

# GoI, UT Adm committed to fulfil people's expectations & aspirations of a developed Kargil: LG Gupta

Virtually lays foundation/e-inaugurates several projects worth Rs 180.24 crores in Kargil district

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: District Administration, Kargil, hosted an event at the Auditorium Hall to welcome Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on his maiden visit to Kargil after assuming the charge of LG Ladakh. LG Gupta also e-inaugurated various projects worth Rs 180.24 crores on the occasion. He virtually laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 300-metre double-lane motorable bridge with pedestrian on both sides over the Suru River (Rs 76.10 crores); construction of 25m span motorable bridge, including link road from Shakardo to Zungthang (Rs 5.29 crores); inauguration of 30m span steel plate girder bridge of Brakfos Ayet Hagnis, including approach roads of 30m (Rs 4.80 crores); steel motorable bridge over River Lungnak At Testa Lungnak, including approach roads (Rs 4.39 crores); e-stone laying ceremony of construction/upgradation of link road from NH-301, KM 44,100 to Khovs Namsuru (Rs 24.04 crores); widening and upgradation of Namsuru Tangleo Road (Rs 38.42 crores); construction of irrigation canal from Paldar Talpo to Tashi Stongday (Rs 7.70 crores); design, supply and installation of 50 number of solar submersible pumps for irrigation (Rs 19.50 crores).



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta virtually inaugurating several projects.

Addressing the gathering, LG Gupta stated that the virtual inauguration and stone laying of these developmental projects in Kargil show that Kargil is on the right development path. He also stated that the UT Administration would make concerted efforts to fulfill the expectations and aspirations of the people of Kargil of a developed district. He also reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the welfare and development of remote areas of Ladakh, with the announcement of five districts for Ladakh showing the Government of India's intent to resolve the issues of people of Ladakh residing in remote areas.

LG Gupta informed the gathering about his meetings

with a large number of delegations during his visit to Kargil and Drass and their positive feedback on various development activities taken by the UT Administration and the Hill Councils.

He stated that Kargil's development should be a collaborative effort by exploring all means possible. Highlighting that road and air connectivity would be his priority, with the opening of Zoji La Tunnel as a gamechanger, LG Gupta informed that it would be a moment to cherish for people of Kargil and Ladakh when the tunnel is thrown open for traffic for year-round connectivity.

He stated that efforts are being made with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation to take up the issue of the oper-

ation of civilian flights in Kargil. Stating that the development of tourism is one of his top priorities, LG Gupta said that efforts would be made to improve road connectivity to ensure a seamless experience for tourists during his visit to Ladakh. He also stated that the livelihood opportunities of Ladakhi youth would improve with the improvement in tourism infrastructure.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, appreciating LG Gupta for visiting Kargil district, hoped that LG Gupta, under his strong leadership, would strike a perfect balance between the two districts. He highlighted the need for district status for Sankoo and Shakar-Chiktan, extension of civil airport at Kargil, the

need for an Agriculture University at Kargil, the need to upgrade District Hospital Kargil to a 200-bedded hospital, etc.

Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohmad Haneefa Jan, welcomed LG Gupta on behalf of the people of Kargil and informed that there is a strong sense of optimism among the people of Ladakh regarding the inclusive development of Ladakh under LG Gupta's leadership. He highlighted the need for a civil airport at Kargil, the resumption of civilian flights at Kargil airport, etc.

Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, in his welcome address, informed the IILG about recent awards won by the Municipal Committee Kargil. SSP Kargil, Shree Raam R, IPS, presented the vote of thanks.

The event was attended by the CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun; MP Ladakh, Mohmad Haneefa Jan; Executive Councillors/Councillors of LAHDC Kargil; Chairman, Haj Committee Ladakh, Mohd Ali Majaz; Head of religious and social organizations, civil society members, sectoral heads, HoDs of various departments, general public and cultural troupes of various ethnic tribes of Kargil.

# Trikuta Nagar Development Council visits Arya Samaj, performs Hawan Rekha Mahajan lauds Arya Samaj, TNDC for cultural, social contributions



BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan with TNDC and Arya Samaj members at a programme.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Members of the Trikuta Nagar Development Council (TNDC) today visited Arya Samaj Trikuta Nagar and performed a Hawan ceremony to promote spiritual harmony and community bonding.

The event was marked by the presence of BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan, who also joined the Council members Trikuta Nagar Development Council namely Chairman Ashok Gupta, President Shubehander Verma, Narinder Gupta, Krishan Lal Gupta, T.P Puri, T.C Taggar, Ramesh Gupta in offering prayers and extending support to the Arya Samaj Trikuta Nagar.

Earlier, the visiting members were warmly welcomed by the President of Arya Samaj Trikuta Nagar Ravinder Rekhi, Vice

President Bharat Bhushan, Secretary Subash Arya, and renowned Vedic scholar Ranvijay Shastri.

Speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan appreciated the combined efforts of Arya Samaj and the Development Council. She said, "Arya Samaj has always been at the forefront of preserving our cultural and spiritual values while advocating for progressive reforms. Their contribution to society, especially in education and moral upliftment, is inspiring. I also commend the Trikuta Nagar Development Council for standing in solidarity with such institutions and playing a proactive role in community service."

She further stated that BJP's core values align with empowering cultural institutions and strengthening grassroots development, adding that religious places

like Arya Samaj are not just places of worship but also pillars of social transformation.

The Trikuta Nagar Development Council assured continued help and cooperation for the Arya Samaj, recognizing its vital role in promoting Vedic teachings and social service in the region.

The management of Arya Samaj Trikuta Nagar expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Trikuta Nagar Development Council for their visit and support. President Ravinder Rekhi thanked the council members for their proactive approach in encouraging religious and cultural institutions. He acknowledged the council's consistent efforts towards the development of the area and their assurance of future cooperation, stating that such gestures strengthen community ties and inspire collective progress.

# Rtn. Vaishali install as President Rotary Club Jammu Aastha, Rtn. Shruti Gupta as Secretary

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rotary Club Jammu Aastha (Club No. 83862), under Rotary International District 3070, hosted a Installation Ceremony-cum-Governor's Official visit at the Amar Singh Club, here.

The occasion witnessed the installation of Rtn. Vaishali Goel as the President for the Rotary year 2025-2026 and Rtn. Shruti Gupta as the Secretary. The ceremony was attended by the District Governor Rtn. Rohit Oberoi, whose official visit added honour and motivation to the event.

Also present on the dais were Rtn. R.S. Goel, Zonal Chairman 2025-2026, Assistant Governor Rtn. Parshotam Singh and Rtn. Ritesh Gupta, outgoing President 2024-2025, who was appreciated for his dedicated service during



Rtn. Vaishali Goel being installed as the President for the Rotary year 2025-2026.

his tenure.

In her presidential address, Rtn. Vaishali Goel laid out her vision for the year ahead, focusing on impactful service projects, youth empowerment, health initiatives, and

deeper community engagement in line with Rotary International's theme for the year "Unite for Good."

The newly installed President took a moment to extend heartfelt gratitude to each and every

member of Rotary Club Jammu Aastha, acknowledging their consistent involvement, selfless service, and unconditional support. She emphasized that "this club is not just a group of individuals but a close-knit family, and every project, every success is a result of collective effort. I feel truly blessed to lead such a committed and compassionate team."

District Governor Rtn. Rohit Oberoi appreciated the club's energy and spirit, encouraging members to continue embracing Rotary's values of Service Above Self.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks, vibrant fellowship, and a renewed pledge by all members to carry forward the Rotary legacy with dedication and unity. Master of Ceremony was Rtn Inderdeep Kaur.



Natrang artists performing in a play.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 'Ek Kalakriti', a play in Hindi originally written in Russian by Anton Chekhov and translated by Satyendar Sharat was presented here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its Sunday Theatre Series. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant and presented the real gist of the story in a comprehensive manner.

The play opens at the home of one elderly lady who is searching the old stuff belonging to her dead husband. Her young son stops her by terming all such

old and useless stuff as garbage which offends her as she is very nostalgic and emotionally connected with that stuff. From the store, she gets a very beautiful sculpture of Venus (goddess of love & beauty). Though the sculpture was very beautifully crafted with clean intentions of the artist who wanted to portray the maximum beauty but it appears obscene to most of the people depending upon their sensibilities. The mother tells her son to present the same to the doctor who saved his life as a gesture of gratitude as they could not pay

him well. Doctor was happy to see the gift but was uncomfortable to keep it with him as he thinks it to be seductive and not as per the standard of his patients. He gets rid of the same by further presenting to his advocate friend who had done some favour to him. But unable to display the uncovered sculpture at his chamber, advocate forwards it to a famous actor. The actor liked the gift but was criticized by his wife for keeping such material he decides to sell it further and the cycle continues. In a very beautiful manner the writer has expressed that things may appear different from different perspectives. The same thing which appears noble and beautiful piece of art to one may look obscene and vulgar to another. Sometimes the filth is not in the things, it is in the mind of people.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Kananpreet Kaur (Mother), Aryan Sharma(Son), Pawan Verma (Doctor), Kushal Bhat (Advocate), Shivam Singh (Shoshkin), Meenakshi Bhagat (Natasha), Adaksh Bagal(Make up Man) and Kartik Kumar (Kabadi Wala). The lights were designed and operated by Neeraj Kant and the music of the play was scored by Vandana Thakur. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

# IIM Jammu launches 'Bandhan' - A cultural immersion initiative celebrating Spirit of Jammu, Dogri Heritage

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, inaugurated a deeply meaningful and transformative cultural initiative titled 'Bandhan - A Cultural Immersion with Local Family of Jammu' at the Mandapam Auditorium, Jagti Campus on Sunday.

This first-of-its-kind initiative marks a pioneering step in promoting emotional connection, social learning, and celebrating the vibrant Dogri heritage of the Jammu region. The Inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu along with other noted dignitaries.

Rooted in the heart of Jammu, the City of Temples, Bandhan is a first-of-its-kind cultural immersion initiative launched by IIM Jammu to promote social sensitization, community bonding, and celebration of Dogri culture and heritage. This unique program offers students a transformative learning experience by bridging academic rigor with grassroots realities. To begin with, 412 first-year MBA students will participate, with students grouped in 4-5 and hosted by local families. More than 100 families have already shown interest, and 100 families joined the institute today for the formal launch, showcasing overwhelming community support for this powerful cultural movement. The inauguration

began with a traditional tilak, garlanding, and arti ceremony, expressing mutual respect and welcome, followed by a campus tour that introduced families to IIM Jammu's academic facilities, including the Nalanda Library, modern classrooms, and the Vedanta MDP Centre.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, welcomed all attendees, calling Bandhan a long-awaited dream realized-"a day of joy, pride, and purpose." Reflecting on the remarkable journey of IIM Jammu, he shared how the institute has grown from just 47 students in 2018 to becoming one of the fastest-growing third-generation IIMs in the country. He graciously acknowledged IIM Jammu's remarkable milestone as the only second-and third-generation IIM to receive both the EFMD Program

Accreditation for its MBA Program and the BGA Institutional Accreditation in the same year-underscoring commitment to academic excellence and global standards. He expressed gratitude to the Government of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for their unwavering support in building a strong educational ecosystem in the region of Jammu and Kashmir with IIM Jammu working in close synergy alongside IIT Jammu and AIIMS Jammu.

Describing Bandhan as more than a cultural exchange, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, called



Director IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay along with other dignitaries at lunching ceremony of 'Bandhan'.

it "a soulful bridge that connects people, not just places-a step toward nation-building through empathy and tradition." He positioned IIM Jammu as Mini India with Global Vision-deeply rooted in Dogra heritage and aligned with the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat mission. He proudly shared that more than 100 families have shown interest in this unique program to promote Jammu's Dogri culture and heritage. To begin with, 412 first-year MBA students of IIM Jammu will participate in this initiative. More than 100 families are joining today in the launch of the program, reflecting the enduring spirit of Dogra hospitality and cultural pride. "Bandhan stands for-where hearts meet, stories unfold, and the soul of India is reflected through cultural amalgamation," he concluded. The ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries who lauded the initiative. Padma Shri Dr. Jitendra Udhampuri, a renowned Dogri scholar, brought poetic elegance to the ceremony as he spoke of Jammu as a land where cul-

ture lives in every home and tradition. Reflecting on India's freedom and the national flag, he highlighted the unity in diversity that defines the nation. He urged the youth to carry forward the spirit of Duggar Pradesh, reminding them that "the future belongs to those who remember their roots while dreaming of the skies." Lt. Gen. Rakesh Kapoor (Retd.) President, J & K Ex Services League commended IIM Jammu and the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu calling it one of the country's finest institutions. He emphasized the need for deeper cultural immersion and suggested adopting widows and their children as a social initiative.

Citing heroes like Gen. Zorawar Singh and Brig. Rajinder Singh, he urged integration of Jammu's military legacy into academic discourse.

Sojanya Sharma, Former Civil Servant spoke of Jammu's rich heritage-from the tales of Jambu Lochan to historic routes like Katra-Jagti-and invited students to

explore the cultural and spiritual soul of the region. Maj. Gen. Sunita Kapoor (Retd.), Executive Member, J & K Ex Services League highlighted Duggar Pradesh's traditions of revering women, such as Kanya Pujan and Jashakti Puja, emphasizing the region's cultural balance of Shakti and Shiva. Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Verma lauded Bandhan as a bridge across generations and cultures, drawing parallels with Gandhian ideals and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. He emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting Dogra heritage and announced his intent to internationalize the Bandhan initiative by involving Dogras living abroad, deepening global community engagement and cultural exchange. Praveen Pargal, President, Laghu Udyog Bharti, J & K praised Bandhan's vision and urged students to celebrate local festivals like Lohri and visit fairs like Baba Jitto Mela and Chanyal Mela and explore sites like Akhnoor Fort. Dr. Alka Sharma, Women Activist described Bandhan as a bond

of love and belonging, inviting students to experience Dogra hospitality and traditional dishes like saag, and rajma chawal. "You'll become one of us," she said warmly. Rakesh Wazir, Chairperson, PHD Chamber of Commerce (Jammu Region) and President, Hotel and Restaurant Association, Katra, praised the visionary approach of Director, IIM Jammu and IIM Jammu's world-class infrastructure, noting it surpasses even five-star experiences and proposed hosting 100 students for immersive cultural and culinary experiences. He echoed the vision of PM Narendra Modi, emphasizing that true love lies in sacrifice and community spirit.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, described Jammu as both the City of Temples and a rising hub of higher education. He highlighted IIM Jammu's rapid growth, introduction of diverse programs, and pursuit of global accreditations, including moving towards the prestigious Triple Crown

International Accreditation. Emphasizing local collaboration, he reaffirmed the institute's commitment to blending Indian values with global academic standards.

As part of Bandhan, students of IIM Jammu engage in a thoughtfully curated series of experiential activities that immerse them in the cultural and social fabric of the region. The initiative begins with home visits, where students are warmly welcomed into local households, sharing authentic home-cooked meals and engaging in heartfelt conversations that reflect the warmth and hospitality of Dogra culture. Through story-sharing sessions, students and host families exchange personal journeys-stories of resilience, values, and aspirations-building powerful emotional bonds rooted in mutual respect.

Students also participate in a variety of cultural activities, immersing themselves in traditional rituals, folk music, crafts, and culinary practices, gaining hands-on exposure to the rich heritage of Jammu. These experiences are followed by reflective sessions, including group discussions, presentations, and written reflections, where students internalize and articulate the insights gained during their cultural immersion. The impact of this initiative is both deep and far-reaching. It fosters empathy and cultural awareness, enabling students to understand the nuances of local traditions and socio-economic

realities. Bandhan also strengthens the connection between IIM Jammu and the local community, reinforcing mutual goodwill and cooperation. Most importantly, it contributes to the personal growth of students, nurturing humility, gratitude, and a broadened worldview-hallmarks of socially responsible and culturally grounded leadership.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu delivered the vote of thanks, reaffirming Bandhan as a platform where the boundaries between classroom and community dissolve to create holistic and transformative learning. The ceremony ended with a standing ovation for the dignitaries and the first of its kind unique Bandhan initiative, followed by the National Anthem. This was followed by a group photograph. The master of the ceremony was Shri Ankush Varma, CIO, Srinagar Campus, IIM Jammu who extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries and everyone present on the occasion.

Through Bandhan, IIM Jammu reaffirms its commitment to nurturing intellectually sound, culturally rooted, and emotionally grounded leaders. The initiative aligns strongly with the spirit of Viksit Bharat, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and stands as a model for how education can become a tool for human connection, cultural preservation, and mindful leadership.

