

LG Ladakh Meets Union Tourism Minister in New Delhi *Discusses Tourism Infrastructure, Monastery Development and Major Cultural Events*

New Delhi, January 18: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, today met Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in New Delhi and discussed strengthening tourism infrastructure, promotion of cultural and spiritual tourism, development of monasteries, and forthcoming major tourism and cultural events in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor highlighted Ladakh's unique cultural, spiritual and geographical identity and emphasised the need for focused support to position the region as a leading destination for sustainable and heritage tourism. He underlined the importance of improving tourism-related infrastructure and visitor facilities, keeping in view Ladakh's difficult terrain and extreme climatic conditions.

The Lt Governor apprised the Union Minister of the proposal to organise the 30th Sindhu Darshan Festival in 2026 as the "First Sindhu Mahakumbh." He stated that the proposed mega event aims to showcase India's ancient civilisational heritage and the historic and cultural significance of the Indus River through spiritual and cultural activities, including ceremonial rituals on the riverbanks. He informed that a detailed proposal would be submitted separately and sought the Ministry's guidance and support for the successful conduct of the event.

He also laid stress upon upcoming major Buddhist events, including the display of sacred relics of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima 2026. He emphasised that the bringing of sacred relics of Lord Buddha to Ladakh would significantly boost spiritual tourism and promote peace and harmony.

The Lt Governor also underscored the need for comprehensive development, conservation and upgradation of Ladakh's ancient monasteries, seeking special financial and technical assistance for structural conservation, infrastructure improvement and visitor amenities.

Shri Kavinder Gupta further highlighted the importance of regular cultural festivals and events to promote local artists, strengthen cultural tourism and enhance Ladakh's national and international visibility.

The Union Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, appreciated the initiatives and assured that the proposals would be examined sympathetically, with a view to supporting sustainable tourism development and preservation of Ladakh's unique cultural and spiritual heritage.



