

'HPC outcome positive, next meet likely in 20 days' Leh Palace to be developed as cultural destination to boost heritage tourism in Ladakh: Lt Gov Gupta

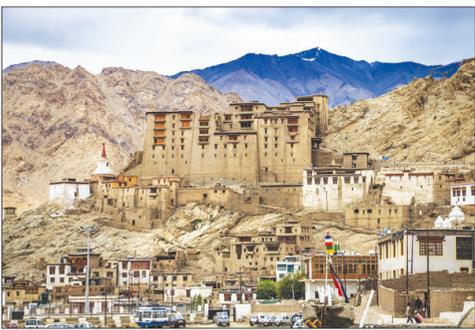
■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Saturday said that Leh Palace will be developed as a vibrant cultural destination after its inclusion in the list of 15 archaeological sites proposed for focused heritage-based tourism development in the Union Territory.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the initiative, the Lieutenant Governor said Ladakh holds strong potential for tourism growth and heritage-led economic activity.

"I believe such an initiative will help promote tourism in the high-altitude region in the coming years," Gupta said. The remarks came days after a meeting of the High Powered Committee (HPC) on Ladakh, held in New Delhi on February 4, which remained inconclusive. Two major civil groups from the Union Territory — the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance — reiterated their demands for statehood and inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The meeting was chaired by Nityanand Rai, who also



'Indo-US trade deal in our nation's favour'

JAMMU: The recent Indo-US deal is in India's interest, Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta said on Saturday, asserting that the pact will benefit the people and help the BJP-led government focus more on its goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

He also condemned the bombing of a mosque by terrorists in Pakistan and said, "The incident is a lesson for the neighbouring country which is promoting terror-

ism across the globe". "The Indo-US trade agreement is a welcome step as it will help us achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat', and will benefit the people, including farmers, create job opportunities and give us access to a much larger market," the LG told PTI here.

He said that although the United States took time to adopt this approach, overall it demonstrated the success of the Indian

heads the committee.

Addressing reporters here, the Lieutenant Governor said he remained optimistic about the outcome of the dialogue process and indicated that the next round of discussions is likely to be held within the next 20 days.

He said the talks are being conducted within the framework of the Constitution and in the national interest, adding that engagement with stakeholders is expected to lead to a constructive outcome.

During the February 4 meeting, both Ladakh-based groups also demanded the release of activist Sonam Wangchuk and 70 other detainees.

Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act on September 26 last year, two days after protests over the demand for statehood and Sixth Schedule status turned violent, leaving four persons dead and around 90 injured in the Union Territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence.

Gupta declined to comment on the demand for Wangchuk's release, saying the matter is presently before the Supreme Court

Trust has become India's strongest currency: Modi

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth" and it was reflected in the recent trade deals it has agreed with various countries, including the UK, USA and the EU.

Addressing a community programme here, Modi said the Indian diaspora served as a living bridge between India and Malaysia and announced a new consulate in the archipelago nation and the Thiruvalluvar Scholarship to enable students to study in India.

Modi, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday on a two-day visit, referred to the trade deals India agreed

with various countries and said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth". "Trust has become India's strongest currency," Modi said, citing trade deals with the UK, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EU and the USA.

Malaysia is home to nearly three million people of Indian descent, the second largest in the world, with an overwhelming majority of Tamil origin.

Greeting the Indian community members in different languages, the prime minister made it a point to highlight the singing abilities of his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, particularly his love of Tamil songs

AN-32 Courier Service starts in Kargil, 82 Passengers Airlifted



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: The AN-32 Kargil Courier Service commenced operations on Saturday for the winter season, restoring air connectivity for the remote district during the months when surface trans-

port remains largely cut off due to snowfall and extreme weather.

The first flight of the season marked the resumption of the Indian Air Force-operated service, which remains the only dependable link between Kargil and

DG ITBP visits forward BOPs in Sub-Sector South, reviews security, interacts with troops and locals

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Shatruej Kapur, undertook an important visit to forward Border Out Posts (BOPs) along the Northern borders in Sub-Sector South of Ladakh, where he interacted with deployed jawans and reviewed the ground situation, significantly boosting the morale of troops stationed in extreme high-altitude conditions.

During the visit, the ITBP chief personally met personnel deployed at forward locations and appreciated their dedication and professionalism while operating in one of



the world's most challenging terrains. ITBP troops guard long stretches of the India-China border in high-altitude regions where BOPs are located between about 9,000 and 18,800 feet, often facing extreme temperatures and harsh weather conditions.

Kapur's interaction with the jawans focused on operational preparedness, welfare measures, and motivation, reinforcing the leadership's commitment to ensuring that troops guarding the borders remain

'RSS not against anyone, does not seek power'

MUMBAI: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said the Sangh is not "against anyone", and does not seek power or aim to become a "pressure group", but its objective is to unite society.

Dr Keshav Baliram Hegde identified several shortcomings in society including the lack of unity and it finally led him to found Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1925, Bhagwat said, speaking at a programme organised to mark the organisation's centenary.

Saturday was day one of the two-day lecture series titled '100 Years of

Enterprising Ladakh debuts at Enchanting Ladakh exhibition Sea Buckthorn, Wool products, Zanskar Ghee among 11 Ladakhi brands showcase local products at National Fair

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/LEH: A total of 11 brands developed under the Enterprising Ladakh programme presented their products at the 7th edition of Enchanting Ladakh, being held at Delhi Haat, New Delhi, from February 1 to February 15, marking the programme's first participation at the nationally recognised exhibition.

Enterprising Ladakh is an initiative of Ms. Bhanu Prabha,



IAS, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Union Territory of Ladakh, and is being implemented under the vision of Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India.

The brands showcased products created by participants drawn from colleges, universities and Industrial Training Institutes of Ladakh, along with young entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups and experienced business

owners. The exhibition provided them a direct interface with customers and buyers from different parts of the country, enabling wider market exposure for locally developed goods.

The product range on display reflected the growing diversity of enterprise in the region. Items included 3D models, crocheted products, Khataks, Ladakhi cookies, sheep-wool articles, locally prepared cakes,



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INDIA SCHOOL RANKINGS
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EducationWorld has placed Pinegrove School, at the very pinnacle by ranking it No. 1 All India and is branded as one of the only two Ivy League Co-Ed Boarding Schools, in the country.

Pinegrove School Honored Among India's Best at School Merit Awards 2025

Education Today also placed Pinegrove at the forefront in Himachal Pradesh and All India. Their School Merit Awards 2025 were galore for Academic Reputation, Parents' Choice, Most Effective Blended Learning etc.

President Murmu Honours Pinegrove Student

Yuvraj Singh Jolly, a Class VIII student of Pinegrove School, Dharampur, represented Himachal Pradesh and brought national acclaim by securing 3rd position at the National Energy Conservation Painting Competition held in Gurugram, competing among 108 finalists from across India. He was awarded a ₹30,000 cash prize, a laptop, and a bronze medal. The achievement was crowned with a special honour when Yuvraj was felicitated by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Earlier, he had secured 3rd position at the State Level Competition in Shimla, competing against 75 participants, and won a ₹20,000 cash prize on the theme "Energy Conservation: My Responsibility, Our Future." Yuvraj's journey from school to the national stage reflects talent, dedication, and purposeful creativity, bringing immense pride to Pinegrove School and Himachal Pradesh.

Captain AJ Singh to lead India's Boarding Schools Association

Capt. A J Singh, Executive Director of Pinegrove School in Solan district, has been unanimously elected President of the Boarding Schools' Association of India (BSAI) for 2025-2027, marking a significant moment for residential education in the country. His presidency signals a shift toward sustainability initiatives, curriculum innovation, and strengthened disciplinary frameworks across BSAI's 63-member boarding schools.

Pinegrove's Majestic Boys' and Girls' Bands Crowned State-Level Champions

Pinegrove School delivered a spectacular show of discipline, artistry and musical brilliance at the State-Level Band Competition 2025-26. The Boys' Brass Band of Pinegrove School, Subathu-reigning champions of both the HP State-Level and North Zone Inter School Brass Band Competitions—once again secured the First Position. Adding to this triumph, Pinegrove School, Dharampur earned the Runners-up position, reinforcing the school's unmatched legacy in band excellence. The Girls' Pipe Band added another feather to Pinegrove's cap, being crowned the Queens of Pipe for their exceptional presentation and musical command.

Pinegrove's Band Band Clinches #3 at National Level Competition of Education and Defence Ministry

Pinegrove School, Subathu, the reigning champions of both Himachal Pradesh State Boys' Brass Band Competition and the North Zone Inter-School Band Competition, secured the third place at the National-Level Inter-School Band Competition 6.0 2024-25. The event, organised at the iconic Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in Delhi, showcased some of the finest musical talent from across the country. Competing against 568 school bands and over 14,000 students nationwide, Pinegrove School's band reached the final round, securing a place in the top 16 teams. This achievement reflects their unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence.

Achievements of 2025

MiG-21 lands at Pinegrove to inspire young minds

In a powerful tribute to India's Defence legacy, an air frame of a MiG-21 aircraft was unveiled at Pinegrove School, Subathu by Dr Mallika Nadda, president of the National Body for Special Olympics Bharat, on the concluding day of the school's three-day annual fest. The aircraft, facilitated by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda, would serve as a symbol of national pride and inspiration for students, reflecting the spirit of courage and service.

Grovians Lift Bhupinder Memorial Soccer Trophy

Pinegrove School Boys stormed to glory at the 26th Bhupinder Memorial Soccer Tournament, held at the Lawrence School Sanawar remaining unbeaten and sealing a dramatic 1-0 win over BCS, Shimla in the grand finale. Mahendra Chettri was adjudged as the Best Defender and Arpit Sharma was declared the Best Player.

Pinegrove Tops HP Class XII Board Average - 2025

School Average 90.3%
100% of students scored above 70%
23 Students Scored Perfect 100

XII CBSE Board State Topper

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, CBSE released School Performance Report Cards (2024-25) for all affiliated schools, benchmarking their results against state and national averages. Pinegrove School has emerged as the top-performing institution in Himachal Pradesh, achieving an exceptional School Average Score of 90.39% in the Class XII Board Examinations - the highest in the state, far surpassing the State Average of 74.18%. At the national level too, Pinegrove's performance stands out, with its average score significantly exceeding the CBSE National Average of 69.14%. This remarkable feat reaffirms Pinegrove's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and its consistent tradition of high achievement.

Pinegrove School Clinches CBSE North Zone - II U-19 Girls' Soccer Championship Trophy

Pinegrove School lifted the coveted CBSE North Zone-II U-19 Girls' Soccer Championship trophy with a narrow but decisive 1-0 win against Vidya Devi Jindal School in the final. This remarkable feat stands as a shining testament of the school's commitment towards excellence in sports and the indomitable spirit of Girls too in the Sports Arena. Pinegrove Soccer Girls, the 2025 National Champions, finished with a very creditable THIRD SPOT in the CBSE Nationals 2025.

Pinegrove Wins U-14 and U-19 Titles in Doon Cup Girls' Soccer Tournament

Pinegrove School performed brilliantly in the Doon Cup, winning both the U-14 and U-19 titles, with Vardha Aggarwal and Subekha Limbu being declared Best Players of the Tournament in their respective categories.

Education Minister Shri Rohit Thakur graces Pinegrove School's Grand Annual Function 2025

The Chief Guest, Shri Rohit Thakur, Hon'ble Education Minister of Himachal Pradesh, reviewed the NCC Parade and also attended the cultural programme organised by Pinegrove School, on the occasion of its Annual Function 2025. In his address, the Education Minister praised Pinegrove as a progressive institution flourishing under the visionary leadership of Capt. A. J. Singh, commending its holistic ethos that nurtures discipline, leadership, and character—qualities that shape students for lifelong success.

Young Guns of Pinegrove Win Inter-School Hockey Championship

Pinegrove School, emerged triumphant at the 25th Sub-Junior Inter Public School Hockey Tournament for Boys, held from 9th to 12th September 2025, sealing the championship with a 4-0 win over Sherwood College, Nainital, in the alluring Sant Stadium of Pinegrove School, Dharampur. Rajeshwar Singh Kahlon was named 'Highest Scorer of the Tournament', Gursahav Singh Thakral earned the title of 'Best Goalkeeper', and Jeevesh was crowned 'Player of the Tournament' for his outstanding performance.

Pinegrove Boys' Basketball Team Reigns Supreme

In a riveting showcase of skill, teamwork and indomitable spirit, Pinegrove Boys' team seized the Championship title of the 13th Major Jagpal Memorial Basketball Tournament after a thrilling 62-60 victory against Strawberry Fields High School.

Grovians Seized the CBSE Cluster U 19 Girls' Basketball

Pinegrove won the CBSE North Zone Cluster. Sukhman Kaur was adjudged Best Player of the Tournament.

Pinegrove Excels in Chandigarh Debate

Pinegrove students showcased exceptional oratory skills at the Inter-School Parliamentary Debate Championship held at Manav Mangal Smart School, Mohali. Competing against 25 schools, Pinegrove lifted both the Overall Best School Delegation Trophy and the Runners-up Trophy in the Senior Category. Adding to the laurels, Nimrit Kaur was adjudged the Best Emerging Speaker.

SOME MORE ACCOLADES (2025)

- *BCS Soccer Boys' Tournament - Runners-up
- *IPSC Basketball U-14 Girls' - Runners-up
- *IPSC Cricket U-19 Girls' - Runners-up
- *IPSC Soccer U-19 Girls' - Runners-up
- *Major Jagpal U-14 Girls' - Runners-up
- *Honoria Basketball Girls' U-19, Sanawar - Runners-up
- *Welham Basketball U-19 Girls' - Runners-up
- *St Mary U-17 Girls' Basketball - Runners-up
- *State Swimming Competition - Runners-up
- *District Shooting Championship - Winners

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