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MAY 16-31, 2025

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with

Rigzen Angmo, UPSC-Civil Services Examination Qualifier

In Focus:

The Reality of War

By: His Holiness Dalai Lama

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PM Modi: Operation Sindoor redefines India's fight against terror

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation via videoconference on May 12, reflecting on recent national security developments. In his address, he stated that the country had demonstrated both strength and restraint in recent days. He saluted the country's armed forces, intelligence agencies, and scientists on behalf of every Indian citizen.

Highlighting the courage and dedication of the Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister acknowledged their valor, resilience, and indomitable spirit. He dedicated their unparalleled bravery to every mother, sister, and daughter of the nation.

Condemning the barbaric terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22—which shocked both the nation and the world—Modi described it as a gruesome act of terror where innocent civilians enjoying their holidays were brutally murdered after being questioned about their faith, in front of their families and children. He emphasized that this was not only an act of cruelty but also a vile attempt to fracture India's social harmony. Expressing deep anguish over the attack, he underlined that the entire nation—across communities, political parties, and social sections—stood united in demanding decisive action against terrorism. He asserted that the government had granted the armed forces full freedom to eliminate the perpetrators and warned all terrorist organizations that they now understood the consequences of targeting the dignity of Indian women.

“Operation Sindoor is not just a name, but a reflection of the emotions of millions of In-



No nuclear blackmail will be tolerated anymore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. | Courtesy: Business Standard.

dians,” the Prime Minister said, describing it as an unwavering pledge to justice, which the world witnessed being fulfilled on May 6-7. He detailed that the Indian armed forces executed precise strikes on terrorist hideouts and training centers in Pakistan, delivering a decisive blow. He noted that terrorists never anticipated such a bold move from India, but when the nation stands united with Nation First as its guiding principle, firm decisions are made and impactful outcomes achieved.

India's missile and drone strikes dismantled terrorist hubs in Pakistan, crushing not only their infrastructure but also their morale, the Prime Minister stated. He pointed out that locations such as Bahawalpur and Muridke had long served as breeding grounds of global terrorism, with connections to attacks like 9/11, the London Tube bombings, and decades of violence against India. He declared that, as terrorists had dared to attack the dignity of Indian women, India

had responded by obliterating the headquarters of terror. The operation resulted in the elimination of over 100 dangerous terrorists, including key figures plotting against India for decades, he added.

PM Modi said that India's precision strikes left Pakistan frustrated and desperate. In retaliation, Pakistan launched attacks on Indian schools, colleges, gurudwaras, temples, and civilian homes, as well as military bases. However, India's advanced air defense systems neutralized these attacks mid-air, exposing Pakistan's vulnerabilities, he noted. While Pakistan had prepared to attack India's borders, India struck at its core, destroying key airbases within the first three days of the response. Following these countermeasures, Pakistan began seeking de-escalation, reaching out to India's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) on May 10. By then, India had already dismantled significant terrorist infrastructure and eliminated key militants, Modi informed. Pakistan assured

India that it would cease all terrorist activities and military aggression. India, after reviewing the situation, decided to temporarily suspend its counter-operations but reiterated that this was not the end. India would continue to closely monitor Pakistan's actions, ensuring its future conduct aligns with its commitments.

The Prime Minister emphasized that India's armed forces—including the Army, Air Force, Navy, Border Security Force (BSF), and paramilitary units—remain on high alert, ensuring the nation's security at all times. He declared Operation Sindoor as India's new established policy in the fight against terrorism, marking a paradigm shift in its strategic approach. He outlined three key pillars of India's new security doctrine:

1. Decisive Retaliation: Any terrorist attack on India will be met with a strong and resolute response, targeting terror hubs at their roots.

2. No Tolerance for Nuclear Blackmail: India will not be intimidated by nuclear threats. Any terrorist haven operating under this guise will face precise and decisive strikes.

3. No Distinction Between Terror Sponsors and Terrorists: India will no longer separate terrorist leaders from the governments that shelter them.

He further pointed out that during Operation Sindoor, the world once again witnessed Pakistan's deep entanglement in state-sponsored terrorism, as senior Pakistani military officials were seen attending funerals of eliminated terrorists. India, he affirmed, will continue to take decisive steps to protect its citizens from any threat.

Modi asserted that India has consistently defeated Pakistan on the battlefield and that Operation Sindoor has added a new dimension to the nation's military prowess, proving India's superiority in both desert and mountainous

warfare, as well as New Age Warfare. He highlighted the effectiveness of Made in India defense equipment during the operation, stating that the world is now witnessing India's defense capabilities as a formidable force in 21st-century warfare.

Reaffirming that unity is India's greatest strength, he underlined that while this is an era of peace, it cannot be one of terrorism. “Zero tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee of a better and safer world,” he declared.

The Prime Minister warned that Pakistan's military and government have long nurtured terrorism, which will ultimately lead to their own downfall. He stated that Pakistan must dismantle its terror infrastructure if it seeks survival—there is no other path to peace. Modi reaffirmed that terror and talks cannot coexist, terror and trade cannot run parallel, and blood and water cannot flow together. He reiterated that any dialogue with Pakistan will focus solely on terrorism and the issue of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

On the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the Prime Minister reflected on Lord Buddha's teachings, emphasizing that the path to peace must be guided by strength. He underscored that humanity must progress towards peace and prosperity, ensuring that every Indian can live with dignity and realize the dream of a Viksit Bharat. He asserted that for India to uphold peace, it must remain strong—and exercise that strength when necessary. Concluding his address, he once again saluted the valor of the Indian armed forces and expressed his deep respect for the courage and unity of the people of India.

Leh commemorates 2569th Buddha Purnima with spiritual gatherings



By Nenzes Chodon

LEH: Leh celebrated Buddha Purnima on May 12, marking the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana (death anniversary) of the Buddha at the Dharma Centre, Choglamsar. For Buddhists, this day is considered one of the most auspicious of the year.

A significant ritual known as Bumskhor was observed, where collections of Buddhist prayers or texts, wrapped in wooden slabs, were carried clockwise by people to spread blessings across the region.

His Eminence Bakula Rangdol Nima Rinpoche graced the event at the Dharma Centre, Choglamsar, and addressed the gathering with teachings from the life of the Buddha. He emphasized the importance of practicing Buddha's teachings with

kindness rather than merely reciting prayers. Citing Buddha's teachings, he remarked that chanting prayers without practical application is akin to counting a neighbor's cattle. A true devotee, he said, is someone who may have limited knowledge of prayers but embodies kindness and harmlessness in their actions.

Rinpoche also spoke about global conflicts, quoting Buddha's words that aggression does not end enmity; only peace can. He recounted a story where two village kings were about to wage war over water. Buddha, upon meeting the kings, asked if they valued the water more than the lives of their people. The king acknowledged that life was more precious, leading Buddha to stop the war by teaching them the futility of

fighting for something less valuable than human life.

Chering Dorjay, President of the All Ladakh Buddhist Association, shared that the event was initially planned to take place at Leh Polo Ground, with around 5,000 students from various schools and people from different parts of Ladakh, who would peacefully protest against the Bodhi Gaya Temple Management Committee Act. Members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association and Ladakh Gompa Association had also planned to join the ongoing protest in Bodhi Gaya. However, due to the India-Pakistan conflict, travel disruptions affected many, leading to the cancellation of the plan. Dorjay emphasized that Buddha's teachings on compassion and mental well-being are particularly relevant in today's world, where kinetic warfare continues among nations.

Ven. Tsering Wangdus, President of the Ladakh Gompa Association, highlighted the three key events of Buddha's life: his birth at Lumbini, his enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya under the Bodhi tree, and his death at Kushinagar. He also noted that members of the All Ladakh Buddhists Forum,

...continues on page 2



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Fortnightly News

Leh commemorates 2569th Buddha Purnima with spiritual gatherings

...continuity of page 1

led by Akash Lama, are on a hunger strike in Bodh Gaya, demanding Buddhist authority over the temple's management committee. Despite the extreme weather and distance, Wangdus expressed hope that more Ladakhis would join the protest by September or October.

Other notable attendees included Tashi Namgyal, Yakzee, Executive Coun-

cillor, LAHDC Leh; Stanzin Chospel, Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh; Chering Dorjay, Lakrook, President, All Ladakh Buddhist Association; Gen Tsering Wangdus, President, Ladakh Gompa Association; Tashi Dhondup, Chief Representative Officer, Tibetan settlement; monks from different monasteries, and other dignitaries.

834 grams of Charas seized in Leh; one arrested



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Police Leh arrested one individual, Gam Bahadur Thakur, son of Chandra Bahadur Thakuri, a resident of Nepal and presently residing in Leh, and recovered approximately 834 grams of charas from his possession.

On May 6, 2025, Police Station Leh received credible information regarding the possession of narcotic substances at a rented accommodation in Upper Karzoo, near the Women's Alliance, Leh. Acting swiftly on the input, FIR No. 59/2025 was registered under Section 8/20 of the NDPS Act, and a police team from PS Leh, accompanied by the Executive Magistrate 1st Class

and independent witnesses, carried out a search at the said location.

Following the recovery, the accused was taken into custody. A detailed investigation is underway to ascertain the source and intended distribution of the drugs, as well as to identify any other individuals involved in the network.

District Police Leh reiterates its commitment to eradicating drug abuse and trafficking, and ensuring a drug-free society. The police also express their sincere gratitude to the public for their continued support and cooperation in this collective fight against drugs.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal chairs 3rd steering committee meeting of Ladakh CAMPA



Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chairing the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Ladakh Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) at the Civil Secretariat, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Ladakh Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, on May 13.

Sajjad Hussain Mufti, Chief Conservator of Forests and CEO of Ladakh CAMPA, presented a comprehensive overview of the key achievements of the Forest and Wildlife Divisions for the fiscal year 2024-25. The presentation also reviewed highlights from the previous year and outlined the action plan for 2025-26.

Discussions during the meeting covered a wide range of topics, including natural and artificial regeneration, silvicultural operations, forest and plantation protection, pest and disease control, forest fire prevention and management, soil and moisture conservation, wildlife habitat improvement, establishment and upkeep of animal rescue centres, biodiversity conservation, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, and other related initiatives.

Dr. Kotwal directed the department to engage local residents in operating the newly procured ambulances and emphasized expanding nursery development and sapling production for

plantation drives. He also instructed the geo-tagging of solar water heaters distributed under CAMPA to ensure accountability and transparency.

Further, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for installing proper signage and information boards in wildlife areas, including the display of photographs of local fauna. He instructed that forest rest houses be properly managed, with locals hired for watch and ward duties, and that quality uniforms be provided to wildlife and forest guards.

Additionally, Dr. Kotwal proposed constructing crate bunds along the right bank of the Indus River to stabilize its course. He also called for a detailed study of ungulate populations, along with proper data analysis, to support wildlife conservation efforts.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Administrative Secretary, Agriculture & Horticulture; Chief Conservator of Forests/CEO CAMPA; Wildlife Wardens of Leh and Kargil; Divisional Forest Officers of Leh and Kargil. The Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology, and Environment; Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare; representatives from IRO, Jammu and Chandigarh, and other members participated virtually.

Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal reviews developmental works, listens to public grievances during Nyoma subdivision tour



Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh interacting with public during his two-day official tour of the Nyoma subdivision.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, concluded his two-day official tour of the Nyoma subdivision on May 5, covering Nyoma, Hanley, and Demchok.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing developmental projects and engaged extensively with local communities to address their concerns. In Nyoma, Dr. Kotwal chaired a detailed review meeting with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and assessed the progress of various departmental initiatives. He also inspected the functioning and infrastructure of the Pashmina Goat Farm, revenue, and forest facilities, emphasizing the need for effective land management and ecological conservation. Additionally, he visited the Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) at Nyoma and Mudh.

In Hanley, Nambardar Khaldo highlighted critical issues, including restrictions imposed by the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, which have impact-

ed homestay registrations, thereby affecting local tourism and livelihoods. He also raised concerns about land registration challenges, the need to upgrade the existing Medical Aid Centre (MAC) to a Primary Health Centre (PHC), and requested enhanced budget allocations for the construction of a temporary ice hockey rink.

Similarly, the Nambardars of Buk and Shado villages submitted key demands, including the repair of underperforming solar electricity facilities, the construction of a new community hall, and the protection of pasturelands through the installation of chain-link fencing. The Tibetan Nomadic Settlement in Hanley sought the construction of a black-topped link road to Tenkhar Gompa and a guest room for hosting social, cultural, and public meetings.

Dr. Kotwal also visited the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve (HDSR) on May 3, where he interacted with local villagers. He distributed 1,560 lamp shades and 508 black-out curtains and directed the PWD 124 Division to depute an electrician for

their installation. He also engaged with the young Astro Ambassadors, commending their enthusiasm and dedication towards promoting astro-tourism.

On the concluding day of his tour, Dr. Kotwal conducted a public outreach program at the Demchok Community Hall, listening to the grievances of local residents. The Nambardar of Demchok presented key demands, including permission to allow tourists to visit and stay overnight at the Demchok hot spring to boost the local economy, installation of an Airtel mobile tower to improve telecommunication connectivity, and the posting of a full-time MBBS doctor at the local health center. Other demands included compensation for livestock lost during the harsh winter and the installation of a borewell for water supply, as the village's nallah has dried up.

Dr. Kotwal assured residents that their concerns would be taken up with the relevant authorities and necessary action would be initiated. In a significant directive, he instructed the SDM Nyoma to prepare a proposal for developing Demchok as a Model Vibrant Village.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Sajjad Hussain Mufti, Chief Wildlife Warden, Ladakh; Tushar Anand, SDM Nyoma; SHO Nyoma; and officials from various departments under the Nyoma subdivision.

NIHE, local communities collaborate for long-term grassland conservation in Ladakh's high-altitude ecosystems



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: The Ladakh Regional Centre of the National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, successfully organized a Consultation Workshop cum Field Visit at Chibra Village, Durbuk Block, on May 3.

The initiative was part of the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)-funded project titled "Carbon Budget and

Eco-hydrological Dynamics of Selected Himalayan High-altitude Grasslands and Their Carrying Capacity."

The event was graced by the presence of Councillor Konchok Stanzin, who, along with scientists and experts from NIHE, interacted with local villagers to discuss the importance of establishing long-term monitoring facilities for assessing the health of trans-Himalayan grasslands.

Dr. Sandipan Mukherjee, Principal Investigator of the project and Head of the Ladakh Regional Centre, NIHE, underlined the critical role of sustained grassland monitoring. He emphasized that such initiatives would enhance scientific understanding of carbon dynamics and eco-hydrology, while also helping to determine the carrying capacity of these ecologically sensitive high-altitude ecosystems. The project is expected to support both conservation initiatives and sustainable livelihood practices for local communities.

The consultation provided an important platform for knowledge exchange between scientists, stakeholders, and local residents, highlighting the long-term ecological and socio-economic benefits of the project for the region.

Transporters meet CEC Akhoon, seek resolution of Fitness Fees, Permit issues in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A delegation from the All Kargil Transport Association met Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, on May 13 to highlight critical challenges facing the transport sector in Kargil, UT Ladakh.

The delegation raised four major issues requiring urgent attention. They expressed concern over the current fitness fee system in UT Ladakh, where operators are charged full fees twice a year, unlike in UT Jammu & Kashmir, where only nominal renewal charges apply after six months. The delegation stressed that this system puts an undue financial burden on transporters, espe-

cially considering Ladakh's short operating season.

They also demanded the revision or removal of the vehicle cap under the 2022 Inter-State Transport Agreement between UT Ladakh and UT J&K, which currently restricts the number of vehicles to 2,000—limiting transport growth in the region.

Additionally, the delegation urged the administration to issue state permits to vehicles registered in Ladakh post-2019 bifurcation, as currently only pre-bifurcation registered vehicles are eligible.

Lastly, the transporters pressed for the immediate formulation of a region-spe-

cific Ladakh Transport Policy, considering Ladakh's unique geographical and operational challenges.

CEC Dr. Akhoon assured the delegation of his full support and informed them that the issues have been taken up with Transport Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary. He further assured that matters concerning permits, green tax, and online pollution certification delays are being reviewed for timely resolution.

The delegation was led by Mohd Idress, President, All Transport Truck Union; Ghulam Nabi, Taxi Operators' Representative; Mehdi Ali, Vice President, All Kargil Transport Association; and Khadim Hussain, President, Tata Mobile Operators Association.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with renewed hope for swift administrative action to address the transport community's grievances.

CEC Leh felicitates SNM Hospital team for milestone medical achievements



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Tashi Gyalson, along with Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk and DC/CEO Santosh Sukhadeve, felicitated the medical team of SNM Hospital Leh on May 2 for their remarkable contributions to healthcare in Ladakh.

In a historic achievement, SNM Hospital successfully conducted the first-ever permanent pacemaker implantation in any district hospital of Ladakh. The procedure was performed by Dr. Lotus Gyalson, Consultant Physician and DM Cardiologist, with the support of the Senior Pharmacist and OT Assistant.

The CEC also congratulated the neurosurgical team for successfully performing complex procedures at the hospital. The team was led by Dr. Mohd Hanif Bhat (Neurosurgeon), and included Dr. Tsering Angmo (Consul-

tant Anaesthetist), Rinchen Dolma (OT Assistant), and Lotus Lamo (Anaesthesia Assistant).

Acknowledging their dedication, the CEC praised the team for advancing specialized medical care in the region and urged them to continue serving the people with the same commitment.

Dr. Rinchen Chosdol, Medical Superintendent, announced that a fully equipped Cath Lab will soon become operational at SNM Hospital, significantly enhancing the hospital's cardiac care capabilities.

CEC Tashi Gyalson commended the entire medical team for their collective efforts and reiterated LAHDC Leh's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring quality medical services across Ladakh.

EC Mehdi, Councillor Sandup meet MoS Harsh Malhotra, seek sanction for key roads and bridges in Leh and Nubra



EC, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi, and Councillor, Tsering Sandup with Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi, and Councillor of Panamik Constituency, Tsering Sandup, met with Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, in New Delhi on May 3.

During the meeting, the delegation submitted a memorandum highlighting the long-pending demands for critical road and bridge projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) 2024-25. These include the construction of the Handang Brok-Zangpal Road and bridges con-

necting Diskit to Burma at Shatsetaknak and Diskit to Lakjung, along with other pressing infrastructure needs in Leh district and Nubra Valley.

They also urged the Minister to expedite the release of funds for ongoing projects and to sanction the proposed projects for the financial year 2024-25 at the earliest.

Minister Harsh Malhotra gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the delegation that the Ministry would look into the matters and take timely action, ensuring necessary support for the projects.

DC Leh Santosh Sukhadeve leads key meeting to strengthen Pashmina value chain in Changthang



DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve convening meeting to strengthen Pashmina value chain and identifying existing gaps in the Changthang region of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, convened a crucial meeting on May 5 at the DC Office Mini Conference Hall to discuss strategies for strengthening the Pashmina value chain and identifying existing gaps in the Changthang region of Ladakh.

The meeting focused on several key areas critical for the sustainable growth of the Pashmina sector in the region. These included reviewing Pashmina production trends over the years and exploring strategies to enhance production, identifying challenges and bottlenecks in the Pashmina value chain, and exploring avenues to improve income opportunities for local communities engaged in Pashmina production.

Additionally, the discussions emphasized the need for capacity-building programs to upgrade the skills and knowledge of stakeholders at various levels, along with exploring innova-

tive methods and advanced processing techniques to increase the value of Pashmina products.

DC Sukhadeve assured stakeholders that the key issues and recommendations emerging from the meeting would be brought to the attention of the Principal Secretary and the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor for appropriate action. He reiterated the administration's commitment to empowering Pashmina producers in Changthang and ensuring the sustainable development of this vital economic activity for Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by the Director of Industries & Commerce Department, Director of Sheep Husbandry Department, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Nyoma (via video conference), Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Department Leh, OSD Industries & Commerce Department, and local Pashmina entrepreneurs.

Fortnightly News

ALTOA, ALHGHA delegation meets Lt. Governor to discuss tourism crisis



Delegation comprising executive members of ALTOA and ALHGHA with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd.).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation comprising executive members of the All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) and the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association (ALHGHA) called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd.), at Raj Niwas on May 8. Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal and Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Vikram Singh Malik were also present during the meeting.

The delegation apprised the LG of the adverse impact on Ladakh's tourism sector following the recent terrorist attack on civilians in Pahalgam and the subsequent Operation Sindoor carried out by the Indian armed forces. They conveyed that the incident has brought tourism in the region to a virtual halt, especially for the month of May, with widespread uncertainty clouding the remaining tourist season. The delegates noted that tourism had been steadily recovering, with a significant influx of tourists in March and April.

They informed the LG

about a near-total cancellation of bookings for May and briefed him on the proactive steps taken by ALHGHA and ALTOA. These include providing free accommodation to approximately 2,000 stranded tourists and arranging transport to Manali. So far, 25 tempo travellers have been mobilised for this purpose.

The delegation raised concerns regarding the financial stress faced by stakeholders in the sector, particularly in repaying bank loans and managing operational expenses such as high electricity bills. They requested the LG's intervention in extending the payment deadlines for electricity bills applicable to hotels, guest houses, and other tourism-related establishments. They also sought his support in obtaining clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the use of satellite phones in remote areas, highlighting their importance during emergency situations like rescue operations.

The delegates urged the LG to address the burden of commercial electricity

tariffs levied on hospitality establishments and suggested adopting models from other states and UTs, such as Andaman and Rajasthan, to ease financial pressure. They also stressed the need for renewed promotion of Ladakh as a tourist destination to attract more visitors.

Discussions also included proposals for installing solar rooftop systems on hotels and guest houses, with government incentives to help reduce long-term operational costs. The need for organising Familiarisation (FAM) tours to promote tourism was also brought up.

Commending ALTOA and ALHGHA for their commendable efforts in supporting stranded tourists, the LG reiterated the UT Administration's commitment to safeguarding the interests of those dependent on the tourism sector for their livelihood. He assured the delegation of full support from the UT Ladakh Tourism Department in promoting tourism across the country.

The LG directed Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal to take up the matter of satellite phone clearance with the relevant MHA authorities. He also instructed Secretary of Power Development Department and Tourism, Vikram Singh Malik, to urgently prepare a draft proposal—based on the Andaman and Rajasthan electricity billing models—for review and decision-making in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines, aimed at providing relief to hoteliers and guest house owners.

International workshop on disaster risk management for galleries, libraries, museums, and archives begins in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A five-day International Workshop on Disaster Risk Management for Galleries, Libraries, Museums, and Archives commenced on May 5 at the Office of the Registering Officer for Antiquities, Leh.

Executive Councillor Stanzin Chosphele graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest.

The workshop is a joint initiative by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGN-CA) Conservation Division, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO), Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, and the Department of Archives, Archaeology, and Museum, Union Territory of Ladakh. The program highlights the growing global and regional emphasis on safeguarding cultural heritage sites and collections from various disaster risks.

During the inaugural ceremony, speakers underscored the critical importance of preparedness, mitigation, and proactive strategies in protecting invaluable cultural assets from disasters.

Leading the sessions are prominent national and international experts, including Dr. Heather Brown from Australia, Sari Sasakawa from France, Chalida Uabumrungjit from Thailand, and Dr. Achal Pandya, Dr. Sanjay Dhar, and Dr. Gopal Mohan from India.

The workshop aims to equip participants with practical insights, methodologies, and best practices in disaster risk assessment, mitigation, and response, thereby enhancing the resilience of cultural institutions against potential threats.

Defence Minister inaugurates ₹947.43 Cr BRO projects; 16 completed in Ladakh



CEC of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson during the virtual inauguration of 50 strategic projects executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant boost to infrastructure and connectivity in high-altitude border areas, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated 50 strategic projects executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on May 7 from New Delhi.

The virtual ceremony was attended by the Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, along with Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillors Tashi Namgyal Yakzee and Ghulam Mehdi, and Nominated Councillor Ven. Konchok Tsepel. Councillor Dr. Morup Dorjee from Lamayuru joined the inauguration from the project site at Dhonkhar.

The event commenced with a spirited chant of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," marking the successful launch of Operation Sindoor. Of the 50 projects inaugurated, 16 are located in the Union Territory of Ladakh and have been implemented under Project Himank and Project Vijayak, with a combined worth of approximately ₹947.43 crore. These projects have been dedicated to the people of Ladakh as part of India's broader vision for secure borders and inclusive development.

Among the key projects inaugurated in Ladakh are eight critical roads under Project Himank, Tangtse-Lukung Road; Karu-Tangtse Road; Chusul-Dungti-Fukhe-Demchok Road; Puga-Pologongka Road; Mahe-Debring Road; Leh-Loma Road; Lukung-Phobrang Road and Tangtse-Horong-Chusul Road.

These roads are essential not only for defence logistics but also for improving civilian connectivity in remote and border villages.

Six bridges were also dedicated to the region, Kanglajal Bridge-I; Kanglajal Bridge-II; Fukche Talza

Bridge; Fukche Lungpa Bridge (under Project Himank); Hanu Yokma Bridge and Domkhar Bridge (under Project Vijayak).

Additionally, two other key projects were completed: a specialised ammunition cavern at Hanle and road surfacing using ILCB technology at Chang La and Wari La, further enhancing the region's infrastructure resilience in harsh terrains.

CEC Adv. Tashi Gyalson congratulated the people of Ladakh on the successful completion of these vital projects. He stated that this milestone marks significant progress in Ladakh's development journey as a Union Territory. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for their unwavering support. He emphasized that these efforts align with the Prime Minister's vision for a progressive and empowered Ladakh.

The CEC further noted that several more infrastructure projects are in the pipeline and will be completed in the coming days for the continued benefit of the region.

On the occasion of the 66th Raising Day of the BRO, celebrated on May 7, 2025, the CEC extended his warm congratulations to the organisation and lauded its indispensable role in the development of border infrastructure across Ladakh and the nation.

A highlight of the event was the virtual inauguration of BRO's Café Himank, located along the Tangtse-Lukung Road. Positioned in a scenic area, the café serves as a rest and refreshment stop for defence personnel and travellers, symbolising the integration of infrastructure development with community engagement

and tourism potential in border areas.

Speaking at the event, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh praised the BRO's dedication in executing complex engineering projects under extreme weather and challenging geographical conditions. He remarked that such infrastructure goes beyond connectivity—it empowers people, boosts local economies, and strengthens national security. He stated that these projects are a testament to the government's steadfast commitment to the welfare and development of border regions like Ladakh.

Director General Border Roads, Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan, provided insights into the strategic importance and technical aspects of the inaugurated projects, highlighting how BRO's engineering excellence is transforming some of India's most remote frontiers.

Adding to Ladakh's pride, Project Himank was declared the Best Project among all 18 BRO projects across the country and was honoured by the Defence Minister on BRO Day. Nicknamed "The Mountain Tamers," Project Himank has consistently delivered critical infrastructure in Eastern Ladakh, including access routes to Daulat Beg Oldi, Galwan, Demchok, Hanle, and the Karakoram Pass. Earlier this year, it became the first BRO project to receive the Chief of Army Staff Unit Appreciation, a recognition of its unmatched contribution to strategic connectivity and regional development.

The people of Ladakh have warmly welcomed the inauguration of these projects, acknowledging the transformative role of the BRO in enhancing mobility, creating opportunities, and improving everyday life in this strategically vital region.

EC Mehdi urges BRO chief for infrastructure boost in Nubra region



Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi with Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan, AVSM, VSM, Director General Border Roads (DGBR), BRO.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi called on Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan, AVSM, VSM, Director General Border Roads (DGBR), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), in New Delhi on May 6.

EC Mehdi expressed gratitude to the DGBR for sanctioning the double-lane road from Khalsar to Chulungkha and noted that work is progressing smoothly. He also submitted a memorandum requesting prioritization of local workers, enhancement of wages for local labourers, age relaxation for local labourers, early completion of

the Post 9 bridge and CP bridge, realignment on the Thorgyab Road near Bogdang village, construction of a steel bridge at Turtuk Nallah, channelization and construction of a bridge at Pitkar Nallah near Garadi, construction of a rock shed/open concrete tunnel near Changmar village, and between Turtuk to Tyakshi road and construction of a steel bridge over Kushul Nallah.

Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan assured that the DGBR would look into the matters raised and take timely action, along with providing the necessary support.

CEC Tashi Gyalson reviews proposal for sports and recreation centre at Solar Colony



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson discussing the proposal for a multipurpose sports and recreation centre at Solar Colony, Choglamsar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, along with Deputy Chairman Tsering Angchuk, convened a meeting at the LAHDC Conference Hall on May 2 to discuss the proposal for a multipurpose sports and recreation centre at Solar Colony, Choglamsar.

The meeting focused on the construction of a skatepark as a central feature of the proposed facility.

The proposal includes plans for a solar-powered parking area, a futsal ground for women, an activity room, a table tennis room, a skatepark designed to be accessible to

persons with disabilities, and facilities for snowboarding and ice mountain climbing. Discussions also covered the construction of a compound wall, lighting systems, and comprehensive site planning to ensure functionality and accessibility for all users.

CEC Tashi Gyalson reviewed the various components of the proposal and recommended the engagement of a qualified consultant to assist with the technical and design aspects of the project. He approved the proposal in principle and directed that the planning and implementation process proceed in a structured and timely manner.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Imran Khan; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh, Stanzin Rabga; District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Tsering Tashi; Patwari Choglamsar; Vice President of Chispay Tolop Khang Society, Choglamsar; and Sophie Samdup, founder of CT Kits, along with students from CT Kits.

CEC Leh chairs meeting to address shortage of physical education teachers in schools



During the meeting to discuss the recruitment of Physical Education Teachers (PETs) across schools in the district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, convened a meeting on May 13 to discuss the recruitment of Physical Education Teachers (PETs) across schools in the district.

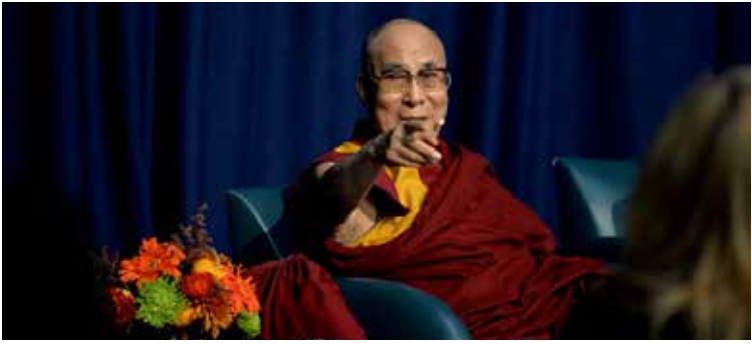
The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretary Vikram Singh Malik; Additional Secretary, GAD, Rigzin Spalgon (JKAS); OSD to Sports Secretary, Dr. Stanzin Thakchos; and District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Tsering Tashi.

Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, and Director, School Education, Tsering Paldan, participated virtually.

A detailed discussion was held on the shortage of PETs in schools and possible measures to address the issue. The participants also deliberated on the need to amend the existing Recruitment Rules (RRs) for PETs to create a more inclusive and practical recruitment process.

In Focus:

The Reality of War
By: His Holiness Dalai Lama



Of course, war and the large military establishments are the greatest sources of violence in the world. Whether their purpose is defensive or offensive, these vast powerful organizations exist solely to kill human beings. We should think carefully about the reality of war. Most of us have been conditioned to regard military combat as exciting and glamorous - an opportunity for men to prove their competence and courage. Since armies are legal, we feel that war is acceptable; in general, nobody feels that war is criminal or that accepting it is criminal attitude. In fact, we have been brainwashed. War is neither glamorous nor attractive. It is monstrous. Its very nature is one of tragedy and suffering.

War is like a fire in the human community, one whose fuel is living beings. I find this analogy especially appropriate and useful. Modern warfare waged primarily with different forms of fire, but we are so conditioned to see it as thrilling that we talk about this or that marvelous weapon as a remarkable piece of technology without remembering that, if it is actually used, it will burn living people. War also strongly resembles a fire in the way it spreads. If one area gets weak, the commanding officer sends in reinforcements. This is throwing live people onto a fire. But because we have been brainwashed to think this way, we do not consider the suffering of individual soldiers. No soldiers want to be wounded or die. None of his loved ones wants any harm to come to him. If one soldier is killed, or

maimed for life, at least another five or ten people - his relatives and friends - suffer as well. We should all be horrified by the extent of this tragedy, but we are too confused.

Frankly as a child, I too was attracted to the military. Their uniform looked so smart and beautiful. But that is exactly how the seduction begins. Children starts playing games that will one day lead them in trouble. There are plenty of exciting games to play and costumes to wear other than those based on the killing of human beings. Again, if we as adults were not so fascinated by war, we would clearly see that to allow our children to become habituated to war games is extremely unfortunate. Some former soldiers have told me that when they shot their first person they felt uncomfortable but as they continued to kill it began to feel quite normal. In time, we can get used to anything.

It is not only during times of war that military establishments are destructive. By their very design, they were the single greatest violators of human rights, and it is the soldiers themselves who suffer most consistently from their abuse. After the officer in charge have given beautiful explanations about the importance of the army, its discipline and the need to conquer the enemy, the rights of the great mass of soldiers are most entirely taken away. They are then compelled to forfeit their individual will, and, in the end, to sacrifice their lives. Moreover, once an army has become a powerful force, there is every risk that it will destroy the happiness of its own country.

There are people with destructive intentions in every society, and the temptation to gain command over an organisation capable of fulfilling their desires can become overwhelming. But no matter how malevolent or evil are the many murderous dictators who can currently oppress their nations and cause international problems, it is obvious that they cannot harm others or destroy countless human lives if they don't have a military organisation accepted and condoned by society. As long as there are powerful armies there will always be danger of dictatorship. If we really believe dictatorship to be a despicable and destructive form of government, then we must recognize that the

existence of a powerful military establishment is one of its main causes.

Militarism is also very expensive. Pursuing peace through military strength places a tremendously wasteful burden on society. Governments spend vast sums on increasingly intricate weapons when, in fact, nobody really wants to use them. Not only money but also valuable energy and human intelligence are squandered, while all that increases is fear.

I want to make it clear, however, that although I am deeply opposed to war, I am not advocating appeasement. It is often necessary to take a strong stand to counter unjust aggression. For instance, it is plain to all of us that the Second World War was entirely justified. It "saved civilization" from the tyranny of Nazi Germany, as Winston Churchill so aptly put it. In my view, the Korean War was also just, since it gave South Korea the chance of gradually developing democracy. But we can only judge whether or not a conflict was vindicated on moral grounds with hindsight. For example, we can now see that during the Cold War, the principle of nuclear deterrence had a certain value. Nevertheless, it is very difficult to assess al such matters with any degree of accuracy. War is violence and violence is unpredictable. Therefore, it is better to avoid it if possible, and never to presume that we know beforehand whether the outcome of a particular war will be beneficial or not.

For instance, in the case of the Cold War, through deterrence may have helped promote stability, it did not create genuine peace. The last forty years in Europe have seen merely the absence of war, which has not been real peace but a facsimile founded dear. At best, building arms to maintain peace serves only as a temporary measure. As long as adversaries do not trust each other, any number of factors can upset the balance of power. Lasting peace can assure secured only on the basis of genuine trust.

The official website of the His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama.

The World of Juniors

The day is dedicated to celebrating the art of laughter and its remarkable ability to refresh and heal individuals. It's a moment to reflect on the importance of humour and laughter in our daily lives. Celebrated annually on the first Sunday in May, World Laughter Day is significant as a global event dedicated to promoting laughter as a tool for joy, healing and unity. The day serves as a reminder of the profound impact laughter can have on individual well-being and social harmony. Laughter transcends boundaries of culture, language and religion, fostering connections and uplifting spirits. It highlights the therapeutic benefits of laughter, such as reducing stress, boosting immune function and promoting a positive outlook. The day encourages people around the world to come together, share laughter and spread positivity, contributing to a happier and healthier world.

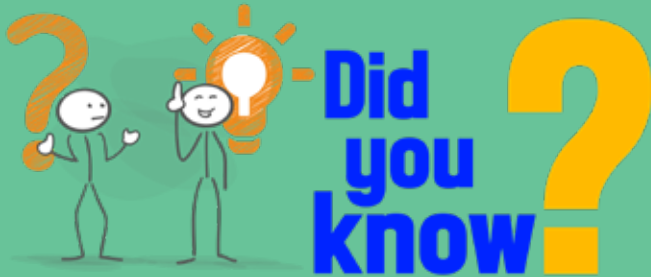
World Laughter Day originated in 1998 through the efforts of Dr. Madan Kataria, the visionary behind the global Laughter Yoga movement. A practising family doctor in India, Dr Kataria drew inspiration from the facial feedback hypothesis, which suggests that facial expressions can influence emotions, to initiate the Laughter Yoga movement.

World Laughter Day



This annual celebration serves as a joyful manifestation for world peace, aiming to cultivate global unity and friendship through laughter. Typically observed with gatherings in public spaces solely dedicated to laughter, World Laughter Day has seen exponential growth alongside the expanding Laughter Yoga movement. With thousands of Laughter Clubs now spanning more than 115 countries, this day has evolved into a widely celebrated event, spreading joy and camaraderie worldwide.

Courtesy: Hindustan Times



- The oldest living land animal on earth is a 192-year-old tortoise named Jonathan.
- The deepest part of the ocean is approximately 35,876 feet down.
- A silverback gorilla can lift over 1,763 pounds.
- Winds on Neptune can blow faster than 1,200 miles an hour.
- Central Park in New York City is larger than the entire country of Monaco.
- Cuvier's beaked whales can hold their breath underwater for over two hours.
- The International Space Station orbits Earth approximately every 90 minutes.

- Somewhere between 50% and 80% of earth's living organisms are in the ocean.
- The first person processed at Ellis Island was a 15-year-old girl from Ireland.
- Google Images was created after Jennifer Lopez wore the green dress at the 2000 Grammys.
- A fear of long words is called Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia.
- The quickest commercial flight in the world is in Scotland.
- Penicillin was first called "mold juice."
- The first commercial passenger flight lasted only 23 minutes.
- There are eight NFL teams currently without cheerleaders.
- Walt Disney currently holds the most Academy Awards at a lifetime total of 26.
- The Paris Catacombs contain the remains of over six million people.
- The oldest cat ever recorded lived to be 38 years and three days old.

Courtesy: today.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Old classics and their charm



Re-reading old classics after ages gives one a sense of fulfilment and achievement. My latest such moments came from going through THE WAR OF THE WORLDS by H G Wells. I can't recollect exactly when I had read it first, but a safe guess could be going back 20 years.

Actually, the book is an all-time favorite of curious and serious readers because of several reasons. But the most important of them all was Wells' predictions that could happen in the 20th century. He had rightly written about the technological

savagery of the 20th century warfare. He had also predicted conflicts and wars could happen anywhere on the planet Earth.

A scientific fiction, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS has a gripping effect on any of its serious readers because his predictions seem to be coming true even today.

It is said that on Oct 30, 1938, American actor and director, Orson Wells, had rattled American radio listeners all over the globe by describing a Martian invasion of the Earth. The point here is that H G Wells had first penned the story to this effect in his THE WAR OF THE WORLDS.

Narrating the kind of conflicts and wars, the author explores the themes of the survival of humanity, and how mankind develops a kind of resilience of the human spirit with so much of catastrophic events on planet Earth. The novel is a social commentary on chaos, panic and a complete breakdown of social order:

No wonder, the story of the book has been adapted in numerous ways that, as a reviewer has said, "demonstrates the versatility of the story and its ability to be reinterpreted for different audiences and mediums."

When you read the book, you feel as if you are a part of the game that life has to play, fair or foul. And, at times, it is so terrifying that you think of stopping reading it. But then making rationality take over emotion, one survives through the 'hard times' with lasting memories that make our lives more adaptable to the present situations.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with
Rigzen Angmo, UPSC-Civil Services Examination Qualifier

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Can you briefly introduce yourself and share your educational background?

Jullay, my name is Rigzen Angmo, and I am one of the qualified candidates from Ladakh in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024. I completed my schooling up to the 10th standard in Ladakh, followed by my 10+2 education in Delhi. I then pursued both my graduation and post-graduation in Geology from the University of Delhi. Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Q. What inspired you to pursue the Civil Services Examination?

I was inspired by observing the impactful work of civil servants and other prominent figures in public service. What drew me most was the opportunity the civil services offer—to channel one’s knowledge, wisdom, and experiences toward the betterment of society. This sense of purpose and intention became my driving force and helped me persevere through the challenges of this demanding examination.

Would you like help with making your answers more personal or more formal, depending on your audience?

Q. Was this your first attempt? If not, what kept you motivated after previous setbacks?

No, this was not my first attempt—it was my fifth. The journey has been long and challenging. What kept me motivated was the steady progress I witnessed with each attempt. Despite the setbacks, I felt confident that I was moving in the right direction. As I mentioned earlier, having a strong and clear intention from the beginning made all the difference. I genuinely aspired to a career in the civil services, and that conviction brought consistency and discipline naturally into my preparation.

Q. What was your overall preparation strategy and how did it evolve over time?

I prepared methodically, keeping the syllabus at the core of my strategy. I relied on standard books such as Laxmikanth for Polity and Spectrum for History, and I supplemented my final notes with content from various other sources.

Over time, my approach evolved from hard work to smart work. For instance, after two years, I stopped reading the



MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“Competitive exams require hard work and resilience. Give your 100%, but don’t sacrifice your mental health. Success is about enjoying the journey, so stay balanced, work hard, and keep learning.”

newspaper cover to cover, as I had already built a solid foundation in current affairs. Instead, I focused more on taking mock tests and revising my notes rather than re-reading entire books. Another important shift was in my mindset—I began to approach the exam more rationally than emotionally. This change really helped relieve unnecessary pressure and allowed me to stay consistent.

Q. What was your approach towards balancing preparation for Prelims, Mains, and the Interview?

I followed an integrated approach while preparing for both Prelims and Mains, since much of the syllabus overlaps. I only shifted my focus entirely to Prelims about two to three months before the exam, emphasizing full-length mock tests in the MCQ format. Alongside this, I also covered the additional syllabus and wrote test series specifically for Mains.

For the interview stage, I concentrated on improving my communication and clarity through one-on-one discussions on current affairs, and participated in multiple rounds of mock interviews to build confidence and receive feedback.

Q. Which resources did you use for your preparation? Which ones proved helpful?

I primarily relied on standard textbooks for the core subjects. In addition, I supplemented my preparation with credible sources like Sansad TV, Yojana, the Economic Survey, and other official publications. Coaching materials were also particularly useful for covering current affairs topics. Together, these resources helped me compile consolidated, high-quality notes that were crucial for revision and answer writing.

Q. What were the major challenges and setbacks you faced during your preparation?

The Mains stage was the most challenging part of my journey. Initially, I struggled to fully understand the demands of this stage, which led to repeated failures. These setbacks became the most difficult moments, often causing self-doubt and frustration. I would say the emotional lows and the internal battles during these phases were the toughest challenges I faced throughout the preparation.

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



Stanzin Daechan won gold medal in the 63 kg judo category at the Khelo India Youth Games held in Patna, Bihar. CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson extended heartfelt congratulations and said that her outstanding performance is a proud moment for Ladakh and reflects her dedication, discipline, and hard work. Such achievements by young athletes from the region continue to inspire others and bring recognition to Ladakh on the national stage.



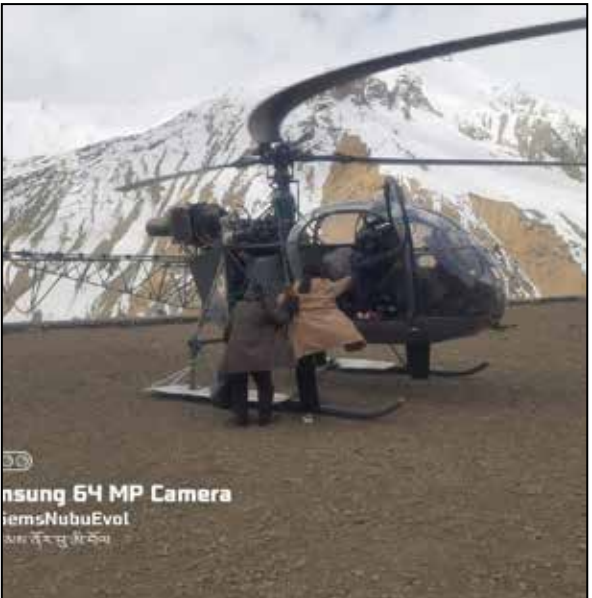
Four young cricketers from Leh Stanzin Namras (Mahabodhi School), Stanzin Khenrab (Lamdon Higher Secondary School), Mudasir Ahmed (EJM College), and Gurmet Namgyal (Mahabodhi School) have been selected to participate in the Under-19 talent hunt selection trials of the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, in the presence of Chief Conservator of Forests, Sajjad Hussain Mufti and DC/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, bid farewell to the outgoing Commissioner/Secretary, Dr. Vasanthakumar Namasivayam. He extended his best wishes to Dr. Namasivayam for his future endeavours and presented him with a traditional Thanka and a Buddha statue as a token of appreciation.



All Ladakh Daily Rated Workers (DRWs) hosted a lunch party at Shanam Community Hall, Leh, to express their heartfelt gratitude for the extension of benefits under the consolidated guidelines of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT). This significant decision has brought relief to 1,900 DRWs working across various departments of the UT Ladakh.



A patient in critical condition was successfully airlifted from Dipling Village in Singaylalo on May 4 with the support of the Indian Air Force. The patient was shifted to SNM Hospital, Leh, for further medical treatment.



The Ladakh Football Association (LFA) unveiled the official jersey of the Ladakh U20 Boys Football Team, which will represent the Union Territory in the Swami Vivekananda U20 Men’s National Football Championship 2025, scheduled to begin on 11th May in Chhattisgarh.



In a moment of pride for the region, Chairman/CEC LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson, met and interacted with Rigzin Angmo, who recently cleared the prestigious Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination.



National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, hosted a “Three-Day National Workshop on Competency-Based Curriculum and Syllabus for Third Professional BSRMS”.

Fortnightly News

Mission Shakti Kargil launches computer course for specially-abled girls

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (Mission Shakti) under the Department of Social and Tribal Welfare, Kargil, inaugurated a three-month Computer Certificate Course for specially-abled girls at NIELIT Kargil on May 5. The initiative is part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme and aims to promote digital literacy and skill development among differently-abled children.

The inaugural event was graced by CDPO Kargil Parveen Akhtar, CDPO Shargole Farida Banoo, Administrative In-Charge of NIELIT Kargil Mehboob Ali, Gender Specialist Aamina Banoo, District Mission Coordinator Niyaz Hussain,

and Financial Specialist Mansoor Hussain, along with specially-abled students and their parents.

To ensure inclusivity and accessibility, Mission Shakti Kargil has arranged transportation services, offering pick-up and drop facilities from the students' homes. The participants include children with locomotive disabilities, cerebral palsy, speech and hearing impairments, low vision, and intellectual disabilities.

In her address, CDPO Parveen Akhtar encouraged the students to take full advantage of the opportunity and participate with dedication. CDPO Farida Banoo highlighted the course as a crucial step towards



empowering specially-abled girls through digital skill-building. Classes will be held six days a week after school hours, allowing students to attend without disrupting their regular academic schedules.

Zanskar Police conduct awareness program on Motor Vehicle Act Offences



During an awareness program focusing on offences under the Motor Vehicle Act in Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: An awareness program focusing on offences under the Motor Vehicle Act—especially that committed by juveniles—was held at the Conference Hall of the Tourist Dak Bungalow in Padum on May 6. The event highlighted the legal implications for guardians and vehicle owners under Sections 199A and 4/180 of the Act.

The program was presided over by the Chief Guest, Executive Councillor for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, LAHDC Kargil, Er. Punchok Tashi. Among the dignitaries present were Tehsildar Zanskar, Mohd. Hassan; SHO Zanskar; Tourism Officer Zanskar; Presidents of the Nambardar Association, Taxi Union, Tempo Union, and Tipper

Union; along with Lambardars, drivers, and members of the Zanskar Transport Cooperative Society.

SHO Zanskar, Stanzin Gyaltsan, delivered key instructions regarding the Motor Vehicle Act and traffic regulations. Participants appreciated the initiative taken by Police Station Zanskar to spread legal and safety awareness in the region.

In his address, Chief Guest Er. Punchok Tashi urged all drivers to strictly follow traffic rules. He underscored the important role drivers play in shaping visitors' perceptions, stating, "A responsible driver is the region's ambassador—their behavior leaves a lasting impression on tourists and visitors alike."

GDC Kargil Psychology students gain clinical exposure at district hospital



Students from Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil at District Hospital Kargil during exposure visit.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: As part of their academic curriculum aimed at gaining practical exposure in mental health and addiction counselling, 6th-semester psychology students from Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil conducted an educational field visit to the Neuro-Psychiatry Section and the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) unit at District Hospital Kargil.

The visit was organized under the supervision of Mohd Mustafa, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, with the goal of bridg-

ing classroom learning with real-world clinical practice.

The visit began with an interactive session at the NTCP unit, where the students were received by Zarina Banoo, Counsellor. She provided a detailed overview of the structured counselling process followed for individuals dealing with tobacco addiction.

A key highlight was the opportunity for students to observe a live counselling session, conducted with the informed consent of the patient. This experience offered valuable in-

sight into empathetic communication, clinical assessment, and therapeutic approaches used in tobacco cessation.

The second part of the visit focused on the Neuro-Psychiatry Section. Here, Syed Hassan Shah, Clinical Psychologist, provided a comprehensive briefing on counselling strategies used for various mental health conditions. He discussed the prevalence of common psychological disorders in the region and shared statistical data on patient demographics and treatment outcomes. His session enhanced students' understanding of the diagnostic and rehabilitative roles played by psychologists in clinical settings.

The Department of Psychology extends its sincere gratitude to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Kargil, and Dr. Fatima Nissa, Nodal Officer, Mental Health Programme, for facilitating the visit. The department also expresses heartfelt thanks to Prof. Disket Angmo, Principal, GDC Kargil, for her continued encouragement and support in promoting experiential learning among students.

New school building inaugurated in Titichumik, Kargil by CEC



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, inaugurated the newly constructed building of Government Model Middle School, Titichumik, reaffirming the Council's commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure and quality in the region.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Mohd Haneefa Jan; Executive Councillor for Education, LAHDC Kargil, Zakir Hussain; Councillor of Baroo-Minji Constituency, Adv. Khadim Hussain; officials from the R&B Department, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kargil, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Kargil, CEO of rZamba, village elders, Village Education Committee (VEC) members, school faculty, and other dignitaries.

In his address, CEC Dr. Akhoon emphasized the ongoing efforts to strengthen education in the district, including collaboration with subject experts to make the CBSE curriculum more accessible and effective. He assured that the vacant post of Hindi teacher at the school would soon be filled and announced a financial grant of ₹3 lakh to support institutional development. He also committed to reviewing and addressing broader developmental needs of the village, such as lift irrigation, road extension, a sports stadium, and a Primary Health Centre.

MP Mohd Haneefa Jan congratulated the Councillor, former representatives, and the local community for the school's upgrade to model status. He stressed the importance of teacher training, community involvement, and reiterated his full support for the school's future growth.

Speaking on behalf of the education sector, Executive Councillor Zakir Hussain highlighted that while infrastructure is being improved by LAHDC and the district administration, the true success of an institution lies in collaborative responsibility between teachers and the Village Education Committee. He proposed installing CCTV cameras using untied funds and recommended exploring rooftop solar panel installation to promote sustainability.

VEC Chairman Ashiq Hussain shared that the village took the initiative to transform the school into a model institution in 2021–22. Thanks to combined efforts from the community, LAHDC, and NGO rZamba, student enrollment increased from just 6 students in 2022 to 80 in 2025.

VEC members extended their heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration, LAHDC Kargil, and rZamba NGO, which has actively collaborated to strengthen the school's curriculum. A notable contribution comes from an international volunteer from Ukraine, working closely with the school under this partnership.

The program concluded with the presentation of a proposal for further developmental needs by the VEC Chairman, who thanked all dignitaries for their continued support and encouragement.

...Continuity of page 5

In Conversation with Rigzen Angmo, UPSC-Civil Services Examination Qualifier

Q. What are the three things you would suggest every aspirant focus on, and three things they should avoid?

Three things to focus on:

1. Be honest with yourself about your preparation—acknowledge your strengths and work sincerely on your weaknesses.
 2. Stay connected to your core intention—remind yourself why you started this journey in the first place.
 3. Build discipline and consistency—these are the real drivers of long-term success in the UPSC journey.
- Three things to avoid:
1. Stay away from negative people and discouraging opinions—they can drain your motivation.
 2. Avoid overthinking the outcome; instead, focus on conquering one day at a time.
 3. Don't fear failure—in UPSC, setbacks are often part of the process. Give yourself the grace to fail, learn, and grow through the experience.

Q. How do you envision contributing to the nation and your community through your service?

I feel truly fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the nation through the civil services. I intend to carry out my responsibilities with honesty, dedication, and sincerity. My journey so far has taught me valuable lessons and given me perspectives that I believe can contribute meaningfully to policy-making and decision-making. I hope to use these insights to bring positive change to society and support the broader goals of national development.

Q. Do you have any message for young students aspiring for competitive exams?

Competitive exams can be extremely demanding—they require hard work, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose. My message to young aspirants is this: if you truly give your 100%, the journey will be rewarding, regardless of the outcome. However, never compromise your mental health in the process. Take care of your mind, your well-being, and your happiness. Success becomes meaningful only when the journey itself is fulfilling. So, strive to find that balance—work hard, stay grounded, and keep learning along the way.

National seminar on “Tribal Languages and Inclusivity in Ladakh” concludes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The two-day national seminar on “Tribal Languages and Inclusivity in Ladakh,” organized by the Tribal Research Institute (TRI) at the Kargil Campus, concluded on May 7 under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Saket Kushwaha.

The valedictory session was graced by Chief Guest Kacho Asfandiyar Khan (Retd. IAS) and Guest of Honour Dr. Mehboob Ali (In-charge Administration). Also in attendance were Dr. Jaffar Ali Khan (Director, TRI), tribal language experts, fac-

ulty, students, school heads, Team STRINGMO, and participants of the tribal painting workshop.

The ceremony included the felicitation of contributors, with certificates and mementos presented to students, faculty, resource persons, and members of Team STRINGMO. Kacho Asfandiyar Khan praised the efforts of the university and TRI in promoting tribal languages and emphasized the importance of preserving these languages through education, media, and community engagement.

Dr. Mehboob Ali highlighted the Vice Chancellor's vision: “Rooted in traditions and focused on the future,” and announced two new college-level courses dedicated to traditional knowledge.

A presentation by Sajjad Bob showcased the week-long tribal painting workshop, where 50 students explored traditional art forms. Participants shared transformative experiences and expressed their gratitude to TRI and STRINGMO for the opportunity.

Sharbatgone faces severe drought: CEC Akhoon orders accelerated irrigation solutions



Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon during his visit to the drought-affected village of Sharbatgone in the Sodh Constituency.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, visited the drought-affected village of Sharbatgone in the Sodh Constituency on May 13. The visit followed a morning meeting with area Councillor Manzoor Hussain and officials from the Irrigation and Mechanical Departments.

During the visit, residents voiced serious concerns over the acute water scarcity, stating that the village is on the verge of drying up due to the

absence of irrigation water. Witnessing the dire conditions firsthand, Dr. Akhoon directed the Executive Engineer of the Irrigation Department, Ghulam Hussain, to expedite the completion of the on-going lift irrigation project to ensure immediate relief for the village.

Additionally, he instructed the concerned departments to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a canal-based irrigation system, emphasizing that the project would benefit not only Sharbatgone but

also adjoining villages. He assured the community that the canal project would be prioritized in the first phase of development, with trial operations expected to begin by May 25, 2025.

Dr. Akhoon was accompanied by Councillor Sodh, Manzoor Hussain; Executive Engineer Ghulam Hussain; Assistant Executive Engineer; Junior Engineer; along with other departmental officials, senior citizens, and local public representatives.

Fortnightly News

APEDA organises sensitisation and capacity building programme for farmers in Nubra



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organised a one-day sensitisation cum capacity development programme on sea buckthorn and apricot for farmers of Nubra Valley at the SDM Conference Hall, Diskit, on April 21.

The programme was coordinated by CBBO - Indian Agribusiness Systems Limited and Sumoor Fed Dry Fruit FPO. A similar session was also conducted at the Sumoor Community Hall on April 19.

SDM Nubra, Mukul Beniwal (IAS), Dr. Rigzin Tsewang,

Business Development Manager, APEDA; Shrimathi Baskar, Director, Finance and Compliance, Agriwatch; and Trivender Chittoria, DC Associates, were present during the event.

The programme commenced with an opening address by Sandeep Saha, Regional Head (J&K, Ladakh). The technical sessions focused on various key topics, including the development of the Sumoor FPO, packaging and export readiness of Ladakh's key fruits, the importance of labelling and regulatory compliance, GAP certification, project financing, and government subsidy schemes. Additionally, the sessions introduced optical fruit grading solutions to enhance product quality.

The programme aimed to raise awareness among local farmers, equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to produce high-quality, export-ready products, thereby contributing to India's agricultural export growth.

GDC Drass flags off Handball and Archery teams for Ladakh University sports meet



A total of 28 students representing Principal of Government Degree College (GDC) Drass flagged off to participate in the inter-college sports meet organized by the University of Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: The Principal of Government Degree College (GDC) Drass flagged off the college's handball and archery teams on May 3 to participate in the inter-college sports meet organized by the University of Ladakh.

A total of 28 students are accompanied by Mohd Yaseen, Director of Physical Education and Sports, who played a key role in preparing the students for the competition.

Yaseen dedicated significant time and effort to training the players, ensuring they were

physically and mentally prepared for the tournament.

Addressing the students during the flag-off ceremony, the Principal congratulated them for their enthusiasm and commitment to sports. He thanked them for representing GDC Drass and encouraged them to compete with energy, resilience, and team spirit.

Yaseen also expressed his appreciation to the Principal for the support and encouragement provided, which enabled the students to take part in this important event.

MP Haji Haneefa Jan launches 5th phase of Al Hima-laya Green Mission at Damsna

40,000 saplings planted as part of Ladakh's green drive



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Member of Parliament for Ladakh, Haji Haneefa Jan, attended the official launch ceremony of the Al Hima-laya Green Mission and Research Institute at Damsna, marking a significant milestone in the region's largest environmental campaign aimed at planting one lakh saplings in partnership with the UT Ladakh Administration.

The event marked the fifth phase of the plantation drive, with 40,000 saplings planted across the picturesque Damsna valley. The initiative continues its stride toward its ambitious goal of rejuvenating Ladakh's fragile ecosystem through large-scale afforestation.

In his address, MP Haji Haneefa Jan congratulated Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Muhammadi, co-founder of the Green Mission, for his visionary leadership and practical commitment. "While many NGOs speak of plantation, only a few act. This initiative is not just for one community but for all humanity," the MP said. He pledged his full support to efforts that benefit the planet and future generations. "For missions like this, we should not take just one, but ten steps forward," he emphasized.

Sheikh Nazir, in his keynote, outlined the multi-phase structure of the mission and expressed deep gratitude to volunteers and community members.

Drawing from religious wisdom, he quoted the Holy Quran and Imam Ali (a.s.): "Plant a tree, even if the Day of Judgment is about to rise," underscoring the spiritual importance of environmental stewardship.

He also raised concerns over unchecked activities like deforestation, mining, and pollution, warning that these are accelerating glacial melt in the Hima-layas. The mission, he noted, is not just about planting trees, but about fostering an ecological mindset. "Taharat (purity) is not only a personal virtue but also a duty towards Earth," he said, calling on religious scholars to advocate for environmental responsibility.

One of the mission's novel ideas was the introduction of the "Green Engineer" concept—encouraging youth to engage with environmental science and sustainable technologies. "Even planting a single tree at home can lead to meaningful change," Sheikh Nazir concluded, urging every citizen to take action in safeguarding the land.

The event witnessed active participation from local leaders, youth, and environmental volunteers, further amplifying the region's growing commitment to ecological restoration and sustainable living.

Orientation programme for taxi drivers held in Kargil to promote responsible tourism



Orientation Programme for taxi drivers held in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Tourism Department Kargil, in collaboration with the District Police Kargil, successfully organized an Orientation Programme for taxi drivers at the Tourist Reception Centre, Kargil on May 5. The initiative aimed to educate local drivers on responsible tourism, sustainable travel, and their vital role as cultural ambassadors of Ladakh.

The event was attended by Dy.SP (Headquarters) Kargil, Anayat Ullah; Dy.SP Traffic Kargil, Asif Mustafa (JKPS); DTI Mohammad Nissar; Project Coordinator, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, Asif Hussain; President of Taxi Union, Ghulam Nabi; and Tourist Officer Kargil, Ghulam Rasool Lal.

In his remarks, DTI Mohammad Nissar highlighted the pivotal role of taxi drivers as the first point of contact for visitors. He urged them to maintain a courteous, honest, and informative demeanor, as their behavior sets the tone for a tourist's experience in Ladakh.

Dy.SP Anayat Ullah emphasized the value of local knowledge and encouraged drivers to familiarize themselves with heritage sites and scenic spots like Karchay Khar, Draupadi Kund, Sanjak Valley, and

Karpokhar. He stressed the importance of personal grooming, communication skills, and adapting to the needs and curiosity of tourists while strictly following traffic and safety regulations. "First impression is the last impression," he said, underlining the importance of professionalism.

Dy.SP Traffic, Asif Mustafa, called for a professional presentation, recommending the use of maps, brochures, and visual aids to assist and engage tourists. He noted that informative and respectful interactions can encourage longer stays, thereby benefiting the local economy.

Project Coordinator Asif Hussain addressed the need for sustainable tourism, urging drivers to avoid ecologically sensitive zones, even under tourist demand. He warned that such behavior damages Ladakh's fragile environment and disrupts local wildlife. He appealed to the drivers to become guardians of Ladakh's natural and cultural heritage.

The programme concluded with a collective call to action, encouraging all drivers to uphold responsible tourism, protect the environment, and positively represent Ladakh—not just within India, but on the global stage.

CEC Kargil Dr. Akhoon reviews Sodh Lift Irrigation project, urges fast-track completion



Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon assessing the progress of the Sodh Lift Irrigation Project.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon convened a comprehensive review meeting on May 13 to assess the progress of the Sodh Lift Irrigation Project. The meeting focused on evaluating the current status, addressing bottlenecks, and accelerating the project's timely completion.

Dr. Akhoon assured that solar power backup will be incorporated in the project's second phase to ensure an uninterrupted water supply for irrigation. Expressing concern over the delays, he underlined the urgency of completing the project to address the challenges faced by the local farming community.

"We are fully committed to resolving both technical and non-technical issues swiftly. Despite budget constraints, priority works must be executed for the welfare of the public," Dr. Akhoon stated.

He also gathered detailed feedback from all concerned departments regarding both technical and administrative hurdles. Officials assured that all pending issues would be addressed promptly and that efforts are underway to complete the project as soon as possible.

The CEC further reviewed the

status of lift irrigation projects in Styankung, Lhalung, and Brakoo Strakburik, which officials reported are nearing completion. The progress of the Chanigund Lift Irrigation Project was also discussed, with testing scheduled by May 25.

Additionally, Dr. Akhoon directed the concerned departments to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the canal works demanded by the people of Sodh region to ensure efficient water distribution in the future.

Supporting the concerns, Hon'ble Councillor of Sodh Constituency, Manzoor Hussain, urged the administration to expedite the project. He highlighted the severe water scarcity currently affecting farmers during the ongoing irrigation season.

"People are anxious. Water is essential for our fields, and most of our residents rely on agriculture for their livelihood," he emphasized.

The meeting was attended by Councillor Manzoor Hussain; Chief Engineer/SE, Mohd Abass; Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Ghulam Hussain; Executive Engineer, Mechanical, Mohd Hassan; other concerned officials, senior citizens, and public representatives from the region.

NOTICE

Whereas Rigzin Namgail S/o Tsewang Rigzin, R/o Fiang , District Leh UT Ladakh, has claimed that he has changed his name from Rev Rigzin Namgail to Rigzin Namgail and is applying for the correction in the passport. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Regional Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication.

NOTICE

I Sherab Zangmo W/o Late Sonam Dorje R/o Saspol Leh Ladakh claim that my name has been wrongly recorded as Sherab Nangmo instead of Sherab Zangmo and also my Date of Birth has been recorded as 01-07-1960 instead of 01-12-1957 in my husband's service record of Unit 1st BN ITBP. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any to the concerned office within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Spiritual journey begins: Kargil bids farewell to Hajj pilgrims



Hajj pilgrims from Kargil district, Union Territory of Ladakh, beginning their sacred journey to the holy city of Makkah.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A deeply emotional atmosphere enveloped the villages of Kharul Hardass and Matayen in Drass on May 6 as the final batch of around 100 to 120 Hajj pilgrims from Kargil district, Union Territory of Ladakh, began their sacred journey to the holy city of Makkah.

As dawn broke over the region, large numbers of families gathered to bid farewell to their loved ones—many embarking on the pilgrimage for the very first time. The air was filled with tears, prayers, and heartfelt goodbyes, reflecting the spiritual significance and emotional weight of the moment.

The group was formally flagged off by Mohd Ali Majaz, Chairperson of the Hajj Committee for UT Ladakh, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Imteaz Kachho. Ceremonial gatherings took place

at both Kharul Hardass and Matayen, where officials and community members came together to offer blessings and well-wishes.

Before departure, the pilgrims were honored with traditional khataqs (ceremonial scarves), symbolizing respect, goodwill, and spiritual blessings. Warm send-offs were extended by ADC Imteaz Kachho, Hajj Committee Chairperson Ali Majaz, Committee Member Nazir Ahmed (Leh District), Hajj Officer Haji Mohd. Ali, and Hajj Coordinator Habibullah.

This departure is part of a phased travel plan. The second group of pilgrims will depart later on May 6, followed by the final group the same day. All pilgrims from Kargil are scheduled to fly from Srinagar International Airport on May 9, first arriving in the holy city of Medina before proceeding to Mecca.

LAHDC, Kargil approves Rs 255.26 crore budget for FY 2025–26



The Chairman/ CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, chairing the General Council Meeting.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, chaired the General Council Meeting to discuss and approve the CAPEX Budget of Rs 255 crore and 26 lakh for the financial year 2025–26 on May 2. The meeting, held at the Conference Hall, Baroo, was attended by MP Ladakh Mohd Haneefa Jan, Executive Councillors of LAHDC Kargil, DC/CEO LAHDC Kargil, JD Planning/Chief Planning Officer, Councillors, SDMs, departmental heads, and other district officers.

Proceedings began with a moment of silence to honor the memory of former MP Haji Mohd Hassan Khan and to pay tribute to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

The session focused on strategies for sustainable development, livelihood enhancement, and quality-centric project execution. The CEC praised departments including PDD, PHE, Mechanical, and the Municipal Committee for achieving maximum expenditure targets in the previous fiscal year under the leadership of the CCF.

The DC Kargil was congratulated for Karsha Block's recognition under the Aspirational Blocks Programme. Additionally, CEC Akhoon lauded CEO LAHDC Kargil, Shrikant Suse (IAS), for receiving the Excellence Award for expenditure management from the Prime Minister in 2024.

As the CAPEX budget meeting commenced, Dr. Akhoon inaugurated several key projects, including upgradation of the Tesra Drass link road, launch of a Stock Assistant Training Institute, new residential quarters in Drass, upgradation of Middle School Youlbo, Drass, establishment of an Anti-Drug Addiction Centre and hostel facility for differently-abled individuals Progress and implementation status of department-wise allocations were reviewed, with Councillors voicing concerns and suggestions. After thorough deliberation, the council approved the final budget for 2025–26.

Commending efforts in higher education, the CEC appreciated the Lieutenant Governor and Vice Chancellor of the University of Ladakh for introducing new academic courses to benefit local students.

He also announced the enhancement of wages for 1,900 casual laborers and thanked the Central Government and Ladakh Administration for their support. The CEC further acknowledged the HLG for ensuring department di-

rectors remain posted at their original locations in Kargil.

Highlighting ecological concerns, Dr. Akhoon informed that tourism activities at Zojila have been halted due to rising pollution and environmental degradation. He noted that BRO's jurisdiction has been realigned to ensure timely road clearance during snowfalls. On healthcare, he stated that facilities at the District Hospital Kargil have been upgraded, especially with improved gynecological services. The long-pending MRI machine procurement process is also nearing completion.

A new web portal is being developed to ensure a transparent transfer policy. The CEC urged stakeholders to eliminate plastic usage in weddings and reduce non-biodegradable materials in markets.

Tourism was a major agenda point. The CEC emphasized developing border tourism in Drass and promoting adventure activities such as paragliding and trekking, especially in valleys from Minji to Tangol. He called for better coordination between the Tourism and Rural Development Departments to fast-track tourism infrastructure, including cafes and basic visitor amenities.

In fisheries, he instructed the Assistant Director to expand fish farming initiatives to boost local livelihoods.

On education, the CEC stressed the urgency of deploying teachers in underserved areas and filling posts vacated by retirees. He highlighted the importance of Arabic teachers and directed the CEO of Education to act promptly. He also proposed setting up long-term training centres at the primary school level to strengthen teacher capacity, particularly in remote areas.

Winter hostels were discussed in detail, with the CEC emphasizing the need for long-term planning and proper facilities to support students during the harsh season.

The council also reviewed critical infrastructure issues such as lift irrigation, water supply to remote areas, flood control, and the status of link roads. He urged departments to accelerate implementation for public benefit.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to enhancing inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely, sustainable, and inclusive development.

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