

# Kavinder Gupta sworn in as 3rd LG of Ladakh

## New era begins; will work together & rebuild a ‘new Ladakh’: LG



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** Kavinder Gupta has been sworn in as the third Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh at the Durbar Hall of the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat. He was administered the Oath of Office by Justice Arun Palli, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

At a vibrant function at the LG Secretariat, attended by people from all walks of life, the LG was accorded a guard of honour by the Ladakh Police after taking oath as the new LG of UT Ladakh. The LG took the oath in the presence of his family members. Chief Secretary, Pawan Kotwal, IAS, read the warrant of Gupta's appointment by President Droupadi Murmu.

Kavinder Gupta succeeds Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), who took over the reins as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on February 19, 2023. Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) had succeeded RK Mathur, appointed as the first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh in 2019, after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was split into two Union Territories.



## Gupta lays out vision to transform Ladakh

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**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Friday pledged to guide the Union Territory into a new era of development and global recognition.

In a formal ceremony at Raj Niwas, Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, administered the oath of office to Gupta, who has become the first politician to hold the office of Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh since its formation as a separate Union Territory.

Moments after taking charge, Gupta addressed the media, striking a tone of unity and progress. He acknowledged Ladakh's complex history of marginalisation, citing years of administrative neglect and socio-political isolation. However, he was ►P11

## LG set to visit Kargil on Jul 25

**LEH:** Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun extended warm congratulations to Kavinder Gupta on taking oath as the new Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

While conveying his best wishes, Dr. Akhoun expressed confidence that the new administration will strengthen democratic institutions and ensure inclusive development across the region. He also extended a formal invitation to the Lieutenant Governor to visit Kargil, ►P11

## LG seeks blessings from HH Dalai Lama

**LEH:** Kavinder Gupta, the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, began his journey in the Union Territory with a visit to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, seeking spiritual blessings before formally assuming office.

The meeting reflected a conscious alignment with the values of peace, compassion, and harmony championed by the Tibetan spiritual leader.

Gupta described the interaction as deeply humbling, expressing that the Dalai Lama's timeless teachings offer a moral compass for leadership rooted in empathy and ethical governance. He emphasized his aspiration to blend administrative responsibility with the spiritual and cultural fabric of Ladakh.

As the new Lieutenant Governor prepares to take on challenges ahead, this spiritual beginning sets a reflective and people-centric tone for his administration.

Gupta's appeal to spiritual wisdom is being seen as an inclusive and value-based approach to governance, aiming to connect more deeply with Ladakh's culturally diverse population. He has emphasized on nurturing unity and respect across the region. His outreach underscores a commitment to a leadership style that integrates tradition, compassion, and public service.



## Panel interacts with students, faculty on academic aspirations Digvijay Singh led Parl Delegation visits UoL, applauds growth in Education & Innovation

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** Against the majestic backdrop of Ladakh's snow-covered peaks, the University of Ladakh welcomed the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports. The visit, held at the Leh Campus, brought national attention to the university's progress and its growing role in strengthening education in India's border region.

The delegation, led by Digvijay Singh, Chairperson of the Committee, included Members of Parliament from both houses, as well as senior officials from the Ministries of Culture, Education, and Defence Research. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Saket Kushwaha, along with faculty, staff, and students, received the delegates with warmth and enthusiasm.



During the interactions, the committee held discussions with various institutions from Ladakh and New Delhi. These included the Department of Higher Education (UT Ladakh), Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Sindhu Central University, Defence Institute of High Altitude Research, and others. Topics ranged from ►P11

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## Outrage over seating bias at Ladakh LG's swearing-in ceremony CEC Kargil Dr Jaffer protests step motherly treatment, calls for inclusive governance

■ YASH KHAJURIA

**LEH/KARGIL:** What was meant to be a ceremonial beginning for Ladakh's newly appointed Lieutenant Governor, Kavinder Gupta, has quickly turned into a political flashpoint. Discontent erupted across the Kargil region following allegations of disrespectful seating arrangements during the swearing-in ceremony held in Leh, fueling charges of administrative bias reflecting on deepening regional grievances.

At the heart of the controversy is the placement of religious leaders, LAHDC Kargil members, and other special invitees from Kargil in the back rows of the event venue, while clergy and dignitaries from Leh were visibly seated



at the front. The perceived imbalance has not only drawn public outrage but also political condemnation, with many interpreting the arrangement as a symbolic marginalization of Kargil.

Dr. Jaffer Akhoun, Chief Executive Councillor of

LAHDC Kargil, expressed his displeasure in no uncertain terms. "The arrangements for the oath ceremony reflect a troubling message. When prominent religious leaders and officially invited members of our district are treated with such disregard, ►P11

## Gyalson for promotion of Homestays

**LEH:** To discuss the promotion of homestays and the strengthening of sustainable tourism in Ladakh with representatives from Fircun Social Initiative Foundation, Chairman, Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson chaired a meeting in the presence of Deputy Commissioner, CEO LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh Donk on Friday.

The discussion focused on empowering local homestay owners through skill development, digital platforms, and enhanced access to tourism markets. A detailed presentation on the initiative was given by Vivek Saxena, Head of Strategy and Programs at Fircun. Also present were ►P11

## HH's Zanskar visit: CEC oversees preparations

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**KARGIL:** In anticipation of the forthcoming visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to Zanskar, Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun of LAHDC Kargil, along with Executive Councillor Engineer Punchok Tashi and Executive Councillor Zakir Hussain, and SDM Zanskar Mohd Hassan conducted a thorough review of logistical and security preparations.

The team took review of key sites including the helipad, Duzin Photang, and the newly constructed Photang at Karsha. Detailed discussions were

held regarding departmental responsibilities to ensure a smooth, respectful, and well-organized visit for His Holiness.

Special attention was given to parking arrangements for VVIPs, VIPs, and the general public. The delegation also examined arrival and departure routes to guarantee seamless flow and effective security protocols.

CEC Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun directed all concerned departments to complete any remaining work to ensure full readiness ahead of the visit.

The other day also, in preparation for the upcoming visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to ►P11

## Hanifa assesses ground realities, pledges development in Kargil

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**KARGIL:** On the fifth day of his public outreach programme, Member of Parliament from Ladakh undertook a comprehensive developmental tour of several villages in the Taisuru region and the adjoining second constituency of Suru Valley.

During the visit, the MP covered a wide range of villages and institutions, including Karpokhar, Rgyaling, Purtikchay, Biama, Damsna, Youljuk, Maita, Kargee, Prantee, Pioneer Public School, Choskore, and Panikhar. The second leg of the tour included Khause, Namsuru, Thulus,



Pursa, Achambur, and Tangole. The main objective of the visit was to assess developmental challenges and prioritize them for timely

resolution. Interacting with the locals, the MP acknowledged the complex nature of the region's needs and assured that while all issues

cannot be resolved overnight, sincere efforts will be made to address them in phases. "Development is an ongoing process," ►P11

## US designates TRF as terrorist Org; India calls move 'timely'

**WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI:** The US has designated The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, as a "foreign terrorist organisation" over the Pahalgam terror attack, a move welcomed by India as a "timely and important" step reflecting strong counter-terror cooperation between the two countries.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, announcing the punitive measure, said it was part of Washington's commitment to countering terrorism and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack.

Rubio said the US State Department is adding the TRF

as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

The TRF, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) "front and proxy", claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack which killed 26 civilians, he said, adding it was "the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attack conducted by the LeT."

"TRF has also claimed responsibility for several attacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," Rubio said.

"These actions taken by the Department of State demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting our ►P11