



REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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SEPTEMBER 1-15, 2026



In Conversation with
Member of Parliament, Ladakh,
Mohd Haneefa Jan



In Focus
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Heat-Compress Therapy

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REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Owner, Publisher & Printer:
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Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup
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Designer: Dhondup Tashi

Published at:
Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter
Contact: +91 9858394403
+91 8899418322

Printed at:
Ala Printing Press
3636 Katra Dina Baig
Lal Quan Delhi -110006

Ladakh Gynaecologists perform Nine Minimally Invasive Surgeries at SNM Hospital

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: In a significant advancement for specialised healthcare in Ladakh, gynaecologists at SNM Hospital, Leh, performed nine minimally invasive gynaecological surgeries during a two-day hands-on endoscopy workshop held on August 21 and 22.

The procedures included seven Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomies (TLH), one laparoscopic tubal ligation with hysteroscopic uterine polypectomy, and one laparoscopic myomectomy.

The laparoscopic myomectomy was performed for the first time in Leh by local doctors, marking a major step forward in the availability of advanced gynaecological surgery within Ladakh. The procedure was performed on a patient who was also undergoing hysterectomy.

More significantly, all nine surgeries were performed by gynaecologists from Ladakh, supported by the local anaesthesia team, during the workshop. The development is expected to benefit patients who previously had to travel outside Ladakh for minimally invasive gynaecological procedures, often incurring substantial financial and logistical burdens.

The workshop was organised at SNM Hospital with the support of the Saidham Foundation with the objective of enhancing the skills of local doctors in minimally invasive gynaecological surgery.

Dr. Diskit Dolker, Gynaecologist at SNM Hospital, said the introduction of laparoscopic procedures would provide patients with access to modern surgical care within Ladakh.

“Until now, most of the surgeries were performed through the



open method. For the first time, we have performed these laparoscopic surgeries, which will benefit patients who previously had to go outside Ladakh and spend a considerable amount on treatment. These surgeries are now being performed at SNM Hospital free of cost,” she said.

She explained that laparoscopic surgery offers several advantages over conventional open procedures, including faster recovery, reduced hospital stay and minimal scarring. For patients in Ladakh, the availability of such procedures locally could also mean avoiding the costs and difficulties associated with travelling outside the Union Territory for specialised treatment.

Laparoscopic hysterectomy had previously been performed in Leh with the assistance of visiting specialists, including Dr. Vivek Marwah, Head of Gynaecology, Max Hospital, Saket, and Dr. Usha Kiran Talakare of Prime Hospital, Dubai.

The latest workshop, however, represents an important transition towards strengthening local capacity, with Ladakh-based gynaecologists undertaking all nine procedures themselves.

Dr. Nasreen Fatima, Gynaecologist from Kargil, highlighted the importance of hands-on training in developing specialised surgical skills among doctors working in remote

regions. She said such workshops provide doctors with exposure to newer techniques and enable them to offer modern treatment options to patients closer to their homes.

Dr. Fatima also expressed hope that similar hands-on training programmes would be organised in Kargil to strengthen advanced gynaecological services across the Union Territory.

The successful surgeries are being viewed as an important step towards reducing the dependence of Ladakh’s patients on hospitals outside the region for specialised gynaecological procedures.

The development is particularly significant for patients from remote areas, for whom travelling outside Ladakh for treatment can involve considerable expenditure, prolonged stays and logistical challenges.

With local doctors now gaining experience in minimally invasive procedures, SNM Hospital is moving towards expanding the range of specialised services available to patients within Ladakh.

The workshop has therefore not only added a new surgical capability at SNM Hospital but also demonstrated the potential of sustained technical training and collaboration to build local expertise and improve access to advanced healthcare in the region.

Nawang , Dorjay, Stobdan remembered as Ladakh begins month-long tribute to its heroes

LBA says all martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Ladakh will be collectively honoured on September 24



Photo Caption: LBA President Chering Dorje Lakruk paying tribute to the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The 37th death anniversary of Nawang Rinchen, Tsering Stobdan and Tsewang Dorjay—collectively remembered as the NDS martyrs—was observed at the Martyrs’ Memorial Park in Leh on August 27, marking the beginning of a wider effort to collectively remember those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for Ladakh’s rights and identity.

The Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), which organised the commemoration, said this year the observance of August 27 Martyrs’ Day would remain a subdued affair as Ladakh is observing a month-long tribute to its martyrs from August 24 to September 24. The culmination of the programme on September 24 will see tributes paid to all those who lost their lives for the cause of Ladakh.

The commemoration began with a prayer ceremony, followed by the felicitation of family members of the martyrs. The gathering also observed a two-minute silence and offered prayers for the victims of the recent flash floods in Nepal.

LBA President Chering Dorje Lakruk said that Ladakh had witnessed the sacrifice of several people at different stages of its political struggle and that their contributions must

be remembered collectively.

“From the martyrs of August 27 to those who lost their lives on September 24, a total of 10 people have sacrificed their lives. To honour all the martyrs of Ladakh, we have decided to observe Martyrs’ Month from August 24 to September 24. On September 24, all the martyrs of Ladakh will be collectively remembered and paid tribute,” Lakruk said.

He said August 27 Martyrs’ Day was therefore not observed on a grand scale this year, with the focus being on the larger month-long commemoration.

“It is important to remember all the heroes of Ladakh who sacrificed their lives for a better tomorrow and the future of Ladakh,” he added.

Senior Vice-President of LBA, Rigzin Dorje, who attended the programme along with his children, stressed the importance of passing on the history of Ladakh’s struggles and sacrifices to younger generations.

He said the younger generation must know about Nawang Rinchen, Tsering Stobdan and Tsewang Dorjay, who were killed during the 1989 agitation, as well as Ven. Lobzang Tsondu of Likir Monastery and Tashi Angchuk of Saspol, who sacrificed their lives

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Chief Secretary chairs NCORD meeting, calls for stronger coordinated action against drug abuse



Photo Caption: During the 8th UT-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, chaired the 8th UT-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on August 28 to review action taken on decisions of the previous meeting and assess measures undertaken to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the Union Territory.

The meeting reviewed the latest status of drug-related cases, preventive and enforcement measures, awareness initiatives, and the functioning of de-addiction and support mechanisms across Ladakh.

The Police Department made a

detailed presentation on the agenda points and follow-up action from the 7th UT-level NCORD meeting. The presentation also included the latest figures on drug-related and NDPS cases, Hepatitis-C cases, preventive measures, awareness campaigns conducted during 2025, and the ongoing Drug-Free Month campaign.

Reviewing the progress of drug de-addiction centres, the Chief Secretary sought updates on their operational status, emergency outreach facilities, helpline services and availability of support mechanisms. He stressed the need

to ensure that the centres become fully functional within stipulated timelines and provide timely counselling and assistance to those in need.

He also reviewed the status of Tele-MANAS calls and directed the concerned departments to assess the outreach and response to drug-related concerns received through helpline and social media platforms.

On forensic and testing facilities, the Chief Secretary sought updates on the tendering process, recruitment of technical staff and availability of equipment. He directed the

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Great Summer Buddhist Council opens with focus on youth and social challenges

Drug abuse emerges as key concern at three-day gathering in Matho



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra at Great Summer Buddhist Council of Ladakh 2026, Matho.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The three-day Great Summer Buddhist Council of Ladakh 2026 (Ladakh Mangtro Yarchos Chenmo 2026) commenced at Ngongpar Gaway Phodang, Matho, on August 21, with Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, attending the evening session as Chief Guest. The session focused on the theme “Youth and Social Well-being: Protecting Ladakh from the Menace of Drugs.”

The session brought together school students, Buddhist monks, representatives of sacred places, doctors, experts, police personnel, Nambardars and members of the public to deliberate on the growing challenge of substance

abuse and the need for collective efforts to safeguard Ladakh’s youth.

The participation of the Chief Secretary underscored the Administration’s emphasis on strengthening coordination among religious and educational institutions, healthcare professionals, law-enforcement agencies, community leaders and civil society to address social concerns and promote youth well-being.

Jamyang Namgyal, In-charge, Ladakh Narcotics Task Force, highlighted legal and regulatory provisions concerning narcotic substances and stressed the need to protect young

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Fortnightly News

Pan-Ladakh cyber police station approved amid rise in cybercrime

1,077 complaints involving around Rs 10 crore reported during 2021–2026

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the establishment of a dedicated Cyber Police Station in Ladakh in view of the growing incidence of cybercrime, including cyber financial fraud, online scams, digital arrests and identity theft. The Cyber Police Station will have jurisdiction across the entire Union Territory, with the notification coming into force with immediate effect.

The Cyber Police Station will function as the centralised cybercrime investigation unit of Ladakh and will be responsible for the registration and investigation of cybercrime cases and related offences under the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other applicable laws.

The decision follows directions from the Ministry of Home Affairs to all States and Union Territories to establish and strengthen State Cyber Crime Coordination Centres (S4Cs) as nodal mechanisms for coordinated prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrime.

The initiative will strengthen Ladakh’s institutional capacity to tackle the increasingly sophisticated and borderless nature of cybercrime while improving coordination among law-enforcement agencies, financial institutions, technology platforms and other stakeholders.

It will facilitate e-Zero FIRs, coordination with the National Cyber Crime



Reporting Portal (NCRP) and the 1930 helpline, preservation and collection of digital evidence, and prompt action to freeze or place fraudulent financial transactions on hold. It will also facilitate coordination with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), banks, financial institutions, telecom service providers and other concerned agencies.

“As Ladakh rapidly adopts digital banking, UPI, e-commerce and e-Governance services, we must ensure that our citizens are equally protected from the emerging threats in the digital space. The establishment of a dedicated Cyber Police Station will strengthen our capacity to prevent cybercrime, protect citizens from financial fraud and ensure swift investigation and response. We are

committed to building a secure and trusted digital environment for the people of Ladakh,” said L-G Saxena.

Notably, during 2021–2026, 1,077 cybercrime complaints involving approximately Rs 10 crore were reported in Ladakh. The number of complaints witnessed a significant rise from 43 in 2022 to 366 in 2025, highlighting the pressing need for a dedicated institutional mechanism to prevent, investigate and respond to cybercrime.

The Cyber Police Station will function under the administrative and operational control of the Chief Executive Officer of the UT Ladakh Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (L4C), with necessary arrangements being made from the existing resources of Ladakh Police as an interim measure.

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena directs zero tolerance against food safety violations in Ladakh

Penalties range from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh, with certain violations also attracting imprisonment



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, has ordered “Zero Tolerance” for food safety violations in the Union Territory of Ladakh. In a sweeping directive aimed at protecting public health, ensuring uncompromising food quality and dealing with violators with an iron hand, L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered a strict crackdown on food safety violations across Ladakh.

Sending a stark warning to nearly 8800 Food Business Operators in Ladakh, the LG has made it clear that any compromise on hygiene and statutory food standards will be met with heavy penalties – including fines of up to Rs10 lakh and imprisonment in serious cases.

The decisive move comes amid increased administrative focus on public health and sanitation across the country. The circular issued by the UT Administration, on LG’s directions, makes it mandatory for all Food Business Operators in Ladakh to strictly comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. They have been directed to ensure that “the food manufactured, processed, stored, transported, distributed or sold in Ladakh is safe, wholesome and conforms to the prescribed food safety standards.” At present, there are 428 FSSAI Licence holders and 8,355 FSSAI Registration holders in the UT of Ladakh.

The Food Safety Department has been directed to ensure that all FBOs maintain continuous compliance with statutory food safety, hygiene, sanitary and FSSAI licensing requirements, and to take stringent action for any such violation, that include ranging

from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh, while certain violations may also attract imprisonment.

All food business operators, including restaurants/hotels/ eateries, have been strictly prohibited from manufacturing, storing or selling any food that is “unsafe, sub-standard, misbranded, adulterated, contaminated, or beyond the shelf-life/ expiry date.”

“Food safety is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a fundamental responsibility towards the health and well-being of every citizen. Every Food Business Operator must ensure that the food served to our people is safe, hygienic and of the prescribed standard. There will be zero tolerance for any such violations that put public health at risk. At the same time, our enforcement will remain fair, transparent and firmly grounded in law,” said L-G Shri Saxena.

As per the direction, all Food Business Operators are required to:

Obtain and maintain a valid FSSAI Licence/Registration and prominently display the valid certificate at their business premises.

Comply with the applicable hygiene and sanitary requirements, including Good Hygiene Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices. Maintain cleanliness and sanitation of food premises, personal hygiene of food handlers, prevent cross-contamination and ensure safe storage of raw materials and finished food.

Maintain appropriate temperature and cold-chain conditions, use potable water, ensure proper waste disposal and pest control, and use food-grade equipment, utensils and packaging material.

Properly clean and sanitise equipment and food-contact surfaces and segregate raw food from cooked/ready-to-eat food. Maintain appropriate records and documentation and procure food ingredients and raw materials only from reliable and legal sources.

Licensed FBOs must maintain and implement an appropriate Food Safety Management System (FSMS).

Ensure that food handlers maintain high standards of personal hygiene and receive appropriate training in food safety and hygiene practices. Persons suffering from illnesses that may adversely affect food safety should not be engaged in food handling activities.

Store food in a manner that protects it from contamination, deterioration and infestation, maintain proper stock rotation and ensure that expired, spoiled or otherwise unsafe food is neither stored nor offered for sale.

Comply with applicable labelling requirements for pre-packaged food and refrain from making misleading, false or deceptive claims, declarations or advertisements.

Cooperate with Food Safety Officers during inspections, sampling, surveillance and enforcement activities and comply with lawful directions issued under the Act.

The Food Safety Department has been instructed to conduct inspections, sampling and analysis of food, seizure or detention of food articles, prohibition on sale or distribution of unsafe food and suspension or cancellation of licences wherever legally warranted.

The penalties for food safety violations include:

S.NO.	Violation	Penalty/Punishment
1	Selling food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded	Penalty upto ₹5 Lakh; for persons covered under Section-31(2), up to ₹25,000
2	Sub-standard Food	Penalty upto ₹5 Lakh
3	Misbranded food	Penalty up to ₹5 Lakh, with corrective action/direction for destruction where applicable
4	Misleading advertisement	Penalty up to ₹10 lakh
5	Food containing extraneous matter	Penalty upto ₹1 Lakh
6	Failure to comply with directions of Food Safety Officer	Penalty upto ₹2 Lakh
7	Unhygienic or unsanitary processing/manufacturing	Penalty upto ₹1 Lakh
8	Possessing adulterant	Up to ₹2 Lakh where not injurious to health and up to ₹10 Lakh where injurious to health
9	Contravention for which no specific penalty is provided	Penalty up to ₹2 Lakh
10	Manufacturing, Storing, Selling or Distributing unsafe food	Punishment including imprisonment and fine, depending upon whether injury, grievous injury or death results
11	Interfering with seized food/items	Imprisonment up to 6 months and fine up to ₹2 Lakh
12	Furnishing false information	Penalty upto ₹10 Lakh
13	Obstructing/impersonating/threatening/ assaulting Food Safety Officer	Imprisonment up to 3 months and fine up to ₹1 Lakh
14	Carrying out food business without required licence	Penalty upto ₹10 Lakh

Ladakh to get High Court bench after Presidential regulation

Notification issued within seven days of Cabinet approval; L-G Saxena thanks PM Modi and Amit Shah



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has welcomed the promulgation of the Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026, by the President of India. The regulation enables the sitting of a Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the people.

The notification to this effect was published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on August 27, 2026.

L-G Saxena said the notification, issued

within just seven days of the Union Cabinet’s decision, reflects the Government of India’s commitment to addressing the long-standing aspirations of the people of Ladakh. The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal on August 20 with the objective of significantly improving access to justice for citizens, particularly those living in the remote and far-flung areas of Ladakh.

Saxena expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the historic decision.

“The prompt promulgation of the Regulation within a week of the Cabinet decision is a clear demonstration of the Government of India’s commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Ladakh. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for this historic step towards bringing the High Court closer to the people of Ladakh,” Saxena said.

“For a geographically challenging region

like Ladakh, access to justice cannot be separated from physical accessibility. This decision will substantially ease the difficulties faced by our people in accessing higher judicial remedies and will strengthen their faith in our justice delivery system. It is an important step towards ensuring that the people of Ladakh have easier, faster and more accessible access to justice,” he added.

For the people of Ladakh, the provision is particularly significant given the region’s geographical challenges and the considerable distances involved in travelling outside the Union Territory for judicial proceedings.

The availability of High Court sittings in Ladakh is expected to substantially reduce the time, travel and associated expenses involved in accessing higher judicial remedies. It will make the justice delivery system more accessible to ordinary citizens, litigants, advocates and other stakeholders, while strengthening their access to constitutional and legal remedies closer to their homes.

Chief Secretary chairs NCORD meeting, calls for stronger coordinated action against drug abuse

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concerned departments to expedite the establishment and operationalisation of testing facilities to ensure that investigations are not delayed due to dependence on external resources.

Emphasising that prevention and awareness must involve all sections of society, Kundra directed the School Education Department to strengthen awareness and health-related interventions among students and explore coordinated programmes with educational institutions.

He also stressed greater involvement of religious and community leaders in awareness campaigns against drug abuse and called for their active participation in forthcoming outreach programmes.

The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) presented the status of cases registered and enforcement action undertaken. The Chief Secretary reviewed the profile of persons involved in drug-related offences, the source and movement of narcotics, investigation and seizure mechanisms, highway checking and naka arrangements.

He called for stronger intelligence gathering and co-ordinated enforcement to identify supply networks and prevent the movement of drugs into Ladakh.

The meeting also reviewed the availability and sale of substances and products linked to drug abuse, including action against the unauthorised or illegal sale of inhalant products. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned agencies to undertake coordinated checks and take strict action wherever violations are detected.

He further called for school-level health camps, screening and awareness interventions to better understand the scale and nature of the problem.

It was decided to intensify public awareness activities through a coordinated campaign involving schools, students, religious leaders, community organisations and concerned departments. The Chief Secretary directed departments to plan district-wide awareness programmes, including a march or pad-yatra involving

students during the coming month, with the participation of senior leadership and community representatives.

Kundra also stressed the need for stronger inter-State coordination, particularly with neighbouring regions and major educational and transit centres, to track supply networks and address cases involving persons studying or travelling outside Ladakh. He called for regular information sharing and coordinated preventive action with the concerned authorities.

He further directed Deputy Commissioners and revenue authorities to strengthen the identification of vulnerable areas and emerging hotspots and improve coordination with parents, educational institutions and local communities.

Appreciating the efforts of the ANTF and other enforcement agencies, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for continued vigilance, stronger intelligence networks and effective coordination among the Police, Excise, Social Welfare, Health, Education and other concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary also called for greater awareness and vigilance within Army establishments and directed that coordinated awareness and intelligence-sharing mechanisms be strengthened wherever required to prevent the movement and distribution of narcotic substances.

The status of anti-drug measures in Kargil was also reviewed. Kundra directed the concerned departments to present a consolidated assessment of enforcement, prevention, awareness, health and social welfare interventions in the district at the next NCORD meeting for a comprehensive review.

The meeting was attended by DGP, UT Ladakh, Anand Jain; Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Shurbhir Singh; Commissioner/Secretary, Lalinthakhuma Franklin; Secretary, Finance, Tsewang Tharchin, IA&AS; Secretary, School Education, Bhanu Prabha; Mandeep Mittal, IFS; SSP Leh, Shri Ram; DC Leh, Ronil Singh Donk; Special Secretary, Home, Tashi Dolma; Director Health Services, and other senior officers from concerned departments.

STEM on Wheels: DIET Leh inspires young minds at Taru Middle school



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Taru Middle School hosted an inspiring day of innovation and experiential learning as the STEM Lab Bus of DIET Leh visited the school on August 24, bringing Science and Mathematics to life through practical demonstrations, hands-on experiments and interactive activities. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Principal, DIET Leh, S.D. Namgal.

The STEM activities were facilitated by the Science team comprising Tsering Yangdol, Head of Department; Kunzes Dolma, Senior Lecturer; Chetna Sharma, Senior Lecturer; Sonam Diskit, Lecturer; Rashida Parveen, Lecturer; and Jigmet Namgyal, Technical Expert.

Students enthusiastically participated in a range of experiments and innovative learning activities in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. The interactive sessions provided learners with opportunities to explore scientific concepts beyond the conventional classroom.

The visit transformed the school campus into a vibrant learning space where students observed, experimented, questioned and collaborated with enthusiasm. The activities helped learners connect classroom concepts with real-life applications while fostering curiosity, creativity, teamwork, problem-solving and scientific thinking.

The Head of Taru Middle School appreciated DIET Leh’s efforts to take mobile STEM education to schools and emphasised the importance of such initiatives in promoting experiential and activity-based learning.

Students were also given opportunities to present their observations,

helping build confidence in communication and scientific expression. Group activities encouraged peer learning, teamwork and leadership skills, while teachers benefited from observing innovative teaching methodologies that can be incorporated into regular classroom practices.

The STEM Bus initiative reflects DIET Leh’s commitment to nurturing scientific temper, innovation and inquiry-based learning across Ladakh. Through such outreach programmes, DIET Leh continues to promote activity-based education and inspire students to develop confidence, creativity and a deeper interest in Science and Mathematics.

Nawang , Dorjay, Stobdan remembered as Ladakh begins month-long tribute to its heroes

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during the 1981 agitation demanding Scheduled Tribe status for Ladakh.

Dorjay said remembering these sacrifices were particularly important as the benefits secured through such struggles are today enjoyed by generations of Ladakhis, including students.

Religious leaders representing different communities, including the Christian community, Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam and Anjuman Imamia, also joined the commemoration and stressed the need to collectively remember and pay tribute to Ladakh’s martyrs.

On August 27, 1989, Nawang Rinchen of Sankar, Tsering Stobdan of Durbuk and Tsewang Dorjay of Sapo were killed in a firing incident at the historic Polo Ground in Leh during the agitation demanding Union

Territory status for Ladakh. The three came to be collectively remembered as the NDS martyrs.

Their sacrifice remains a significant chapter in Ladakh’s political history and its long struggle for greater political rights and self-governance.

Earlier, on January 24, 1981, Ven. Lobzang Tsondus from Likir Monastery and Tashi Angchuk from Saspol had also laid down their lives during the agitation demanding Scheduled Tribe status for Ladakh.

As Ladakh enters the month-long observance leading up to September 24, the commemoration of the NDS martyrs served as a reminder of the different generations of Ladakhis who sacrificed their lives during the region’s struggle for political rights, identity and a better future.

Fortnightly News

Stakeholder orientation and consultation programme on foster care and adoption held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Leh, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Leh, and the Department of Social & Tribal Welfare, Ladakh, organised a Stakeholder Orientation and Consultation Programme on Foster Care and Adoption at the DC Conference Hall, Leh, on August 28.

The programme focused on promoting family-based alternative care and strengthening awareness, coordination and convergence among stakeholders on foster care and adoption under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Adoption Regulations and the framework of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).

The programme was attended by representatives from various government departments and institutions, including Health, Police, ICDS, Labour, Legal Services and DHEW, along with members of the CWC, JJB and CHL. Representatives of Child Care Institutions, the Bar Association, NGOs, religious and community organisations, women and youth groups, civil society and traders' associations also participated.

Representatives from Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam, Anjuman Imamia, Women Alliance, Ladakh Buddhist Association, ALTOA, ALGHA and Merchant Association, along with NGOs including Pagir, Rewa Society, 17000ft Foundation, Munsel Society, CT Kids, Dhamma House Stok, Chamtse Mental Health and Social Services and Lasmon Society, participated in the consultation. Superintendents and staff of Rgaatsal, Rchestsal and Lions Club Home of Snow Lions, along with officials from DCPU, CWC, JJB and CHL, were also present.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by CWC Member Tashi Dolma, who highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring the safety, care and well-being of children requiring protection and support.

A technical session on "Foster Care and Adoption: Family-Based Care and the Relevant Legal and Procedural Framework" was delivered by Fariya Rafiq, Protection Officer (Non-Institutional Care), DCPU Leh. The session covered the legal and procedural framework, eligibility and assessment of foster caregivers and adoptive parents, identification of children requiring alternative care, roles of statutory authorities, placement procedures, monitoring and safeguards, with emphasis on the best interests of the child.

The session also highlighted the importance of family-based care, restoration and rehabilitation, while recognising institutional care as a measure of last resort.

An interactive stakeholder consultation and discussion was subsequently moderated by Aamir Sohail, Protection Officer (Institutional Care), DCPU Leh, and Tsering Angebuk, Member, CWC Leh. Discussions focused on identifying children requiring family-based care, timely referrals, community awareness, inter-departmental convergence, prevention of unnecessary institutionalisation, and effective monitoring and follow-up.

The programme aimed to create greater awareness about foster care and adoption, promote family-based care, prevent unnecessary institutionalisation, facilitate appropriate referrals for children requiring alternative care, and strengthen stakeholder convergence and community participation.

CWC Leh Chairperson Mumtaz Hussain appreciated the active participation of stakeholders and reiterated the importance of collective efforts to strengthen family-based care and the child protection system in Ladakh.

The programme marked an important step towards creating a coordinated and child-friendly environment where children can, wherever appropriate and in accordance with the law, grow and thrive within a safe, stable and nurturing family environment.

Ladakh youth engage in nationwide Khelo India dialogue on sports, nation building

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Students from Ladakh participated in the nationwide Yuva Samvaad-Khelo India Dialogue held at EJM College, Leh, on August 27, providing them an opportunity to engage in discussions on sports, youth aspirations, healthy lifestyles and nation-building.

Organised under the Khelo India initiative with the theme "Khel Ki Baat, PM Modi Ke Saath," the programme was attended by Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, UT Ladakh, Bhanu Prabha, and joined virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Students, athletes, sportspersons and My Bharat volunteers from colleges across the country participated in the nationwide interaction.

The programme highlighted the role of sports in youth development and carried the message of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, encouraging young people to adopt healthy and productive lifestyles.

The event was organised ahead of National Sports Day on August 29, commemorated in honour of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. At EJM College, the programme featured an interaction with accomplished sportspersons from Ladakh, including cyclist Leakzes Angmo, mountaineer Abida Afreen and ice hockey player Padma Chorol, who shared their sporting journeys, challenges and achievements with students.

During the interactive session, students raised questions about opportunities under the Khelo India initiative, strengthening the sports ecosystem, the Fit India Movement, balancing education with sports, overcoming challenges and criticism, family support, scholarships and opportunities available to young athletes.

The sportspersons shared their experiences of pursuing sporting careers, accessing support and equipment, and making use of opportunities provided through various sports programmes.

The interaction also underlined the role of sports in promoting discipline, confidence and healthy lifestyles among youth while keeping them away from drugs and other harmful influences. A pledge was subsequently administered to reaffirm the participants' commitment to building a drug-free society.

Bhanu Prabha encouraged participating sportspersons to contribute towards expanding cycling opportunities for young people in Ladakh.



Photo Caption: Students from Ladakh participating in the nationwide Yuva Samvaad-Khelo India Dialogue at EJM College, Leh.

Students to contribute towards expanding cycling opportunities for young people in Ladakh. She suggested developing a structured cycling programme to provide greater opportunities for aspiring cyclists and strengthen the cycling ecosystem in the Union Territory.

Addressing the students, Bhanu Prabha emphasised the importance of passion, perseverance and hard work in achieving one's goals. She encouraged the youth to remain committed to their aspirations, learn from setbacks and criticism, continuously upgrade their skills and make full use of available opportunities, including scholarships and institutional support.

She assured all possible support from the UT Administration towards improving sports infrastructure and promoting sporting activities in Ladakh under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The programme was attended by Former MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Principal, EJM College, Prof. Stanzin Yangdol; Dean, College Development Council, Dr Tsewang Norbu; sportspersons and State Awardees from Ladakh; faculty members and students of EJM College, besides other participants.

GI user certification awareness camp organised at Handloom Leh office

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Department of Handloom & Handicrafts, Leh, organised a GI User Certification Awareness Camp on August 28 at the Handloom Leh Office Complex under the leadership of Director, Industries & Commerce, Sonam Nurboo, JKAS. The camp was held in the presence of the Assistant Director, Handicrafts & Handlooms, Leh.

The Authorised User registration drive for GI-tagged products of Ladakh, particularly Ladakh Pashmina, was initiated a few days ago to facilitate local artisans, producers, entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperatives in obtaining GI User Certification.

During the camp, more than 20 artisans and producers participated and were assisted in filling out and submitting their applications and completing the requisite documentation for onward submission to the GI Registry. Applicants who had already initiated the registration process were also provided assistance in verifying and completing pending documents.

The initiative aims to facilitate wider registration of local producers and artisans as Authorised Users, strengthen



Photo Caption: Artisans filling out and submitting their applications and completing the requisite documentation for onward submission to the GI Registry.

the GI ecosystem in Ladakh, and promote the authenticity, traceability and market recognition of GI-tagged products.

Director Industries & Commerce Sonam Nurboo interacted with the participants and officials of the Department. He emphasised the importance of delivering services efficiently to artisans and producers and directed officials to work with utmost dedication, professionalism and com-

mitment towards facilitating the GI registration process and strengthening support for the local handicrafts and handloom sector.

The Department will continue to organise awareness and facilitation activities to encourage more artisans, producers, SHGs and cooperatives associated with GI-tagged products to avail themselves of the benefits of Authorised User registration.

L-G VK Saxena reviews operationalisation of commercial flights from Thoise and Kargil airports

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, on August 21 chaired a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force (IAF), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and UT Ladakh Administration at Ladakh Bhavan, New Delhi, to review preparedness for the commencement of commercial civil flight operations from Thoise Airport in Nubra Valley and Kargil Airport.

The meeting focused on resolving infrastructure, regulatory and operational issues to facilitate the early commencement of civilian flights from the two strategically and socio-economically important airports, which are expected to significantly improve connectivity in Ladakh's border areas.

The LG emphasised the need for time-bound operationalisation of both airports. He said commercial flights from Thoise and Kargil

would support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of enhanced regional connectivity and inclusive development while unlocking the tourism potential of border areas such as Kargil, Drass, Turtuk and Siachen Base Camp.

Thoise Airport

The meeting noted that the Indian Air Force has approved the allotment of five acres of land for construction of a new civil terminal in Nubra.

Runway recarpeting work is currently underway and is targeted for completion by November 2026.

It was also decided to target the commencement of civil flight operations from Thoise by December 2026, initially using the existing chartered flight terminal after necessary refurbishment.

For commencing commercial flights from the existing termi-

nal, the LG directed the Airports Authority of India to submit the requisite infrastructure requirements to the UT Administration. Based on these requirements, the Public Works Department will undertake the necessary refurbishment works.

Commercial flight operations are expected to improve accessibility for residents of Nubra and facilitate travel for visitors to destinations including Turtuk, Siachen and other parts of the valley, while providing a boost to tourism and the local economy.

Kargil Airport

Regarding Kargil Airport, it was decided to conduct a joint inspection on September 1 by the Indian Air Force, Airports Authority of India and Ministry of Civil Aviation, in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor, to assess preparedness for civil flight operations.

The inspection will assess the existing infrastructure, technical requirements and other aspects necessary to determine the future course of action for commencing civilian flight operations.

Civil air connectivity to Kargil has remained a long-standing priority, particularly in view of the region's challenging terrain and prolonged winters.

The LG urged all concerned agencies to undertake coordinated and time-bound action to complete the required infrastructure, regulatory and operational formalities at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Air Marshal George Thomas, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, IAF; Executive Director, Airports Authority of India; and other senior officials from the concerned agencies.

'Enterprising Ladakh' highlights growing startup culture among youth

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, graced the mega entrepreneurship event, 'Enterprising Ladakh', at the Main Market, Leh, on August 28, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit, innovative ideas and locally developed products of Ladakh's youth.

The event was organised by the Higher Education Department in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII).

Bringing together budding entrepreneurs, innovators and students from across the Union Territory, the event highlighted emerging enterprise opportunities and the growing potential of Ladakh's youth to create sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the region's economic development.

Addressing the gathering, Director General, EDII, Dr Suneel Shukla, highlighted the progress made under the initiative and efforts to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem among the youth of Ladakh. He emphasised the

importance of innovation, awareness, mentorship and handholding support in enabling young entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into viable enterprises.

The initiative has supported the development of several enterprise projects and seeks to strengthen MSMEs, promote local products and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary released a publication showcasing key knowledge resources, identified opportunities, aspirations and practical guidance for aspiring entrepreneurs. The publication includes project profiles and other information aimed at helping youth explore and develop viable enterprise ideas.

Addressing the gathering, Kundra said the entrepreneurship initiative represents an emerging movement among the youth of Ladakh, encouraging students,

graduates and aspiring entrepreneurs to explore self-employment and enterprise creation. He observed that the aspirations of young people are increasingly moving beyond conventional employment towards innovation and creating opportunities for themselves and others.

He stressed the need to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with adequate support in preparing project reports, accessing finance and bank credit, understanding land-related requirements and establishing linkages with industries and other stakeholders.

The Chief Secretary subsequently visited stalls set up at the Main Market, where entrepreneurs, students, SHGs and other groups from all seven districts showcased their products, innovations and enterprise ideas. He interacted with the participants and enquired about their products, production processes, mar-

ket linkages and entrepreneurial journeys.

The exhibition featured a diverse range of local and innovative products, including bakery and packaged food items, crochet and embroidery products, textiles, herbal products, walnut spread, chilli paste, noodles, seabuckthorn products, sculptures, traditional crafts, Zanskar ghee, baskets, knitting and needlework.

Innovations and creative products developed by students and young entrepreneurs from institutions including NIELIT and ITIs were also showcased, featuring 3D artwork, wood carving, graphic design products and other locally developed items.

The 'Wall of Products' was also launched on the occasion, providing a dedicated platform to showcase products and innovations developed by entrepreneurs and students participating in the initiative.

L-G VK Saxena approves significant reduction of VAT on Natural Gas from 21% to 5%

Step to provide major boost to affordable clean energy and City Gas Distribution

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a major decisive step towards promoting affordable clean energy, strengthening the City Gas Distribution network and improving the ease of living for the people, Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, has approved a significant reduction of VAT on Natural Gas in Ladakh, from the existing 21% to just 5%.

This reduction of VAT on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) would majorly boost the government's larger plan of implementing City Gas Distribution (CGD) network that envisages providing piped household gas connections across the UT of Ladakh. This would make PNG and CNG more affordable for consumers, encourage wider adoption of cleaner fuels and contribute to Ladakh's long-term clean-energy and sustainable development goals, as envisaged by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

The decision follows a communication dated 22 June 2026, from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), under the Ministry of

Petroleum and Natural Gas, urging the UT Administration for a concessional fiscal framework for natural gas in Ladakh, so as to make the city gas distribution system more affordable. The PNGRB cited the difficult terrain, dispersed population centres, extreme climatic conditions and the high cost of transporting energy over long distances in Ladakh as critical factors that could adversely affect the economics of CGD development in Ladakh as compared to other parts of the country.

Considering the urgency and the larger benefits, L-G Saxena, acting swiftly on the communication from the Centre, approved the proposal for reducing the VAT from the existing 21% to just 5%. This has brought the UT of Ladakh at par with states like Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh that levy 5% VAT on natural gas. Notably, Natural gas remains outside the GST framework and is subject to the VAT regime of the respective States and Union Territories.

"Our objective is to make essential energy more affordable to the people of Ladakh while creating an enabling environment for investment and infrastructure development. The reduction of VAT on natural gas will support the expansion

of PNG and CNG services, strengthen the clean-energy ecosystem and improve the quality of life of our people. These measures reflect the UT Administration's commitment to building a more connected, competitive, clean and sustainable Ladakh," said L-G Saxena.

The PNGRB has authorised Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to develop the City Gas Distribution infrastructure in Ladakh. Subsequently, PNGRB had recommended bringing PNG and CNG under a concessional VAT framework at 5% or lower, noting that affordability would be critical for consumer adoption and demand creation during the initial years of CGD development in Ladakh.

Notably, the Ladakh Administration had also reduced VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) for civilian aircraft from 26.25% to 1%, in order to make air travel to Ladakh more competitive and make Ladakh a refuelling hub. The measure was undertaken in the context of the national policy push led by the Prime Minister for promoting regional air connectivity under the UDAN scheme. The 1% rate for civilian aviation fuel is lower than the rates prevailing in several States, including Delhi and Maharashtra.

Great Summer Buddhist Council opens with focus on youth and social challenges

...Continues from page 1

people from the drug menace. He spoke about the serious consequences of drug abuse and expressed concern over the increasing number of drug-related cases being reported in Ladakh, calling for greater awareness and preventive measures.

Dr Nordan Odzer, Specialist, subsequently addressed the gathering on the importance of guiding youth towards constructive and positive pursuits. Drawing from his professional experience and recent cases involving crime and social issues, he highlighted how harmful habits, particularly drug abuse, can contribute to destructive behaviour and criminal activities. He stressed the importance of timely intervention, awareness and positive guidance to

prevent young people from falling into such harmful habits.

The programme also featured vibrant traditional folk dance performances, adding a cultural dimension to the gathering and showcasing Ladakh's rich heritage.

The Great Summer Buddhist Council of Ladakh 2026, being held over three days, provides a platform for spiritual, cultural and social dialogue, bringing together diverse sections of society to deliberate on issues affecting the well-being of the people and the future of Ladakh.

The council will continue with discussions and programmes focusing on community values, social harmony, cultural heritage and the overall well-being of Ladakh.

In Focus

Horme: Traditional Sowa Rigpa Heat- Compress Therapy

By Dr. Tsering Norzom

Sowa Rigpa, the traditional system of medicine, describes various external therapies, including cold and heat compress therapies. Horme is one such heat-compress therapy. What sets Horme apart is its simplicity of application and its potential to provide quick relief from certain types of discomfort.

In today’s busy and competitive world, people are constantly rushing toward their personal and professional goals. This fast-paced lifestyle often leaves little time for rest and relaxation. As a result, stress, headaches, tension, sleep disturbances, and other lifestyle-related problems have become common concerns in daily life. In such circumstances, people often seek approaches that are simple, convenient, and effective. Hormay is one traditional external therapy that may be considered in this context.

Horme can be used for adults and older people, depending on their individual condition. However, it is important to remember that traditional therapies should be performed appropriately and under the guidance of a qualified Amchi, particularly when treating a health condition.

Horme is traditionally understood to support both physical and mental well-being. It may be used in situations associated with wind imbalance, stress, tension, tinnitus, restlessness, indigestion, menopausal discomfort, white vaginal discharge, and insomnia.

Indications of Horme

Traditionally, Horme may be indicated for:

- Wind imbalance
- Stress and tension
- Tinnitus
- Restlessness
- Indigestion
- Menopausal discomfort
- White vaginal discharge
- Insomnia

Ingredients Required

The main ingredients used for preparing a Horme bolus are:

- Carum carvi (caraway)
- Nutmeg
- Mustard oil or sesame oil



Method of preparing the Bolus

First, the nutmeg is ground into a fine powder. It is then combined with caraway and mixed thoroughly. The mixture is shaped into a small, firm bolus.

The bolus is then dipped into warm mustard oil or sesame oil. After ensuring that the temperature is appropriate, it is gently applied to the area where pain or discomfort is present.

Important Points to Remember

Horme should be applied carefully at an appropriate temperature to avoid burns or skin irritation.

It should not be applied to the abdomen, genital/private areas, or other inappropriate areas unless specifically advised by a qualified practitioner.

Avoid taking a shower immediately after the treatment.

The therapy should preferably be performed under the guidance of a qualified Amchi, especially for people with existing health conditions.

Conclusion

Horme is a simple traditional external therapy described within Sowa Rigpa. It’s easy preparation and application make it an interesting traditional approach to managing certain forms of physical discomfort and supporting relaxation. In today’s fast-paced lifestyle, such traditional therapies may offer a practical approach to care when appropriately selected and performed. However, Hormay should not be considered a substitute for professional medical diagnosis or treatment, and consultation with a qualified Amchi or healthcare professional is advisable before beginning treatment.



The World of Juniors



Ladakh: The crown of the Himalayas

Ladakh, so silent, so pure and grand
A jewel of beauty is our land
Your mountains rise, your rivers gleam
Like pages from a frozen dream

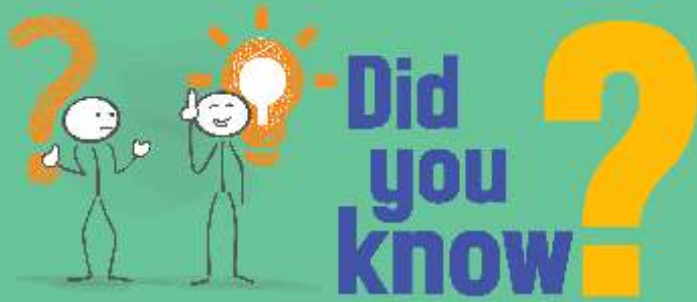
The people here are kind and true
With heart so warm in skies so blue
They live with strength, with grace and pride
In valleys where the snowy winds glide

The Zanskar River flows so cold and bright
The Chadar trek is a wondrous sight
But melting ice is a warning sign
Let’s keep this land divine

Let us protect it day and night
To keep its future safe and bright
Ladakh will shine for all to see

By Rigzin Dorje

The writer is from Saspol Yakru and is a class 7 student.



- The 3 most common languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English
- Lobsters blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue
- Armadillos have 4 babies at a time and are all the same sex
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds
- The first letters of the months July through to November spell JASON
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear

- Perth is Australia’s windiest city
- Goldfish can see both infrared and ultraviolet light
- The smallest bones in the human body are found in your ear
- Cats spend 66% of their life asleep
- Switzerland eats the most chocolate equating to 10 kilos per person per year
- Money is the number one thing that couples argue about
- When lightning strikes it can reach up to 30,000 degrees celsius (54,000 degrees fahrenheit)
- Spiders are arachnids and not insects
- Each time you see a full moon you always see the same side
- Stewardesses is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand
- The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia
- The longest street in the world is Yonge street in Toronto Canada measuring 1,896 km (1,178 miles)

Courtesy: didyouknow.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Your Vision + Mission magic



One who has a vision and a mission in life is a person of great promises. Such a person possesses extraordinary foresight besides imagination and a very clear mind as to what the future should look like. What could be the steps needed towards that end. And it is for sure that your mission assists your Vision.

One can say Vision is like a roadmap drawn to show you the correct and the practical aspects of your destination; and that needs certain targets and meticulous plans for the future. As someone had said, Vision is the destination and Mission is the path. Mahatma Gandhi and all other great men like Nelson Mandela had great faith in their Vision + Mission approach towards success. Their beliefs carried them to victory. They were convinced that Vision without Mission would be a mere dream, a hallucination. The two are to be necessarily there together to find out the ways and means of your dreams’ fulfillment.

One can also assert that Vision gives a clear and definite direction. As someone has said it so beautifully: Vision turns why into How! Besides, we have the point that is a must for any success story: Vision creates Resilience. In any attempt to succeed to stand up and go-get-going after a major life-disruption, one needs Resilience. Nothing works as good and effectively as Resilience. J K Rowling had to struggle hard as her attempts to publish her book, Harry Potter, were rejected 11 times by publishes. But her power of resilience helped her try again. Her 12th attempt succeeded, and she became the richest author within years.

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Needless to say, Vision demands courage, imagination, honesty and a great deal of ‘do or die stand.’ You need to take a determined action with honest intentions.

An anonymous quote says: “Vision is like a compass, not a map, and it will lead you to your destination provided you follow it patiently.”

The punch line: If Vision is your insight for the future, then Mission is the vehicle that lands you safely to your destination.

Courtesy: WongWorld

The writer is a New Delhi-based Editor-at-large, columnist and public speaker.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with
Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Mohd Haneefa Jan

Interviewed by
Stanzin Dasal and Morup Stanzin

Q. You have completed more than two years as the Member of Parliament representing Ladakh. Looking back, what were your priorities when you entered Parliament, and what did you see as the biggest challenge?

When I contested the election, the circumstances were quite challenging. After Ladakh became a Union Territory, the biggest issue before us was how to build a strong foundation for Ladakh under the new administrative setup.

We wanted to create a foundation that would serve our future generations. Ladakh is a unique region in the country—geographically and topographically, as well as in terms of its climate, culture and way of life. It has always been a peaceful and patriotic region. While preserving these characteristics, we also have to protect our culture and way of life. Ladakh has a very large geographical area, but its population is relatively small compared with other parts of the country. Therefore, the challenge is to preserve our culture, traditions and way of life, safeguard the aspirations of future generations, and build a strong and sustainable Ladakh.

There were discussions about creating an appropriate democratic and administrative setup for Ladakh, and I also played a significant role in that process.

When the parliamentary election took place, our concerns remained the same. We were already discussing a four-point agenda with the Government of India and had also held protests several times.

My responsibility was to take these issues forward in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Ladakh—whether through negotiations with the Government of India or by raising these issues in Parliament. This was my biggest challenge, and people expected me to make it my first priority. I have tried to ensure that the aspirations and wishes of the people of Ladakh are represented both in Parliament and before the government.

Our aim has never been to fight with the government through protests and force it to accept our demands. That was never our approach. My effort has always been to ensure that our issues are resolved through dialogue.

Q. What major developmental and infrastructure issues have you taken up during your tenure as MP.

Another important responsibility of an MP is to take up major developmental issues and projects, particularly those that have been pending for a long time. Whenever I meet the ministries, my priority has always been to ensure that the health and education sectors of Ladakh receive due attention.

With regard to Centrally Sponsored Schemes, my effort



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ I thank the people of Ladakh for their trust and support. I will continue to work sincerely for the development and aspirations of Ladakh, without any discrimination. ”

has been to ensure that projects and funds are distributed rationally and according to actual requirements, rather than being concentrated in one particular area.

You can see this in the projects sanctioned under CRF since I became an MP. The projects have been sanctioned in a rational manner. Under PMGSY, the third phase was implemented in 2021, and we have now submitted around 80 projects under the fourth phase. Of these, around 30 have already received approval for preparation of DPRs. The DPRs for these 30 projects are now being prepared and submitted. Projects will come up in both Leh and Kargil according to priority and actual need.

After becoming an MP, I travelled to many parts of Ladakh, and one of the major problems I encountered was connectivity. Over the last two-and-a-half years, there have been many problems with BSNL's 4G services, and several areas required new towers. Around 40–45 new towers have now been sanctioned, and work has started. I would not claim that all the problems have been completely resolved, but the situation has improved considerably in many places. In some areas, towers had been constructed but were not operational, while in others there were signal-related problems. I have continuously taken up these issues with the concerned authorities.

There was also a long-pending issue concerning passport services in Kargil. I am thankful to the concerned ministries and the Joint Secretary who helped us move the matter forward. A Passport Seva Kendra is expected to be inaugurated in Kargil around the 3rd or 4th of the coming month.

These are some of the issues I have been working on. My effort has always been to sincerely fulfill the responsibility that the people entrusted to me with their faith and trust.

Q. There has been criticism that you give greater importance to Kargil while neglecting Leh, particularly in the allocation of development projects and funds. How do you respond to this criticism?

I say this with confidence: people should compare my record with that of all the MPs who have represented Ladakh so far. I have never approached these issues through the lens of religion or region. That has never been my way of thinking or working.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, although there are still some areas I have not been able to visit, I began my tours from Zaskar and travelled through several remote areas, including Nubra. There are still some areas in Kargil that I have not been able to reach, and I have also not yet visited Sham area.

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



During the District-Level Folk Dance Competition held at DIET Leh for high schools of Leh district, Government High School Chumathang secured the first position. Government High School Matho stood second, while Government High School Liker secured the third position.



District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Leh organized an educational exposure visit to Model School Gonpa for the young learners of its Balvatika program. Accompanied by a dedicated team of nine teachers, the initiative aimed to promote holistic early childhood development through creative expression, practical exploration, and confidence-building activities.



As part of the three-day Self Defence Workshop being organised by Govt. Degree College Drass under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USA) Gender Inclusive Equity Initiative scheme, self-defence sensitisation sessions were conducted at Government Higher Secondary School Bhimbhat and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Bhimbet.



Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra visited the Pashmina Dehairing Plant at the Industrial Area, Leh, to inspect the ongoing dehairing processes and review the functioning of the facility.



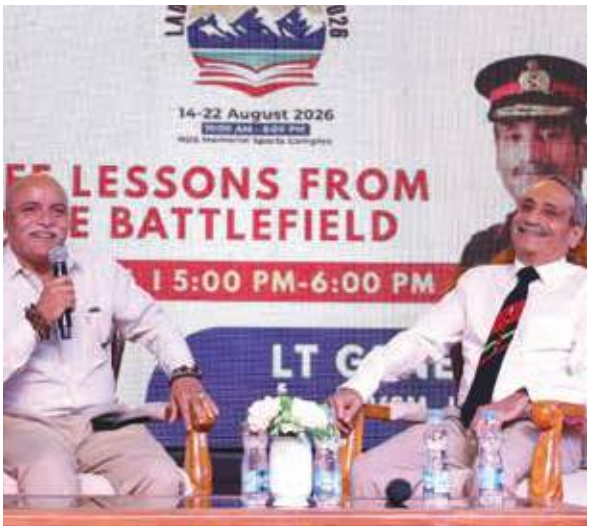
Students of Government Degree College Zaskar participated in the Ladakh Book Festival 2026, organised by the Union Territory of Ladakh and Ministry of Education, Government of India, in collaboration with the National Book Trust (NBT), India, at the NDS Memorial Sports Complex, Leh.



Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), UT Ladakh, Mohd. Ashraf Bhat, JKAS today visited the Main Food Sale Centres, Bazar-1 and Bazar-2, Kargil to assess the availability and storage of ration supplies for the people of Kargil town and adjoining areas.



District Police Sham, under the supervision of SSP Sham Malik Aijaz (JKPS), in collaboration with the Civil Administration Sham, conducted Drug Awareness Programmes at Domkhar Gongma and Domkhar Dho villages.



The fifth day of the Ladakh Book Festival 2026 at the NDS Memorial Sports Complex featured a diverse programme of children's activities, military heritage, literature, youth engagement and cultural performances under the overarching theme, "Indian Military History: Valour and Wisdom."

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Mohd Haneefa Jan

...Continuity from page 5

I did not begin my tours with the intention of first visiting Buddhist areas or giving preference to any particular community. That was never the case. I started from a remote area like Zaskar and then travelled through Nubra and other far-flung parts of Ladakh.

I therefore do not understand on what basis this allegation is being made. If there is any concrete evidence that I have discriminated between Leh and Kargil or treated the two regions differently, then it should be brought forward. Even in the funds that I have recently released, people can examine the distribution and see how much funding has gone to Leh and how much to Kargil. The figures are available and there is nothing to hide.

My belief is that whatever work you do, your intentions and priorities eventually become clear.

Through your platform, I would once again like to assure the people that, while mistakes can happen in any work, I will never intentionally discriminate on the basis of region or religion.

Q. What major development initiatives and projects have you taken up during your tenure, particularly in Leh and Kargil, and what are your priorities in the health and education.

Under CRF and PMGSY, several long-pending projects have been taken up. For example, the Turtuk-Hanu road was one of the first demands raised by people during our Nubra tour. When I reached Delhi, it was among the first issues I took up. However, I would not claim that it was solely my achievement. At that time, councillors were also working on it, and the concerned councillor included it in the proposal and continued to pursue it.

Similarly, there is a major bridge in the Nubra area, that has been taken up this year. It was not included earlier, and I made considerable efforts to get it included.

Whenever such projects come up, my approach has always been to ensure that they are considered rationally and according to priority and actual need. Whenever I meet the ministries, I emphasise that genuinely deserving projects should be given priority.

Recently, I met Home Minister Amit Shah as well as the Union Health Minister to discuss the health-related issues of Ladakh.

One of our major concerns is the medical college. The medical college at the proposed new site will eventually come up, but it will take considerable time. In the meantime, our demand, which has also been raised from the Leh side, is that the medical college should be started, at least initially, at the existing hospital in Leh. This would allow the process to begin and the required posts to be created at the earliest.

Similarly, we are pursuing the upgradation of Kargil District Hospital. At present, it has around 100 beds, and we are working to increase its capacity to 200 beds.

Healthcare is a major concern for Ladakh. Since Ladakh became a Union Territory, many patients still have to be referred outside the region. I have raised this issue several times with the ministry as well as with the Lieutenant Governor. When patients are referred outside, particularly those in critical or emergency conditions, they do not always receive the kind of attention and support. Becoming a Union Territory should also mean that essential healthcare facilities are strengthened within Ladakh itself. We are working towards ensuring this.

There is also a need for specialised healthcare services in Leh. There are four or five key specialities that are particularly required, and our aim is to make such services available in both Leh and Kargil.

In the education sector, an engineering college in Kargil has been announced. However, the project is currently pending with the Finance Department. Land has already been identified in Kargil, and we are working to ensure that the project moves forward at the earliest.

There are many such initiatives currently in the pipeline, and we are working on them. God willing, these projects and initiatives will materialise in the coming years.

Q. What progress has been made on Ladakh's demand for constitutional safeguards and a stronger democratic setup?

Apart from developmental issues, we have also been pursuing our broader political concerns. We have consistently demanded a stronger democratic setup for Ladakh, while the biggest concern has been securing adequate constitutional safeguards for the region.

In the last meeting of the High-Powered Committee, a consensus emerged on exploring various provisions under Article 371 and bringing together suitable safeguards for Ladakh. The issue of providing constitutional protection to Ladakh through such provisions was discussed.

There was considerable discussion on this proposal. Although our demand for a full-fledged legislature could not be accepted in its original form, particularly because of financial considerations, a consensus was reached on creating a setup for Ladakh that would be equivalent to a legislature.

This was not merely a verbal understanding. Minutes were also signed, clearly specifying the powers that the proposed setup should have.

Even in the most recent meeting, we submitted a list of certain points that we consider non-negotiable. Discussions on these issues are progressing positively, in my assessment.

However, we have also made it clear to the government and the ministry that the process needs to be speeded up. We cannot have one meeting today and then wait another six months for the next meeting. There is a need for regular discussions and faster decision-making so that these issues can be taken to their logical conclusion.

DC Drass reviews status of drinking water tap connections under JJM



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner Drass, Inteeaz Kacho (JKAS) assessing the status of drinking water tap connections and the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across Drass district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Deputy Commissioner Drass, Inteeaz Kacho (JKAS), took a comprehensive review meeting on August 25 to assess the status of drinking water tap connections and the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across Drass district.

The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Vishal Atri; Executive Engineer, PHE (Jal Shakti) Division; Tehsildar (HQ) to Deputy Commissioner; concerned Junior Engineers of Drass and Bhimbat Blocks, besides other concerned officials.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of various water supply projects and schemes, including those at Manman, Tesar,

Tololing, Pandrass Colony and other localities, besides schemes involving rock dams at Khunda, Jasingund and Dandal Thang.

The Executive Engineer informed that a total of 32 water supply schemes are being implemented across Drass district and that 2,539 households have been given connections. The status of water supply to Government Schools and Anganwadi Centres was also reviewed. The Deputy Commissioner was also informed that against a target of 44 connections, 43 schools have been given connections and that all 66 Anganwadi centres have been provided water connections.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the

schemes and their progress in detail through the online monitoring system and sought village-wise updates from the concerned officials. Water-related issues of Throngos, Pandrass, Shimsha, Matayeen, Holiyal and Lamar villages/localities, among other areas, were discussed extensively.

Issues concerning new household connections, seasonal availability of water and supply through pumping systems were also deliberated upon. Officials informed that in certain areas, particularly Matayeen village, water supply through pumping arrangements is presently available mainly during the summer months. The increasing demand for new JJM connections to the new households and population growth, were also discussed.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that Drass has considerable natural water resources and directed the PHE (Jal Shakti) Department to make the best possible use of available sources while ensuring sustainable and reliable drinking water supply. He instructed officials to address individual and village-level grievances promptly and take immediate corrective action wherever supply-related issues arise. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring uninterrupted drinking water availability during the harsh winter months.

Detailed discussions were also held regarding winter preparedness and the requirement for water tankers in areas where regular supply may get disrupted. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate emphasized the importance of keeping adequate tanker arrangements ready during winter. In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials to prepare necessary contingency measures well in advance.

CEC Kargil flags off first consignment of sea buckthorn pulp to Delhi



Photo Caption: During the flagging off the first consignment of sea buckthorn pulp from Kargil to Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon on August 28 flagged off the first consignment of sea buckthorn pulp from Kargil to Delhi, marking a significant step towards promoting local agro-processing, value addition and market opportunities for the region's sea buckthorn produce.

The consignment has been processed by M/s Rabbani Agri Processing Unit (RAPU) and is being sent to Delhi in collaboration with Well With India Pvt. Ltd. The initiative is expected to strengthen the local value chain of sea buck-

thorn and provide enhanced opportunities for farmers and local entrepreneurs.

The programme was attended by Executive Councillors Aga Syed Mujtaba Mussavi, Syed Ali and Altaf Hussain, besides Chief Horticulture Officer Kargil Ali Raza, Co-Founder of RAPU and entrepreneur Mohd Hassan, and other concerned stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhooon appreciated the initiative and said that the establishment of local processing facilities is essential for ensuring greater value addition to

Kargil's agricultural and horticultural produce. He highlighted the considerable potential of sea buckthorn as a commercially viable local resource, particularly in areas of processing, value addition, employment generation and market expansion. He stressed the need to encourage more local entrepreneurs to venture into agro-processing so that locally produced raw material can be processed within Kargil and generate greater economic returns for the people.

The CEC assured the unit of continued support from LAHDC Kargil and announced that the Council would facilitate the provision of an electric transformer for the processing unit. He also assured support for providing suitable tiles capable of withstanding acidic reactions, which would help ensure a durable and appropriate processing environment.

Dr. Jaffer further called upon the concerned departments and local entrepreneurs to work in coordination to strengthen processing, packaging, branding and marketing of local products and establish stronger linkages with markets outside Ladakh.

He said that initiatives such as these can play an important role in creating employment opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing farmers' incomes, while also establishing Kargil's unique products in national markets.

The CEC congratulated M/s Rabbani Agri Processing Unit for its initiative and expressed hope that the first consignment would pave the way for wider market expansion and encourage more such ventures in the agro-processing sector in Kargil.

36 trainees complete basic mountaineering course at Panikhar



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon, attended the graduation ceremony of the Basic Mountaineering Course organised by the Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering (IISM), Gulmarg, at the Adventure Centre, Panikhar, on August 25.

The training programme saw the participation of 36 trainees from different parts of the country, who underwent training in mountaineering, high-altitude trekking and other adventure activities.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon congratulated the trainees on successfully completing the course and expressed hope that the skills and experience gained during the training would prove valuable in their future endeavours.

Highlighting Kargil's immense potential for adventure tourism, the CEC referred to the Suru Valley and other trekking routes and adventure destinations across the district. He said Kargil, with its diverse terrain, high-altitude landscapes and rich cultural heritage, has significant potential to emerge as a leading destination for adventure tourism.

Dr. Jaffer urged the trainees to become ambassadors of Kargil tourism by sharing their experiences of the region with people in their respective states and

across the country. He said their visit would help create greater awareness about Kargil's tourism potential and encourage more visitors to explore the district.

Emphasising the importance of sports and adventure activities, the CEC said participation in such programmes promotes physical fitness, discipline, confidence, resilience and a spirit of exploration, particularly among young people.

He also welcomed the participation of trainees from different parts of the country, describing it as a reflection of India's diversity and the growing interest in Kargil as a destination for adventure and outdoor activities.

The CEC invited the trainees and instructors to attend the Suru Valley Festival, scheduled for August 26-27, and encouraged them to use the opportunity to experience the cultural heritage, traditions and natural beauty of Kargil and Ladakh, along with its trekking and adventure destinations.

Dr. Jaffer Akhooon appreciated Col. Thapa and his team, instructors and all those associated with the programme for their efforts in successfully conducting the training and promoting adventure activities in the region.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, certificates and mementos were presented to the trainees who successfully completed the course.

CEC Kargil resolves long-pending drinking water supply disputes in Sankoo



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SANKOO: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhooon on August 22 resolved long-pending drinking water supply issues of Thasgam village, as well as among Thangdumbur Chumikchan, Khalamarpoo and other adjoining areas of Sankoo.

The CEC was accompanied by Executive Councillor, (PHE and I&FC) LAHDC Kargil, Altaf Hussain; Additional District Development Commissioner Kargil, Ghulam Mohammad; SDM Sankoo Wasim Ramazan Dar; Councillor Thangdumbur, Syed Ahmad; Councillor Lankerchey, Ghulam Haider; and officers of various concerned departments.

A detailed meeting was held at Dak Bungalow, Sankoo, in the presence of residents and public representatives from the concerned areas to deliberate on the drinking water issues and identify practical measures for their early resolution.

During the meeting, residents of Thasgam raised the issues of drinking water shortage being faced by households in the area.

Dr. Jaffer Akhooon emphasized that ensuring access to drinking water for every household is a basic responsibility of the government. He assured the residents that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a fair and transparent manner and that every possible effort would be made to strengthen water supply infrastructure so that no household is deprived of this basic necessity. The CEC announced that financial assistance would be provided from his Constituency Development Fund for the installation of four to five submersible pumps at Thasgam. He directed the Executive Engineer, PHE, to examine the feasibility of the proposed installations and constitute a team under the supervision of the SDM Sankoo to identify suitable locations and finalise them after assessing the necessary technical requirements at the earliest.

Dr. Jaffer Akhooon also directed the Executive Engineer, PHE, to augment

or boost the Service Reservoir (SR) at Thasgam via borewell at the earliest, which would help adequately reduce the water shortage in the SR.

Regarding the drinking water distribution issues in Thangdumbur Chumikchan, Khalamarpoo and adjoining areas, the CEC announced that a new water reservoir would be constructed under JJM Phase-I to strengthen the drinking water infrastructure in the area. The reservoir would facilitate adequate storage, from which three branch and distribution pipelines would be laid to ensure systematic and equitable water supply to all areas of Thangdumbur Chumikchan, Khalamarpoo and adjoining areas.

It was also decided that under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Phase-II, a new water supply scheme would be developed from Karpo Chu, to provide drinking water supply to all areas of Sankoo, thereby addressing the existing shortage of drinking water supply. He further directed the PHE Department to expedite the tendering process for the new Service Reservoir (SR) at the earliest.

Councillor Thangdumbur, Syed Ahmad, appealed to residents to cooperate with the administration and concerned departments to ensure drinking water supply and resolve local issues through mutual understanding and coordination.

Dr. Jaffer Akhooon thanked the residents, public representatives and officers of all concerned departments for their cooperation and constructive participation in the deliberations. He said that issues related to essential public services can be resolved effectively through dialogue, coordination and collective responsibility.

The CEC reiterated that drinking water is a fundamental public necessity and assured that LAHDC Kargil would continue working to strengthen water supply infrastructure and ensure equitable access to safe drinking water for all.

The meeting was attended by Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Altaf Hussain; Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghulam Mohammad; Councillor Thangdumbur, Syed Ahmad; Councillor Lankerchey, Ghulam Mohammad; SDM Sankoo Wasim Ramazan Dar; Councillor Thangdumbur Syed Ahmad, Councillor Lankerchey Ghulam Haider; Executive Engineers of PHE, I&FC and Mechanical Divisions, Kargil; officers of SVD Sankoo; BDO Sankoo; concerned Junior Engineers; and other officials.

Fortnightly News

Chief Secretary reviews measure to strengthen Ladakh’s Pashmina value chain

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, on August 21 chaired a review meeting on the development and promotion of Ladakh’s pashmina sector, with detailed deliberations on strengthening the entire value chain, from pastureland development and raw material availability to spinning, weaving, processing, GI tagging, branding, market access and support to local entrepreneurs.

The meeting brought together representatives from the Cooperative Department, Sheep Husbandry Department, SKUAST, Industries Department, SIDCO, entrepreneurs, weavers and other concerned stakeholders to assess the existing challenges and explore measures for strengthening the sector in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

At the outset, the Secretary, Cooperative Department, gave an overview of the agenda and ongoing initiatives related to pashmina development. A detailed presentation covered pastureland development, raw material collection and timely payments, marketing and branding, GI tagging and packaging.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the status of raw material procurement and payment mechanisms and stressed the need for clear timelines and timely settlement of payments.

He also discussed upcoming opportunities for promoting Ladakh pashmina in national markets, including participation in proposed events and exhibitions in Delhi, fashion and designer showcases, and dedicated stalls for Ladakh-based entrepreneurs. He emphasised that such platforms should be utilised not only for sales but also for market exposure, networking and establishing long-term business linkages.

Reviewing GI tagging, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to take up the process entrepreneur-wise and ensure close coordination with primary societies and other stakeholders. He directed that an awareness-cum-training camp for entrepreneurs be organised at the earliest, with necessary information shared in advance so that participants are adequately prepared.

The meeting also held extensive discussions on pastureland development and measures to strengthen fodder availability for nomadic communities.

Representatives from SKUAST shared technical suggestions and ongoing work relating to pastureland improvement,



winter fodder management and preservation of traditional knowledge. The Chief Secretary stressed the need for a scientific and integrated approach to pasture development, particularly in areas where fixed pasture development may not be feasible due to the traditional migratory practices of nomadic communities.

He directed the concerned departments to explore convergence with the Irrigation and other relevant departments for developing suitable integrated pasture and fodder management projects.

The meeting discussed identification of suitable areas for pasture development, strengthening of natural grazing areas, rock fencing, winter fodder augmentation and establishment of fodder banks using locally suitable grasses and crops.

The possibility of promoting supplementary fodder programmes using barley, wheat and other locally available resources was also discussed to reduce dependence on outside supplies during winter.

The Chief Secretary sought detailed inputs from pashmina entrepreneurs and weavers on the constraints affecting production, spinning and weaving capacity. Entrepreneurs highlighted issues relating to the high cost of raw material, expensive spinning processes, working capital requirements and limited access to modern equipment and training.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to identify weavers and spinning units requiring support and explore deployment of suitable spinning equipment along with technical training. He stressed the need to examine both traditional hand-spun yarn and

machine-spun yarn models, with emphasis on improving consistency, quality and production capacity while preserving the traditional character of Ladakh pashmina.

He further encouraged entrepreneurs to broaden their market outlook, learn from successful practices in other parts of the country and explore contemporary designs and new product lines without compromising the distinctive identity of Ladakh pashmina. He suggested greater collaboration with designers, fashion professionals and established markets to develop contemporary products with a strong value proposition.

The Chief Secretary also encouraged local entrepreneurs to participate in initiatives such as Brand Ladakh and explore opportunities for showcasing their products through national-level platforms, including proposed showrooms and exhibitions in Delhi. He called for greater exposure visits and structured interaction with designers and industry experts to understand contemporary design, product development, branding and marketing practices.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Cooperative Department, Bhanu Prabha; Secretary, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, P.T. Rudra Goud; Consultant-cum-OSD, Special Projects, Moses Kunzang; Director Industries; Additional Secretary, Cooperative Department, Dr Mohammad Usman Khan; Managing Director, SIDCO, Sonam Norboo; Director Sheep Husbandry, Dr Iftikhar; Assistant Director, Sheep and Animal Husbandry; officials of the Industries Department; pashmina entrepreneurs and other senior officers and stakeholders concerned.

L-G VK Saxena inaugurates 2nd Suru Summer festival virtually

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena virtually inaugurated the 2nd Suru Summer Festival 2026, being organised at Damsna in the picturesque Suru Valley on August 26-27 to showcase the region’s rich cultural heritage, spectacular landscapes, adventure potential and unique way of life.

Suru Summer Festival has been included among the nine UT-level festivals under the ‘Celebrate Ladakh’ calendar, reinforcing the Administration’s vision of promoting Ladakh as a year-round tourism destination.

Highlighting the immense tourism potential of Suru Valley, L-G Saxena said the valley offers a unique combination of dramatic Himalayan landscapes, lush green valleys, rivers, culture and adventure, and has the potential to emerge as one of India’s leading mountain tourism destinations. He noted that Suru has already received national and international attention, including recognition by National Geographic among its 25 Best Destinations to Visit in 2025.

The iconic Nun-Kun massif, with Nun Peak rising to approximately 7,135 metres and Kun Peak to around 7,077 metres, along with the valley’s mountaineering and expedition potential, the Lieutenant Governor said, provides a strong foundation for positioning Suru as a premier destination for high-altitude adventure tourism.

L-G Saxena emphasised that the Suru Festival should evolve beyond a two-day celebration into a signature tourism platform that takes Suru



to the world, celebrates its mountains, culture and people, and creates sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. He highlighted the potential for river rafting, paragliding, cycling, trekking, fishing, nature walks and other adventure activities, which can create opportunities for local youth as guides, instructors, operators and entrepreneurs. He stressed that such activities should be developed beyond the festival period to make Suru an all-season experiential destination, while maintaining safety, professional standards and responsible tourism practices.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the importance of showcasing Suru’s traditional way of life. Its farmlands, local produce, livestock, handicrafts, cuisine and village life, he said, can provide visitors with authentic local experiences.

Making a special appeal to the youth and entrepreneurs of Suru, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to become active partners

in building the valley as a distinctive tourism destination. He said that while the Government can provide infrastructure, connectivity, promotion and policy support, a tourism destination is ultimately built by its people, entrepreneurs and local communities.

He called upon the people of Suru to focus on quality, cleanliness, hospitality and authentic experiences, noting that every visitor who leaves the valley with a memorable experience becomes an ambassador for Suru.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated LAHDC Kargil, the District Administration, Tourism Department, participating departments and, most importantly, the people of Suru for organising the festival. He expressed confidence that collective efforts would help establish the Suru Summer Festival as a major event on the national tourism calendar and position Suru not merely as a place to visit, but as a destination to experience, appreciate and remember.

Chief Secretary reviews amendments to startup policy Ladakh, stresses effective implementation



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, on August 19 chaired a review meeting on the Startup ecosystem in Ladakh, focusing on proposed amendments to the financial incentives and implementation framework aimed at strengthening the startup ecosystem and providing structured support to entrepreneurs across the Union Territory.

Officials from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), associated with the implementation of Startup Policy Ladakh, made a detailed presentation on the changes proposed in the financial incentive and support framework. The revised framework is based on the premise that a uniform support mechanism may not adequately address the needs of enterprises at different stages of development.

The proposed framework provides for a structured, four-level enterprise support mechanism covering different stages of the startup journey, along with dedicated financial support windows for ideation, seed funding and founder support. It also includes eligibility and entry provisions extending beyond conventional startup categories, a common scorecard-based assessment mechanism with progressively higher benchmarks, a streamlined process for different financial instruments, and safeguards to ensure responsible utilisation of public funds. Reviewing the proposed provisions, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to make the policy simple, accessible and outcome-oriented, particularly for young entrepreneurs and early-stage enterprises in Ladakh. He suggested examining the possibility of rationalising the four-level framework into

three stages by appropriately merging the growth and scale categories, while retaining adequate support for ideation and early-stage enterprises.

The Chief Secretary emphasised the need to strengthen support during the initial stages of enterprise development, particularly for ideation, prototype development and early-stage startups. He also stressed the importance of providing appropriate founder support and ensuring that eligible startups have access to patent-related assistance, including support for domestic and international patents, as applicable under the revised policy.

Discussing eligibility and assessment, Kundra called for a transparent and inclusive mechanism for startups registered under the recognised Startup India framework. He also emphasised the need for an effective screening and appraisal mechanism involving appropriate district-level structures so that deserving entrepreneurs can access support without unnecessary procedural delays.

The meeting also discussed the development of a user-friendly digital platform through which startups can register, submit applications, access information on available schemes and track the status of their applications. The Chief Secretary stressed the need to integrate registration, appraisal and disbursement processes through a streamlined digital mechanism.

The proposed linkage of the startup support framework with J&K Bank’s interest-subvention and lending mechanisms was also reviewed. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officials to clearly work out the operational framework for the loan component, fund management and submission

of interest-subvention claims. He stressed the need to promote responsible access to credit for young entrepreneurs and explore convergence with existing initiatives such as Mission YUVA, wherever feasible.

The Chief Secretary further emphasised the need to establish a single-window mechanism for startup-related clearances, including those involving SIDCO, pollution control and other regulatory agencies, to simplify the process of setting up and operating enterprises in Ladakh. He directed the concerned officials to examine successful models adopted by other States and Union Territories and assess their suitability for Ladakh.

The institutional framework for incubation and entrepreneurship support was also discussed. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments and the implementing agency to further refine the implementation mechanism in accordance with the revised policy provisions and ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders.

He stressed that the Startup Policy should provide a clear and accessible pathway for entrepreneurs, from ideation and product development to enterprise growth and scaling, while creating sustainable opportunities for the youth of Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Industries Himanshu Gupta; Secretary Finance Tsewang Tharchin; OSD, Special Projects, Moses Kunzang; Joint Director, Planning, Tsewang Gyalson; Director, Industries, Ladakh; and other senior officers from the concerned departments.

BEFORE THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE::
BOMDILA: WEST KAMENG DISTRICT: ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Maintenance Case No. 01/2026

Smti.Sang Nima – Applicant

-V/S-

Shri. Rinchen Namgyal - Opposite party

To,

Shri. Rinchen Namgyal
S/O. Late Tsechu
R/O. C/O-2 Vikas, Ladhak
Army No. 00073129W
C/O. 56 APC

WHEREAS, the above said Maintenance Application has filed against you on the ground of non payment of maintenance amount to your wife (petitioner) thereby claiming maintenance amount of Rs. 25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand) only from you as per provision of Law.

You are therefore, directed to appear personally or through a pleader in my court on 08/09/2026. at 10.30 hrs to answer all the material facts and to file written statements of defense, if any on the date and time indicated herein above.

Take notice on the default from your part, the matter shall precede ex-parte.

Here in fall not.

Given under my hands and seal of this court on this day of August.....2026 at Bomdila.

By order

Chief Judicial Magistrate
Bomdila
West Kameng Distt. (A.P.)

NOTICE

UID No 11211135 Rank ASI/GD Stanzin Thinless Unit 18 BN SSB Raj Nagar Bihar has claimed that his son namely Stanzin Thinless has been wrongly entered as Stanzin Thinles instead of correct spelling Stanzin Thinless in the service document of, Unit18 BN SSB Raj Nagar Bihar and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA11838802010577Y to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office Unit18 BN SSB Raj Nagar Bihar within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

Whereas, Khatija Bano, D/o Mohd Hanifa, R/o Chuchot Yokma, Leh, UT Ladakh, hereby notifies that her father's name has been wrongly recorded as “Mohd Hanif” instead of the correct and actual name “Mohd Hanifa” in her ST Certificate issued by the Tehsil Office, Leh, UT Ladakh, bearing Registration No. 989-90/ST-Leh/2016, dated 01-09-2016.

She further states that she has lost her original ST Certificate and is applying for a duplicate Scheduled Tribe Certificate with correction of her father's name in lieu of the lost certificate. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any to Tehsil Office, Leh UT Ladakh within 7 days from date of publication.

NOTICE

I, Tsewang Lodan S/o Tsering Wangdus R/o Nubra Yarma, UT Ladakh A/P Solar Colony Choglamsar lost my Painting Eighth Year Second Semester Marks Sheet duly issued by Central Institute of Buddhist Studies , Choglamsar, Leh UT Ladakh under Roll no. 25031with Enrolment no. CIBS1810685. Now I have to apply for issuance of duplicate Marks sheet. Objection if any may be sent to the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Choglamsar, Leh UT Ladakh within 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

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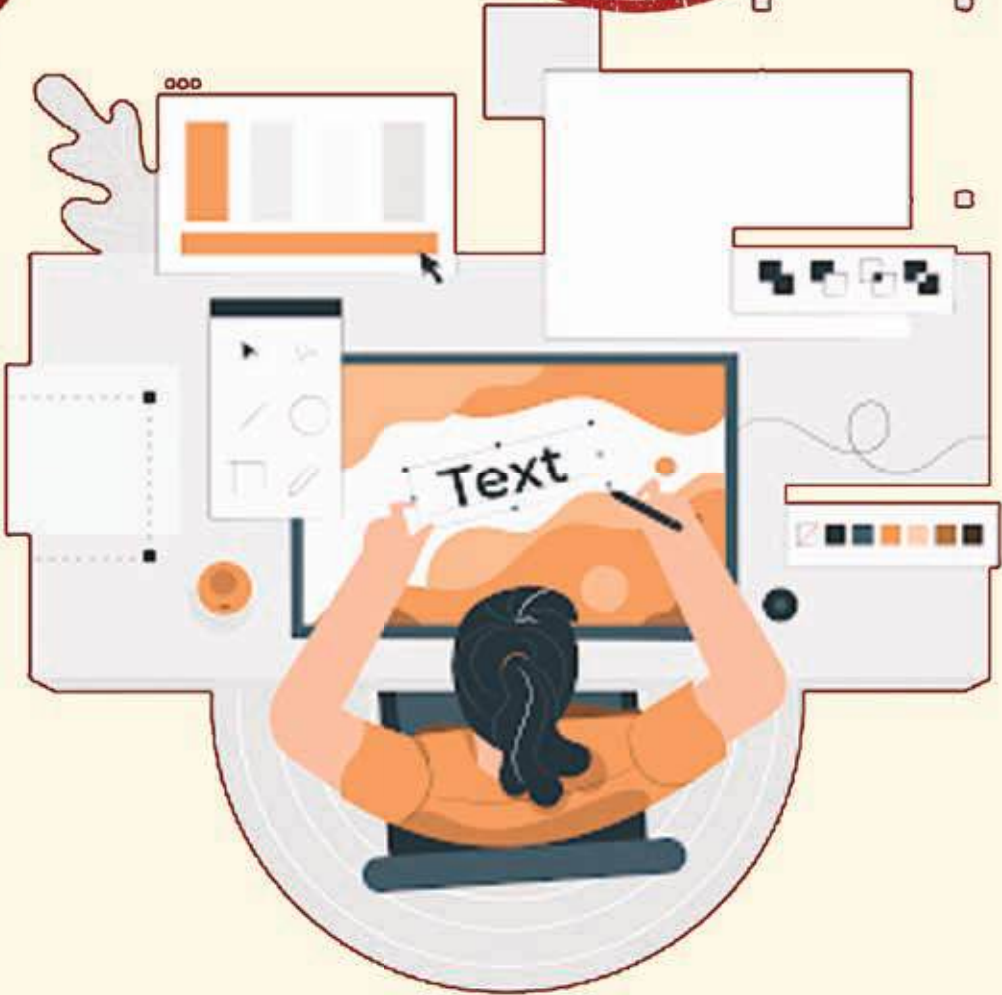


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