

# People's leader, former J&K Deputy CM Kavinder Gupta is new Ladakh LG

## People of Ladakh will decide my governance agenda: LG Gupta; lays out vision for his new inning in Ladakh



The new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta expressed happiness that his appointment has come at a time when His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is visiting Ladakh, and sought His Holiness's divine blessings for the people of Ladakh and the LG office



The Earth News congratulates Kavinder Gupta on his appointment as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh and extends him a warm welcome to the cold desert, as he sets out for a new journey to take Ladakh further on the path of progress and prosperity.



### ■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** In a momentous occasion for the people of Cold Desert, senior politician Kavinder Gupta, hailed as 'people's leader', has been appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Gupta, who has served the people of Ladakh as their deputy chief minister in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir before its 2019 reorganisation into two separate Union Territories, will replace incumbent Brigadier B D Mishra (Retired), as the third Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh.

Soon after his appointment by the President of India Droupadi Murmu, Gupta pledged to take all sections of Ladakhis along in his new role as the constitutional head of the Union Territory.

"The people of Ladakh will decide my governance agenda as I will ensure Ladakh soars higher in its developmental journey," Gupta told Shivang Satya Gupta, Editor-in-Chief, The Earth News, in an exclusive conversation in Jammu.

Expressing gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu, the Union government led by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for entrusting him with the responsibility of steering the Union Territory toward progress, Gupta pledged to work collaboratively with the people of Ladakh and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) to address the region's long-standing challenges.

"I am thankful to those who considered me worthy -- be it the Honourable Prime Minister, the Honourable President, the Home Minister, or the national leadership -- who have placed me in this position. I want to express my gratitude to all of them," Gupta said.

A seasoned politician who has seen the erstwhile State including Ladakh up and close, Gupta emphasised his familiarity with Ladakh's issues.

"The region was neglected by successive previous regimes and successive J&K governments before it became a separate Union Territory, under the Modi government in 2019," he told The Earth News, adding that he stands committed to address all challenges by working closely with the people and the LAHDCs.

A key focus of Gupta's vision is ensuring year-round connectivity for Ladakh, which remains cut off from the rest of India for six months.

"My goal is to establish 12-month connectivity, unlocking new opportunities for the people of cold desert," Gupta stated, highlighting the transformative potential of improved infrastructure.

Reflecting on his prior tenure in J&K, Gupta said, "I have served the people of this region before and understand their challenges. This is a significant responsibility, and I will fulfil it with utmost sincerity," he said.

Gupta said there are "certainly challenges involved, but I accept them. I will try my best to serve the Union Territory. This is a big responsibility, and I am confident of fulfilling it sincerely. We will work together with everyone (for the development of the region)."

Hailing from Jammu city's Janipur area, 66-year-old Gupta is a senior BJP leader from Jammu and Kashmir.

In a long illustrious career in politics, Gupta served as general secretary of the BJP's ►P11

## CECs welcome Kavinder Gupta as new Ladakh LG

**LEH/KARGIL:** The Chiefs of all-powerful hill councils in both Leh and Kargil extended a warm welcome to Kavinder Gupta on his appointment as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, on behalf of the Hill Council, welcomed and extended heartfelt congratulations to Kavinder Gupta on his appointment. Gyalson expressed confidence that Ladakh will continue to progress under the leadership of Kavinder Gupta. "The LAHDC Leh looks forward to working in close coordination with the new LG in the interest of good governance and the welfare of the people," a statement from his office said.

Gyalson also extended a warm farewell to Brigadier BD Mishra (ret'd) as he demitted office as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. He appreciated the outgoing LG's dedicated service and his consistent support to the Hill Council in taking forward key developmental initiatives.



Gyalson's counterpart in Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun also extended a warm welcome and heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

"I extend my sincere congratulations to Shri Kavinder Gupta Ji on being appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh. And we warmly welcome you to this beautiful and unique region, known for its cultural richness, strategic importance, ►P11

## Ladakh gets Rs 80 Cr from RD Ministry

**LEH:** The Union Ministry of Rural Development has allocated Rs 80 crores to the Union Territory of Ladakh and Rs 998 crores to Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the financial year 2025-26, as part of a Rs 16,647.77 crore disbursement to States and Union Territories to enhance rural road connectivity.

The Ministry's communication to State and UT authorities notes that these indicative allocations are based on road and bridge work targets and past ►P11

## CS Kotwal continues his close watch, reviews referral of vacancies to 3 RBs

Requisitions for 1003 of 1388 referred vacancies received

### ■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** Continuing his close watch to ensure the administration upholds its promises made to the educated but unemployed youth of the region, Dr Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, chaired a review meeting Monday to assess the progress of referring vacancies to the designated recruiting agencies: the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board (LSSSB), the Leh Autonomous Hill Development



ment-Subordinate Services Recruitment Board (LAHDC-SSRB), and the LAHDC-Kargil Subordinate Services

Recruitment Board (LAHDC-KSSRB). The meeting reviewed that, out of 841 ►P11

## Congress 'Jittery' of positive outcomes, trying to sabotage MHA Talks BJP accuses Congress for collapse in Apex Body Unity; urges Religious Bodies to take over talks

### ■ YASH KHAJURIA

**LEH:** The Bharatiya Janata Party's Ladakh unit has accused the Congress of unsettling the region's ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), centered around the Four Point Agenda aimed at addressing Ladakh's socio-political and cultural concerns.

PT Kunzang, General Secretary of BJP Ladakh, claimed that internal discord within the Leh Apex Body was deliberately triggered by the Congress, leading to the resignation of its Chairman, Thupstan Chhewang. Speaking to The Earth News, Kunzang stated that Chhewang's sudden withdrawal, announced on July 6 via social media, came without a clear explanation. He suggested that Chhewang's reference to avoiding "competitive interests" hinted at unease over political rivalry, especially with the Congress.

"About 8 to 10 days ago, a strange political development occurred in Ladakh. On July 6, we learned through social media that Leh Apex Body Chairman Thupstan Chhewang had resigned from his post. What made this development unusual was the absence of a clear reason -- whether dissatisfaction with the talks, health issues, or personal matters", said Kunzang.

Kunzang continued, "He simply stated that he preferred not to be 'entangled in competitive interests,' indicating his disapproval of being dragged into a rivalry -- particularly with the Congress party -- over who gets credit as the fore-

most Ladakhi leader championing the Four Point Agenda."

According to Kunzang, the Congress, despite being a constituent of the Apex Body, has been pursuing a political agenda. He claimed that during a July 5 meeting of the Apex Body, Congress leaders accused Chhewang of favoring the BJP and pushing its agenda.

"Shockingly, these allegations were made in Mr. Chhewang's absence. They were later conveyed to him by a third party, which appears to have been a calculated move to emotionally and psychologically hurt him. This malicious campaign, amounting to character assassination, was designed to sideline Mr. Chhewang from the Apex Body ahead of the upcoming LAHDC elections ►P11

## EAM: Need to address de-escalation; competition shouldn't become conflict

**BEIJING/NEW DELHI:** India and China should build on "good progress" in normalising the bilateral ties to address border-related issues including de-escalation, and it is essential to avoid "restrictive trade measures and roadblocks", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday during talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar said the bilateral relations can develop in a "positive trajectory" on the foundation that differences should not become disputes and nor should competition become a conflict, adding that the ties



can be built only on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity.

The external affairs minister said India hopes "zero tolerance for terrorism" will be upheld at the upcoming meeting of the SCO, noting that its primary mandate is to

combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, comments seen as a reference to Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), describing the talks as "constructive and ►P11

## Moment of Pride for J&K: SP Smart School student to represent India at FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup

President District Jammu Gymnastics Association honours Muskan Rana, Vaibhavi Sharma

### ■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Adding yet another glorious chapter to its legacy of excellence, SP Smart School Jammu student Muskan Rana, has been selected to represent India at the prestigious FIG Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup in Milan, Italy, scheduled from July 18-20, 2025.

Alongside her, Vaibhavi Sharma, another promising gymnast from Jammu, will participate in the FIG World Challenge Cup in Cluj, Romania, from July 25-27, 2025 -- marking a historic moment for both the school and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



The announcement was made during a special felicitation ceremony held at SP Smart School, Kachi Chawni,

where the President of the District Jammu Gymnastics

Association, Ms. Shilpa Gupta, honoured both gymnasts for their exceptional achievements. The school premises echoed with pride and applause as students, parents, teachers, and sports officials celebrated the milestone.

Ms. Gupta, who is also the trustee of the chain of SP Smarts Schools, in her congratulatory address, remarked, "This is a moment of immense pride not just for SP Smart School, but for the entire region.

"Muskan's selection is a testament to her unwavering discipline and determination, and we are thrilled to see her take SP Smart School's ►P11