

# LG Kavinder vows to position Ladakh as Centre of Culture & Sporting Excellence

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DRASS: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, reaffirmed the UT Administration's vision to transform Ladakh into a hub of cultural heritage, sporting excellence, and youth-led development.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 5th LG Polo Cup held at Goshan Horse Polo Stadium in Drass, he stressed the revival of traditional games like horse polo and the expansion of winter sports to create opportunities for youth while preserving Ladakh's unique identity.

In a thrilling finale, the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre emerged victorious, defeating D Meadows Drass 4-3 in a penalty shootout.

The tournament saw enthusiastic participation from 17 teams - including 12 men's and 5 women's - showcasing the growing interest



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta after presenting trophy to winner team.

in horse polo across the region.

The Lt Governor lauded the players and particularly highlighted the strong participation of women, calling it a testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of women empowerment.

Gupta emphasized that polo, introduced in Ladakh in the 17th century, is more than just a sport - it is a cultural symbol. He announced

plans to seek recognition for horse polo as a traditional Ladakhi game and committed to securing national and international promotion for the sport.

He also assured funding for coaching and infrastructure, including the introduction of polo in schools to engage younger generations and ensure the sport's continuity.

The Lt Governor stated

that alongside polo, the administration will develop indigenous sports like ice hockey and promote the Khelo India Winter Games to make Ladakh a top sports tourism destination. This approach, he said, would boost tourism, generate employment, and empower local youth. Paying tribute to the martyrs of the Kargil War, Gupta called upon Ladakhi youth to draw inspi-

ration from their courage and discipline in all walks of life. He praised local veterans and players for preserving Ladakh's centuries-old sporting traditions and emphasized polo's potential to attract tourism.

Chairman and CEC of LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, requested the UT's support in making Drass a winter sports hub, especially after the opening of the Zoji La Tunnel. MP Mohmad Hanifa Jan called for financial and logistical support for athletes and the expedited implementation of Ladakh's Sports Policy.

The event was attended by senior officials including Administrative Secretary Bhanu Prabha, IAS, and other LAHDC Councillors, drawing widespread appreciation for the region's sporting potential and cultural heritage.

## DULEEP TROPHY: Debutant Kanhaiya stands tall as North Zone scores 308/6 against East

History created as 4 JK cricketers make it to Playing XI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: JKCA's talented wicketkeeper batter, Kanhaiya Wadhawan stood tall and guided North Zone to a decent score of 208/6 against formidable East Zone in Duleep Trophy at BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) Ground, Bengaluru today.

Kanhaiya crafted an unbeaten 42 to put North Zone in a decent position. At his sublime best, Kanhaiya is a sight for the gods. Wristy, willowy and sinuous, he can match the skills of batting geniuses on his day. His on-side game is comparable to Azhars and Laxmans, yet he is decidedly more assured on the off side and has the rare gift of being able to hit the same ball to either side.

Earlier, put into bat, North Zone were given a solid foundation by the opening duo of J&K's Shubham Khajuria (26) and skipper Ankit Kumar (30).

However, after their dismissals in quick succession, Ayush Badoni (63), Yash Dhull (39) and Nishant Sindhu (47) dazzled with the willow before Kanhaiya (42\*), MJ Dagar (28\*) and Sahil Lotra (19) guided the team to a decent total.

While Badoni emerged as the top scorer



with quickfire 63 off just 60 balls, studded with 7 boundaries, Kanhaiya was at his sublime best, showing solidity and sublimity in his unbeaten knock off 42 runs off 92 ball including 3 crispy boundaries.

Kanhaiya was at the crease on 42 and Mayank Dagar was unbeaten on 28 when rains interrupted the day's play after 75.2 overs.

Left-arm orthodox Manishi was the most successful bowler for East Zone, who took 3 wickets by conceding 90 runs in his 19 overs, while Mohammad Shammie, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal and Mukhtar Hussain claimed one wicket each.

The highlight of the match was that four J&K players including Shubham Khajuria, Auqib Nabi, Kanhaiya Wadhawan and Sahil Lotra made it to the Playing XI, thus making debut in the prestigious Duleep Trophy.

"#DuleepTrophy2025. 4 J&K players including Shubham Khajuria, Kanhaiya Wadhawan, Sahil Lotra and Auqib Nabi made their Duleep Trophy debut in NZ Team.. Historic moment," tweeted Brig Anil Gupta, Member Administration JKCA.

## JKBOSE invites applications for PM-USP CSSS Scholarship, apply by October 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has announced the opening of online applications for the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Yojana-Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (PM-USP CSSS).

The scholarship, sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, aims to support meritorious students from economically weaker sections.

Eligible students are required to apply through the National Scholarship Portal ([http://scholarships.gov.in](http://scholarships.gov.in)) by or before October 31, 2025.

The call for applications includes the Fresh Batch of 2025, along with renewals for 1st year (Batch 2024), 2nd year (Batch 2023), and 3rd year (Batch 2022).

The scholarship is open to students who passed their

Class 12th examination (Annual, Regular 2023) under JKBOSE from both Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, including hard and soft zones, and who fall within the top 20 percentile of successful candidates. The top 20 percentile merit list is available on the official JKBOSE website ([www.jkbose.nic.in](http://www.jkbose.nic.in)).

To be eligible, the applicant's gross annual family income should not exceed Rs. 4.5 lakh, and they must not be availing any other scholarship from any source. The scholarship is applicable to students enrolled in undergraduate courses in any stream at recognised institutions within or outside the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Fresh applicants are required to submit valid income certificates during the application process.

Under the scheme, eligible undergraduate students will receive Rs. 12,000 per annum (Rs. 36,000 for a 3-year course), and if they con-

tinue their studies at the postgraduate level, they will receive Rs. 20,000 per annum. The scholarship aims to provide consistent financial assistance to students throughout their higher education journey.

Students applying for renewals (Batches 2022, 2023, and 2024) are also required to submit their applications online through the same portal before the deadline.

Once the student successfully completes the application, the respective college or university is responsible for online verification of their eligibility.

The JKBOSE has instructed heads of institutions to assist in the verification process and, if necessary, reset their login credentials by contacting [directoracad@jkbose.co.in](mailto:directoracad@jkbose.co.in) (mailto:directoracad@jkbose.co.in). The Board has stressed the importance of completing verification swiftly to ensure timely disbursement of scholarship funds.

## Mata Vaishno Devi Tragedy: Congress seeks relief, restoration on war footing

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) has expressed deep anguish over the tragic loss of 35 lives in the recent Mata Vaishno Devi disaster, asserting that the tragedy could have been avoided had authorities acted timely in response to the high weather alert.

At a joint press conference, senior Congress leaders demanded a high-level probe to fix accountability and sought urgent relief measures and a Central assistance package for restoration work.

Addressing the media, Working President JKPC Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, and Ex-MLC Ved Mahajan expressed grave concern, stating that the government failed to act on weather warnings and did not suspend the Yatra in time, resulting in preventable loss of life.

Bhalla said the administration had failed to learn lessons from previous incidents



Working President JKPC Raman Bhalla addressing a press conference.

like the Sheshnag tragedy and called for fixing responsibility within a set timeframe, unlike the unresolved stampede case from a few years ago.

The Congress leaders highlighted the widespread destruction across various parts of Jammu province, including the Chenab region, Jammu city, and surrounding rural areas, which have seen damaged infrastructure, disrupted road connectivity, and collapsed communication networks.

Following a ground visit to

the worst-affected areas, Bhalla emphasized the need for immediate restoration of electricity, drinking water supply, mobile connectivity, and provision of water tankers, cooked meals, and temporary shelters to displaced families.

Yogesh Sawhney praised civil society groups for providing free Langars and other essential services but criticized the administration for its inadequate presence in the most impacted zones. He urged the government to arrange free

Langars in affected areas and accommodate uprooted families in banquet halls and other available shelters until normalcy is restored.

The Congress team acknowledged the efforts of government agencies, media, and volunteers during the disaster but flagged critical lapses that endangered lives, particularly those of students.

They also condemned the recent JE (Electrical) recruitment paper leak and demanded a thorough investigation, citing it as

another example of administrative failure under the current UT governance model.

The dual control of both the LG and CM, holding separate meetings during the crisis, was also criticized for reflecting governance inefficiencies.

The press meet was attended by Chief Media Coordinator Neeraj Gupta, Spokesperson Kapil Singh, and senior leaders including Varinder Singh Manhas, Ram Magotra, and Rakesh Sharma.

## CCI President expresses grief over cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in Jammu Region



President CCI Jammu, Arun Gupta addressing a press conference on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry today expressed shock and deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives caused by the unfortunate cloudbursts at Chashoti Kishitwar, Doda, Kathua and Landslides at Mata Vaishno Devi as well as devastating flash floods across several parts of Jammu region. Sh. Arun Gupta offered condolences to the bereaved families and

wished a speedy recovery of the injured persons.

He said the sudden rise in water level of the Jammu Tawi river has resulted in unprecedented destruction, damaging bridges including the Fourth Bridge on River Tawi, washing away of several key Roads and leaving several families homeless as their houses and belongings have been completely washed away especially in the areas of Peerko, Gujar Nagar, Gorkha Nagar, Jeevan Nagar,

Krishna Nagar, Old University Lane, Hari Singh Park Area, Talab Tillo, Bhagwati Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Udayawala, Muthi, Roop Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Greater Kailash, Bathindi, R.S.pura, and other areas.

Many families are left in distress as floodwater entered their homes, devastating entire households and causing irreparable loss of property. Everything has been reduced to rubble, with the affected peo-

ple struggling to cope with the tragedy. Arun Gupta further said that several vehicles have also been damaged in this devastating tragedy. He urges upon the government to direct the insurance companies to assess the losses of damaged vehicles, residential property including electronics devices etc of the aggrieved persons and clear their claims on fast track system. In this hour of grief, the Chamber stands in solidarity with the families who

have suffered due to this disaster: We urge all sections of society, NGOs, and social organizations to extend their helping hand and support the affected families in every possible way. Special measures must be taken to ensure temporary shelter, food supplies, and medical aid for those affected. Chamber appreciates the swift and compassionate response of our Chief Minister and LG for giving directions to the local administration and the concerned Dy. Commissioners to conduct on ground assessment and provide maximum help and logistic aid to strengthen the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction measures. Arun Gupta also said that though the administration is doing well but still much more is needed to be done to overcome this situation

The Chamber once again conveys heartfelt sympathies and prays for the strength of the victims to overcome this tragedy.

## DG-YSS inspects flash flood damages at Khel Gaon, YH Nagrota



DG YSS J&K, Anuradha Gupta reviewing damages at Khel Gaon and Youth Hostel, Nagrota on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a proactive response to the recent flash floods, Director General of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Anuradha Gupta, conducted a thorough on-site review of the damages at Khel Gaon and Youth Hostel, Nagrota, here today.

The relentless heavy rains over the past week have left a trail of destruction in Jammu division, causing widespread damage to critical infrastructure, including bridges, roads, playgrounds, and hostels.

Following a detailed assessment of the damages, the DG-YSS issued strict direc-

tives to the Engineering Wing in this regard.

She said the goal is to restore and upgrade the sports infrastructure to world-class standards, providing athletes with state-of-the-art facilities to hone their skills. Prioritizing maintenance during the inspection, the DG-YSS emphasized the importance of maintaining the department's assets, including the cricket ground, football turf, under-construction indoor hall, and allied facilities at Khel Gaon. She stressed that the upkeep of these facilities is crucial for the development of sports in

the region. Anuradha Gupta also took stock of the broken front wall of Youth Hostel Nagrota.

The DG-YSS was accompanied by a team of senior officials, including Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Dr. Vinakshi Koul; Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports Central, Jitender Mishra; Deputy Director YSS Planning, Megha Bogia, and representatives from the Engineering Wing. This collaborative effort underscores the department's commitment to swift and effective action in response to the crisis.

## DSS raises alarm over Jammu's worsening crisis, seeks urgent relief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS) has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation across Jammu Province, warning that the region faces "unprecedented danger" due to natural calamities compounded by reckless development.

In an urgent meeting of its Central Working Committee, DSS President Thakur G.S. Charak said the recent landslide on the Vaishno Devi Yatra route in Katra, which claimed 32 lives and left several injured, has brought the sacred pilgrimage to a halt, severely hitting faith-driven tourism. With torrential rains continuing, yatras to Vaishno Devi and Machail Mata remain suspended, leav-



DSS President Thakur G.S. Charak talking to reporters at Jammu on Thursday.

ing lakhs of devotees stranded in Jammu and Katra without proper arrangements.

Charak noted that rains, flash floods and cloudbursts have claimed lives, destroyed fertile farmland and damaged infrastructure across the province. Highways, bridges

and train services stand disrupted, over 5,000 vehicles remain stranded, and essential supplies including electricity, water and telecom have collapsed. He blamed unscientific blasting of fragile mountains for worsening landslides and displacing families.

The Sabha also warned of long-term fallout: collapse of pilgrim tourism, neglect of heritage monuments like Mubarak Mandi, and damage to the historic Ranbir Canal which sustains 65,000 hectares of farmland and Dogra Basmati cultivation.

Expressing disappointment over the non-restoration of Statehood in the recent Parliament session, the DSS said denial of democratic rights has further alienated the people of Jammu & Kashmir:

The Sabha demanded an independent inquiry into reckless infrastructure projects, urgent restoration of heritage sites, rehabilitation of the Ranbir Canal, comprehensive relief for affected families, priority to local youth in reconstruction work, and immediate restoration of Statehood.

Concluding the meeting, the Sabha urged all political parties and leaders to unite for Jammu's future and prayed for peace to those who lost their lives in the calamities.

## Satish pays homage to BSF Constable Rajib Nunian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Youth Services and Sports, and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, on Thursday paid rich tributes to Constable Rajib Nunian of the Border Security Force (BSF) who made supreme sacrifice while performing his duty during flood conditions along the International Boundary in Paragwal Sector, Jammu on August 27. At the solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony held at Shaheed Snarak, BSF Frontier Headquarters, Paloura Camp, Jammu, the Minister laid floral wreath in honor of the martyr and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of the brave soldier.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said, "Constable Rajib Nunian displayed

exemplary courage and devotion to duty in the face of adversity. His supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the border and serving the nation will forever be etched in our collective memory. He upheld the highest traditions of the Force, and the nation will remain indebted to his bravery."

The Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and assured them of all possible support from the Government. He added that the sacrifice of Constable Nunian will continue to inspire the youth of Jammu & Kashmir and the country to uphold the values of duty, courage and patriotism.

Senior officers of BSF, Civil Administration and members of civil society also joined in paying homage to the martyr.