

Govt committed to transform rural infrastructure, improving livelihood of people: LG Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

TURTUK: Government of India and the UT Administration are focused on developing rural infrastructure and improving livelihoods of the people of Ladakh, even the last and northernmost border village like Thang in Nubra sub-division, reflecting a comprehensive 'Welfare for All' approach.

This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today while addressing a public gathering at Turtuk. The Lt Governor also addressed a large audience during a public durbar at Government Higher Secondary School at Bogdang. Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi; Councillor, Panamik, Tsering Sandup; Councillor, Hunder, Kunzang Lotos; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Romil Singh Donk; SSP Leh, Shruti Arora; SDM Nubra, Mukul Beniwal; ADDC Leh, Sonam Nurboo and other government officials were present during the meetings.

The Lt Governor emphasised that the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has accorded very high priority to the development of Ladakh.

He stressed that various flagship schemes/ development schemes are being implemented in UT Ladakh



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta paying homage to bravehearts at Heritage Park in Tyakshi.

in mission mode, even in remote areas like Turtuk and Bogdang, and are being rigorously monitored with a vision to make Ladakh a model of good governance and inclusive development, for the rest of the country to emulate. The Lt Governor highlighted that the ultimate aim is to bring about a transformation in their quality of life, and the ongoing central government schemes in Ladakh are in sync with the vision of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas."

The Lt Governor highlighted the resilience of the people of Nubra, commending them for their support

to the Indian Army and for their spirit of nationalism and patriotism, with a firm desire to preserve their unique cultural identity and centuries-old traditions. Reiterating UT Administration's commitment to improving healthcare facilities, education standards in government schools, and promoting tourism in Ladakh, the Lt Governor emphasised that special focus would also be given to promoting sports to provide a platform to youth to build a peaceful and cohesive society. He emphasised the need for more youth to engage in traditional sports like horse polo, assuring that the UT Administration would promote

sports events like the LG Polo Cup, which is held in Drass, in Turtuk, also with the participation of a large number of teams for its promotion and growth.

The Lt Governor also stressed that the UT Administration would look into issues concerning border areas such as Turtuk and Bogdang so that even the last border villages like Thang witness unprecedented development and progress.

A horse polo match was exhibited to the Lt Governor at Turtuk. The Lt Governor also inspected the stalls showcasing traditional costumes, food and science projects of students at Govt Higher Secondary School at Bogdang.

During the public durbar, the villagers apprised about upgrading the Primary Health Centre at Bogdang to Community Health Centre, the establishment of a Govt Degree College at Bogdang, conducting a special recruitment drive for youth of Bogdang in Ladakh Police; CD block and naibat status for Bogdang, etc.

Earlier, the Lt Governor visited Thoise Air Force Station to take stock of the progress of the upcoming civil airport, which will cater to the needs of civilians as well as Army personnel in Nubra. He also visited the Heritage Park at Tyakshi, where he paid homage to the martyrs.



Chugh congratulates newly elected VP C.P. Radhakrishnan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh today met C.P. Radhakrishnan, the newly elected Vice President of India, and extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the party.

During the meeting, Tarun Chugh conveyed his admiration and confidence in Radhakrishnan's leadership and vision.

He expressed that the nation will greatly benefit from his vast experience, deep knowledge, and far-sighted approach.

"I am fully confident that under your guidance, and with the nation's interest as your top priority, India will reach new heights of



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh meets with Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan.

progress and development," Chugh stated.

The BJP leader further added that Radhakrishnan's elevation to the Vice President's office reflects the values of dedicated public service and constitutional integrity, and he will continue to inspire generations with his statesmanship and commitment to the nation.

Yudhvir Sethi starts development works worth Rs 40 Lakh in Ward 15

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major step towards infrastructure development in Jammu East, senior BJP leader and JammuEast MLA Yudhvir Sethi on Thursday inaugurated development works worth Rs 40 lakh in Ward No. 15 near Shivalaya Mandir Road. The works include construction of lanes, drains, and macadamization of internal roads, aiming to improve civic amenities for the local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Yudhvir Sethi said, "Development and public service remain our top priorities. The work being started today is a testament to the BJP's commitment to upgrading basic infrastructure and improving the quality of life for every citizen." He added that continuous



Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating development works in Ward 15.

development across all wards of Jammu East has been a hallmark of the BJP's governance model.

Sethi emphasized that the BJP is focused on ensuring that every lane and street, especially in urban areas, gets proper attention in terms of sanitation, drainage, and road connectivity. He assured residents that more such

projects will be initiated in the coming months under various government schemes.

The project is being executed under the supervision of XEN Rakesh Kumar, along with departmental officials including Sonalika. The event also witnessed the presence of senior BJP leaders and local representatives

including Sanjay Mahay (Ex-Corporator), Adarsh Jathyar (Mandal President, East Mandal), Anita gupta (Vice President, East Mandal), Harvinder Singh (General Secretary, East Mandal), Happy Chouhan (Booth President), Sanjay Abrol and others.

Locals expressed gratitude towards Yudhvir Sethi for addressing long-pending civic issues and

for his proactive role in development. They highlighted that the improvement in drainage and road conditions would bring great relief, especially during the rainy season.

Sethi concluded by urging citizens to remain active participants in the development process and assured that every genuine demand of the public will be taken up with utmost priority.

From snakebites to chemicals-AIIMS Vijaypur PIMC saves 97 lives in its first year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu, has marked a major milestone in public health and emergency care with the successful functioning of its Poison Information and Management Centre (PIMC). Operational since July 2024, the Centre has already handled 97 poisoning emergencies in its first year, emerging as a vital lifeline for both the public and healthcare providers.

Accessible 24x7 through its helpline 9103967500, the PIMC provides expert toxicological guidance, real-time medical advice, and poison surveillance. The service is particularly crucial in rural and semi-urban regions, where the risk of pesticide ingestion, accidental exposure to chemicals, animal bites, and household toxins remains high.

Since inception, the Centre has responded to a wide spectrum of cases including snakebites, pesticide poisoning, accidental chemical ingestion and rare toxic exposures. In each situation, the timely intervention by PIMC specialists has supported doctors in delivering effective treat-

ment and, in many instances, saved lives.

The Centre is manned round-the-clock by trained toxicologists and clinical pharmacologists who guide frontline healthcare workers in managing poisoning cases. In addition to emergency response, PIMC is actively engaged in toxicovigilance, data collection and public awareness campaigns aimed at preventing poisoning incidents and improving community preparedness.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Prof (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, said: "The PIMC at AIIMS Vijaypur is more than just a helpline-it is a commitment to saving lives and strengthening healthcare resilience. Centres like this ensure that communities are better prepared to face toxicological challenges of the modern era."

AIIMS Vijaypur urged citizens and healthcare professionals to promptly report any poisoning-related incidents to the PIMC helpline. Timely expert advice can make a critical difference between life and death.

CM expresses gratitude to Vijay Chopra for contribution to Relief Fund



Vijay Chopra, Padma Shri awardee presenting cheque of Rs 11 lakh to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed profound gratitude to Vijay Chopra, Padma Shri

awardee and Editor of Punjab Kesari/Hind Samachar Group, for his generous contribution of Rs 11 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in

support of the flood-affected families.

The Chief Minister said that such contributions reflect the spirit of solidarity and compassion that is vital in times of crisis.

"I sincerely thank Shri Vijay Chopra for this generous gesture. His contribution will strengthen our ongoing efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation to families affected by the devastating floods. It is through such collective efforts that we can bring hope and support to those in distress," the Chief Minister stated. He added that the Government is committed to ensuring that every contribution is channelled towards meaningful assistance for the affected families.



IASOWA Jammu & Kashmir members donating relief material for flood-affected families.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The IAS Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA), Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of Monika Wali Dulloo, wife of Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, has extended a helping hand to families affected by the recent floods in the Jammu region by donating essential relief material.

The relief material was formally handed over to Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusya Jamwal on Thursday.

The occasion was marked by the presence of IASOWA members including Mrs. Geetanjali Singla (wife of Dr. Piyush

Singla), Mrs. Jyoti Kumar (wife of Neeraj Kumar), Mrs. Sunaina Yadav (wife of Dr. Devansh Yadav), Mrs. Divya Yadav (wife of Rahul Yadav) and Mrs. Rohini Kumar (wife of Rupesh Kumar), who collectively reinforced the association's commitment towards community welfare.

The relief package comprised a wide range of essential items aimed at supporting immediate household and nutritional needs of the affected families. These included bedsheets, blankets, clothing, kitchen utensils and food supplies such as grains, pulses and other daily

essentials.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the administration, ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal said that the generous gesture by IASOWA will provide much-needed comfort to several families reeling under the impact of the floods. She lauded the association's timely support in complementing ongoing relief efforts of the district administration.

The IAS Officers' Wives Association, J&K, continues to play an active role in extending social support and undertaking welfare initiatives aimed at alleviating hardships of vulnerable communities across the Union Territory.

CSIR IIM distributes 430 Apiculture Units under CSIR Floriculture Mission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: In a major outreach for strengthening the apiculture sector in the J&K UT, CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu, distributed 430 apiculture units to 43 farmers of districts of Pulwama, Baramulla, Budgam, Shopian and Ganderbal under CSIR Floriculture Mission today at its Field Station, Bonera, Pulwama.

The event was organized as part of the culmination of the 10 days programme on 'Entrepreneurship Development and Farmer Empowerment through Capacity Development' under the CSIR Floriculture Mission.

The programme witnessed the participation of Dr Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama; Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR IIM; Er Abdur Rahim, Head CSIR IIM Branch Lab Srinagar; Dr Shahid Rasool Principal Scientist and Scientist Incharge CSIR IIM Field Station Bonera, Pulwama; officers and researchers of CSIR IIM and 80 farm-

ers and agri-entrepreneurs and eminent citizens of the area.

Speaking at the event, DC highlighted the significance of initiative for rural livelihood upliftment and fostering apiculture oriented product development and their marketing. He informed that Apiculture holds immense potential in Pulwama and other parts of Kashmir owing to huge availability of varied nectar rich floral biodiversity.

The collaborative efforts of CSIR-IIM with local farmers and agri-entrepreneurs through its multiple farm based mission programmes has strengthened the agri-oriented income generation opportunities and promoted rural bio-entrepreneurship in the region besides contributing to the sustainable economic growth in the district, he added.

Dr Basharat congratulated the Scientists of CSIR IIM for the development of India's first monofloral Lavender Honey thereby bringing the district on the global focus for production of the specialty honey and informed



DC Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom in presence of Director CSIR IIM, Dr Zabeer Ahmed distributing apiculture unit among a farmer.

that the novelty honey will be registered for geographical indication tagging.

Director CSIR IIM in his address highlighted the Institute's commitment to farmer centric innovations, development and grassroots level translation of

technologies. He said that through the CSIR Floriculture Mission, they are working to empower farmers by diversifying their income sources by production and utilization of commercial floriculture crops and their value added products.

"Our scientists have been actively working on diversification of farm enterprises and apiculture for its unique niche in the food value chain, which has been our priority. Beekeeping generates direct economic benefits and also improves pollination efficiency in crops, thereby enhancing overall productivity and sustainability of fragile agro-ecosystems," he added.

Addressing the participants, Head, BLS, underlined the market prospects of quality honey and other apiculture products. He stated that adopting scientific protocols in apiculture will enable farmers to maximize income while ensuring high quality produce that meets national and international market standards.

The initiative reflects the CSIR IIM's broader goal of creating a holistic model

for sustainable farming and rural empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Earlier, Principal Scientist and Incharge, Field Station Pulwama presented a detailed technical overview of the CSIR Floriculture Mission, a pan India initiative for strengthening the floriculture sector through area expansion under region specific commercial floricultural crops and their effective marketing.

The programme included technical demonstrations on modern beekeeping practices, disease management in apiaries, and integration of apiculture with floriculture to enhance crop productivity and farmer income.

As part of the initiative, 430 honey bee boxes, technical manual on scientific beekeeping and certificates were distributed to 43 trained beneficiaries to support them in adopting beekeeping as a source of income and livelihood generation.

The event concluded with an interactive session between experts and farmers.