

LG Kavinder Gupta launches expanded Helicopter Services to boost connectivity, tourism in Ladakh

Leh, Dec 12: The Union Territory of Ladakh marked a significant milestone today as Hon'ble Lt Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta inaugurated the newly revised and expanded B-3 Helicopter Services, aimed at enhancing connectivity, promoting tourism, and strengthening emergency support for people living in remote areas of the region.

Recognising Ladakh's vast geographical spread, harsh terrain, and challenging weather conditions, the Lt Governor said that improved air connectivity is not merely a convenience but a necessity for many residents. The revised subsidised fares and expanded routes—including Leh–Kargil, Leh–Padum, Leh–Lingshad, Leh–Dibling, Leh–Nyerak, Leh–Diskit, and Leh–Turtuk—will provide faster, safer, and more affordable travel for both locals and tourists.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor emphasised that the new services will be a lifeline for medical emergencies, especially during the winter months when several road routes remain closed due to heavy snowfall. The helicopter services will ensure the timely evacuation of patients, quick transportation of essential supplies, and enhanced access to administrative services in far-flung villages.

Highlighting the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lt Governor said that the Government is committed to accelerating development in border regions by improving connectivity, strengthening infrastructure, and expanding opportunities for youth and local communities. The upgraded helicopter services reflect this commitment and are expected to significantly boost Ladakh's tourism potential by enabling smoother access to remote destinations known for their natural beauty and cultural heritage.

The Lt Governor extended his appreciation to the Civil Aviation authorities, district administration, and all stakeholders involved in operationalising the initiative. He added that the improved aviation facilities will contribute to economic growth, generate employment, and ensure better integration of remote habitations with the district headquarters. With the launch of these services, Ladakh takes another major step toward a future of greater accessibility, enhanced tourism, and stronger emergency support systems.

Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, also highlighted the growing demand from the people of Ladakh, particularly from the Zaskar and Singge-Lalok regions, for reliable helicopter services during the winter months when surface connectivity remains disrupted due to heavy snowfall. He informed that, to address such emergency requirements and medical exigencies, helicopter services are being made available and can be availed by citizens through an online booking system.

Among those present during the event were Commissioner/Secretary, Civil Aviation, Dr L. Franklin; Administrative Secretary, Shri Rudra Goud; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shri Romil Singh Dong; SSP Leh, Shree Raam R; officials from Pawan Hans and the civil aviation sector, besides other senior officers of the UT Administration.

