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NOVEMBER 01-15, 2026

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with
Mohd Mustafa Kamal,
National Teachers Awardee

In Focus:
Nautor Land: History and Perspective

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Women stand firm on Dry Ladakh demand, suspend protest for a week

Submit nine recommendations as an interim arrangement; warn of resuming protest if demands remain unaddressed

Sonam Angmo

LEH: After eight days of continuous agitation demanding a complete ban on liquor in Ladakh, women representing various religious organisations on October 29 temporarily suspended their protest for a week, giving the UT Administration time to consider their demands. The decision followed the submission of nine recommendations to the Administration as an alternative to the existing excise policy. The women, however, made it clear that the suspension was temporary and that their ultimate demand for declaring Ladakh a completely dry Union Territory remained unchanged.

Among their key recommendations are strict enforcement of distance norms for liquor outlets near educational and religious institutions, annual auctions of bar licences, lottery-based allocation of wine shop licences and restricting wine shop operating hours to 10 am to 5 pm. They have also called for mandatory stakeholder consultations before future policy amendments, transparent licensing procedures, local participation, regulation of liquor prices and non-renewal of existing bar licences after their current tenure.

As an interim arrangement, the organisations proposed limiting liquor shops to one per district, with two in Leh, and restricting the total number of bars to eight across Ladakh. The proposed distribution includes three bars in Leh and one each in Nubra, Changthang, Durbuk, Khaltsi and Padum.

In a written response dated October 29, the Home Department acknowledged the concerns and stated that the recommendations would be examined for possible implementation under the applicable rules and procedures. Further communication, it said, would follow the necessary examination and consultation.

The protesting representatives said existing



bars could continue operating until their current licences expired but should not be allowed to renew them. They warned that failure to receive a satisfactory response within a week would prompt them to resume the agitation and extend their awareness campaign to villages and districts across Ladakh.

The protest, launched on October 22 by the women's wings of various religious organisations, has drawn participation from women across different sections of society. The demonstrators have expressed concern over the impact of alcohol on families, children and the younger generation, maintaining that increasing liquor availability could adversely affect Ladakh's social fabric.

Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) President Kunzes Dolma questioned why Ladakh could not adopt prohibition policies similar to those in Bihar and Gujarat, given its relatively small population. She said the movement was being led by mothers who had witnessed the consequences of alcohol consumption on families, particularly the difficulties faced by wives, mothers and children.

Administration cites concerns over prohibition

Earlier, on October 27, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra held a meeting with women representatives of various religious organisations, including the LBA, to discuss the excise policy and their demand for complete prohibition.

During the meeting, the Administration informed the representatives that the Excise Policy 2026–27, notified on June 1, had been rolled back on August 26 following public objections and feedback from social organisations. The earlier Excise Policy 2025–26 was restored and remains in force.

The meeting was also informed that the number of functional retail liquor shops had reduced from two to one. However, the number of functional bars attached to restaurants offering retail liquor sales had increased from 23 to 40 following the issuance of 17 additional licences.

Acknowledging the concerns, the Chief Secretary said the demand for declaring Ladakh a completely dry Union Territory required careful consideration and consultation with all stakeholders.

Citing the experiences of other states, including Bihar and Haryana, he cautioned that complete prohibition could have unintended consequences, including the circulation of spurious liquor and the spread of drug abuse. He also pointed to its possible implications for employment, tourism and economic activity, noting that tourism remains a major source of livelihood in Ladakh.

He suggested wider consultations involving religious organisations, hotel associations, tour and travel operators and other stakeholders to build consensus and explore a possible middle-ground solution.

Reiterating their position, Kunzes Dolma said the women were determined to continue their movement until Ladakh was declared a dry Union Territory, even if achieving the demand took time.

Administration rejects Wangchuk's claims

Separately, on October 27, the UT Administration issued a statement rejecting allegations made by Sonam Wangchuk during a press conference at Ladakh Bhavan in New Delhi on October 22. Wangchuk had alleged that liquor shops and bars were being opened across Ladakh despite repeated public objections.

Describing the allegations as "false", "baseless" and "misleading", the Administration clarified that the new Excise Policy 2026–27, notified through S.O. 198 on June 1, was rolled back on August 26. The proposal to open wine shops under the policy was withdrawn and the related auction notice cancelled.

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Police Commemoration day observed with tributes to martyrs in Leh



Sonam Angmo

LEH: Ladakh Police observed Police Commemoration Day at the District Police Lines, Leh, on October 21, paying tribute to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty while safeguarding the nation.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena led the commemoration, while Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra, Director General of Police Anand Jain and senior police officers laid wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial and paid homage to the fallen personnel. A ceremonial salute was also presented during the observance.

Addressing the gathering, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said October 21 was not merely a date on the calendar but an occasion to remember the unwavering courage, dedication and supreme sacrifice of police personnel who laid down their lives to protect the nation's security and prosperity.

A police official highlighted the historical significance of the day, recalling the sacrifice of police personnel at Hot Springs in Ladakh. He said it was a matter of honour for the region to commemorate a day associated with this historic sacrifice.

The official also emphasised that the families of martyrs remain an integral part of the police family. He said the department maintains regular contact with them, enquires about their well-being and ensures that they receive the benefits and assistance available under various welfare schemes.

The observance reaffirmed the department's commitment to honouring the courage and dedication of police personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the nation and supporting their families.

On October 21, 1959, a group of Indian police personnel was attacked by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh. Ten policemen were martyred in the unequal confrontation, while seven were taken prisoner.

On November 28, 1959, Chinese troops handed over the bodies of the martyred personnel, which were cremated with full honours at Hot Springs.

Subsequently, the Annual Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States and Union Territories, held in January 1960, decided that October 21 would henceforth be observed as Police Commemoration Day, also known as Martyrs' Day.

CJI inaugurates Ladakh Bench of High Court at Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a historic milestone for the administration of justice in the Union Territory of Ladakh, Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant inaugurated the newly established Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Melongthang, Leh, on October 18.

The establishment of the Bench marks a significant step towards bringing justice closer to the people of Ladakh, particularly those residing in remote and far-flung areas, by reducing the time, expense and hardships involved in travelling to Srinagar or Jammu for judicial proceedings.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Justice M. M. Sundresh, Justice P. S. Narasimha and Justice Arun Palli, Judges of the Supreme Court of India; R. Venkataramani, Attorney General of India; Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh; Dr Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judges of the High Court; and Ashish Kumar Kundra, Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh.

The occasion was also attended by Justice Tashi Rabstan, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; other High Court judges and their spouses; the Director General of Police; the Law Secretary; Administrative Secretaries; and senior officers of the Army, civil administration, police and other departments of Ladakh. Officers of the High Court Registry, led by Registrar General M. K. Sharma, Additional and Deputy Solicitors General of India, and presidents of the Bar Associations of Leh and Kargil were also present.

The Chief Justice of India was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour before unveiling the inauguration plaque. The ceremony was followed by a group photograph and a guided tour of the court complex.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, said that access to justice had been the guiding principle behind the establishment of the Ladakh Bench. He observed that establishing a constitutional court in one of the world's highest-altitude regions was a historic step towards ensuring easier access to justice, particularly for people living in geographically challenging areas.

The Chief Justice of India also virtually inaugurated the Green Wall initiative, symbolising the judiciary's commitment to environmental conservation. The initiative was marked by the presentation of planters to dignitaries and the screening of a short video.

In his special address, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena described the establishment of the Ladakh Bench as a historic milestone in strengthening access to justice in the region. He also highlighted the importance of the Green Wall initiative in promoting environmental conservation and ecological sustainability in Ladakh.

Justice M. M. Sundresh, Justice P. S. Narasimha and Justice Arun Palli of the Supreme Court, along with Attorney General R. Venkataramani, also addressed the gathering.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the launch of four initiatives by the Chief Justice of India, including the Green Wall, the e-Filing Portal, the Document Management System (DMS) for the Ladakh Bench and the High Court's Online Recruitment Portal.

The e-Filing Portal will enable advocates and litigants, particularly those from remote areas, to file cases electronically, reducing the need to travel to the court. The DMS will facilitate the digital management of judicial records, while the Online Recruitment Portal aims to streamline recruitment in the

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Correction and clarification

It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition, date, news item or the article.

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Fortnightly News

CJI inaugurates Ladakh Bench of High Court at Leh

...Continuity of page 1

High Court and District Judiciary, enhancing transparency and efficiency.

The Ladakh Bench will function as a fully IT-enabled, paperless court equipped with modern digital infrastructure. The court complex also houses a dedicated Digitisation Centre, Filing Counter, Bar Room, Litigants' Sitting Area, Conference Room and Video Conferencing Room to support efficient, technology-enabled judicial proceedings.

The Chief Justice of India also initiated work for installing solar power systems at 11 locations, reinforcing the judiciary's commitment to renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure.

Emphasising the role of technology and legal aid in improving access to justice, the Chief Justice of India appreciated the digital initiatives introduced to address the geographical challenges faced by the people of Ladakh.

The inauguration of the Ladakh Bench, along with the launch of digital services and sustainable infrastructure initiatives, marks a new chapter in the region's judicial history. The initiatives aim to make justice more accessible and efficient while ensuring that geographical distances and difficult terrain do not become barriers to legal remedies.

Women stand firm on Dry Ladakh demand, suspend protest for a week

...Continuity of page 1

The earlier Excise Policy 2025–26, notified through S.O. 35 on April 4, 2025, was restored through S.O. 256 on August 26.

According to the Administration, the restored policy permitted two liquor shops in Leh, in Ward No. 4 and Ward No. 6. Following an auction on October 14, one shop in Ward No. 6 became operational, while no bid was received for Ward No. 4. It maintained that only one liquor shop was operational across Ladakh.

On bars, the Administration's latest clarification reported 50 establishments offering retail liquor sales through restaurants across Ladakh, including 38 in Leh, seven in Nubra, three in Zanskar and two in Changthang. In addition, two beer bars were operational in Leh.

The Administration further stated that nine hotels in Leh held liquor licences, including four issued this year, while one hotel in Nubra had also obtained a licence this year. It maintained that licences were issued to eligible applicants in accordance with prescribed rules, including distance requirements from highways, religious places and educational institutions.

The women representatives said they had decided to suspend the protest following discussions with local officials and receipt of the written response from the Administration. They said the government had been given one week to address their concerns, while maintaining that the demand for a dry Ladakh remained non-negotiable.

L-G VK Saxena launches 'Ladakh Sanjeevani Seva'; flags off 73 ambulances to serve all 248 villages across all seven districts



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena launched 'Ladakh Sanjeevani Seva', a dedicated 24x7 ambulance service, catering to all 248 villages across all seven districts of Ladakh. Residents can access the service through the emergency helpline 108.

With a fleet of 73 ambulances with trained drivers, the service is designed to respond promptly to medical emergencies in every situation – whether a road accident, a tourist's medical need, any high-altitude emergency, or any expecting mother requiring transportation to the hospital.

Under the service, every village has been mapped to a designated ambulance and driver, with each ambulance linked to its nearest health centre. The ambulances are located, on average, approximately 13 kilometres from the villages they serve.

The objective is to ensure that anyone facing a medical emergency in any remote part of Ladakh receives immediate assistance at their doorstep and is able to reach a healthcare facility in time.

Taking a step further towards maternal healthcare, the health workers have gone from village to village to collect information about expecting mothers. Their expected delivery date has been recorded, and each woman has been linked to the ambulance and driver assigned to the village nearest to her.

More than 1,100 pregnant women across Ladakh have already been included in the centralised database. This advance planning will help health workers know when a woman's expected delivery date is approaching, where she lives, and which ambulance is available to transport her to the hospital. The system is intended to facilitate timely arrangements and reduce the risk of delays, particularly in remote settlements and during harsh winter conditions, when arranging transport at short notice can be especially difficult.

Describing the launch of "Sanjeevni Sewa" as a significant milestone and a new lifeline for the people of Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor said it is the Administration's commitment that no citizen will be left alone in a difficult situation or during a medical emergency.

Addressing the launch, the Lieutenant Governor said, "A health system is judged not merely by its buildings, but by how quickly it reaches a mother in labour, an accident victim or a critically ill patient in a remote village. Through Ladakh Sanjeevani Seva, we are ensuring that medical assistance reaches people when they need it most. Special attention is being given to pregnant women and critically ill patients. Our aim is simple – no person in Ladakh should be denied timely medical care because of distance or the inability to find transport."

The district-wise deployment of the 73 ambulances is as follows: Leh – 18; Kargil – 17; Changthang – 12; Sham – 9; Nubra – 9; Zanskar – 4; and Drass – 4.

The ambulance service will also support patients suffering from cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, stroke and serious lung diseases. Many of these patients require repeated hospital visits for treatment, and arranging transport can place considerable physical, emotional and financial pressure on them and their families.

Chief Secretary reviews preparations for Panchayat Elections 2026 in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra on October 28 chaired a meeting to review preparations for the forthcoming Panchayat Elections 2026 in Ladakh, in the presence of officials of the State Election Commission, Chief Electoral Officer, Ladakh, Director General of Police, Ladakh, Secretary, Secretary Rural Development Department, and all Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the districts.

The meeting reviewed election preparedness, operational arrangements and logistical requirements, with emphasis on meticulous planning, inter-departmental coordination and timely completion of all necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth, secure and orderly conduct of the electoral process.

At the outset, Secretary, Rural Development Department, Nidhi Malik, made a detailed presentation on the overall preparedness for the Panchayat Elections 2026, covering the number of blocks, Sarpanch and Panch constituencies, polling locations, Returning Officers (ROs), election schedule, logistical requirements and deployment of personnel.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the preparedness of the concerned departments at each stage of the election process, including nomination procedures, availability of election materials and ballot boxes, appointment and training of polling personnel, and preparation of polling-party deployment schedules. He stressed the need for daily monitoring of nominations and complaints, timely submission of election-related reports, and regular coordination with the concerned election authorities. He also directed the officers to ensure that all prescribed election materials and polling kits are arranged and dispatched well in advance.

The meeting also discussed the identification and security of strong rooms and counting centres at district and block levels. The Chief Secretary emphasised the need for secure storage of election materials, adequate security arrangements in coordination with the Police Department, and proper planning for the movement and deployment of polling parties. He called for clear and standardised procedures for transportation, route planning, zonal arrangements and reporting to ensure uniformity across districts.

Taking stock of logistical challenges, particularly in remote and snow-bound areas, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to identify polling locations that may face accessibility issues and prepare appropriate contingency plans. These plans should account for road and weather conditions, snow clearance, alternative routes, advance movement of polling parties wherever necessary, and adequate arrangements for food, heating, accommodation and communication. He also underscored the need to assess transport requirements in advance to ensure that polling personnel reach their designated locations safely and on schedule.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed arrangements relating to manpower rationalisation, deployment of teachers and other government personnel on election duty, training schedules, polling-party dispatch, law-and-order preparedness, excise arrangements and coordination at border posts. He called for a coordinated, district-wise assessment of expenditure, logistical requirements and operational preparedness, along with timely finalisation of movement plans and reporting formats. The concerned officers were directed to maintain regular communication with the Secretariat and submit daily updates on nominations and other key election-related developments.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Police, Ladakh, Anand Jain; Secretary, Rural Development Department, Nidhi Malik; Secretary, Finance, Tsewang Tharchin; Chief Electoral Officer, Ladakh, Rahul Sharma; Secretary, General Administration Department, Rudra P. T. Goud; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Romil Singh Donk; and other senior officers and officials concerned with election preparedness.

Ladakh Pashmina Conclave focuses on quality, sustainability and global branding

Experts discuss grassland restoration, scientific certification, GI traceability and global market opportunities to strengthen livelihoods of pastoralists and artisans



Photo Caption: Participants during the second day of the Ladakh Pashmina Conclave 2026.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The second day of the Ladakh Pashmina Conclave 2026 continued at Ladakh Sarai Resort, Ayu, Saboo, on October 24, bringing together experts, scientists, researchers, industry representatives and local entrepreneurs to discuss ways to strengthen the Pashmina value chain through sustainable production, scientific authentication, modern processing and global branding.

The technical sessions focused on improving Pashmina fibre yield while preserving its quality, restoring high-altitude grasslands, exploring the potential of yak and sheep wool, strengthening certification systems and expanding market opportunities for Ladakh's traditional fibre and handicraft sector.

The session on "Goat Production, Grassland Restoration and Fibre Yield" featured presentations by Dr Feroz Din Sheikh, Professor of Animal Genetics and Breeding at HAL.RI, University of Ladakh, Stakna Campus; Dr Khursheed Ahmad Dar of SKUAST; Dr Ronnie Lamb, who joined online; and Dr Rashmi Singh, who spoke on the International Year of Rangelands. The discussions highlighted sustainable livestock management, grassland conservation and scientific approaches to improving fibre productivity.
A separate session on "Yak and Sheep Wool: Fibre and Livelihoods" explored the characteristics and applications of these fibres, along with opportunities to strengthen sustainable livelihoods among pastoral communities.

Deliberations on spinning, weaving, testing and certification highlighted the role of modern technologies and scientific advancements in improving the quality and value of Ladakh Pashmina. R. Naresh, Founder and Managing Director of Shuttles & Needles Pvt. Ltd. and distributor of Ashford India, shared insights into modern tools and techniques for value addition.

Experts from CSIR–Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and the Pashmina Certification Centre discussed scientific authentication, quality assurance, the evolution of certification systems and the importance of protecting Pashmina's identity in domestic and international markets.

The session on "Cooperatives, Proof of Origin and Geographical Indication (GI)" brought together local entrepreneurs and experts to discuss traceability, certification and the role of cooperatives in safeguarding the identity of authentic Ladakh Pashmina. Discussions also covered the 'Pashmina Mark' initiative of the Textiles Committee and the Central Wool Development Board, GI implementation and lessons from the branding of Kashmir Pashmina.

The deliberations emphasised the need to strengthen producer collectives, establish credible proof-of-origin mechanisms and ensure that the benefits of authentic Pashmina reach Changpa pastoralists, artisans and other stakeholders who sustain the traditional craft.

The afternoon session on "Branding, Packaging and Marketing" focused on strategies to position Ladakh Pashmina as a distinctive premium product. Karun Ahuja, Director of Ahujusons, was scheduled to speak on developing an umbrella brand for Ladakh Pashmina, while Prithvi Ranjan and Pragya Dubey of the National Institute of Design (NID) were scheduled to share perspectives on branding, packaging and storytelling. Ahmad Naqush was also scheduled to discuss the legacy of Pashmina and its contemporary market potential.

The conclave continues to provide a platform for collaboration among government departments, scientific institutions, industry experts, cooperatives and entrepreneurs. The discussions aim to integrate sustainable pastoralism, scientific research, quality assurance, GI protection, value addition and market development to strengthen the livelihoods of Ladakh's Pashmina-producing communities and enhance the global recognition of Ladakh Pashmina.

Centre approves operationalisation of Ladakh's first Medical College in Leh from 2027–28

L-G VK Saxena's intervention paves the way for phased recruitment to 103 sanctioned posts



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, has approved the operationalisation of Ladakh's first Government Medical College in Leh from the academic year 2027–28, following the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The approval paves the way for phased recruitment against 103 sanctioned regular posts, in accordance with academic requirements. It marks a significant step towards fulfilling the long-standing aspiration of the people of Ladakh to access quality medical education within the Union Territory.

The Government Medical College in Leh is expected to expand opportunities for local students aspiring to pursue medical education, strengthen clinical training facilities and contribute to the long-term development of healthcare services in Ladakh.

On July 13, 2026, the Lieutenant Governor wrote to Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J. P. Nadda, seeking a one-time relaxation from the requirement that nearly 80 per cent of the college's infrastructure be completed before recruitment of faculty and support staff could begin. The request aimed to enable preparatory recruitment to commence in time for the proposed start of academic activities while construction of the dedicated infrastructure continues.
Taking note of the request and the urgency involved, the Ministry agreed to the proposal, stating that recruitment against the 103 posts would be undertaken in a staggered manner from the academic year 2027–28 onwards, based on the academic requirements identified by the UT Administration.

The UT Administration will ensure that the posts are filled on a regular basis in accordance with the approved Recruitment Rules. The college will shift to its dedicated infrastructure once the proposed facilities are completed.

L-G Saxena thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda for their support, describing the approval as an important milestone for Ladakh and a step towards fulfilling the region's long-standing aspirations.

"I am grateful to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda for their continued support towards strengthening healthcare and medical education in Ladakh. This approval will enable us to begin the process of building the required academic team in a phased manner, in line with academic needs. Our objective is to provide the youth of Ladakh greater access to quality medical education while strengthening the region's healthcare system. We will work to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made for the commencement of the Medical College in the academic year 2027–28," Saxena said.

As an interim arrangement, two newly constructed buildings have been identified to serve as the Academic Block and Students' Hostel. The existing 200-bedded Sonam Norboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital, supported by around 60 experienced doctors, is expected to provide the clinical training required for the first batch of MBBS students.

These interim facilities will be used until the dedicated infrastructure is completed, in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Department of Expenditure.

Fortnightly News

IIM Jammu opens Leh campus, launches BBA (Hons.) programme



Photo Caption: During the launch of BBA (Hons.) programme at IIM Jammu Leh campus.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Department of Higher Education, Union Territory of Ladakh, has marked a significant milestone in expanding access to quality higher education with the commencement of the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA Honours) programme at the Leh campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. The inaugural batch began its academic journey with an orientation ceremony on October 26, opening new opportunities for students in Ladakh to pursue professional management education closer to home.

The initiative reflects the UT Administration's efforts, under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, to strengthen the higher education ecosystem, widen educational opportunities and equip local youth with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to Ladakh's socio-economic development.

With the support of Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, the Department of Higher Education is working to expand access to quality academic programmes, strengthen institutional collaborations and align higher education with emerging professional opportunities.

Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Secretary, Higher Education, UT Ladakh, highlighted the importance of bringing reputed institutions and specialised academic programmes within the reach of students in the Union Territory. She said the BBA (Hons.) programme would provide young people with opportunities to gain management knowledge, develop professional competencies and prepare for future leadership roles.

She emphasised that strengthening higher education in Ladakh requires sustained institutional collaboration, a focus on academic quality and opportunities that enable local talent to realise its full potential. She also expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his guidance and support in advancing educational initiatives in the region.

The Department views the programme as part of broader efforts to diversify educational opportunities in Ladakh and connect students with emerging fields such as entrepreneurship, business management, innovation and institutional leadership. Access to specialised management education is expected to help students explore new career pathways while encouraging enterprise development and the application of professional knowledge to local needs.

The orientation programme was presided over by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. Anand Jain, IPS, Director General of Police, UT Ladakh, attended as Guest of Honour, alongside Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, and Rajeev Rattan Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of Sindhu Central University, among other senior academic representatives and officials.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. B. S. Sahay acknowledged the guidance of the Lieutenant Governor and the support of Bhanu Prabha in advancing educational opportunities in Ladakh. He reiterated IIM Jammu's commitment to providing quality management education, nurturing entrepreneurship and preparing socially responsible future leaders.

The programme also highlighted the importance of innovation, interdisciplinary learning, ethical leadership and continuous learning in preparing students for an evolving professional landscape.

The inaugural batch comprises 53 students from 14 States and Union Territories, reflecting the programme's geographical reach and positioning Leh as an emerging destination for quality higher education.

The Department of Higher Education, UT Ladakh, reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating academic collaborations and expanding access to quality higher education, enabling students to pursue their aspirations and contribute to the development of the Union Territory and the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The commencement of the BBA (Hons.) programme at IIM Jammu's Leh campus marks an important step towards bringing specialised management education closer to the youth of Ladakh and broadening the region's educational opportunities.

Ladakh's textile heritage takes centre stage at Lakmé Fashion week



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Ladakh showcased its rich textile heritage and contemporary creative identity at Lakmé Fashion Week x Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) 2026 through a distinctive presentation titled "The Fifth Season: A Fashion Story from Ladakh." Held on October 18, the concluding day of the fashion week at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, the showcase celebrated Ladakh's renowned Pashmina, indigenous textiles and traditional craftsmanship, with a special focus on the artisans and pastoral communities of Changthang who sustain this heritage.

The showcase featured a virtual address by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, who emphasised the importance of connecting traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design, entrepreneurship and wider markets. He stressed that the benefits of growing recognition must reach Pashmina herders, weavers, craftspeople, women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups while preserving the authenticity of Ladakh's indigenous traditions.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the potential of Ladakh's traditional crafts for global recognition and congratulated the Department of Industries and Commerce, UT Ladakh, for providing a prominent platform to local designers, artisans and traditional craft enterprises. He expressed confidence that such initiatives would help preserve Ladakh's heritage while creating new opportunities for its craft sector.

Situated at high altitudes, Ladakh's extreme climatic conditions, dramatic landscapes and centuries-old traditions have shaped a distinctive way of life. The showcase brought this identity to the national fashion stage, presenting Ladakh not only as a land of extraordinary natural beauty but also as a repository of exceptional craftsmanship, cultural knowledge and emerging creative enterprise.

The Fifth Season traced Ladakh's textile heritage from the high-altitude pastures of Changthang to contemporary fashion. At the heart of this story are the Changpa pastoralists, who rear the indigenous Changra goats, and the artisans and women whose specialised skills transform fine Pashmina fibre into exquisite textiles. Their knowledge, passed down through generations, represents the living heritage behind every thread of Ladakh Pashmina.

A significant feature of the presentation was the participation of artisans from Changthang, bringing the people behind the craft into the spotlight. Their presence on the runway highlighted the skill, patience and dedication required to sustain traditional Pashmina craftsmanship in one of the world's most challenging high-altitude environments. It also underscored the importance of recognising the communities whose knowledge and labour preserve this tradition.

The initiative was conceptualised and facilitated by the Department of Industries and Commerce, UT Ladakh, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, with support from FDCI. It aims to promote Ladakh's indigenous products, support local designers and artisanal enterprises, and strengthen their access to contemporary markets.

Four designers and artisanal brands from Ladakh—Namza by Padma Yangchan, Zilzom by Stanzin Palmo, Changra Ladakh by Deskit Angmo, and Charkha Ladakh by Rigzin Yangdol—presented distinctive interpretations of the region's textile heritage, combining traditional techniques with contemporary design.

Namza by Padma Yangchan opened the showcase with 18 ensembles featuring brocade fabrics and Pashmina, reinterpreting traditional textile elements through contemporary silhouettes. Zilzom by Stanzin Palmo presented 18 ensembles featuring self-designed silk prints inspired by Changthang's landscapes, alongside contemporary interpretations of nambu, a traditional Ladakhi woollen textile.

Changra Ladakh by Deskit Angmo and Charkha Ladakh by Rigzin Yangdol showcased handspun and handwoven Pashmina shawls, highlighting the authenticity and quality of Ladakh's indigenous craftsmanship.

The presentation reached a special highlight with Shalini Passi as the showstopper, wearing an exquisite gown designed by Zilzom. The renowned Dashugs band complemented the showcase with a live musical performance, bringing together fashion, music and cultural storytelling to celebrate Ladakh's distinctive identity.

Since attaining Union Territory status in 2019, Ladakh has pursued initiatives to promote indigenous products and strengthen traditional industries. The Department of Industries and Commerce has supported the craft value chain through Common Facility Centres, skill-upgradation programmes, improved production facilities and assistance for traditional handloom enterprises. These measures aim to improve product quality, encourage innovation and help artisans connect with wider markets.

For Changthang's Pashmina-producing communities, strengthening the value chain is particularly important. From rearing Changra goats and collecting fine fibre to spinning, weaving, designing and marketing finished products, each stage contributes to the value of Ladakh Pashmina. Greater recognition of the craft can help ensure that its benefits extend to the pastoralists and artisans who sustain it.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, efforts are being made to connect Ladakh's traditional strengths with contemporary design and modern production systems.

Building on this momentum, the Ladakh Pashmina Conclave, scheduled for October 23–24 under the RAMP Scheme, will bring together producers, artisans, designers, entrepreneurs and buyers to develop business linkages and explore new market opportunities. With more than 50 stalls and over 100 entrepreneurs and buyers expected to participate, the conclave will provide a platform for product showcases, direct buyer-seller interactions and potential commercial partnerships.

Ladakh's participation at Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI 2026 marks an important step towards bringing its textile traditions into contemporary fashion and luxury markets while preserving their authenticity and cultural significance. While the fashion showcase has raised the profile of Ladakh's designers and artisans, the upcoming conclave aims to build on that visibility by connecting them with potential buyers and industry partners.

The Fifth Season: A Fashion Story from Ladakh is ultimately a story of people, heritage and possibility. As artisans from Changthang stepped onto the runway, they carried the identity of their communities and the knowledge of generations. From the high-altitude pastures of Changthang to the fashion stage in New Delhi, Ladakh Pashmina continues its journey, connecting tradition with innovation and local heritage with global opportunity.

Tighten the article for newspaper lengthReduce repetition about craft benefits

DIET Leh conducts SMC Capacity-Building Training in Khaltse zone



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh, commenced a School Management Committee (SMC) capacity-building training programme for Heads of Institutions (HOIs) and SMC members of primary and middle schools in Khaltse zone on October 26.

The training aimed to strengthen the capacities of SMC members and enhance their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in school development. Resource persons from DIET provided orientation on various aspects of SMC functioning, including norms, tenure, election procedures, financial management, monitoring, composition, infrastructure development, inclusive learning and preparation of academic plans.
The programme highlighted the role of SMCs as key stakeholders in the overall development of schools and in ensuring quality education through active community participation.

Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Khaltse, Nawang Namgail, and Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO), Kunzang Namgail, attended the programme. Around 80 SMC members participated in the training.

The training was led by Tsering Yangdol, Head of Department (HOD), DIET Leh, along with her team comprising Tsering Angmo, Lecturer in Sociology; Sonam Disket, Lecturer in Political Science; Tsering Lamo, Lecturer in Political Science; and Jigmet Namgail, Technical Coordinator.

The programme featured interactive discussions between SMC members and resource persons, providing a platform to share experiences and best practices in school management and development.

Participants also took part in practical exercises on preparing School Development Plans (SDPs) and presented their plans, focusing on identifying school needs and prioritising developmental activities.

DC Sham chairs meeting on Panchayat elections and nomination process



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Deputy Commissioner/District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO), Sham, Kunzes Angmo (JKAS) on October 28 chaired a meeting at the DC Conference Hall, Khaltse, to discuss upcoming Panchayat elections and the nomination process.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner discussed various aspects of the election process, with particular emphasis on ensuring a smooth, transparent and orderly nomination process.

The meeting also focused on the designation and location of the offices of Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), where candidates would be required to file their nomination papers.

The Deputy Commissioner also gave a detailed presentation through a PowerPoint (PPT) on various aspects of the Panchayat elections, including the election of Sarpanches and Panches, as well as the reservation of seats for women in various Panchayat Halqas falling under Sham district.
The following schedule for the Panchayat elections was discussed during the meeting:
October 26, 2026 :

Issuance of notifications for general elections to Panchayat Halqas by the Administrator and the State Election Commission.

November 2, 2026 : Last date for filing nominations.
November 3, 2026 : Scrutiny of nomination
papers.
November 5, 2026 : Last date for withdrawal of candidature.
November 21, 2026 : Date of polling.
November 30, 2026 : Deadline for completion of the election process.

The meeting was attended by SDM/RO Sham, Mohd. Sharif, Naib Tehsildar HQ, Attaullah Khan, BDO Khaltse, Puntsog Angchok, Presidents of all political parties, and Lambardars of District Sham.

CAT Jammu bench holds circuit sitting in Leh; over 30 cases heard



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a step towards bringing the justice delivery system closer to the people of the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Jammu Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) held a Circuit Sitting at the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre, Melongthang, Leh, on October 24.

The sitting was organised by the Department of Law and Justice and presided over by Sanjeev Gupta, Member (Judicial), and Pragya Sahay Saksena, Member (Administrative).

The Circuit Sitting was exclusively dedicated to cases involving applicants and petitioners from Ladakh, providing them an opportunity to access justice closer to home.

During the proceedings, the Bench heard more than 30 cases related to applicants and petitioners from the Union Territory. In several cases, appropriate relief was also granted to the aggrieved parties in accordance with the law.

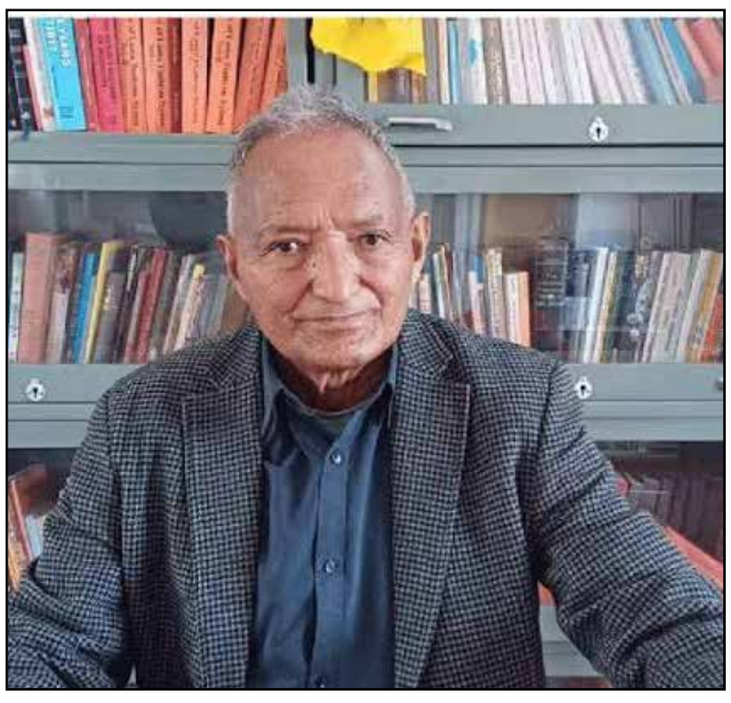
The proceedings were attended by advocates, counsels, law officers from concerned departments, applicants, petitioners and other stakeholders. Among the advocates present were Raghu Mehta, who joined virtually, Mohd. Shafi Lassu, Nissar Ladakhi, Akhil Bardi, Mustafa Haji and Tassaduq Abidi.

The Circuit Sitting, organised by the Department of Law and Justice at least twice a year, was appreciated as an important initiative to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ladakh. Given the region's challenging geographical terrain and the considerable distance involved in travelling to Jammu, such sittings provide litigants with an opportunity to attend Tribunal proceedings locally, reducing the burden of travel and related expenses.

In Focus:

Nautor Land: History and Perspective

By Nawang Tsering Shakspo



One of the major steps initiated by the UT Administration of Ladakh in recent times is to streamline land cases in Ladakh, and to levy tax on the land held by the public, called Nautor, newly-claimed or barren land or alternatively called state land or Khalsa Sarkar. In the past, the practice or convention existed that farmers would claim land falling in the vicinity to their farming areas for further extension of the track and eventually get registered. By doing so, the State would not levy any tax on Khalsa Sarkar as that was done to increase their source of living. But now the administration has asked why tax should not be levied on those lands.

Of course, in the changed situation, many Ladakhis are having Nautor land to set up industries etc. In that case, such practices need to be examined. On the other hand, dissatisfaction and a lot of hue and cry has been raised, and it is growing among the peasant community as they fear that if the administration tax their claimed and developed Nautor lands, they get very little yield as compared to the labour costs in turning them into fertile lands, and to plant trees or for fodder. The consequences of the tax on such lands would make their lives miserable.

Ladakh, as we know, is a very sparsely populated region in the country, with 4-5 people in one square km, and this is due to the harsh climate, and in most parts of the year here, temperature drops to minus 18-20. Also is the grim fact that the developed Nautor land is rocky or where crops can't be grown. Water shortage in the region is the main cause of the land lying barren. Otherwise also, out of the cultivated land or farming land, farmers get only one crop in a year. By its name, Ladakh, it means that it is landlocked or rocky. La means pass and dakh means many (a land of many passes). As such, Ladakh can be addressed as inhabitants of land surrounded by high mountain passes.

As the region remains cut off for over 6 months from the rest of the world due to snowfall at all entry points, land reform activities were started around the year 1906 by the Dogra administrators, naming it as Bandobast or land management. Around the same time, one Thanedar or Governor Basti Ram, laid the foundation of the present spacious Leh market. Records of cultivable land duly documented around the time, are found in the Leh archive or with the land record office, called Tehsil office or with the Patwaris, the land record keepers. Amazing things about the land record prepared in those days are still very much relevant, showing even little pieces of cultivable land or land earmarked for construction of houses called Khang-sa. Similarly, the land records also have earmarked grassing land called Kar-charai. Unlike today, in the past, people would not build houses on farm land due to the fact that land being precious for producing crops for survival. It is also a fact that water resources are limited, mainly dependent upon snowfall in the winter months, which turns into glaciers and from the melted glaciers during summer months people irrigate the farm-land, drawing through channels built, or the scanty rain or snowfall at the outset of spring or end of summer months.

As Nautor land existed in the past in abundance and enterprising people could claim the land freely to plant trees or turning them into cultivable land, and for doing the same the local administration would encourage by providing logistic support such as registering or making the land Mustakil, meaning registration in the name of the land developers.

However, in 1950, the Jammu and Kashmir government passed the Large Landed Estate Abolition Act. As the bill was passed without any prior consultation with the Ladakhis, mainly the Buddhist farmers, people reacted against it because it directly affected the interests of poor peasants as well as the monastic institutions in the region. Finally, this hue and cry issue of the Buddhist Ladakh-is reached New Delhi for the consideration of Pandit Nehru, the Prime minister then, and only after his interference, the Kashmir government dropped the implementation of the Large Landed Estate Abolition Act for Ladakh, and the government had to appoint a committee headed by justice Jankinath Wazir to see the root-cause of agitation in Ladakh against the Large Landed Estates Abolition Act.

Much later around 1995, the government of India introduced a project called the Desert Development Project to reclaim the wasteland or Nautor land for plantation or farming by providing incentives to the farmers. This way, large tracts of Nautor land were turned for plantation and growing fodder which eventually helped resolve the scarcity of fodder in the region by growing alpha alpha grass in abundance.

Thereafter, when the LAHDC Act came into force, such lands came under the jurisdiction of the Hill Council for allotment or registration. Here it is worthwhile to mention that before the emergence of LAHD, Leh or Kargil, the power of regulation of Nautor land etc. was held by the Tehsildar, but with the emergence of UT Administration, the powers were transferred to the Deputy Commissioners, which proved to be an unhealthy step towards the development of Nautor land as the Deputy Commissioners would hardly find time to go to villages for the registration of the land. Hence, since quite some time, the issue of land registration including the claim of Nautor land, is laying stand still. Naturally, under the changed situation, there has been an apprehension that Nautor of state lands eventually would be grabbed by industrialists, instead of the local farmers. Hence, in this regard, checks on unlawful occupation on Khalsa Sarkar or State land required proper attention from the UT administration.

(The writer is the Founder Director of Centre for Research on Ladakh. You can send your views and comment at sntsering52@gmail.com)

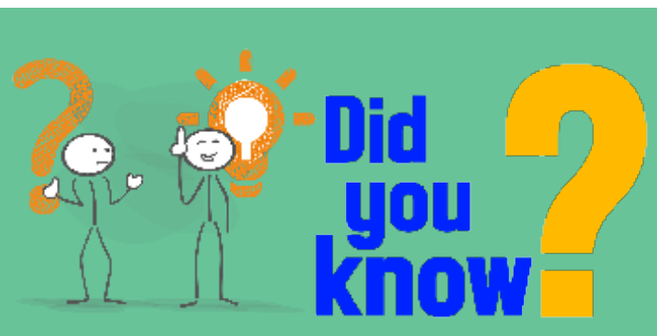
The World of Juniors

In the mid-1990s, the Small Kindness Movement conducted a conference to invite participants from all over the world to come and share their stories about the kindness movements they started in their own countries. The conference was successful and another was held in 1997. These conferences boosted the World Kindness Movement. And finally, in 1998 World Kindness Day was established by the World Kindness Movement. In 1997, at the Tokyo conference, Japan brought kindness organizations of various nations together and emphasized the necessity of a global kindness movement. In 2000 November, The World Kindness Movement was also launched in Singapore. Several countries celebrate World Kindness Day on 13 November and are a part of the World Kindness Movement group.

The aim of celebrating World Kindness Day is to highlight and encourage people, society, and the community to do good things and be kind to everyone. Also, this day provides a reminder that kindness quality has the power to be together and create a kinder world where all people can work together. No doubt it is not easy to comprehend but even a small act can make a difference. This day also inspires us to believe that one act of kindness can make a global change among us, in society, and in the community.



Courstey: United Nation



• The U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17th, 1787. It was meant not to "grant" rights, but to protect the rights people were born with.

• Isaac Asimov published so many books, essays, short fiction, and non-fiction, that if you read one per week it would take you 9 years to read all of his work.

• When Einstein posed his Theory of Relativity, he didn't have the resources to prove this theory. However, the theory has been proven correct several times over the years. Most recently in 2018, scientists saw that as a black hole distorted light waves from a nearby star in a way that agrees with the theory.

• When helium is cooled to absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) it becomes a liquid and starts flowing upward, against gravity.

• The moon once had an atmosphere. Volcanic eruptions on the moon released trillions of tons of gas into the air, which created an atmosphere. The gases eventually became lost to space.

• Most of us are familiar with the three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. But there are actually two dozen known states of matter. Plasma is one example, but scientists have also found other states of matter that only occur under certain conditions.

• In 1972, Title IX was adopted, and opened the door for women and girls participation in sports. Before Title IX, women were 2% of college students participating in sports, and girls were 7% of high school students participating in sports. In 2019, high school girls are 42.7% of sports participants, and college women make up 44% of athletes.

• Pineapples are all the rage now, but they were also a fad in the UK in the 1700s. People carried them around to show their wealth and status, and people decorated their homes with pineapples. You could even rent a pineapple as an accessory.

• Jeanette Rankin was the first woman elected to Congress in 1916, 4 years before women had the right to vote. She was a pacifist from Montana, and was elected a second time in 1941. Both times, she voted no in regards to entering World Wars 1 and 2.

• The patent for the first car was filed in 1886 by Karl Benz for a gas-powered, 3-wheel motor car.

Courtesy: Prepscholar.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Learn to wait, patience pays



The famous 'Haste makes waste' saying is a proverbial warning to us to go ahead thoughtfully and carefully. Anything done in a hurry leaves grave lapses to worry about. And that calls for the need to learn to wait. One should have patience because, as the saying goes: Patience pays!

But that does not mean by any means that one should become a 'habitual waiter'. Patience means that one has to be 'carefully cautious' in order to avoid any hasty-mishap.

That is why American novelist Lemony Snicket had this to say: "There are times to stay put, and what you want will come to you, and there are times to go out into the world and find such a thing for yourself." That means that there is a time to wait and there is a time to strike, but never ever any time for senseless hurry. Only then one can say that one who has patience can have what one wills.

Actually, patience gives one a great chance to review and plan critical issues, and one gets time to know when and how to strike at the right time and moment. A winner, therefore, has to have patience, courage and foresight. Any hurried action can meet with unseen problems, and that could very well become the reason for one's failure.

Therefore, one has to take the hardest path with patience, and should have the sense and courage to overcome any kind of obstacle instead of getting disappointed over hurdles that are the necessary bars for anything good and meaningful. The best of fruits grows high up,beyond our easy reach.

One has to struggle to understand how to pluck such fruits. And, for this, one needs lots of patience. Patience comes from a positive mind, and a positive mind comes from counting the plus points, and not the negative ones.

Lastly, I have this lovely quote of French playwright Moliere, very relevant to this topic: "The trees that are slow to grow bear the best fruits." The same is the case with we humans too, you and me! Let us all be the winners in our 'game of life', and be happy forever!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with
Mohd Mustafa Kamal, National Teachers Awardee

Interviewed by Sonam Angmo

Q. What inspired you to take up the challenge of transforming rural government schools in Kargil, and how did your personal experiences shape your vision for education?

Jullay! Growing up in Wakha during the Kargil War left a lasting impression on me. My education took place in different settings. I attended primary school in Wakha and continued my middle-level education in Kargil. When the war disrupted normal life, I returned to Wakha. Later, I resumed my studies in Kargil and completed Class 12 at HSS Drass during a particularly difficult period. Those years were challenging, both mentally and academically, but they taught me how deeply a child's education can be affected by circumstances beyond their control.

My first teaching experience was at AGS Harka Bahadur in Kargil, where I worked for nearly six months. I then moved to Srinagar for higher studies and completed my postgraduate degree in History through the University of Kashmir. Moving between villages, schools and different working environments exposed me to people with diverse experiences, expectations and perspectives. Gradually, I began to understand that education is not merely about completing a syllabus; it is also about understanding children, their circumstances and the opportunities available to them.

When I joined the School Education Department in 2011, I was enthusiastic and eager to introduce new ideas into the classroom. Like many young teachers, I wanted to make learning engaging and meaningful. Over time, my understanding of teaching continued to evolve, and I began exploring ways to connect classroom learning more closely with children's lives.

An important turning point came in 2016. As President of the Ladakh General Line Teacher Forum (L-GLTF), I worked with the forum's executive members and fellow teachers to explore ways to strengthen learning opportunities in rural government schools and build community confidence in them.

We submitted our proposal to LAHDC Kargil and the Education Department. Following deliberations and consultations involving the then CEC, Haji Haneefa Jan, educationist Sonam Wangchuk, principals, ZEOs and others, approval was granted to undertake the initiative at Middle School Karith and Middle School Lankarchay Thang.

The experience was encouraging. Two teachers from Karith later received National Teacher Awards, while my work at Lankarchay Thang was recognised with the Ladakh State Award in Teaching and Academics 2021, which was conferred on Republic Day in 2022.



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

"To students, believe in yourselves and never limit your dreams. To teachers, make learning engaging, practical and connected to Ladakh's rich heritage. To parents, your encouragement and involvement matter. Together, let us ensure every child feels valued, discovers their potential and builds a brighter future."

Subsequently, my work at Government Model Middle School Grong Pashkum, particularly between 2021 and 2026, received national recognition through the National Teachers Award 2026.

However, what mattered most was not the awards alone. We began seeing communities in other parts of Kargil expressing interest in similar Model School initiatives. This created a positive spirit of learning and collaboration, with teachers and communities coming forward to improve their schools.

Looking back, I feel my passion for teaching was renewed when I witnessed what teachers, communities and institutions could achieve by working together. My childhood taught me to value educational opportunities, while my teaching journey has taught me the importance of creating those opportunities for every child.

Q. You transformed an unused civilian bunker from the 1999 Kargil War into a "Cave Museum Class" at Government Model Middle School, Grong Pashkum. What inspired this idea, and how has it enriched students' learning experiences?

The civilian bunker dug during the 1999 Kargil War for protection and had remained unused for years on the school campus. I began wondering whether the space could be put to meaningful educational use. As a History teacher, I wanted children to experience the past rather than simply read about it. This idea gradually evolved into the Cave Museum Class.

We developed learning activities around prehistoric life. Students painted the walls, practised inscription writing and created replicas of seals, coins and figures using locally available clay and other materials. The space also provided an opportunity to discuss the history and experiences associated with the Kargil War.

The project encouraged interdisciplinary learning. Students could observe the structure, discuss its construction and explore concepts related to materials, stability, ventilation and protection. These activities helped them recognise connections between history, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Painting, model-making, storytelling and inscription writing also allowed them to express their understanding creatively.

What I valued most was the active involvement of students. They were not merely listening; they were creating, asking questions, sharing ideas and explaining what they had learned. History became more tangible, while science, social science and the arts came together in a single learning experience.

The project reinforced my belief that schools do not always need expensive infrastructure to create meaningful learning opportuni-

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Fortnight Highlights



Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies (ABC&AR) Team of the Animal Husbandry Department, Leh, organised an eight-day ABC&AR camp in Nubra district from October 8 to 15. During the camp, the team comprising veterinarians, paraveterinary staff, and animal handlers sterilized and vaccinated a total of 466 stray dogs (Male: 292 and Female: 174).



Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Ghulam Mohd, JKAS, flagged off a Mega Marathon organised by the District Health Society Kargil under the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0, aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy lifestyle among youth.



The Career Counselling and Placement Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Drass organised a career counselling programme to familiarise students with career opportunities in the development sector. Chandrakant Jayshree Arunkumar from Azim Premji University was the resource person.



The Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, UT Ladakh, in collaboration with the Ladakh Students Welfare Society, Delhi (LSWSD), and the All Kargil Student Association, Delhi (AKSAD), organised a two-day Interactive Youth Engagement Programme on Substance Abuse and Mental Health on October 17 and 18 at the University of Delhi under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan. The programme saw the participation of students from Ladakh studying in Delhi.



Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation stones for two water bodies under Project Him Sarovar at Barchay and Apati in Sodh tehsil of Kargil district on October 17. With a combined storage capacity of approximately 60–70 lakh litres, the reservoirs aim to address acute water scarcity, strengthen water security and support agricultural activities in the region.



Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Ghulam Mohammad, inaugurated a two-day Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp on October 19 to raise awareness about the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana at the Syed Mehdi Memorial Auditorium Hall, Kargil. The camp was held on October 19 and 20.



Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, IAS, on October 27 chaired a review meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) on Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 4.0.



A ceremonial sitting of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, presided over by Chief Justice Dr Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, was held in Leh on October 18 to commemorate the historic inauguration of the Ladakh Bench, marking a significant step towards bringing constitutional justice closer to the people of the Union Territory.

In Conversation with Mohd Mustafa Kamal, National Teachers Awardee

...Continuity of page 5

ties. Sometimes, all it takes is a teacher who looks at an unused resource with imagination. The Cave Museum Class is one example of how local surroundings can be transformed into valuable spaces for experiential and interdisciplinary learning.

Q. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing government schools in Ladakh today, particularly in remote villages?

I feel the challenges are interconnected rather than limited to a single problem. Ladakh's geography and climate create particular difficulties. Long distances, severe winters, connectivity issues and limited learning resources can make schooling more challenging, especially in remote areas. Some schools also face enrolment-related challenges, while continuous professional development can help teachers respond more effectively to the evolving needs of learners.

At the same time, Ladakh has many strengths. I have seen dedicated teachers, supportive parents, enthusiastic students and communities that genuinely want their children to receive a good education. Teachers and students from the region have also gained opportunities to participate in state- and national-level programmes, bringing valuable exposure and confidence back to their schools.

My experience with rural school improvement has taught me that every school has its own circumstances and needs. One school may require better learning materials, another a library or digital facilities, while another may benefit from stronger community participation or greater opportunities for teachers to collaborate. Further progress depends on understanding each school's local context and building on the efforts already being made.

We can also make greater use of Ladakh's history, culture, environment and traditional knowledge in classroom learning. Students can study local water systems, architecture, agriculture, weather patterns and livelihoods through observation and practical activities. They can explore community history, oral traditions, crafts and cultural expression through social science and the arts. Such approaches make education more relevant to children's lives while developing scientific thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills.

The administration, teachers, parents and communities all have an important role to play. With continued government support, professional development and collective effort, we can build on the progress already made and ensure that children in even the most remote villages have access to meaningful learning opportunities.

Q. Some schools in remote villages may be merged with other schools. How can the administration ensure that children do not face difficulties travelling to school?

School consolidation, wherever considered appropriate, aims to strengthen educational opportunities and make effective use of available resources while taking local circumstances into account. Given Ladakh's geography, every decision must reflect the needs of the children and communities concerned. For a young child, even a short distance can become difficult during winter or when transport is limited. Children's safety, travel time and regular attendance should therefore remain central to the planning process.

Before implementing a merger, the administration should consult parents, teachers and School Management Committees to assess distances, road conditions, weather and transport requirements. Wherever necessary and feasible, suitable transport facilities, safe routes and appropriate school timings should be arranged. Transport services could also be expanded in areas where a change in school location creates genuine difficulties for children.

My involvement in school improvement and merger initiatives has shown me that community participation makes a real difference. Parents want their children to receive a good education, but they also want them to reach school safely and attend regularly. Listening to their concerns builds trust and helps make educational initiatives more effective.

Resource optimisation and children's welfare need not be competing goals. With careful planning, community consultation and locally appropriate support, we can strengthen educational opportunities while minimising the difficulties children face in reaching school.

Q. Do you think the current education system prepares students adequately for higher education, employment and real-life challenges? What changes are needed to make learning more practical and relevant?

Our education system provides an important foundation, and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers valuable direction for making learning more meaningful and connected with real life. However, there is considerable scope to build on existing efforts so that children can apply their knowledge confidently beyond the classroom.

Students need academic knowledge for higher education and employment, but they also need to communicate confidently, think independently, solve problems, work with others and make sound decisions. These abilities develop when children actively participate, explore ideas and take responsibility for their learning.

I have tried to encourage this approach in my classroom. Through the Classroom Parliament, students learned to express their views, listen to others and discuss issues respectfully. Through the Great Bath Ludo and other educational games, they explored historical concepts in an enjoyable way. Models, field visits and interactions with community members also helped them connect classroom lessons with real-life situations.

STEM education should be integrated with social science and the arts rather than treated as an isolated area. Students can investigate local water systems, soil, weather, agriculture, architecture and energy use through science and mathematics; study the historical, social and environmental factors shaping these issues; and present their findings through drawing, theatre, storytelling, design or digital media. Such activities develop creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving while making education more relevant to local life.

We should give greater attention to competency-based learning, practical exposure, vocational education, digital literacy, environmental awareness and career guidance. Assessment should help us understand whether children can apply what they have learned, rather than merely reproduce facts in examinations.

Teachers also need encouragement, adequate resources and opportunities for continuous professional development. Academic learning, STEM, social science and the arts should not be treated as separate or competing areas; instead, they should complement one another to provide a more holistic learning experience.

Ultimately, students should leave school with knowledge, confidence, curiosity and the ability to navigate unfamiliar situations. These qualities will help them succeed in higher education and employment while preparing them to face the challenges of everyday life.

Q. You received the National Teachers Award in 2026. What does this recognition mean to you, and what more would you like to do to improve education in Ladakh?

Receiving the National Teachers Award 2026 is a moment of immense happiness and humility. When I began teaching in 2011, I could never have imagined that my work at a rural school in Kargil would receive national recognition.
This moment is particularly emotional because my beloved father, Haji Mohammad Ali, supported me throughout my journey. He witnessed me receiving the Ladakh State Award in Teaching and Academics 2021, conferred on Republic Day in 2022, and later saw me receive this national honour from the President of India. The pride and happiness in his eyes during those moments are difficult to express in words.

If my mother were alive, I believe she would have been among the happiest people to see me reach this stage. Her absence is deeply felt, even amid this joy. These recognitions have strengthened my sense of responsibility. They are not merely honours; they remind me to work with even greater sincerity for the children, teachers and communities of Ladakh.

I see this award primarily as recognition of my work as a schoolteacher, particularly at Government Model Middle School Grong Pashkum between 2021 and 2026. It also reminds me that educational improvement is never the work of one person alone. My students, colleagues, parents, School Management Committee, local community and other supporters have all been part of this journey.

The Cave Museum Class, educational games, Classroom Parliament, field-based learning and other activities grew out of my desire to make Social Science more interesting and relevant to students. Alongside classroom teaching, I also contributed to teacher training, curriculum-related work and the development of educational resources. I am grateful for this recognition, but I see it as encouragement rather than a destination. There is still much to learn and much more to do.

Having joined the School Education Department as a Lecturer in History, I hope to share my classroom experiences, support fellow teachers and encourage more engaging approaches to learning. I would particularly like to see more teachers use local materials, community knowledge and simple activity-based methods, including STEM projects that connect science and mathematics with local history, society, the environment, crafts and the arts.

I also hope that successful practices developed in one school can be shared with others and adapted to their specific needs. Every school has its own strengths and challenges, so we must learn from one another rather than assume that a single approach will work everywhere.

For me, the greatest reward will always be seeing children become more confident, curious and capable learners. This award has strengthened my resolve to continue working towards that goal and contribute meaningfully to the future of education in Ladakh.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Secretary, School Education; Tsering Paldan, JKAS, Director, School Education; Sonam Wangchuk, Chief Education Officer, Kargil; Khurshida Banoo, Principal, DIET Kargil; and the Zonal Education Officer, Shargole, for their guidance, support and encouragement.

I am equally thankful to the Head Teacher and staff of Government Model Middle School, Grong Pashkum, and the members of the School Management Committee (SMC), Pashkum, for their cooperation and collective efforts throughout my tenure.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to the Chief Education Officer, Leh, and the Principal, DIET Leh, for the trust and confidence they placed in me during the state-level selection round.

The encouragement, cooperation and support of all these individuals and institutions have been invaluable to my journey. I remain deeply grateful to each of them for their contribution and goodwill.

8. If you could bring one major change to Ladakh's education system, what would it be, and how would it benefit students?

I would like to see experiential, interdisciplinary and locally connected learning further encouraged across our schools, alongside the continued professional development of teachers. This should include a strong STEM initiative that works alongside social sciences and the arts rather than treating them as separate subjects.

Ladakh itself is a rich learning resource. Its mountains, glaciers, historical sites, traditional livelihoods, agriculture, architecture, oral histories and cultural practices offer countless opportunities for students to understand subjects through real-life experiences.

A Geography lesson can explore the local landscape and changing glaciers, while a History lesson can begin with an old object, a local story or a conversation with an elderly community member. Students can explore democratic values through a Classroom Parliament or understand difficult concepts through educational games. They can measure snowfall, study water conservation, examine traditional building techniques, document local biodiversity, investigate energy use and design solutions to community problems. They can present their findings through maps, models, exhibitions, theatre, painting, storytelling or digital media.

In this way, STEM can complement social sciences and the arts. Science and mathematics help students understand evidence and patterns; social sciences help them examine people, institutions, history and ethical questions; and the arts help them imagine, communicate and interpret what they learn.

These activities would not replace textbooks but help children understand what they read and connect it with the world around them. To make this approach part of everyday learning, teachers need opportunities to plan together, exchange ideas, receive training and develop suitable materials. Schools also need appropriate support and an assessment system that values understanding, creativity and the practical application of knowledge.

Children should feel that learning does not happen only within four classroom walls. Their surroundings can also be a classroom if they are encouraged to observe carefully, ask questions and think critically. Making this approach part of everyday school life would deepen students' understanding, build their confidence in self-expression and strengthen their connection with their communities. It would also prepare them to understand the wider world and apply their knowledge creatively to address real-life challenges.

Police Commemoration day observed at District Police Headquarters, Khaltse



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Police Commemoration Day was observed with solemnity and honour at the District Police Headquarters, Khaltse, under the supervision of SSP Sham Aijaz Malik (JKPS).

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Sham Kunzes Angmo (JKAS), senior Army officers, prominent members of society, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Police Station Khaltse, senior officers of the CRPF and BRO, family members of police martyrs, government officials and other dignitaries.

The programme was organised to pay tribute to police personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. A solemn salute was presented in their honour, commemorating their courage, dedication and selfless service to the nation.

On the occasion, the families of police martyrs were specially honoured in recognition of the sacrifices made by their loved ones. The gathering paid homage to the martyrs and acknowledged their invaluable contributions to the nation.
The event concluded with a renewed commitment to uphold the martyrs' legacy of courage, dedication and service, and to continue serving the people with sincerity and integrity.

First-ever dedicated tourist guide to Zanskar released



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: The first-ever comprehensive tourist guide to Zanskar, titled "Zanskar – The Last Great Himalayan Wilderness: A Traveller's Guide," prepared by the Tourist Office Zanskar, Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, was formally released on October 21 at the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Zanskar.

The guide was released by Omkar Rajindra Gundage (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Zanskar, in the presence of Rigzin Sandup (JKPS), Superintendent of Police, Zanskar; Jasif Amin (JKAS), Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Zanskar; Ghulam Rasool Lal, Tourist Officer, Zanskar; and other district officers.

The guide provides comprehensive information on Zanskar's major tourist destinations, monasteries, historical and cultural heritage, flora and fauna, wildlife, trekking and mountaineering routes, adventure tourism activities and traditional festivals.

It also features detailed maps of Zanskar and Padum town, road connectivity information, travel guidelines, permit requirements, medical facilities, emergency contacts and responsible tourism practices.

The publication aims to serve as a ready reference for domestic and international tourists, helping them plan their visits, explore lesser-known destinations and discover Zanskar's potential for cultural, heritage, nature and adventure tourism.

The initiative marks an important step towards strengthening tourism promotion and showcasing Zanskar as a distinctive destination at the national and international levels.

Fortnightly News

Awareness programme on PMEGP, entrepreneurship and self-employment held at Government Degree College Zanskar



Photo Caption: Participants during the expert talk on PMEGP, entrepreneurship and self-employment at GDC, Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: Government Degree College (GDC) Zanskar organised an expert talk on the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), entrepreneurship and self-employment in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on October 28. The programme was organised under the supervision of Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal, GDC Zanskar.

During the programme, Balwinder Singh, (former Director, Entrepreneurship Training and Rural Development (ETRD)) highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship, private-sector employment and self-employment as viable alternatives to government jobs. He emphasised that limited government vacancies make it essential for young people to explore alternative career opportunities and become employment generators rather than merely job seekers.

Narinder Singh, (Deputy Director, ETRD) explained the objectives of PMEGP, the financial assistance available under the scheme, eligibility requirements and the application procedure. Tsering (LDM, Bank Manager, Zanskar) elaborated on the role of banks, including SBI, in facilitating financial assistance and guiding aspiring entrepreneurs through the loan application process.

Dr. Munir Wani (District Progamme Manager, LDRM) discussed rural employment generation and women's empowerment, emphasising the contribution of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) towards promoting entrepreneurship, financial independence and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal, GDC Zanskar, encouraged students to take advantage of such awareness programmes and explore government-supported schemes for establishing their own enterprises. He stressed the importance of skill development, innovation and self-reliance in creating employment opportunities and contributing to the socio-economic development of Zanskar.

Dr. Jamphel Sheyan expressed gratitude to the resource persons, the Principal, faculty members and students for their participation and contribution to the successful conduct of the event.

GDC Kargil organises field study tour to Parkachik village and glacier



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Department of Geography, Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil, organised an educational field study tour to Parkachik village and Parkachik Glacier to provide students with practical exposure to glacial landforms, geomorphological processes and human-environment interactions in Ladakh's high-altitude Himalayan region.

The tour was conducted under the guidance of Head of the Department Sayed Mustafa Kamal and faculty member Tashi Gyatso.

During the visit, students examined various glacial landforms associated with Parkachik Glacier and gained first-hand insights into the geomorphological features shaped by glacial processes. The field study enabled them to connect classroom learning with real-world observations and deepen their understanding of the physical geography of the Himalayan region.

The students also interacted with local residents of Parkachik village to learn about their traditional lifestyles, livelihoods, settlement patterns and adaptation strategies in the challenging mountainous environment. The interactions helped them understand the relationship between geographical conditions and the socio-economic life of local communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of the Department Sayed Mustafa Kamal emphasised the importance of experiential learning in geography. He said field visits bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical observation, helping students better understand natural processes and human-environment interactions.

Faculty member Tashi Gyatso also highlighted the educational significance of the tour, noting that direct exposure to glacial features and interactions with local communities enhance students' observational, analytical and field research skills.

The Department of Geography, GDC Kargil, continues to promote field-based learning as an integral part of academic development, providing students with opportunities to explore and understand the physical and human geography of Ladakh.

The college remains committed to academic excellence and the holistic development of students through practical learning, research and educational activities.

Cybercrime awareness programme held at PGCIL-Drass to promote digital safety



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: An awareness programme on cybercrime and cybersecurity was organised at the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) station in Drass on October 23 to educate officials and staff about emerging cyber threats, online fraud, digital security and safe internet practices.

Deputy Commissioner Drass Imteeaz Kacho (JKAS) attended the programme as the chief guest, while Superintendent of Police Ishtiyaq Kacho (JKPS) was also present.

Among those present were Asif Amin, Deputy General Manager, PGCIL; Gowhar Ahmad Mir, Assistant Manager, PGCIL; Sub-Inspector of Police Mohammad Iliyas; and other PGCIL officials and staff.

At the outset, the Deputy General Manager expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police for their participation. He highlighted the importance of cybercrime awareness programmes in educating people about emerging digital threats and preventive measures.

Addressing the gathering, Superintendent of Police Ishtiyaq Kacho spoke about various aspects of cybercrime and cybersecurity. He highlighted the growing dependence on mobile phones and digital platforms and explained the risks associated with their misuse.

He stressed the importance of strong security practices, protecting official email accounts and safeguarding confidential documents and sensitive information. He advised participants against opening suspicious emails, unknown attachments or unverified links, which could lead to cyber fraud, data theft and other security threats.

The SP also discussed online shopping fraud and urged people to exercise caution while making digital transactions. He advised them to verify sellers and take appropriate precautions when shopping online. He further emphasised preventive measures, digital awareness and responsible internet usage, adding that similar awareness programmes would continue to be organised to strengthen cybersecurity awareness across the district.

During the programme, the Deputy General Manager delivered a presentation on the safe use of mobile applications, online platforms and digital services. He explained various forms of cybercrime, including online financial fraud, misuse of personal information, cyber harassment and cyber-enabled sexual offences, and urged participants to remain vigilant and adopt safe online practices.

Deputy Commissioner Imteeaz Kacho highlighted the importance of responsible and balanced use of modern technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), ChatGPT and other internet-based applications. He cautioned against excessive dependence on AI tools and digital platforms, emphasising that technology should be used wisely without compromising independent thinking, personal judgement and essential life skills.

He said people should also develop the ability to manage their daily lives without constant dependence on the internet and modern technology. He particularly stressed the need to protect children from excessive mobile phone use, inappropriate online content and cyber threats, urging parents, teachers and society to guide children towards safe and responsible digital practices.

The Deputy Commissioner further advised participants to exercise caution while accessing unfamiliar websites, suspicious links and unverified online sources, including those claiming to represent official organisations.

He appreciated PGCIL-Drass for organising the programme and emphasised the need to conduct such awareness activities regularly to build a safer and more informed digital society.

The programme concluded with a collective commitment to promoting cybersecurity awareness, responsible internet use and preventive measures against cybercrime.

Police Commemoration Day observed in Zanskar to honour martyrs



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: District Police Zanskar observed Police Commemoration Day at the helipad near the District Police Office in Padum on October 21 to pay tribute to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty while safeguarding the nation and its citizens.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Zanskar Omkar Rajendra Gundage (IAS) as the chief guest, along with Superintendent of Police Zanskar Rigzin Sangdup, police personnel, dignitaries, religious heads, civil society representatives and Lambardars.

The programme began with a parade, followed by the arrival of the chief guest and a Rashtriya Salute. The names of police martyrs were recited by the Superintendent of Police, followed by an address by the chief guest. A marching roll of honour was subsequently conducted, and floral tributes were paid to the martyrs.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Omkar Rajendra Gundage praised the Police Department for its dedication, discipline and commitment to duty. He appreciated the efforts of police personnel in maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety and serving people under challenging circumstances. He also acknowledged their vital role in maintaining peace and security in the region.

Superintendent of Police Rigzin Sangdup paid homage to police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. He highlighted their courage, selflessness and dedication to the nation, stating that their sacrifices would always be remembered with honour and respect. He also stressed the importance of carrying forward their legacy of service, bravery and commitment to duty.

The programme concluded with a Shok Shastra Salami, followed by the laying of wreaths by dignitaries.

Police Commemoration Day serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The observance reaffirmed District Police Zanskar's commitment to upholding the ideals of duty, honour and service while ensuring public safety and security.

NGT reviews implementation of district environment plan in Kargil



Photo Caption: National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench reviewing the formulation and implementation of the District Environment Plan in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Dr. Afroz Ahmad, Member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, chaired a review meeting on October 21 to assess compliance with NGT directions regarding the formulation and implementation of the District Environment Plan in Kargil.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, IAS, Ankit Sinha, IFS, Chief Planning Officer Kargil, Superintending Engineer, PWD, District Panchayat Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Director Handicrafts and other concerned officers.

The meeting reviewed environmental protection measures, focusing on solid and biomedical waste management, air and noise pollution, and the conservation of natural resources.

Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar presented an overview of the initiatives undertaken by the district administration and outlined priorities for developing a green and sustainable Kargil town. These included improving waste segregation, collection and processing; promoting sustainable tourism and clean public spaces; encouraging community participation and behavioural change; eliminating single-use plastic (SUP) items; maintaining clean water bodies; and expanding the water quality monitoring network.

Dr. Afroz Ahmad appreciated the Deputy Commissioner and the District Administration Kargil for their efforts towards environmental protection and compliance with NGT orders and judgments.

He stressed the need to establish an interpretation centre within a compact area to raise environmental awareness and generate local employment. He also called for exploring revenue generation from waste and adopting successful waste-management practices from other cities, particularly Indore. He advised the Deputy Commissioner to undertake a study visit to learn from such models.

The functioning of waste collection systems under MG Marga was also reviewed. The administration informed the meeting that 33 waste-collection vehicles were available and waste was collected from different locations on a weekly basis. Dr. Ahmad directed the installation of GPS tracking systems in these vehicles to improve monitoring and accountability. He also stressed the need to extend the Swachhata App-based monitoring mechanism to rural areas.

The issue of plastic waste was discussed in detail. The administration informed the meeting that plastic items had been banned in the area and that strict penalties would be imposed for violations. Measures to control air and noise pollution were also reviewed.

The meeting further reviewed air and water quality monitoring by the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, with monitored parameters generally found to be within prescribed standards.

Dr. Ahmad called for coordinated efforts among departments to promote green spaces and parks, undertake riverbank plantation and link environmental conservation with employment generation. He emphasised that an eco-economic approach should remain central to Kargil's sustainable development.

The meeting concluded with a call for stronger inter-departmental coordination and effective implementation of environmental measures in letter and spirit.

Public Notice

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as **'Cultural and Welfare Society Kharnak Gonpa' Changthang, UT Ladakh** with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name of the member with parentage and address	Occupation	Designation
1	Tsering Angchok S/o Urgian Dorje R/o Kharnak	Farmer	President
2	Tsering Choldan S/o Tashi Phunchok R/o Kharnak	Farmer	Vice-President
3	Jigmet Angchok S/o Tsering Tashi R/o Kharnak	Farmer	Secretary
4	Tsering Angchok S/o Tsering Dorjey R/o Kharnakling	Farmer	Cashier
5	Tsering Angchok S/o Angjor Tashi R/o Kharnakling	Farmer	Member
6	Tsering Dorjay S/o Dawa Tsering R/o Kharnak	Farmer	Member
7	Targais Tashi S/o Rinchen Tundup R/o Kharnak	Farmer	Member

Any objection in this regard from any person (s) may send in writing/in person/through authorised representation to the Registrar of Societies, Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of this notice, or by email at directorindustriesladakh@gmail.com or Ph No. 01982-415869

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