

Wari La holds huge tourism potential: LG Kavinder

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, today said that Wari La, one of the highest motorable mountain passes in the world, holds immense potential to become a major attraction for domestic and international tourists. The Lt Governor made these remarks while interacting with tourists during his visit to Wari La, which connects Leh with Nubra Valley through a breathtaking route at an altitude of over 17,000 feet. Known for its pristine beauty, panoramic views of the Karakoram and Ladakh ranges, and adventure tourism prospects, Wari La has remained relatively unexplored compared to other destinations in Ladakh. The Lt Governor was accompanied by the First Lady Smt Bindu Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Romil Singh, SSP Leh Shruti Arora and other administrative officials. Kavinder Gupta said that



Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta interacting with tourists during visit to Wari La.

the UT Administration is working on a comprehensive roadmap to unlock new avenues of tourism growth in Ladakh by promoting adventure tourism, eco-tourism, and cultural tourism. He emphasised that the government is focusing on creating better infrastructure, improving road connectivity, and ensuring sustainable development while preserving the fragile ecology of the region. Highlighting the adventure

spirit of the region, the Lt Governor noted that hundreds of tourists on bikes are already taking the Wari La route, making it a fast-emerging hotspot for adventure enthusiasts. He said the UT Administration will ensure better facilities and safety measures to encourage such activities and make Ladakh a preferred destination for bikers from across the world. The Lt Governor also mentioned the ongoing 12th edi-

tion of the Ladakh Marathon, which this year featured its largest-ever field with over 6,600 runners from 30 countries worldwide. He said the participation of such a diverse group demonstrates Ladakh's growing global recognition. "People from 30 countries have arrived here, and they are our true tourist ambassadors who will carry Ladakh's message of peace, adventure, and natural beauty across the world," he remarked. Reiterating the UT Administration's commitment, Shri Kavinder Gupta assured that every effort will be made to take Ladakh to new heights in terms of tourism, sports, and cultural promotion. "Our aim is to make Ladakh a year-round tourist destination, where visitors can experience natural beauty, adventure, culture, and spirituality," he said. The Lt Governor has also asked officials to explore more possibilities of organiz-

ing adventure sports, cycling expeditions, trekking circuits, and cultural events across the Union Territory to attract diverse groups of tourists. The UT Administration, he said, is committed to extending facilities for homestays and local entrepreneurship, thereby ensuring direct benefits to local communities. Earlier, during his interaction on the way from Nubra to Wari La, several tourists appreciated the UT Administration's initiatives to improve facilities in the region and expressed optimism about Ladakh emerging as a global hub for high-altitude tourism. The Lt Governor reiterated that the UT Administration is determined to strike a balance between development and conservation. "We will ensure that the growth of tourism goes hand in hand with environmental protection and cultural preservation," he added.



AIIMS Jammu to establish Eye Bank in Region with Rs 124.90 lakh CSR grant from HUDCO



ED & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta and Regional Chief Authority Officer HUDCO, Dr. Deepak Bansal after signing MoU.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a landmark step towards eliminating corneal blindness, AIIMS Jammu is all set to establish the region's state-of-the-art Eye Bank with the support of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO). HUDCO has sanctioned a substantial grant of Rs 124.90 lakh under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to make this vision a reality. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu and Dr. Deepak Bansal, Regional Chief Authority Officer, HUDCO, marking the beginning of a transformative collaboration in the field of eye care. The Eye Bank will serve as a critical facility for corneal tissue collection, processing and distribution for trans-

plantation, offering a new lease of sight to patients and drastically reducing the burden of corneal blindness across Jammu and adjoining regions. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, said: "The establishment of the Eye Bank is a milestone achievement for AIIMS Jammu and a lifeline for the people of this region. It will empower our Department of Ophthalmology to provide advanced super-specialty services, reduce dependence on external centers, and ensure that patients receive the best possible care locally. This facility represents AIIMS Jammu's continued commitment to bringing world-class healthcare closer to the people of Jammu & Kashmir." Echoing similar sentiments, Dr. Deepak Bansal, Regional Chief Authority Officer, HUDCO, highlighted HUDCO's commitment

to social responsibility and healthcare advancement. He said: "HUDCO is proud to support AIIMS Jammu in setting up this state-of-the-art Eye Bank. This initiative will have a far-reaching impact in combating preventable blindness and improving quality of life for countless patients. Through our CSR policy, we are committed to contributing to such projects that directly benefit communities." This initiative not only reflects the strong partnership between AIIMS Jammu and HUDCO, but also represents a significant step towards fulfilling the larger vision of equitable healthcare access in the Union Territory. By combining clinical excellence, advanced infrastructure, and community outreach, the Eye Bank is poised to make a lasting impact in reducing avoidable blindness and ensuring that every individual has the right to sight.

Sham Lal asks NC Govt to take swift action to revive damaged public infrastructure in flood-hit areas



MLA, Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, strongly emphasized the pressing need to revive the damaged public infrastructure in flood-hit areas, urging the NC government and concerned departments to take swift action in restoring water and electricity supply. Sharma was addressing public delegations during a Public Grievances Camp organized at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. He remarked that the administration's unpreparedness and the lethargic working of relevant departments had deepened the woes of common citizens. Highlighting the disarray in

essential services, Sharma said that both water and electricity facilities collapsed in the wake of the crisis. "The government completely failed to put in place any contingency plan to respond to people's urgent needs, leaving Jammu residents to struggle without basic amenities," he asserted. A large number of deputations from Udeyvala, Ghagwal Samba, Nudd Samba, Udhampur Gadhi, Karan Nagar Extension, Goutam Nagar, Rajouri, Gandhi Nagar, Nowshera, Akhnoor, Billawar, Lower Roop Nagar, Sarwal, Raipur Bantalab, Bari Brahmana, Bishnah, and other areas attended the camp to put forward their grievances. Demands and issues raised

by the public included construction of lanes and drains, shortage of drinking water, repair of tubewells and hand pumps, issuance of land Fards, clearance of drains, installation of dustbins near Har Ki Poudi, police-related matters, provision and repair of street lights, frequent power cuts, damaged drain gratings, dilapidated roads, school building repairs, and concerns about Anganwadi Centres. In his address, Sharma said that while BJP representatives have been continuously working on the ground since the calamity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people, the NC government has adopted a casual and indifferent stance. He criticized the impractical approach of departments tasked with maintaining public services, holding them responsible for aggravating the suffering of the people. The camp was coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Party Incharge for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, who underlined the need to immediately address the water scarcity issue, by taking the proactive measures on priority.

Extend deadline for filing IT Returns, Tax Audit Reports: CCI Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a communication addressed to the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, Arun Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlighted the dual crisis impacting the region. The recent tragic terror attack in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025 and the subsequent security situation, 'Operation Sindoor,' have significantly hampered normal business activities. This situation has been further compounded by heavy rains, landslides, and flash floods across the Jammu division, which have devastated large parts of the region leaving majority business activities non-functional. Arun Gupta also said that a majority of businessmen are currently engaged in crucial relief and rehabilitation efforts to assist affected families, making it unfeasible for them to complete their tax



audit and file their returns by due dates. "The business community is facing unprecedented challenges that have made compliance with the current deadlines nearly impossible," said Gupta. "Our priority is to support our community members in this time of crisis. A deadline extension would provide much-needed relief and allow us to focus on recovery without the added pressure of meeting statutory obligations." Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry, requested the Finance Minister to extend the deadline for filing Income Tax Returns and Tax Audit Reports until at least 31 December 2025. Arun Gupta also requested to the Chief Minister of the UT of J&K, Omar Abdullah to take up the matter with the Union Finance Minister on urgent basis.

Media acts as effective bridge between Govt and people, plays pivotal role in spreading awareness related to Govt schemes: Dr. Jitendra



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference at PIB Jammu on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Friday said that media acts as an effective bridge between the Government and the people and has a pivotal role in spreading awareness about various government schemes and initiatives. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing media workshop 'Vartalap' as a Chief Guest, organised by Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Jammu. During his address, Dr. Singh emphasised that the success of welfare programmes in every sector launched by the Government depends largely on how effectively information about these initiatives reaches the intended beneficiaries. He further said that through timely and accurate dissemination, media not only informs citizens but also ensures transparency and greater public participation in governance. By sharing success stories and showcasing positive outcomes, the media motivates

more citizens to avail the benefits of Government programmes, Aroma Mission being the best example in J&K and get rid of 'government job mindset', Dr. Singh emphasised. Referring to the contribution of young Indian space scientist Shubanshu Shukla in the field of space research, Dr. Singh remarked, "Who will tell people what Shubanshu Shukla did in space? It is the media that can convey his achievements to the society and highlight the role of our scientists in nation-building." Dr. Jitendra Singh observed that while Indian media has made remarkable progress in outreach and technological adaptation, the scope for developing domain-specific journalism remains vast. "Specialised journalism not only enhances the quality of reporting but also ensures that citizens receive authentic, well-informed and nuanced perspectives on critical issues," Dr. Singh remarked. Dr. Jitendra Singh further

said that India has risen to become the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world, with the number of startups increasing exponentially from just 350 in 2014 to over 1.5 lakh in 2025. In this remarkable growth in just 11 years, media has a transformative role in shaping the innovation landscape through awareness and spreading of success stories, Dr. Singh stressed. Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted the remarkable success of the CSIR-Aroma Mission in Jammu & Kashmir, under which more than 3,000 lavender-based startups have been established across rural India. These startups are not only generating substantial income but also creating employment opportunities, thereby transforming the lives of thousands of families. Again, media has a vital role to play by narrating the success stories of lavender growers and startups to the nation and the world. By bringing these achievements into the public domain, the media can encourage more

farmers to adopt aromatic crops and can motivate young entrepreneurs to venture into agri-based startups, Dr. Singh emphasised. Director PIB Jammu, Neha Jalali underlined the pivotal role of media in raising awareness about flagship programmes and welfare initiatives of the Government of India. She said, "PIB will extend all possible support to media professionals in accessing authentic information so that the benefits of government schemes reach the last mile. The Bureau is committed to strengthening the information flow, enabling media to effectively inform the general public." By working closely with PIB, media can help amplify welfare initiatives and ensure that common people avail themselves of the schemes designed for their benefit, Ms. Jalali added. Dr. Suphala Gupta, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IIM, Jammu in her address said that Aroma Mission (Phase-III) is catalysing to rural empowerment and entrepreneurship through

cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing of aromatic plants. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal, GMC, Jammu said that Jammu & Kashmir Health Sector is providing improved health care services having a robust public healthcare infrastructure. Sansar Chand Sharma, Senior Meteorologist, IMD, Jammu

said that India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been playing a crucial role in strengthening the country's disaster risk management framework through its accurate and timely early warning services. By leveraging advanced technology, modern forecasting systems, and a nationwide observation network, IMD continues to pro-

vide reliable weather forecasts and early warnings that help safeguard lives and property. Zakir Nazir, M&CO, PIB Jammu delivered the vote of thanks and acknowledged the valuable insights shared by resource persons and speakers during different sessions. The media workshop witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 100 media-

persons from different organisations. At the end, an interactive question answer session was conducted for media representatives related to Government's flagship programmes, particularly the Aroma Mission, popularly known as the Purple Revolution, and the growing ecosystem of startups in the country.

L&T Finance Limited
(formerly known as L&T Finance Holdings Limited)
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Branch office: Jammu & Kashmir

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned, that Gold ornaments pledged with the under mentioned branches of the company under respective loan numbers, which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed by the concerned customers so far in spite of repeated notices by the company, will be auctioned at the concerned branch offices of the company on Friday 26 Sep, 2025 as per the following details:-

1. BARI BRAHMANA Branch - L & T Finance Pvt. Ltd, Property No. 1711, Ward No. 1, Near Pnb Bank, National Highway, Bari Brahmana, Samba, J&K . Pin code - 181133 . Phone - 9878366676 Loan Number - 210210000002248, 210210000002249, 210210000002251, 210210000002187, 210210000002169, 210210000002024, 210210000002171, 210210000002172, 210210000002067, 210210000002114, 210210000002210, 210210000002230, 210210000002148 (Time 11:00 AM)

2. Jammu Branch - L & T Finance Pvt. Ltd, Shop No. Aet, Part Of E3., Karan Market, Jammu City, Jammu. Pin code - 180002. Phone - 9875942896 Loan Number - 162210000004214, 162210000004314, 162210000004157, 162210000004139, 162210000004197, 162210000004156, 162210000004252, 162210000004371, 162210000004372, 162210000004302, 162210000004187, 162210000004309, 162210000004374, 162210000004382, 162210000004384, 162210000004385, 162210000004383, 162210000004381 (Time 11:00 AM)

3. Kathua Branch - L & T Finance Pvt. Ltd, Shop No.1,Ward No.1,Patwari Market,Near Sigma Laboratory,Collage Road,Kathua . Pin code - 184101 . Phone - 9875906391 Loan Number - 173210000002436, 173210000002373, 173210000002457, 173210000002399, 173210000002335, 173210000002433, 173210000002402 (Time 11:00 AM)

4. R.S PURA Branch - L & T Finance Pvt. Ltd, Khasra No.168,Purana Pind Chawk,Near Gramin Bank,R.S.Pura,Jammu. Pin code - 181102 . Phone - 9041455545 Loan Number - 178210000005662, 178210000005572, 178210000005543, 178210000005663, 178210000005513, 178210000005552, 178210000005449, 178210000005584, 178210000005547, 178210000005637, 178210000005534, 178210000005536, 178210000005553, 178210000005481, 178210000005485, 178210000005525, 178210000005611, 178210000005641 (Time 11:00 AM)

It may please be noted that if the auction does not get completed on the above stated day due to any reason, the same will be conducted on 03rd Oct 2025 at the same place and time without any further notice.

Note: Concerned customers can get the ornaments released before the auction date.

Note: L & T Finance Private Limited, on its sole discretion has the authority to remove any of the ornaments under any loan account from the auction list without prior information.

Note: Bidders are requested to produce Identity Card, PAN Card & TIN Number in case of registered dealers. Successful bidder shall be requested to transfer the full auction amount to the company by RTGS/any other permitted mode immediately.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T FINANCE LIMITED

For any clarification regarding the above notice, please contact at 1800 268 0000 or the concerned branch

Date: 13.09.2025
Place: Jammu & Kashmir