaced families have now made a fresh appeal to the government to permanently settle the land issue, regularize their possession, and ensure that families who have already lost everything once are not pushed into another cycle of displacement and protest.

J&K BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan and others accompanied Ch Sukhnandan Kumar during the press conference.