

# LG Kavinder chairs high-level meeting on law & order and security in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the prevailing law and order and overall security scenario in the Union Territory.

The meeting brought together key officials including Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Director General of Police Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, and senior officers from the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

During the session, officials provided a comprehensive briefing on current deployments, emerging challenges, and strategies to ensure peace, public safety, and a unified response to evolving situations.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized the need for



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing high-level security review meeting.

proactive, coordinated, and people-centric approaches to tackle law and order challenges. He stressed the importance of seamless coordination among civil and security agencies, timely intelligence sharing, and rapid response mechanisms to neutralize potential threats.

Kavinder Gupta commended the people of Leh for showing restraint and

maturity during the relaxation of restrictions, noting that their behavior exemplified civic responsibility and a commitment to regional harmony. He instructed the administration and security forces to maintain law and order while safeguarding the rights and welfare of the people.

Reaffirming the Government of India and UT Administration's com-

mitment to the safety and development of Ladakh,

the LG highlighted that peace and security are fundamental to the region's progress. He also cautioned citizens to remain vigilant against anti-social and anti-national elements seeking to disrupt peace and urged them to cooperate with authorities to preserve normalcy. The meeting concluded with clear directives to adopt a unified, anticipatory, and citizen-focused strategy to ensure the safety, stability, and development of Ladakh amidst the prevailing challenges.

## Dr Jitendra lays foundation at IIT Jammu, reviews flagship schemes in Doda & Kishtwar

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JAMMU: In a significant push to infrastructure and regional development, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday participated in multiple key events across Jammu, Doda, and Kishtwar districts.

At IIT Jammu, Dr. Singh joined the foundation stone laying ceremony for Phase-B infrastructure, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the project virtually. The Rs 1,398 crore expansion includes new academic blocks, hostels, and a state-of-the-art Research Park, the first of its kind in North India, modelled on IIT Madras.

Dr. Singh praised the institute's rapid growth since its establishment in 2016 and commended Director Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur for steering IIT Jammu to national prominence. He noted its



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking during foundation stone laying ceremony for Phase-B infrastructure works at IIT Jammu on Saturday.

impressive 56th NIRF ranking in 2025 and its strategic location near institutions like AIIMS and IIM Jammu.

He also highlighted the Union Cabinet's Rs 11,828 crore investment for expanding five new IITs, including Jammu, aiming to raise their combined student strength to 12,000 over the next four years.

In Doda, Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a DISHA meeting to review Centrally-

sponsored schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission, PMGSY, and PMAY. He described the Chattergala Tunnel project as a "game changer" for year-round connectivity and economic upliftment. The Minister stressed timely repair of flood-damaged infrastructure, enhanced road connectivity in remote areas, and saturation of welfare schemes. He also emphasized promoting Ayushman Bharat, PM-Surya Ghar,

and One District One Product (ODOP) to boost local development and entrepreneurship.

Later in Kishtwar, Dr. Singh chaired another DISHA meeting, directing the administration to expedite relief and rehabilitation post-recent cloudbursts and flash floods. Reviewing implementation of schemes like PM-KISAN, PMAY, and Jal Jeevan Mission, he emphasized the need for saturation of basic services and

timely grievance redressal.

Dr. Singh proposed accelerated work on the airstrip under the UDAAN scheme, noting that air connectivity would benefit Kishtwar, particularly in harsh winters.

He urged the administration to engage local youth in NHPC projects through skill training and entrepreneurship programs. Highlighting the Sansad Khel Spardha, he called for enrolment camps to identify local sports talent for national-level participation.

Deputy Commissioners of Doda and Kishtwar presented updates on various infrastructure projects, including the Rs 600 crore sanctioned under PMGSY for Doda and 100% PMAY (Gramin) target achievement in Kishtwar. Over Rs 120 crore has also been disbursed to farmers under PM-KISAN in the district.

## India growing despite global distractions: Priya Sethi

Looking ahead to developed India by 2047: MLA Baldev Raj



Vice-President J&K BJP Priya Sethi addressing GST awareness workshop in Katra.

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KATRA: Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system has been made simpler and more transparent, bringing tangible benefits to traders, farmers, consumers, and industries alike.

This was stated by Vice-President of J&K BJP and former Minister Priya Sethi, in a GST awareness workshop held in Katra on Saturday highlighted how these reforms are expected to boost local trade, tourism, and cultural sustainability in the region.

MLA, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Baldev Raj Sharma, Rohit Dubey (President BJP Katra), Shiv Kumar Sharma, Saraf Singh Nag, Sham Kesar, Kuldeep, local leaders and several members of the business community were present in the function.

Priya Sethi, who praised Prime Minister Modi for introducing reforms that simplify taxation and reduce compliance burdens, said, "Under PM Modi's visionary leadership, GST has not only eased the challenges for businesses but also strengthened the economy

and empowered citizens. These reforms will significantly enhance affordability, promote sustainable tourism, and create employment opportunities across various sectors."

"Greater affordability in travel and accommodation is expected to expand both domestic and foreign tourist inflows, providing a fillip to local businesses. Employment opportunities are anticipated to rise in hospitality, transport, and artisan sectors, strengthening the economic fabric of Katra,

"By making traditional Indian art forms economically viable through reduced taxation, artisans and cultural performers will receive renewed opportunities to showcase their skills. GST reforms are also expected to encourage sustainable practices, such as greater use of public transport, reducing emissions and easing traffic congestion in tourist areas," she added.

Baldev Raj Sharma reiterated the Central government's commitment to inclusive growth, stating that GST measures not only facilitate trade but also support tourism, job creation, cultural preservation, and sustainability.

"These reforms reflect a strategic effort to boost

India's tourism and cultural sectors by enhancing affordability, supporting traditional artisans, and encouraging sustainable transport. By fostering greater accessibility and preserving cultural heritage, the GST reductions are poised to generate significant economic growth, create jobs, and enhance India's image globally as a vibrant and inclusive destination.

Speaking at the event, Rohit Dubey remarked, "GST simplification has removed procedural hurdles and encouraged formalization of trade. Small and medium enterprises, as well as local businesses in Katra, will greatly benefit from these measures."

Saraf Singh Nag added, "The reduction in GST rates will make local goods and services more competitive, providing relief to both sellers and consumers. This is a step forward in promoting economic activity and enhancing the region's commercial potential."

Shiv Kumar Sharma emphasized, "Tourism in Katra will receive a direct boost due to GST reforms. Lower rates will reduce travel and accommodation costs, encouraging more domestic and international tourists to visit."

## AIIMS Jammu becomes first Government Hospital to offer Pan-India Genomic Reports at affordable rates



Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu with other dignitaries at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark development for precision medicine in India, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu has become the first government-run hospital in the country to provide state-of-the-art genomic testing services at affordable rates to patients nationwide.

The initiative is part of the AIIMS Jammu-4baseCare Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine, inaugurated on February 2, 2025, by Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, with support from Infosys. In just a few months, the Centre has delivered 125 genomic reports across more than 15 cancer types including lung, breast, ovarian, and

stomach cancers. Patients were referred by leading institutions such as Apollo Hospital in Karnataka, AIIMS Delhi and Blubaneswar, Fortis Hospital in Delhi, and SMS Hospital in Jaipur.

Traditionally, genomic tests were sent abroad at costs ranging between ₹3-5 lakh, while domestic providers charged between ₹1.5-2.5 lakh. AIIMS Jammu has reduced this cost to nearly one-fourth, making precision oncology more accessible to families across India. At the core of this initiative is IndiGene, India's first population-specific cancer gene panel, a Made in India DeepTech innovation that tailors results to the unique genetic makeup of Indian patients.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, said, "Our Centre is committed to expanding beyond oncology into complex diseases. We aim to provide genomics-based differential diagnosis for rare and inherited disorders, women's health, cardiology, neurology, pediatrics, and ophthalmology-helping families overcome prolonged diagnostic journeys and access personalized care at lower costs."

The expanded mandate of the Centre will cover women's health through gene-carrier screening for couples, newborn testing for early detection of rare disorders, and evaluation of unexplained infertility and pregnancy loss. In neurology, the Centre will provide genetic insights into

epilepsy, developmental delays, and rare neurological syndromes. In cardiology, focus will be on identifying inherited heart conditions such as cardiomyopathies and arrhythmias, as well as assessing sudden cardiac arrest risk in young individuals. Pediatric care will involve diagnosing congenital anomalies, growth delays, and metabolic disorders, while ophthalmology services will include testing for inherited eye diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa and congenital blindness.

Hitesh Goswami, Co-founder and CEO of 4baseCare Precision Health Pvt. Ltd., added, "This partnership demonstrates how Indian innovation can solve India's health challenges while matching global standards.

Precision medicine-tailored to individual genetic blueprints-is the future, and India is emerging as a leader."

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh also underlined the significance of this initiative during the inauguration, stating, "Gene therapy promises individualized management of disease for each patient. Even if two individuals suffer from the same condition, their treatment could differ based on unique genetic susceptibilities and inherited vulnerabilities."

With this initiative, AIIMS Jammu has set a national benchmark by combining public healthcare infrastructure, indigenous innovation, and private sector collaboration-ensuring that precision medicine reaches families across India and beyond.

# 1857 Swatantra Sangram: Indian Princely States and Princes: Why did Indian British Empire comprise of British India & Indian Princely States?

■ DAYA SAGAR

The First War of Independence, the British called that The Indian Rebellion of 1857, was a major uprising against British rule in India through the East India Company, with Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi emerging as a prominent leader. But many Princely states had chosen to side with the 'British'. Maharaja Jayajirao Scindia of Gwalior, Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar II of Indore, Sikander Begum of Bhopal, Maharaja Gulab Singh Of Jammu and Kashmir and Maharaja Ishwari Prasad Narayan Singh of Rewa were key allies. The Indian Rebellion of 1857, a significant uprising against 'British' colonial rule, saw varied responses from the rulers of Indian princely states. While Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi became a symbol of resistance, several rulers chose to align with the British East India Company, often due to strategic alliances, fear of annex-

ation, or to secure their own positions. The rebellion, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny in the then government records began on May 10, 1857, in Meerut and spread across northern and central India, with significant activity in regions like Jhansi, Gwalior, and Lucknow. Rani Lakshmi Bai, after the annexation of Jhansi by the East India Company (EIC) under the Doctrine of Lapse, led war against British forces and later joined by forces of/with other rebels, even capturing Gwalior in June 1858. The British response involved leveraging loyal princely states, especially in Central India, to suppress the revolt. These states, bound by subsidiary alliances, often provided troops to EIC, resources, and logistical support, playing a crucial role. The British policy of rewarding loyal rulers with titles, honours (e.g., the 'Most Exalted Order of the Star of India'), and assurances of autonomy post-rebellion incentivized

loyalty in some Princes. The Doctrine of Lapse, which led to Jhansi's annexation and fueled Rani Lakshmi Bai's rebellion, was a cautionary tale for other rulers who feared losing their states. Annual Administrative report of The Jammu and Kashmir State for the Samvat 1997-98 (16th Oct 1940-15th Oct 1941) released in 1942: Lieutenant-General His Highness Raj Rajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Maharaja Shri Hari Singh ji Bahadur Inadar Mahindar, Sipar-I Saltanat-E-Inglishia Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir: Reads on page-22< In 1856, the Maharaja's health began to fail. At the outbreak of the Mutiny - 1857, when he was on his death bed he called his Council and sent a Contingent of 2000 infantry, 200 cavalry and six guns under the command of his son and heir-



### A Look through the Mist

apparent, Sri Ranbir Singhji. The Maharaja died in August 1857, at the age of 66 before the Mutiny had been finally quelled. For the brave part played by the state forces in putting down the Mutiny, Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who succeeded his father, was offered a Jagir in Oudh, which he declined declaring that he had acted as a loyal friend and ally of the British.>

Doctrine of Lapse, denied adopted son's right to rule Rani Lakshmi Bai had no any incentive to align with the British as her state of Jansi was already annexed and she became a symbol of resistance against colonial rule. The rebellion was most intense in northern and central India (e.g., Jhansi, Delhi, Lucknow), but many southern and western princely states (e.g., Mysore, Travancore, Rajputana) remained unaffected and some loyal too, as they had

less direct grievance against the British or were tightly bound by yielding treaties.

The Scindia rulers of Gwalior, under Maharaja Jayajirao Scindia, were loyal allies of the British. When Rani Lakshmi Bai, also known as Jansi ki Rani, and other rebels captured Gwalior in June 1858, Jayajirao Scindia is said to have gone to Agra to seek British protection and later assisted in the British counter offensive to recapture Gwalior. Gwalior's strategic importance made Scindia's support critical for the British, especially after Rani Lakshmi Bai's forces took the Gwalior fortress. His troops did not fully join the rebels, and his loyalty ensured British support for his continued rule.

The Holkar rulers of Indore, led by Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar II, maintained loyalty to the British during the 1857 revolt. Although some of Holkar's troops initially joined the rebels, the Maharaja himself declared support for

the British, and it was suspected he played a double game to secure his position. Indore's support was significant in Central India, where Jhansi and other rebel strongholds were active. The princely state of Patiala, under Maharaja Narinder Singh, was a staunch British ally during the 1857 revolt. Patiala provided troops and resources to assist the British in suppressing the rebellion, particularly in the Punjab region and areas around Delhi. The Maharaja's loyalty was rewarded with honors such as the 'Most Exalted Order of the Star of India' in 1861. While Patiala's direct involvement against rebels was limited, its support strengthened British efforts in North India, indirectly impacting the broader campaign against rebels like Rani Lakshmi Bai.

To be continued  
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