

LG Ladakh outlines vision for industrial growth, sustainable rural tourism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday outlined UT Ladakh's vision for driving industrial growth alongside sustainable rural tourism, stressing transparent land allocation, inclusive policies, and community empowerment as the key pillars of Ladakh's development roadmap.

He said the UT Administration is committed to fostering investment, generating employ-



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta interacting with delegation.

ment for local youth, and promoting eco-friendly tourism initiatives that preserve the region's unique culture and eco-

logy.

The Lt Governor was speaking while interacting with delegations at the LG Secretariat today.

Earlier, members of Looms of Ladakh, representing more than 600 artisans from 19 villages in Leh and Kargil, apprised the

Lt Governor of their work as an ethical, herder-artisan-led luxury brand. They explained how their initiative blends cutting-edge design with heritage crafts, upskills traditional artisans, and provides sustainable solutions to preserve Ladakh's cultural legacy while creating exclusive handcrafted col-

lectables.

Similarly, entrepreneur Sonam Stanzin from Domkhar highlighted the potential of developing tourism in areas such as Domkhar, Takmachik, Skurbuchan, and the Aryan Valley. He noted that Domkhar, in particular, is home to rock art dating back nearly 6,000 years, and that cultural events like the Apricot and Buckwheat festivals could be harnessed to attract tourists and generate livelihood opportunities for locals.

A delegation from the Anjuman Imamia Women's Wing also met the Lt Governor and shared details of the society's environmental protection initiatives.

Another delegation of Nambardars from different villages in the Sodh area of Kargil raised demands for the early completion of the Kargil-Batalik road and the Hamboting-La tunnel to enhance connectivity in the region. Responding to these representations, the

Lt Governor assured the delegations that the UT Administration is committed to addressing the genuine concerns of the people, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring equitable development across Ladakh.

He reiterated that industrial growth and tourism development will go hand in hand, with special focus on empowering local communities, preserving the environment, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. The Lt Governor underlined that the vision of the UT Administration is to transform Ladakh into a hub of responsible industrialisation and eco-friendly tourism, while safeguarding its unique cultural and ecological heritage.

He called upon all stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, community groups, and civil society organisations, to work in partnership with the government to realise this vision of a prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive Ladakh.

Sakeena reviews modalities for preparation of J&K Private University Policy-2025



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the modalities for the preparation of the J&K Private University Policy-2025, a landmark framework aimed at strengthening higher education opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamanu; Special Secretary, Higher Education department and other senior officers of HED attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held comprehensive deliberations focusing on ensuring that the policy draft is both progressive and pragmatic, balancing the growing demand for quality education with the need for robust regulatory safeguards.

The Minister emphasized that the policy must create an enabling environment for reputed private institutions to establish universities in Jammu and Kashmir while upholding academic integrity, transparency and accountability.

"Government's objective is to upgrade higher education, promote innovation and provide local students access to world-class learning facilities without compromising on quality," the Minister stated.

The Minister further called upon the officers that the draft policy should be framed in consultation with all stakeholders, including students, academicians, civil society and other experts. She also asked the officers to consult other departments like Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Finance and other departments for draft formulation of the policy.

The Minister stressed upon the officers to develop transparent guidelines and put them in public domain for the feedback of general population and make changes accordingly which seem necessary.

She highlighted that the J&K Private University Policy 2025 should serve as a guiding framework for establishing credible private universities in the Union Territory, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub of knowledge, innovation and skill development across the country and abroad.

Div Com Jammu visits flood affected areas, relief camps in Samba District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today conducted a tour of the flood-affected areas in Samba district to assess the situation and the scale of damage to public infrastructure and private property. He also visited the relief camps where the affected families have been provided shelter and amenities.

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan, officials of District administration, NHAI, BSF and concerned line departments accompanied him during the tour.

The Divisional Commissioner commenced the tour with inspection of Vijaypur Bridge near AIIMS. He enquired from the officials of National Highway Authority of India about the cause of its damage and directed to expedite restoration work. It was informed that immediate measures are being taken for restoration, including strengthening of crates and embankments to prevent overflow of water.

Later, the Div Com



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar during visit to flood-affected areas in Samba.

inspected relief arrangements put in place at Samba Bus Stand and Municipal Community Hall, where flood-affected families have been provided temporary shelter.

The Div Com interacted with the flood affected families, addressed their concerns, and assured timely relief measures and continued administrative support. He directed the concerned officials at the relief camp to provide all facilities to the inmates of the relief camps.

The Div Com also met with Border Security Force (BSF) officers stationed in the affected areas to ensure integrated flood management efforts.

It was informed that the power supply is being provided to multiple affected locations through alternate means. However, they said, work is on to restore permanent power connections at the earliest possible timeline.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasised the critical need for immediate implementation of preventive measures and comprehensive long-term flood mitigation strategies.

All concerned departments were directed to maintain high alert status and ensure swift assistance and support to affected families during the recovery phase.



Time to align Dogra legacy with India's mainstream global journey: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh delivering 6th "Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Lecture" at University of Jammu on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Delivering the 6th "Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Lecture" at University of Jammu on Tuesday, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is time to align Dogra legacy with India's mainstream global journey.

The Minister said, India is now following the same global strategies that are being followed by the other developed countries. He said, the country is now living up to global benchmarks. Therefore, he said, if the Dogra region and the Dogras also align with this mainstream global journey, then that would be the true long-term sustainability of the Dogra culture and pride.

Stressing on the need to promote Dogri language through contemporary mediums and curricula, Dr Jitendra Singh urged the educational institutions like Jammu University to take up the task. He said, the linguistic pride cannot be dependent only on Constitutional safeguards.

Dr Jitendra Singh said although Dogri has been included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and introduced as a subject in educational institutes, but it seems to have done little for its promotion on the ground level. Making a strong case for

promotion of Dogri among the youth, the Minister stated that imposition and sermonizing would not help promote the language as little written communication is done in Dogri.

Cryptically, Dr Jitendra Singh said, after abrogation of Art 370, Dogri was made an official language in J&K, and asked how many in this hall have ever even once written a letter or application addressed to any government office in Dogri language. The Minister asked such persons to raise their hands but not a single hand went up.

Dr Jitendra Singh said there is a need to see Dogri as a legacy asset to move on with new contemporary trends rather than treat it as a liability, and also need to connect it with livelihood stakes.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that ever since PM Narendra Modi took over, Union Government has sought to bridge the gap between Jammu Division and Kashmir Valley, but we are still not able to liberate ourselves from the earlier mindset. Addressing the students, the Union Minister said the National Education Policy is a game-changer because it has liberated them and provided greater choices. Earlier, most of them were prisoners of their parental choices when it

comes to choosing subjects. Now, they have the freedom to choose and juggle with subjects as per their aptitude, he explained.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged the students to harness mobile technology, and called upon them to join agri-startups after they pass out. The Minister said agri-startups are offering sustainable livelihood. He said more than 4000 youth left their jobs to become part of the Purple Revolution which catapulted Bhaderwah town of district Doda to the global map of startups. He said the Dogra youth too will have to come out of the government employment mindset and take to these new avenues.

The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir is rich in bio-resources, such as lavender. He also called for promoting Khadi, informing that the government is providing nearly 40 per cent subsidy on loans to encourage production and sale of Khadi products. Dr Singh also spoke about PM Vishwakarma Yojana. He said it is not only a source of livelihood but promotes traditional craft by providing end-to-end support to artisans and craftspersons. The Minister said it aims at onboarding the beneficiaries as entrepreneurs.

Some myths about J&K State related issues cultivated over years had also been dismantled set aside by Constitution Bench Judgement of Dec 11, 2023

11 Dec 2023 Constitution Bench Judgement IN RE: Article 370 of the Constitution: Validity of C.O 272 & C.O 273 of Aug 2019: Act 34 of 2019

Grant of Statehood to UT of J&K or UT of Ladakh is for Parliament to Decide unless SC holds invalid the Use of Art-3 for reducing a State to a UT

■ DAYA SAGAR

After issue of Constitution Order {The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 } 272 CO of 05-08-2019 (of President of India as issued in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 370 of the Constitution, with the concurrence of the Government of State of Jammu and Kashmir) as published in the Gazette of India vide Notification G.S.R .551(E) of date August 5, 2019 by Ministry of Law & Justice that superseded the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 as amended from time to time} ; Constitution Order (CO) 273 of date September 6, 2019 { Declaration Under Article 370(3) of the Constitution made by President of India in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 370 read with clause (1) of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, on the recommendation of Parliament } as published in the Gazette of India vide Notification G.S.R .562(E) of date August 6, 2019 by Ministry of Law & Justice ; and passage of The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 NO. 34 of 2019 ,an Act to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir in two UTs { UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (Passed by Lok Sabha on 6th Aug 2019 & by Rajay Sabha on 5th Aug 2019 that received assent of President of India on 9th August, 2019 and became

effective wef October 31, 2029 } a number (22) of petitions were filed in Supreme Court of India questioning the constitutional validities. All the petitions were clubbed as original Writ / Appellate Jurisdiction Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1099 of 2019 in RE: Article 370 of the Constitution. A five Judge Constitution Bench (Justice Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud CJI, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice Sanjay Khanna, Justice Bhushan R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant) passed the judgement on December 11, 2023.

To be brief in common man language(i) with the C.O 272 among other things and in particular reference to the State of J&K a 'new' Article by the name Art-35A which was added in Constitution of India , not by a regular Constitution Amendment using Art-368 but through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 1954 of May 14, 1954, was deleted by using the same procedure; and with CO 273 of August 6, 2019 using the provisions contained in Art-370 the Article 370 was amended (not abrogated) so as to in particular make Art-152 applicable to J&K State while making reference to J&K state in reference to articles like 146,148,149 as regards subjects in the State list , Union list and Concurrent list in the same way as for most of the other Indian states (it was just a procedural change since J&K state is already a State as defined in Art-1 of Constitution of India.

It is not out of place to mention here

that the affairs and issues related to Indian State of J&K have been a victim of the political ambitions of some leaders as well as some political parties who have been using the environment & circumstances that prevailed at the time of accession of the princely State of J&K to India in Oct 1947 and have been propagating some explanations / theories to support their political claims after independence related to accession or accuse other political opponents / rival referring to subjects of accession / partition of India some of which were extravagant / misrepresentations but had not been refuted even by some opponents who instead indirectly accepted existence of some claims though also at the same time advocated for removal of the features cultivated by their opponents and also held 'some other opponent' as responsible for providing grounds for such claims to some for making such claims. The result has been that even some myths had taken grounds worth 'truth' for some not only in the local arenas but also at the all India level including even some non-political persons / scholars / commentators. Like some saying that Art- 370 is a bridge between India & State which the Article was not , Article-370 gave special status to J&K State in Constitution of India where as it was not so (so strangely even after March 11, 2015 in reply to Rajay Sabha Question 138 (a) whether it is a fact



A Look through the Mist Part-I

that through Article 370, the Constitution gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir) GOI written reply informed the Parliament that Art-370 did not give special status to J&K in Constitution {(a): In the Constitution of India, there is no mention of 'Special Status to Jammu and Kashmir'. Article 370 provides for 'Temporary provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir'.)but still many leaders kept on saying that J&K has / had special status and many are still found saying that special status of J&K was removed in August 2019), many have been saying that J&K State has/had a separate constitution than COI (J&K had own constitution) where as it was not so which could be well read by any one going through the Preamble of COI and preamble J&K Constitution but that was not done , some even said that J&K has her own Flag like the Indian National Flag 'noone' who materially mattered refuted that where as it was nowhere like that which could well be read from the 1952 Delhi Agreement which very clearly said that the State flag is to be symbol of freedom struggle and it will be no where rival of National flag which will have same status in J&K as in other Indian states, some said J&K had not merged with India where as other states had also signed additionally some merger document and some observed 26th Oct as VILAY Divas,

whereas States like J&K had to only accede to Dominion of India in 1947 and merger was referred wrt some smaller princely states that were required to be made part of some other bigger state or so for purposes of local governance , some even have been saying that since it was with the consent of the "people of Kashmir Valley" that the princely state of J&K could accede to India after some special treatment promises were made to the people of J&K & "Art-370/ Separate Flag/ separate constitution" were the shadows of those promises where as it was exclusive mandate in terms of Indian Independent Act 1947 with the Prince of the State to accede or not accede with any of the Dominion and like . Such like myths had taken ground even outside J&K and many people who mattered did not dismiss such myths but in a way they acknowledged such myths (some even supporting such claims and some who opposed such claims also acknowledged their existence when they said they would support removal of such features).Even after 2019 some leaders / commentators holding responsible positions could be found saying that Art-370 has been abrogated (where as it has been amended) and after 'abrogation' of Art 370 special status of J&K has been taken away (where as Art-370 never gave constitutionally special status to J&K) which very clearly demonstrates how some uncontested otherwise claims made by some in reference to Oct 1947 accession of J&K to Indian

Dominion had become believable truth (myths) for even many learned people.

The constitution bench has through the judgement delivered on December 11, 2023 declared the actions of the President / Parliament as regards issue of Notification CO 272 of August 5, 2019 and Declaration C.O 273 of August 6, 2019 constitutionally valid and within the provisions of COI as regards the delegations & procedures. As regards the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 No. 34 of 2019 and use of Art-3 of the COI for the Act 34 of 2019 the SC had kept the subject on hold although had also made some observations regarding the Reorganisation of J&K state into UT of J&K & UT of Ladakh and also issued some directions regarding holding elections to Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K by 30th September 2024.

For the reasons of space and time all things cannot be detailed here and some references to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 No. 34 of 2019 ,an Act that provided for the reorganisation of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir in two UTs , UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, will be taken first which also becomes an item of news every next day as regards restoration of Statehood to J&K.

To be continued
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