

# LG Kavinder emphasizes inclusive development for remote villages of ladakh



Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta interacting with delegation members.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Union Territory Administration of Ladakh has reaffirmed its commitment to taking development to even the most remote villages, focusing on empowering rural communities through improvements in education, healthcare, and essential infrastructure.

This was stated by Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta during a public meeting held at the

Dak Bungalow, Hemya, where residents from nine villages-Hemya, Tarchit, Tiri, Liktsky, Tukla, Skidmang, Kairy, Chumathang, and Kyungyam-participated and raised local issues.

Also present at the public durbar were DC Leh Romil Singh Donk, SSP Leh Shruti Arora, Tehsildar Nyoma, and Councillors Thinles Nurboo and Ishey Spalzang, along with other

district officials.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor stressed the importance of citizen participation in grassroots development, stating that an informed and vocal public ensures accountability and responsive governance.

He praised the courage and awareness of people in far-flung areas for raising their concerns, calling it vital for building a just and inclusive society.

He identified education, healthcare, and tourism as the three pillars of Ladakh's development, noting that each plays a critical role in shaping the region's future. Highlighting challenges in educational access, he acknowledged that a 100 km distance to an institution can be a serious barrier—especially for rural students and girls. He assured that the administration is working to bridge these gaps through targeted initiatives.

The Lt Governor reiterated that inclusive growth must reach every village, and that sustained development is possible only through collaboration between government and citizens.

Later, Kavinder Gupta also visited the Chumathang Hot Springs, known for their therapeutic mineral-rich waters, believed to benefit skin ailments and joint pain, underscoring the region's potential for eco and wellness tourism.

## Monika Choudhary qualifies Ph.D



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Monika Choudhary, daughter of Krishan Lal Choudhary and Sarishta Choudhary, resident of Village Gharani, Tehsil Suchetgarh, District Jammu, has been declared qualified for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Museology by the University of Jammu. She worked on the topic, "Heritage Structures and their Adaptive Reuse: A Study of Jammu Region," under the supervision of Prof. Poonam Chaudhary. She dedicated her Ph.D. Doctoral work to her Grandparents Hav. Baldev Raj Choudhary and Kailasho Devi.

# Khatana hails Next-Gen GST reforms



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana on Friday welcomed the Next-Generation GST reforms, calling them a "historic and people-centric decision" that would ease the financial burden on families, empower farmers, and provide a strong push to small businesses and manufacturing.

Khatana said the reforms, cleared at the 56th meeting of the GST Council chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, simplify the tax structure to just two slabs of 5% and 18%, with a special 40% rate for luxury and demerit goods. The new rates will be implemented from September 22, 2025, a move he described as "timely relief ahead of the festive season."

"The announcement under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is a direct relief to the common man," Khatana asserted. "Everyday essentials like soaps, toothpaste, packaged food items and bicycles will now fall in the 5% bracket, while life-saving drugs have

been reduced to nil or 5%. Cement, small cars, two-wheelers, ACs and televisions have been brought down to 18%, making them more affordable for middle-class families. Farm machinery and irrigation equipment, so vital to our farmers, have been cut to 5%, significantly lowering farming costs." The MP emphasised that the reforms carry special significance for Jammu & Kashmir: "Our farmers, orchardists, artisans and small traders will directly benefit. Cheaper inputs for agriculture and handicrafts, reduced costs for the housing sector, and relief for transport and tourism will boost local livelihoods. This is inclusive growth reaching every section of society," he said. Khatana also highlighted

the social protection measures embedded in the reforms, pointing to the full GST exemption on life and health insurance premiums and the steep cuts on medical devices. "This strengthens household security and makes healthcare affordable. It shows the government's compassion for ordinary citizens," he maintained.

Describing the package as "pro-people, pro-MSME and pro-farmer", Khatana said the reforms will also strengthen the economy in the long term by widening the tax base, simplifying compliance, and encouraging consumption. "It is a win-win as the households will save more, businesses will expand, and the nation's revenues will grow stronger. This is how India will maintain its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy," he noted.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, Khatana concluded, "This is not just a tax reform, it is a reform of lives and livelihoods. It reaffirms the government's vision of making development both inclusive and sustainable."

# RBD protests against Vandalism of Ashoka Pillar, slams NC, PDP for supporting anti-national forces



Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists burning effigy during a protest at Jammu on Saturday.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu unit of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal (RBD) today staged a strong protest against Pakistan and its supporters, particularly the National Conference (NC), PDP, and other anti-national elements. The protest was led by State President Rakesh Bajrang.

The protest was triggered by the recent incident of vandalism of the national symbol Ashoka Pillar at Hazratbal

Dargah, which the RBD leaders termed as an attack on India's identity, nationalism, and Constitution.

Rakesh Bajrang said that while the Army, police, paramilitary forces, and civil administration are working tirelessly to tackle natural disasters like cloudbursts, landslides, and floods in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and its agents are attempting to revive separatist agendas in the Valley.

He accused the NC, PDP, and even former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir of supporting such anti-national forces.

"Their dual character is now exposed before the people," he remarked.

In his address, Rakesh Bajrang said, "Those who do not respect national symbols have no right to live in India. They should go to Pakistan. If you want PAN cards, Aadhaar cards, land documents, and government benefits, then you must also accept the national emblem on your nameplate."

The Bajrang Dal demanded that the culprits behind the Hazratbal Dargah incident be immediately arrested under strict laws, including sedition charges.

A large number of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists participated in the protest, raising slogans and demanding stern action against anti-national elements.

# Satish visits Maira Mandrian, Kathar blocks to asses flood damages

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of Block Maira Mandrian and Kathar to assess the damages caused by the recent floods and oversee the relief measures being extended to the affected families.

The Minister was accompanied by senior officials of the district administration, Revenue, FCS&CA, PWD, PHE, and Rural Development departments.

## Antriksh represents India in Roll Ball Champ at Oman



## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Antriksh Gupta of Jammu and Kashmir has been made part of the Indian team taking part in the Ist Five Nations Invitational Roll Ball Championship at Oman. Organized by the International Roll Ball Federation (IRBF), this global tournament brings together the best young athletes from across the world to compete in this dynamic, fast-paced sport. The event is scheduled to be held at Oman from September 11 to September 14. "Young 18-year old Antriksh has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship in Roll Ball. He has earned accolades at various state and national championships, and now takes a major step forward by earning a coveted spot on the national team," said general secretary of the J&K Roll Ball Association, Madhu Sharma. "It is a dream come true to wear the Indian jersey and compete at the world level. I am deeply thankful to my coaches, parents, and mentors who supported me throughout my journey," said Antriksh.

While extending best wishes to Antriksh Gupta on this remarkable achievement, the Association thanked the J&K Sports Council for continuous support to the game of Roll Ball.



Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma during tour of Block Maira Mandrian.

The Minister visited several inundated localities, inspected damaged houses, agricultural fields, and public infrastructure, and interacted with the people to understand their immediate requirements.

During his visit, the Minister expressed solidarity with the affected families and assured them that the Government is fully committed for their speedy rehabilitation and restoration of normalcy. He directed the dis-

trict administration to carry out on-the-spot assessment of damages to houses, crops, and livestock so that adequate compensation is provided without delay. The Minister further stressed the need for adequate supply of food grains, clean drinking water, electricity, and medical facilities in the affected areas. He instructed the Food & Civil Supplies Department to ensure uninterrupted distribution of ration under PDS

and further asked the Health department to deploy mobile health units to vulnerable areas for immediate medical aid. The Minister also directed the PWD and Rural Development departments to undertake urgent restoration of damaged roads, culverts, and link paths to ensure smooth connectivity of the villages with main roads, thereby facilitating quick transportation of relief material.

Highlighting the need for

long-term solutions, the Minister said that the Government is working on comprehensive flood management and mitigation strategies for the region to reduce the recurring loss of life and property during heavy rains.

On the occasion, the locals, while interacting with the Minister, raised certain concerns and issues like drainage, embankments, and road safety before the Minister.

While addressing the locals, Satish Sharma said: "This is a difficult time for our people, but I assure you that no family will be left unattended. The Government is taking every possible step to provide relief, restore essential services, and support the affected households in rebuilding their lives."

He reiterated that the Government will remain on high alert until complete normalcy is restored and he himself will continue to monitor the progress of relief and rehabilitation works in the constituency.

# JMC issues comprehensive health advisory amid post-flood challenges

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu Dr Devansh Yadav has made an urgent appeal to the people of Jammu to remain cautious and adopt preventive measures as several areas of Jammu Municipal Corporation and district Jammu continue to recover from the aftermath of recent floods. He emphasized that flood-hit regions are highly vulnerable to outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, and immediate action is necessary to protect public health. Speaking on the current situation, Dr. Yadav stated that contamination of drinking water is a major concern during such times and can lead to illnesses such as stomach infections, headaches, fever and diarrhea. Alongside this, the ongoing season poses an increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases including dengue and chikungunya, which are more likely to spread in areas with accumulated stagnant water.

Issuing instructions to all residents to ensure the safety of their drinking water, Dr. Yadav advised the citizens to boil water for a minimum of 10



minutes before consumption to eliminate harmful microorganisms. "Chlorine tablets should be used wherever possible, and water should be allowed to settle for at least half an hour after adding the tablets before it is used for drinking or cooking purposes. Residents are also urged to maintain their surroundings by removing stagnant water from rooftops, courtyards and nearby drains as such areas provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes" he advised.

To facilitate public health services and immediate assistance, the Health Department has activated the 104 helpline number. This helpline will provide guidance and address any health-related queries from residents. In addition, the Jammu Municipal Corporation has intensified its efforts to conduct fogging and

spraying activities across all wards of JMC to control mosquito breeding and minimize the risk of vector-borne diseases.

Appealing to the public, Dr. Yadav said if fogging and spraying activities have not yet reached their locality, they should promptly register their area and ward number on the JMC helpline. This will help the authorities prioritize the areas that require immediate attention and ensure that every ward receives timely preventive measures, he added.

The health and well-being of our citizens is our top priority," said Dr. Devansh Yadav, adding that JMC is making every possible effort through coordinated actions involving our sanitation teams, health workers, and support staff. 'The success of these measures greatly depends on the active cooperation of the public, he said and added that together, we can prevent the spread of diseases and ensure a healthy environment for everyone. JMC is in continuous monitoring and proactive steps are being taken to safeguard the health of the people during this critical period of recovery, he maintained.

# Jammu South Police celebrates Eid-ul-Milad with devotees at Bathindi

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the pious occasion of Eid-ul-Milad, SP South, Ajay Sharma led the grand procession at Bathindi. Conveying greetings on behalf of the JKP Pariwar, DGP J&K, IGP Jammu Zone, DIG JKS Range, and SSP Jammu, SP South extended heartfelt wishes to all the devotees.

The event was successfully managed with the active participation of SHO Police Station Bahu Fort Insp. Susheel Choudhury, ICPP Bathindi PSI Basharat, ICPP Narwal PSI Sushil, along with dedicated officers and officials from the Security Wing and Traffic Wing who ensured smooth



SP South Ajay Sharma at Eid-ul-Milad celebration.


and peaceful conduct of the celebrations.

On the occasion, sweets were distributed among the participants, and SP South addressed the huge gathering of devotees, highlighting the message of peace, harmony, and brotherhood associated with the festival. He also interacted with various Ullimaa present at the event, appreciating their efforts in guiding the community towards unity and compassion.

The event witnessed large participation, reflecting the spirit of communal harmony and devotion. Jammu Police reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining peace and extending cooperation in all religious and social events.

Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM	
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM	
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM	
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM	
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM	
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM	
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM	
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM	
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM	
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM	
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM	
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM	

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**PARAM SUNDARI (HINDI)**

WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 10:35 PM

PVR KC JAMMU 09:20 PM

**BAAGHI 4 (HINDI)**

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 10:00 AM / 12:45 PM / 1:15 PM / 4:00 PM / 4:30 PM / 7:45 / 11:00 PM

PVR KC JAMMU 9:55/AM / 12:15/PM / 04:05/PM / 7:35/PM / 10:15 PM


**THE BENGAL FILES (HINDI)**

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 04:05 PM / 10:15 PM

PVR KC JAMMU 3:30 PM

**MEHAR -(PUNJABI)**

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU - 7:50PM



# HELPLINE

**TELEPHONES**

Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Local Assistance	199
Trunk Booking	180
Trunk Assistance	181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573639
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955
Change No. Announcement	1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953

**HOSPITALS**

Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	2571147, 257084, 257357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637
Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
Child Hospital	2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270

**AMBULANCES**

Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248

**FIRE STATIONS**

Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705
City	2544263
Canal	2554064
Roop Nagar	2597522
Gangyal	2480026
Bari Brahmana	220020
Akhnoor	252481
Kathua	234313
Samba	243280
Katra	232451
Udhampur	270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920
Hot Line	383

**TOURISM**

Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554

**BUS SERVICES**

JKSRTC General Manager	2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562
Punjab Roadways	2542782

**WATER SUPPLY**

Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjthirhi	2547501
Narwal	2430031

**ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS**

Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816

**FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)** 101

**CIVIC SERVICES**

Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440