

# LG Kavinder reviews arrangements for holy exposition of sacred Buddha relics in UT Ladakh

## Calls for collective support to make holy exposition a grand success

### STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Monday chaired a comprehensive preparatory meeting at Lok Niwas to review arrangements for the holy exposition of the sacred Buddha relics in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra and revered spiritual leaders including Thiksay Rinpoche, Drukpa Thuksey, Bakula Rangdol Nima Rinpoche, Drubwang Rinpoche, Khenechen Rangdol Rinpoche, Urygan Rinpoche, Palga Rinpoche, Khantul Rinpoche, Liktsé Khamtak Rinpoche, Thiksay Khamtak Rinpoche and Tsamtrul Rinpoche.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary briefed the gathering on the historic initiative undertaken by the Lt Governor to bring the sacred relics to Ladakh for the blessings of the people. He informed that following the Lt Governor's application to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India highlighting Ladakh's profound Buddhist heritage—the proposal was accepted. The sacred relics are



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta with Monks and officials after the meeting.

expected to arrive in Leh on April 28-29, with a grand ceremonial reception planned on May 1. The relics will be placed at Jivestral for public exposition for approximately 15 days, enabling devotees from across Ladakh to seek blessings. He assured that transportation and other arrangements would be made to ensure maximum participation from all districts.

The venerable Rinpoches expressed

gratitude to the UT Administration and offered suggestions, including robust security and crowd management, formation of task-oriented committees, adoption of best practices from global events such as the Global Peace Prayer in Bhutan, mass chanting by different Buddhist sects, a ceremonial reception at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, multilingual information dissemination, screening of films on Lord

Buddha, and inviting ambassadors from Southeast Asian nations and representatives of Buddhist institutions.

In his address, Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta termed the exposition a historic and spiritually significant occasion. He shared that the idea was inspired after his meeting with the Prime Minister and his visit to view the sacred Piprahwa Buddha relics in New Delhi. Emphasising that only two months remain, he called for meticulous planning, seamless coordination and time-bound execution, with dedicated sub-committees for logistics, security, medical facilities, sanitation and volunteer management.

Highlighting the spiritual dimension, he stressed mass prayers, mantra chanting and an interfaith seminar to spread a message of peace and harmony from Ladakh to the world. He urged citizens, youth groups and religious institutions to work closely with the Administration to make the holy exposition a grand and spiritually uplifting milestone for Ladakh.



## Amit Sharma chairs meeting on Seva Sankalp Resolution; reaffirms commitment to Viksit Bharat 2047



Director, MHA, Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh Amrit Sharma chairing a meeting.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting to deliberate upon the "Seva Sankalp Resolution" adopted recently by the Union Cabinet was held at the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The meeting was chaired by Amit Sharma, Director, MHA, Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh. Senior officers including Arun Kumar, Joint Director; Manmeet Singh Loomba, Deputy Director; Assistant Directors and other officials participated both physically and through virtual mode.

At the outset, Director Amit Sharma directed the team to read the Office Memorandum issued by the Cabinet Secretariat along with the enclosed Seva Sankalp Resolution. A detailed brain-

storming session followed, focusing on the Union Cabinet's vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047 and positioning it among the top three global leaders. Emphasising the core values of the Resolution, Amit Sharma stated that it reflects a renewed commitment to public-centric governance rooted in constitutional principles, transparency, accountability, and service to citizens. He observed that the upcoming Census 2027 will embody these principles, as it will be the first-ever fully digital and paperless census conducted across the country. Highlighting the national vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047," he noted that the Directorate of Census Operations has a crucial role in strengthening

evidence-based governance through clean, transparent, and accurate data collection. Census 2027, he said, will serve as a foundational pillar for policy planning and informed decision-making across sectors. He further observed that Census 2027 holds the key to reaching the last citizen of the nation, ensuring inclusive and equitable development. Initiatives such as "Census as a Service (CaaS)" and digital enumeration were described as aligned with broader governance reforms aimed at efficiency and citizen-centric administration. Officers present reiterated their collective commitment to contribute toward the national objective of making India a developed nation and one of the top three global economies by 2047. The meeting concluded with a firm resolve to implement the spirit of the Seva Sankalp Resolution in letter and spirit. Officers and officials from Jammu, Srinagar, and Leh offices assured the Director of their continued dedication to achieving the timelines and goals envisioned by the Union Cabinet.

## CT Scan, X-Ray machines out of order at Jammu's CD Hospital

### SANJAY SHARMA

JAMMU: Essential diagnostic services at the Chest Diseases (CD) Hospital Jammu have come to a grinding halt, with both CT Scan and X-Ray machines reportedly out of order, leaving patients in distress and raising serious questions about accountability.

The hospital, which caters primarily to patients suffering from tuberculosis, chronic respiratory illnesses, and other chest-related ailments, relies heavily on imaging diagnostics for timely and accurate treatment. However, with the breakdown of essential machines, patients are being forced to seek services at private diagnostic centres, often at high costs.

Patients visiting the hospital, many of whom are suffering from serious respiratory



ailments, alleged that they are being forced to seek costly diagnostic tests at private centres due to the non-functional equipment. "We come here because it is a government hospital and affordable. But when machines are not working, we have no option but to spend thousands outside," said an attendant, expressing anguish to STATE TIMES reporter.

Hospital confirmed that both the CT Scan and old X-Ray units have been non-functional for some time, disrupting routine medical services. The situation has sparked public concern over maintenance systems and the pace of administrative response in restoring vital healthcare infrastructure.

When contacted, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma acknowledged the issue and stated that the process for installing new UPS machine in X-Ray unit is underway.

"The work is under process. Necessary steps are being taken to procure and install new equipment to ensure better diagnostic facilities for patients," he said.

However, patients and attendants questioned why

interim arrangements were not made to minimize inconvenience.

The prolonged unavailability of key diagnostic tools has sparked debate over who bears responsibility - whether it lies with hospital management, the Health Department, or higher administrative authorities tasked with infrastructure oversight.

With hundreds of patients visiting the hospital daily, public health advocates are demanding immediate intervention, temporary alternative arrangements, and a transparent inquiry into the lapse. Until services are restored, healthcare at the institution remains effectively on pause, leaving vulnerable patients to bear the brunt of systemic shortcomings.

## Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of CE PWD Office



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary interacting with official.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Monday conducted a surprise inspection of the office of Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (R&B) Jammu to assess its functioning and progress in both physical and financial areas.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the overall working of the office and called for prompt, efficient and citizen-

centric service delivery. He took stock of both the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and emphasised the need for achieving the targets within stipulated timelines.

Stressing on accountability and efficiency, he directed the officers to ensure seamless coordination between the Chief Engineer's office and allied wings for timely completion of developmental works. He underscored that any delay, negligence or com-

promise in quality would not be tolerated and instructed the officials to maintain strict monitoring mechanisms.

"Quality work and transparency in execution are top priorities for this government," he stated.

The Deputy Chief Minister further highlighted the government's commitment towards ensuring robust and balanced development across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on improving road connectivity and extending better infrastructure to every habitation across J&K.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister met various public and individual delegations from different districts, including Padder area and listened patiently to their demands and grievances.

Chief Engineer and senior officers of engineering wing were present on the occasion.

## CS inaugurates SKUAST-J industry startup outreach programme

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu on Monday Tuesday organized a landmark Industry-Startup Outreach Programme under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) here.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, inaugurated the event.

The programme, attended by the senior government officials, industry leaders, startups, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), academicians and students, was aimed at to strengthen the industry-academia-startup linkages in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event was attended by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Professor B.N. Tripathi, Mission Director, JKCIIP/HADP, Sandeep Kumar (IFS), statutory officers of the university, repre-



CS Atal Dulloo with dignitaries at a programme.

sentatives of different institutions including IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, industry experts, UTLBC, J&K Bank, District Industries Centre (DIC) Jammu, startups and FPOs.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the need for FPOs to move beyond aggregation towards enterprise-oriented models centered on processing, packaging, branding and value addition to significantly enhance farmers' incomes.

Atal Dulloo elaborated 4 Cs: culture, capacity building, commercialization and con-

nectivity for success of startups. He reiterated the government's commitment towards improving the ease of doing business in agriculture, strengthening startup ecosystems and ensuring timely and affordable credit through strong banking partnerships.

Appreciating the proactive initiatives of SKUAST-Jammu and the Mission Directorate JKCIIP, the Chief Secretary stressed that despite J&K being a major producer of wool, trout fisheries, floriculture and medicinal and aromatic plants

(MAPs), processing remains limited and requires focused attention. Atal Dulloo expressed hope that the outreach programme would evolve into a sustained partnership model, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a vibrant agri-entrepreneurship hub under initiatives such as JKCIIP, HADP and Mission YUVA, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Vice Chancellor Professor B.N. Tripathi detailed that holding the event outside the campus was both strategic and symbolic, reflecting the evolving role of universities as drivers of entrepreneurship and regional economic growth beyond teaching and research. He highlighted key milestones in industry engagement, including establishment of the Bayer Learning Centre and introduction of Professors of Practice from industry to bring real-world expertise into academics.

The Vice Chancellor informed that over 120 start-

up ideas have been incubated in agriculture and allied sectors, with more than 32 receiving funding from the Ministry for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. However, he emphasized that funding alone is insufficient and stressed the need for structured mentorship during scaling, compliance and commercialisation phases. He urged the industry partners to support startups through mentorship, contract research, joint product development, pilot trials, technology validation and integration into established supply chains. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, presented the vote of thanks while Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, briefed them about the programme.

Meanwhile, two panel discussions were conducted during the programme, involving the representatives from different institutions.

## CAT Jammu imposes Rs 50,000 cost on Agriculture Deptt for declaring officer 'Dead'

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench, has imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the Agriculture Department for wrongly declaring a serving officer as "expired" and promoting his juniors in his place.

The order was passed while allowing a petition filed by Bushan Lal Munshi. The Division Bench comprising Judicial Member Rajinder Dogra and Administrative Member Ram Mohan Johri termed the act a case of sheer negligence and a deliberate attempt to favour others.

The Tribunal directed the respondents to issue a corrigendum correcting the erroneous record that showed the applicant as having expired on June 15, 2001. The Court ordered that his status be recorded as alive and in service till his superannuation on December 31, 2002.

The Bench further directed the Department to grant him

notional promotion to the post of Chief Agriculture Officer/Dy. Director Agriculture with effect from July 1, 2001- the date on which his immediate juniors were promoted.

These included Subash Chander Saraf, Pushkar Nath Tiku, Behari Lal Kantru and Brij Mohan Sharma. The Tribunal also ordered re-fixation of his pay and re-determination of pension and other retirement benefits accordingly.

As per the case details, a Government Order dated October 7, 2008 had notified an eligibility list of officers for promotion, including those already retired. Munshi's name appeared at serial number 38, and he was fully eligible for promotion. However, due to the erroneous entry showing him as deceased, he was denied the benefit despite his seniority.

Observing that the lapse was not a mere human error but a deliberate act to defeat his claim, the Tribunal directed strict compliance with its order.

## Prof. (Dr.) Shakti appointed as Hony Prof, Lt Gen (Dr.) Sunil Kant as Senior Consultant (Healthcare) in IIM Jammu

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has significantly strengthened its academic and MBA Healthcare ecosystem with the appointment of Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta as Honorary Distinguished Professor and Lt Gen (Dr.) Sunil Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.) as Senior Consultant (Healthcare).

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, former Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, is a distinguished academic leader and hospital administrator. An alumnus of Government Medical College Jammu and AIIMS New Delhi (MHA), he has mentored over 45 postgraduate and PhD scholars, guided 112 research studies, authored more than 110 publications, and written 11 books on hospital planning, procurement, disaster management, and infection control. He led WHO-supported



Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta and Lt Gen (Dr.) Sunil Kant with Director IIM Jammu, Dr B.S. Sahay.

initiatives on hospital governance and digital medical records. Under his leadership, AIIMS Jammu completed 43 major buildings within three-and-a-half years and secured notable national recognition, including the FICCI Healthcare Personality of the Year Award (2025).

Lt Gen (Dr.) Sunil Kant, SM, VSM (Retd.), brings over 38 years of distinguished service in the Armed Forces Medical Services and premier healthcare institu-

tions. Formerly Director General of Hospital Services, he oversaw 240 hospitals with more than 40,000 beds nationwide. He also served as Dean (Research), Medical Superintendent, and Head of Hospital Administration at AIIMS Jammu, contributing significantly to hospital governance, digital transformation, and research systems.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, described the appointments as a transformative step toward building a robust healthcare manage-

ment vertical. He emphasized integrating clinical excellence with management innovation, AI-driven healthcare analytics, and digital health transformation aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research, noted that their combined expertise would enhance interdisciplinary research, executive education, and policy engagement in healthcare management.

The new appointees also met the Director to discuss strengthening the MBA Healthcare Programme, advancing collaborative research, and developing executive education initiatives. These strategic appointments reaffirm IIM Jammu's commitment to emerging as a leading centre for healthcare management education and policy-driven research.

## LG visits deceased SSF Personnel's family



### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the family of Special Security Force (SSF) Personnel, SGCT Sunny Salgotra, who had lost his life in an unfortunate road accident. The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the departed soul. He expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and assured all assistance and support from the government.

## India reviews fuel supplies amid Middle East tensions

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As military conflict in the Middle East escalates, India's Oil Ministry on Monday said it is continuously monitoring the evolving situation and will take all necessary steps to ensure availability and affordability of key petroleum products in the country. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reviewed the supply situation for crude oil, LPG, and other petroleum products with senior officials from the ministry and public sector companies. "We are continuously monitoring the evolving situation and all steps will be taken in order to ensure availability and affordability of major petroleum products in the country," the ministry said in a post on X.