

# Lt Governor Kavinder vows to transform Ladakh into Global Destination

Praises traders' fraternity for upholding 'Nation First-Self Last' Ethos

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta has pledged to transform the Union Territory into a globally recognized destination for tourism, culture, and commerce.

Emphasizing Ladakh's vast untapped potential, he said major infrastructure projects like the Zojila Tunnel will open new avenues for connectivity and development.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta was speaking after according a warm felicitation by the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jammu, in a special ceremony organised to celebrate his appointment as the Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The event witnessed a large gathering of traders, industrialists, political leaders, and members of civil society, reflecting the widespread goodwill and respect for the senior leader.

On the occasion, Ashok Koul, MLAs Surinder Bhagat and Yudhvir Sethi,



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta speaking after according a felicitation by CCI Jammu.

Arun Gupta (President, Chamber of Commerce Jammu), his team of office bearers, along with presidents of various bazaar and industrial associations were present.

In his address, Kavinder Gupta thanked the Chamber for the honour and recalled his long association with the trader community and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He said the trader's community has been instrumental in the nation's progress and proudly noted that they have always exemplified the spirit of "Nation

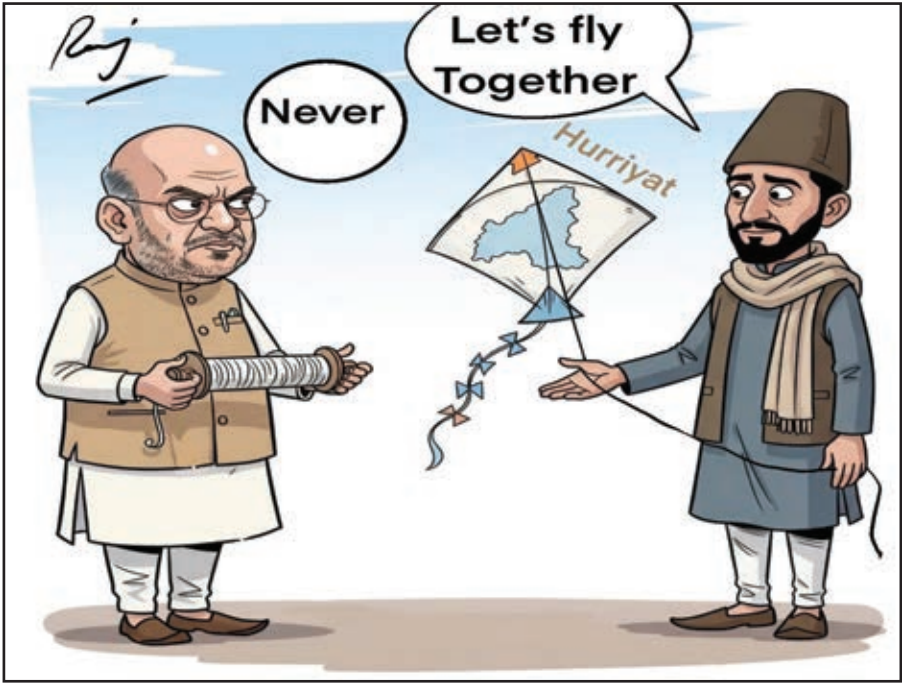
First, Self Last."

The Lt Governor asserted that immediately after taking charge as the Lt Governor of Ladakh, he undertook a tour of the Kargil and Drass sectors where he personally met people and listened to their grievances. He maintained that his administration will function at the grassroots level and every effort will be made to ensure balanced development of all blocks in the Union Territory. "People have high expectations, and I will do my best to stand up to them," he

said.

Highlighting the vast potential of Ladakh in the tourism sector, the Lt Governor said that the region could emerge as a global tourist destination. He added that with the completion of the Zojila Tunnel in the next one and a half years, new opportunities for tourism and connectivity will open up. He also revealed that the administration is working on making it feasible to conduct the Shri Amarnath Yatra through the Ladakh route from

next year, which would be a historic development. Furthermore, he emphasized that areas like Siachen will also be promoted through tourism, creating new economic avenues for the people. At the end, the Lt Governor assured the traders that he will make every possible effort to strengthen the economic and social connect between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, ensuring that both regions grow in harmony and mutual cooperation.



## VC JU terms education as engine of transformation, cornerstone of Viksit Bharat@2047

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Emphasising the pivotal role of education in shaping India's future, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu (JU), on Wednesday said that while infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, and digital economy form the structural foundations of a developed nation, the true engine of transformation remains education.

Addressing the Curtain Raiser Press Conference of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, being organised at the University from 31st July to 3rd August 2025, the Vice Chancellor referred to India's historic contribution of 23 per cent to the global economy before colonial disruption, the strength of this great nation once stemmed from an education system deeply connected to societal needs.

"To reclaim that legacy, it is imperative for India to regain its global standing. If the path to a developed India begins anywhere, it begins in its schools, colleges, and universities", he added.

Prof. Rai emphasised that the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, as dreamt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is not just a policy directive but a national mission that must be driven through robust academic institutions.

He called for a complete reorientation of academic priorities - from learning to problem-solving, and from job-seeking to job-creation - and proposed a powerful



Vice Chancellor, JU, Prof Umesh Rai addressing a press conference.

framework rooted in idea, incubation, innovation, and start-up, underscoring the urgent need to integrate skilling, creativity, and curiosity into curriculum design.

He also highlighted the upcoming Innovation Tower at the University, which will offer facilities for ideation, entrepreneurship, and civil society collaboration.

In a heartfelt appeal, he called for value-based education with compulsory courses in emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, and social ethics. "If we fail to create humane human beings, everything else we build will be meaningless," he stated.

Prof. Rai also drew attention to the deep link between substance abuse, crime, and terrorism, emphasising that the University's commitment to Nasha Mukta Bharat must go beyond token campaigns.

"If we don't eradicate drug addiction, our vision of a developed India will remain incomplete," he warned. He appealed for continuous engagement and not just symbolic marches.

He also acknowledged the visionary leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, under whose guidance

infrastructure and agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir have progressed rapidly.

"The support extended by the LG and Chief Minister in enabling educational institutions to overcome systemic hurdles is instrumental in realising the goals of Viksit Bharat," he added.

He urged the students to register on the MY Bharat Portal, selecting their interests wisely to access the internships and valuable national engagement opportunities made available by GoI. Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, described the programme as a vital step in translating the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 into grassroots action.

Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director CDOE and Convenor of the Programme, called the initiative a transformative national movement launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

He elaborated on key events including an exhibition of eight government departments, youth leadership lectures, elocution competitions, quizzes, and yoga. Over 1,000 students have already registered on the

portal, gaining access to experiential learning across India. He also stressed the programme's alignment with national themes such as innovation, fitness, entrepreneurship, and drug-free living.

Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare and Co-Convenor of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, spoke in detail about the upcoming activities, placing special emphasis on the Nasha Mukta Bharat Rally.

He informed that the rally will see active participation from faculty members, staff, research scholars, and students, collectively reinforcing the University's commitment to a drug-free India.

Among others present on the occasion included Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean Planning & Development, Prof. Naresh Padha, Senior Professor; Prof. Vibhakar Mansotra, Head, Department of Comp. Sc & IT; Prof. Garima Gupta, Head DJMS, Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai; Prof. Pankaj Kumar; Dr. Pritam Singh; and Dr. Pradeep Bali. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Mansi Mantoo, Media Officer, JU.

## 26 probationary IPS officers call on DGP J&K



26 probationary IPS officers (77 RR batch) from SVPNPA posing with DGP, J&K Nalin Prabhat.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 26 probationary IPS officers (77 RR batch) from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police

Academy (SVPNPA), on Wednesday called on the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K Nalin Prabhat, and interacted with him and other senior officers.

They were briefed on the unique challenges which J&K Police faces and the role and contribution of J&K Police in combating terrorism.

## Ashok Koul chairs BJP organizational meet of Jammu North, emphasizes grassroots strengthening



BJP General Secretary (Org), J&K, Ashok Koul chairing an organizational meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization), J&K, Ashok Koul, on Wednesday chaired an organizational meeting of BJP District Jammu North, led by District President Nand Kishore.

The meeting was attended by key party functionaries including DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, Jammu North MLA Sham Lal Sharma, Marh MLA Surinder Bhagat, District Prabhari Rajinder Singh Chib, Seh-Prabhari Vinay Mahajan, Vistarak Inderjit, former District President Omi Khajuria among others. District Team, Mandal Presidents and General Secretaries and senior workers of the district were also present.

Ashok Koul, in his address, reviewed the party's organizational functioning and activities in the district. He took stock of the programmes conducted under the 'Viksit Bharat Ka

Amritkaal - Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal' including the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, Choupals, Professional Meets, Ek Ped Maan Ke Naam campaign, Yoga Divas, Emergency Day, and more. He lauded the efforts of the district team and stressed the need for further strengthening the organization at the grassroots level.

"Our mission is to empower every booth and every activist. The BJP's strength lies in its cadre, discipline, and the ability to connect with the last person in the queue," said Ashok Koul. He urged the workers to focus on people-centric campaigns and prepare for upcoming organizational and public outreach programmes.

Bharat Bhushan praised the consistent coordination between elected representatives and the party's organizational structure. He attributed the success of various developmental schemes at the ground level

to the dedicated effort by BJP cadre. Sham Lal Sharma appreciated the enthusiasm of grassroots workers and called for robust booth-level management and termed the BJP activists as backbone of the party. Surinder Bhagat said the BJP's policies have instilled confidence among the masses. He said that the people trust

BJP because party activists work with commitment, not slogans. Nand Kishore, in his presidential address, extended gratitude to the party leadership and assured full dedication from the Jammu North unit. He said that the district team is ready to implement every directive of the leadership with utmost sincerity.

## Dr Jitendra updates Lok Sabha about 'NISAR' impact on disasters, aviation, shipping

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday congratulated scientists from ISRO and NASA on the successful launch of the NISAR satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Earlier, while speaking in the Lok Sabha in response to a discussion on the Space sector, Dr Jitendra Singh said, "NISAR will be a game-changer in handling disasters, aviation, shipping etc". It will deliver high-resolution, all-weather, day-and-night imagery of Earth's land and ice surfaces, revisiting each location every 12 days, said the Minister.

Though Parliamentary responsibilities kept him in New Delhi, Dr. Jitendra joined senior officials and scientists at the CSIR

Auditorium to witness the historic launch via live telecast and applauded the flawless lift-off of the satellite aboard the GSLV-F16 rocket.

Describing NISAR as a "global benchmark" in Indo-US scientific collaboration, Dr. Singh said the mission symbolizes the power of partnership between the world's two largest democracies. "NISAR is not just a satellite; it is India's scientific handshake with the world," he said.

Launched aboard GSLV-F16, this was the first time ISRO's GSLV vehicle successfully placed a satellite into a Sun-synchronous Polar Orbit. This 18th flight of the GSLV-and the 12th using the indigenous cryogenic stage-demonstrates India's growing technological maturity in space systems.

Jointly developed by NASA and



ISRO, the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is the world's first Earth observation satellite to carry dual-frequency synthetic aperture radars-L-band by NASA and S-band by ISRO-on a single platform. It will deliver

high-resolution, all-weather, day-and-night imagery of Earth's land and ice surfaces, revisiting each location every 12 days.

While NISAR's applications in disaster management, climate monitoring, glacier tracking, and agriculture are well documented, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that the satellite's impact will extend far beyond.

"NISAR marks a striking shift in how we approach critical sectors such as aviation safety, maritime navigation, coastal management, and urban infrastructure planning," he said. "The data from NISAR will serve as a backbone for smarter, science-driven decisions in shipping routes, air traffic systems, and even national infrastructure planning."

The 2,393-kg satellite was inserted into a 747-kilometre Sun-synchronous orbit. Over its

five-year mission life, NISAR will offer invaluable data for global climate science, seismic and volcanic monitoring, forest mapping, and resource management. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the open-access policy for NISAR's data will empower not only scientists and researchers, but also developing countries, disaster-response agencies, and climate change stakeholders worldwide.

Dr. Jitendra concluded by stating that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's space programme is evolving from utility-based missions to knowledge-based initiatives. "From Chandrayaan to NISAR, we are not only launching satellites-we are launching new possibilities for global science, sustainability, and shared progress."

## Farooq, Omar broke promises; now playing cultural victim card: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA/SRINAGAR/JAMMU:

BJP National General Secretary and Jammu & Kashmir Incharge Tarun Chugh on Wednesday launched a fierce attack on the National Conference from Baramulla, holding them accountable for both broken promises and dangerous rhetoric.

Speaking at a BJP workers' meeting, Chugh tore into the NC leadership, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, reminding them of the grand promises made before elections that were conveniently forgotten.

"Where are the one lakh jobs they promised? What happened to filling all government vacancies within 180 days? Where are the six

free LPG cylinders and the 200 units of free electricity? These weren't just promises, they were a fraud on the youth and poor of J&K," Chugh said, drawing loud applause from karyakartas.

Calling the NC manifesto a cruel joke, Chugh said the party has failed to deliver even the basics, and is now trying to divert attention by crying "cultural invasion" over tourism.

"Instead of answering for their failures, they've now found a new excuse-labeling Indian tourists as invaders. This is not just laughable, it is sinister," he added.

Reacting strongly to NC MP Aga Rahulla's remarks describing tourism as a 'cultural invasion,' Chugh said such statements echo



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh speaking at public rally at Srinagar.

Pakistan-sponsored propaganda.

"When NC leaders brand Indian tourists as cultural invaders, they insult the warmth, hospitality, and inclusive identity of Kashmiris," Chugh added.

He said tourism brings

livelihoods, hope, and connectivity to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, and only those clinging to outdated politics of hate would oppose it. This regressive mindset shows NC's desperation, he said, adding that they cannot digest the fact that Kashmir

is healing and prospering under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Taking on NC's historical baggage, Chugh pointed to the series of rigged elections in Jammu & Kashmir which eroded public trust, deepened alienation, and laid the

groundwork for decades of bloodshed.

"The NC repeatedly manipulated democratic institutions and silenced real voices. Their politics directly enabled Pakistan and terror networks to exploit Kashmir's wounds," he added.

He also slammed the party for its deafening silence after the successful and peaceful conduct of the Holy Muharram procession in Srinagar after more than three decades.

"This was a moment of deep cultural and religious pride for the people of the Valley. But the NC, as usual, couldn't stomach a positive change under the Modi government. Their silence is proof that political gains matter more to

them than people's faith and traditions," he said.

Chugh didn't spare NC leaders for refusing to acknowledge the historic voter turnout in the recent Lok Sabha elections either. "The people of Kashmir rejected separatist threats and stood firm with democracy. NC has no moral right to sit in Parliament while disrespecting the very system that elected them," he asserted.

Referring to the Pahalgam tragedy, Chugh said that at a time when unity and compassion are needed, the NC is playing a communal and divisive game.

"They couldn't even stand with the victims. Instead, they chose to amplify narratives that help Pakistan and radical elements. This is not

opposition politics. This is betrayal."

Rejecting the term "cultural invasion" as vicious and baseless, Chugh said that the people of Kashmir have moved on from the politics of fear and blackmail.

"NC's days of emotional blackmail and dynastic entitlement are over. Kashmiris want jobs, peace, and dignity-not slogans from 1975," he said.

Praising the people of Jammu & Kashmir for their resilience, Chugh said, "Their spontaneous response after the Pahalgam massacre, their defiance of separatist calls, and their love for the Constitution show one thing clearly-Kashmir has changed. And NC simply cannot handle it."