

LG Kavinder chairs 13th State Board for Wildlife Meeting

Approves Defence & PDD Projects; Emphasises balance between security and conservation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, chaired the 13th State Board for Wildlife meeting, underlining the need to balance national security priorities with the protection of Ladakh's fragile biodiversity and high conservation value areas.

Highlighting Ladakh's strategic significance and ecological sensitivity, the Lt Governor stressed that development must integrate robust environmental safeguards. He recommended the realignment of roads, power lines, and infrastructure to avoid disruption of critical wildlife habitats.

Emphasis was also placed on ensuring all sewage and wastewater be treated through Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) as per envi-



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a meeting.

ronmental norms, especially near wildlife areas. Proper solid waste management was also directed to prevent habitat degradation.

Following comprehensive discussions, the Board granted wildlife clearances for key infrastructure proj-

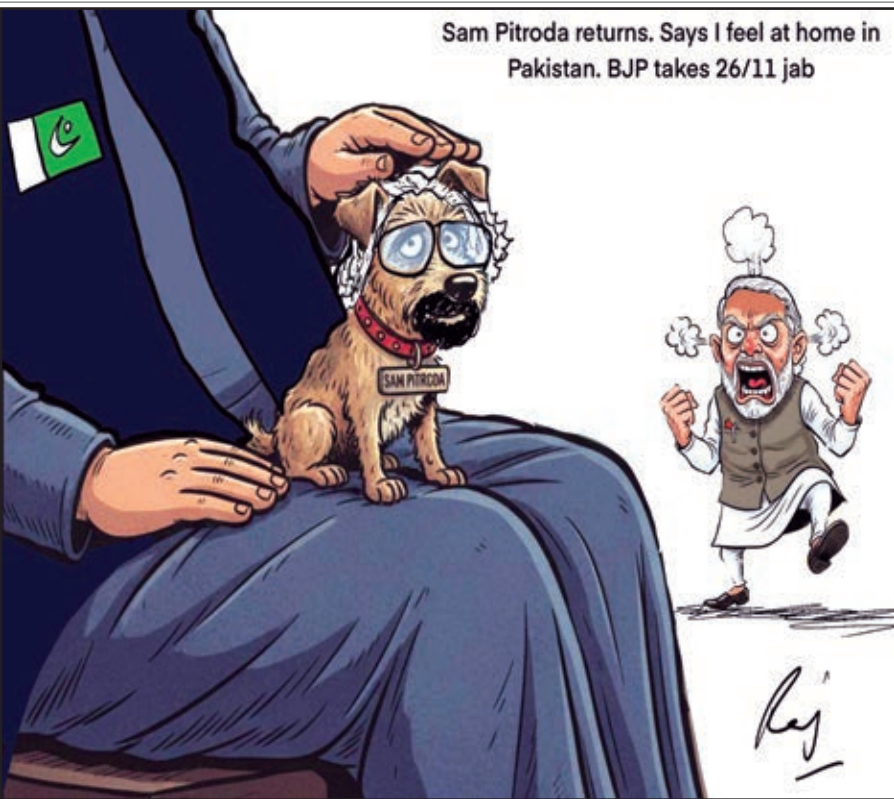
ects. These included defence-related developments and road connectivity works, along with proposals by the Power Development

Department (PDD) in the Karakoram and Changthang wildlife sanctuaries. The Lt Governor assured that while

strategic and developmental needs are vital, the administration remains committed to environmental sustainability. The meeting witnessed participation from a wide range of stakeholders, including experts, senior government officials, and

security representatives. Attendees included renowned wildlife expert Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh Jhala; Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Chief Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Executive Councillor, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; DGP Ladakh, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal; APPCF Ladakh, S. Rajesh; experts from the Wildlife Institute of India; senior officers from the UT Wildlife Department, Army, and ITBP.

Concluding the session, the Lt Governor reiterated Ladakh's dual responsibility - securing India's frontiers and preserving its unique natural ecosystems. He expressed hope that Ladakh would emerge as a model for harmonising national security imperatives with ecological conservation.



JDA cracks down on unauthorised construction at Domana, Nardani



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the directions of Vice Chairman Rupesh Kumar, a team of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on Friday carried out an intensive anti-encroachment operation targeting unauthorised construction at Domana and Nardani.

The authority sealed two unauthorised constructions at Domana and demolished an illegal plinth at Nardani, reaffirming its commitment to upholding planned urban growth and safeguarding

public land.

This operation was executed in close coordination with the district administration, ensuring professionalism and transparency.

The identified constructions were built without legal approvals and had encroached upon JDA land, violating planning norms. The swift action prevented further misuse of public assets and sent a clear message against unlawful development practices.

Vice Chairman, JDA,

underscored the authority's zero-tolerance approach toward encroachments, warning that strict legal consequences will follow any form of unauthorised occupation or construction. Residents are strongly advised to verify land status and obtain all necessary permissions before undertaking any building activity. JDA remains steadfast in its mission to promote lawful, systematic urban development and assures continued vigilance against violations.

JKDFA representatives meet Union Agriculture Minister, present detail of challenges faced by dairy farmers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A high-level delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association (JKDFA) met with Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, during his comprehensive visit to the flood-affected areas of Badyal Brahmana, R.S. Pura, here on Friday.

The JKDFA delegation was represented by Jeet Ram Choudhary, Founder Chairman, Sunil Sharma, President, Davinder Singh, General Secretary, Kulbhushan Khajuria, Chairman (FWC) & Member, J&K Kissan Advisory Board, and Dalip Singh, Vice President, along with other executive members of the association.

During the extensive interaction that took place at the



JKDFA members interacting with Union Agriculture Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Jammu.

flood relief site, the JKDFA representatives provided a comprehensive briefing to the Union Minister on the widespread damage caused to the dairy farming sector due to recent floods and heavy rains in the region.

The delegation presented detailed accounts of critical challenges faced by dairy farmers, including significant livestock losses, acute fodder shortage, and exten-

sive damage to agricultural infrastructure.

Union Minister Chouhan, who was conducting a thorough on-ground assessment of the flood-affected agricultural areas, engaged in detailed discussions with the JKDFA delegation and assured them of all possible support from the Central Government. He emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's govern-

ment is fully committed to supporting farmers during this crisis.

"The Central Government, in coordination with the Jammu & Kashmir administration, will ensure that no farmer is left behind in the relief and rehabilitation process," stated the Union Minister during his extensive interaction with the delegation at the flood site.

The Minister's visit to Badyal Brahmana was part of his comprehensive assessment tour of crop damage and agricultural losses in the Basmati-rich R.S. Pura region, which has been severely impacted by the recent floods. The JKDFA representatives accompanied the Minister during portions of his field assessment, providing ground-level insights into the dairy sector's specific challenges.

JKDFA representatives

Jammu South Police nabs drug peddler with pistol, heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Supervision of SSP Jammu and the direct guidance of SP City South, SDPO City South and SHO Police Station Gandhi Nagar, Inspector Jai Paul Sharma, Jammu Police achieved a breakthrough with the arrested one drug paddler and recovery of a heroin-like substance under Operation Sanjeevani.

During patrolling police team from Police Station Gandhi Nagar headed by PSI Abhevir Kotwal along with other Police officials arrested one peddler from Sashtri Nagar, Near Shamshan Ghat area.

The Person was identified as Shakti Kumar, son of Naryan Dass,



resident of Nougtran, Bishnah Distt Jammu. Upon conducting their search, the police recovered total 50 grams heroin-like substance and One pistol from his possession. He is already wanted in many FIR's.

A case FIR No. 206/2025 under sections 8/21/22/25 NDPS Act, 3/25 Arms Act & 111 BNS has been registered at Police Station Gandhi Nagar Jammu and the accused person has been taken into custody for further investigation.

Jammu Police reiterates its commitment to eradicating drug menace from the society and urges citizens to come forward with any information regarding drug-related activities.

Yudhvir Sethi attends Bhagwat Saptah, prays for Machail Cloudburst victims



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Singh paying obeisance at Shiv Mandir during Bhagwat Saptah.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, today attended the ongoing Bhagwat Saptah at Shiv Mandir, Bhagwati Nagar.

The religious event was organized in memory of and as a prayer for the victims of the recent Machail cloudburst tragedy.

The Bhagwat Saptah, a week-long recital of the holy Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, is being organized by Heera Lal Khajuria, Desraj, Janak Lal Khajuria, Satish Nargotra, Kuljeet Kapoor and Anita Sharma.

It is being led by Mathura-based saint Aditya Nath Pandey, who is serving as the Kathavachak. Renowned scholars and religious figures including Suresh Shastri and Somnath Shastri were also present on the occasion, blessing the devotees with their spiritual discourses.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives in Machail due to the cloudburst.

He said, "The incident at Machail has shaken us all. Today, as we gather here in prayer, we not only seek

peace for the departed souls but also strength and resilience for their families. It is through such spiritual congregations that we find collective solace and the courage to support each other in times of grief."

Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the cultural and spiritual significance of Bhagwat Saptah, describing them as vital platforms that spread the message of devotion, righteousness, and compassion.

He praised the efforts of the organizers for holding the event and providing devotees an opportunity to come

together in faith and prayer. He further emphasized that alongside prayers, the government and society must extend every possible help to the affected families in Machail. "We must collectively ensure that relief, rehabilitation, and long-term support reach those in need. Humanity and service should be our guiding principles," he added.

The event witnessed the participation of a large number of devotees who listened with devotion to the Katha and joined in collective prayers for peace, harmony, and well-being of all.

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