

LG Kavinder Gupta meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi *Seeks support for expediting key road & tunnel projects in Ladakh*

New Delhi, November 4: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, today called on Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, in New Delhi and discussed several critical infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening connectivity and promoting sustainable development in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Lt. Governor expressed deep appreciation for the continued support of the Ministry in transforming Ladakh's road infrastructure, particularly through landmark initiatives such as the Zojila Tunnel, which has greatly enhanced confidence and connectivity in the region.

The Lt. Governor sought the Union Minister's intervention for the early approval and execution of the Key-La Tunnel Project, emphasizing its strategic importance for ensuring all-weather connectivity and mobility in eastern Ladakh. He also proposed that the project, along with important bypass roads — Phey–Ranbirpura (31.9 km) and Rinchen Chowk–Saboo Village Junction (17.6 km) — be entrusted to NHIDCL, citing the corporation's proven expertise and efficiency in executing high-altitude infrastructure projects.

Shri Kavinder Gupta further urged the Ministry to consider sanctioning the supplementary proposal under CRIF 2024–25, particularly highlighting the urgent need for the construction of a 7x80-metre double-lane bridge over River Shyok (Diskit–Burma) under the Setu Bandhan Scheme. He also requested the inclusion of new road and bridge projects in the upcoming CRIF 2025–26 proposals to enhance regional mobility and socio-economic integration.

Highlighting the Panikhar–Pahalgam Road Project, the Lt. Governor underscored its dual significance — as an alternate strategic route connecting Ladakh and Kashmir, and as a boost to tourism and local livelihoods. The 106-km stretch, including a proposed 3-km tunnel at Bobang Gali Pass, would serve as an all-weather link vital for both civilian and defense needs.

The Union Minister assured full cooperation and said that the Ministry remains committed to accelerating the pace of infrastructure development in Ladakh, given its strategic and socio-economic importance.

