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OCTOBER 01-15, 2025

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN



In Conversation with
Namgyal Lhamo, Athlete

In Focus:

September 24, 2025: Gunfire Shatters Ladakh's Peace

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From Peace to Tragedy: 4 killed, 87 injured as peaceful hunger strike ends in violence

Apex Body suspends talks with MHA; calls grow for judicial probe and accountability into September 24 violence

By: Stanzin Desal

LEH: What began as a 35-day peaceful hunger strike led by renowned environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk turned into one of the darkest chapters in Ladakh's recent history on September 24, 2025, when violence erupted in Leh. Four young men lost their lives and around 87 people were injured. Fifteen of them seriously after security forces opened fire during protests.

The hunger strike, launched on September 10, sought to press the Union Government to address Ladakh's longstanding demands for constitutional safeguards, environmental protection, and political representation. Tensions mounted on September 23 when the health of two hunger strikers Tsering Angchuk 72 and Tashi Dolma 62 years both from Saspol village deteriorated, forcing their transfer to Sonam Norboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital. Many supporters saw the government's continued silence as a sign of indifference to the peaceful movement, fueling public frustration.

That evening, youth leaders called for a shutdown on September 24, urging people to gather at the NDS Memorial Park, where the hunger strike was underway. By morning, nearly 1,000 people from all walks of life had assembled in a peaceful show of solidarity.

From Peaceful Protest to Chaos

Trouble flared in the afternoon when clashes broke out just outside the hunger strike site. A group of agitated youths expressed their anger by attacking and ultimately setting fire to the BJP office in Leh. Before igniting the building, protesters carefully removed a portrait of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche and an image of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, carrying the national flag aloft to signal that their grievances were not anti-national. Videos circulating on social media showed that even amid the clashes, some youths helped injured CRPF personnel, pacifying others and offering water.

The crowd then moved toward the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Secretariat, where the situation escalated rapidly. Security forces responded with tear gas and, ultimately, live gunfire. Protesters pelted stones and damaged parts of the Council Assembly Hall. Eyewitnesses reported that shots were fired into the crowd without prior warning. Four young men—all suffering bullet wounds to the chest, head, or neck—died.

Tsering Nordon, a local, said, "I studied in Delhi and participated in many protests, including the Nirbhaya case, but never saw forces using



live bullets. They used lathis, tear gas, or water cannons, but never live rounds aimed at the head and chest. This incident demands accountability and justice—it has scarred every Ladakhi heart."

Witnesses further alleged that security forces entered the hunger strike site, using lathis and tear gas against fasting participants. Outside, forces beat people on the streets—whether involved in protests or not—checking phones and detaining them. Around 50 people, including students, youth leaders, and politicians, were taken into custody.

Questions Over Use of Force

The killings have left a deep scar on Ladakh's collective

conscience and raised serious questions about the administration's handling of the crisis. Key among them:

- Were SOP followed to disperse the crowd?
- Who authorized the use of live ammunition against unarmed demonstrators?
- Why were less-lethal crowd-control methods—such as water cannons or rubber bullets—not used first?

For many Ladakhis, September 24 will be remembered as a black day, emblematic of both administrative failure and the breakdown of trust between the region's people and the government.

Arrest of Sonam Wangchuk and Curfew

The tragedy did not end with the shootings. A curfew was immediately imposed across Leh and surrounding areas, along with an internet shutdown. On September 26, Sonam Wangchuk was arrested from his village of Uleytokpo and transported to Jodhpur Central Jail under the stringent National Security Act (NSA), a move that drew widespread condemnation.

Final Rites and Rising Demands

Funeral rites for the four victims—Tsewang Tharchin (46) of Skurbuchan village, Rinchen Dadul (22) of Hanu, Stanzin Nangail (24) of Igoo, and Jigmet Dorje (25) of Kharnakling—were per-

formed under heavy security on September 28 and 29. Grief mingled with anger as families and supporters demanded justice.

Later that evening, the Apex Body announced suspension of its scheduled October 6 dialogue with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) until the government took concrete steps to meet their demands:

- A fair and transparent judicial inquiry into the use of excessive force.
- Accountability for the open firing that killed four young men.
- Release of Sonam Wangchuk, whom they call wrongly detained.
- A public correction of "baseless" allegations from the



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Fortnightly News

From Peace to Tragedy: Four killed, 90 injured as peaceful hunger strike ends in violence

...Continuity of page 5

Lieutenant Governor, DGP Ladakh Police, and some national media outlets portraying Ladakhi protesters as anti-national.

Apex Body Chairman Thupstan Chhewang stated: “Until and unless the government restores normalcy and acts on our demands, we will not proceed with the scheduled dialogue. Accountability is essential.”

Chering Dorje Lakruk echoed the sentiment,“Had the government taken our concerns seriously and engaged in timely talks, this tragedy could have been avoided. Instead, they have resorted to curfews and restrictions. The firing was carried out without a magistrate’s order. We demand justice and accountability.”

Later that evening at 8:02 PM, Ministry of Home Affairs released a press statement which reads as, “Government has always been open for dialogues on Ladakh matters with Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) at any time. We would continue to welcome the discussion with ABL and KDA through the HPC on Ladakh or any such platform. The dialogue mechanism established with Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) through the High Powered Committee (HPC) on Ladakh has yielded good results till date in the form of increased reservations to the Scheduled Tribes of Ladakh, providing women reservation in LAHDCs and protection to local languages. The process of recruitment for 1800 posts in government has already commenced in UT of Ladakh. We are confident that continuous dialogue would yield the desired results in near future.”

Grief, Outrage, and Calls for Justice

Public representatives, including Konchok Stanzin, held the government, administration, and local leaders responsible for the crisis. Many argued that financial compensation cannot heal the wounds or restore faith in leadership.

Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Leh expressed profound grief and outrage, urging the Lieutenant Governor to immediately establish an independent and impartial judicial inquiry. He further appealed for a review of arrests to ensure no innocent person is harassed, and called for adequate compensation and long-term support for all affected families.

The CEC stressed: “At this critical juncture, the people of Ladakh must be supported with compassion, sensitivity, and justice.”

Despite attempts by some national media to depict the protests as anti-India, local residents stress that their demands are well within the Indian Constitution. Ladakhis point to their long history of patriotism, including their critical role in defending India’s borders during the 1999 Kargil War and other conflicts.

As the region mourns, the call for justice, accountability, and constitutional safeguards grows louder. For many, these demands are not just about the violence of one tragic day, but about ensuring that Ladakh’s voice is heard and respected within the Indian Union.

LG Kavinder Gupta chairs high-level security review in Ladakh

Calls for vigilance and united efforts to safeguard peace



By: Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, chaired a high-level security review meeting on September 25 to assess the emerging situation across the Union Territory.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, DGP Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, and senior officers of the Army and ITBP were present.

During the meeting, the Lt. Gov-

ernor emphasized heightened vigilance, seamless inter-agency coordination, and proactive measures to safeguard peace, security, and public order. He underlined that the safety and well-being of citizens remain the administration’s top priority and directed officials to maintain a robust mechanism for continuous ground monitoring. He called for close cooperation between civil and security agencies to ensure a swift response

to any challenge, strengthening intelligence networks, encouraging community participation to maintain harmony, and enhancing preparedness for any untoward incident.

“Ladakh has always been known for its peace, harmony, and brotherhood. However, certain anti-social elements are trying to disturb this atmosphere. I urge the people not to fall prey to such attempts. We must maintain peace at all costs,” the Lt. Governor said.

Highlighting Ladakh’s development since becoming a Union Territory, Gupta said, “Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ladakh has witnessed massive progress. Our focus is on building a prosperous, peaceful, and developed Ladakh. No disruptive force will be allowed to derail this progress.” He also shared details of the medical response to those injured in the September 24 incident. A total of 90 patients were brought to SNM Hospital, Leh: three were brought dead and one was declared dead

on arrival. Seven were critically injured, 20 suffered major trauma, and 61 had minor injuries. Fifty patients were discharged the same day, seven underwent major surgeries, and 45 blood transfusions were performed.

On September 25, one critically injured patient was airlifted to New Delhi for advanced treatment. Currently, 18 patients remain admitted, and 11 more were discharged today. The bodies of the four deceased have been handed over to their families after completion of legal formalities.

On the Lt. Governor’s directions, the Deputy Commissioner Leh visited SNM Hospital to review facilities and ensure all possible assistance to patients and their families.

Reiterating his appeal for unity, the Lt. Governor said, “Peace and harmony are the foundation of Ladakh’s identity. Together, we must protect this legacy and ensure the safety and security of every citizen.”

University of Ladakh awards 612 degrees at 2nd Convocation in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: University of Ladakh successfully hosted its 2nd Convocation Ceremony on September 21at the Tourist Facilitation Centre, Kargil. The event, marked by academic spirit and traditional gaiety, brought together dignitaries, faculty, students, and their families to celebrate the achievements of the graduating classes of 2024 and 2025.

The ceremony was presided over by Kavinder Gupta, Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh and Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, who conferred degrees, certificates of merit, and gold medals to meritorious students.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Vice Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha emphasized the need for academic changes in line with Government of India policies while preserving Ladakh’s traditional culture.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Saket Kushwaha emphasized the University’s rapid growth in research, skill development, and academic expansion. He highlighted the establishment of the Drone Research and Innovation Centre with Anna University and the Cyber-Physical Systems Lab with IIT Ropar as landmark steps in making Ladakh a hub for high-altitude innovation, AI, IoT, and smart technologies. He also noted the University’s rising research impact with growing citations, subject-specific recognition, and breakthrough collaborations with national and international institutions. Underscoring equitable academic expansion, the Vice-Chancellor stressed that new programmes and courses are being introduced in both Leh and Kargil campuses equally, ensuring balanced growth and accessibility. He further pointed to entrepreneurship initiatives with EDII, the TEC-UoL ideathons, and skill-oriented training for ST youth in solar and green technologies as key pathways preparing Ladakhi students for future-ready careers while fostering innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

Addressing the convocation, Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, Kavinder Gupta, described the event as a celebration not only of academic achievement but also of the collective aspirations and resilient spirit of Ladakh. He congratulated the graduates, thanked the faculty, parents, and guests, and noted that the University has emerged as a beacon of learning and holistic development. The Chancellor highlighted the University’s swift adoption of NEP 2020, which promotes multidisciplinary learning, skill development, digital literacy, and curriculum reforms. He also praised award-winning skilling programs that align youth with industry, entrepreneurship, and public service. Gupta further emphasized the growth of Atmanirbhar Bharat in Ladakh through local entrepreneurship, crafts, sustainable tourism, and green energy, supported by research centres such as the Centre for Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan Studies and prestigious proj-

ects like the LAMA Project funded by MiETy, undertaking advanced research on Himalayan ecology and sustainability.

The Chancellor also lauded the University’s progress in digital transformation, including smart classrooms, e-learning platforms, and advanced laboratories, alongside academic expansion and collaborations with premier institutions, preparing Ladakhi youth for global challenges. He appreciated community outreach for environmental and cultural preservation and recognized students and alumni excelling in academics, research, administration, and entrepreneurship.

He informed the audience that recruitment for various non-teaching positions has been completed and appointment letters will be issued in the forthcoming days. He urged graduates to act as ambassadors of peace, sustainability, and equitable development, embracing lifelong learning and teamwork, while reaffirming his administration’s commitment to protect Ladakh’s heritage and ecology.

Prof. (Dr.) Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir highlighted the shared history between the two universities and lauded the growth and achievements of the University of Ladakh in a short span. She congratulated the University for having more than 60% women enrolment and invited the University of Ladakh for advanced research collaboration in education with the University of Kashmir. She also extended her thanks to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, for his efforts in the development of the region.

The formal proceedings began with the Academic Procession, lighting of the ceremonial lamp, Saraswati Vandana, and invocation by students. This was followed by the presentation of Doctoral Degrees and gold medals to meritorious graduates, and the degree distribution ceremony for graduates and postgraduates across faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Sciences, Commerce, and Management. Degrees were also conferred in absentia for students unable to attend. A total of 117 degrees were awarded at the convocation ceremony—fifty-nine in person and fifty-eight in absentia. Additionally, 612 degrees, including one PhD, were uploaded to the NAD DigiLocker during the ceremony, allowing students digital access through their APAAR ID, under the initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education.

Special recognition was accorded to gold medallists and merit holders, whose dedication and academic excellence were celebrated as an inspiration for the entire student community.

Since its inception in 2019, the University of Ladakh has made significant strides in strengthening higher education and research in the Trans-Himalayan region. The convocation reaffirmed the University’s motto: “Come and Learn at the Top of the World.”

DC Leh inspects ongoing construction projects, stresses timely completion and quality



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh Donk, inspecting ongoing construction projects across Leh district.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh Donk, IAS, conducted a comprehensive inspection of several ongoing construction projects across Leh district on September 22 and directed officials and contractors to ensure timely completion with uncompromised quality.

The DC first visited the Solid Resource Management Centre at Solar Colony, instructing that the project be completed before October 2. He also emphasized keeping the site clean and well organized.

In Chuchot, he inspected the Public Library at Mohalla Bashakha and the Gathering Centre-cum-Library near the Anjuman Imami Women Wing Office at Palam. He reviewed the pace of work, availability of construction materials, and adherence to quality standards.

At the Meditation Centre site at Naljore Ling, the

DC expressed concern over substandard workmanship. He directed both the contractor and the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) to present the full project estimate at his office for a detailed review.

He also assessed progress on the Public Library-cum-Assembly Hall at Dakung Khawoche, Sputik Pharkha, which is around 70% complete, and urged officials to expedite the remaining work without compromising quality.

The DC instructed all concerned officers and contractors to maintain strict quality control, conduct regular site inspections, and promptly address any issues to avoid delays.

Deputy Commissioner Donk was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Tsewang Gyalson, Executive Engineer (Construction Division) Imran Khan, along with the AEE and Junior Engineer of the division.

Historic boost to Ladakh Power Grid: PMDP sanctions ₹1,925 Cr for key transmission lines



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a major push to Ladakh’s power infrastructure, the Ministry of Power has approved a Revised Cost Estimate (RCE-II) of ₹1,925.28 crore under the Prime Minister’s Development Package (PMDP-2015) for critical intra-state transmission projects connecting Nubra and Zaskar valleys.

The revised approval, conveyed through a Ministry of Power order on 16 September 2025, ensures administrative and financial clearance for balance works, enabling the timely completion of vital projects that will provide Ladakh with a robust and sustainable power network.

Project Highlights

• Key Lines & Implementing Agencies: The 220 kV Phyang–Disket (Nubra) and 220 kV Drass–Padum (Zaskar) transmission lines, awarded in July 2021, are being implemented by RECPDCL with POWERGRID providing project management and consultancy services.

• 24×7 Reliable Supply: Completion of these lines and associated grid stations will deliver round-the-clock power to remote and strategic regions of Nubra and Zaskar.

• Phasing Out Diesel Generators: Around 20 DG stations in Nubra (7 MVA) and 8 in Zaskar (5 MVA) will be decommissioned, reducing dependency on polluting diesel power.

• Renewable Energy Integration: The new infrastructure will facilitate solar park development and support the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, enabling large-scale renewable energy evacuation.

• Socio-Economic Benefits: Enhanced power supply will bolster tourism, im-

prove living standards, and strengthen support for defence establishments.

Reasons for Cost Escalation

The original project cost of ₹1,203.08 crore rose to ₹1,925.28 crore due to:

1. Flood- and Avalanche-Resistant Towers:
o DGRE mandated raised chimneys (0–9 m) and special circular foundations (4–12 m) for 940 towers (841 raised chimneys, 99 special foundations).

o This increased tower costs from ₹0.28 crore (normal) to ₹0.50 crore (raised chimney) and up to ₹1.90 crore (special foundation), adding ~₹265 crore.

2. Material & Design Upgrades:

o Special grade C-steel and Fe-50 reinforcement to withstand Ladakh’s extreme temperatures (–45°C to +30°C).

o Replacement of normal Zebra conductors with high-tensile Deer conductors for difficult hilly terrain and wind zone VI, adding ~₹345.82 crore.

3. Price Variations:

o Contracts awarded during the low-cost Covid period (July 2021) faced sharp price hikes in steel, fuel, and labour, adding ₹376.38 crore.

Additional Expenditures

• Land & Wildlife Clearances:
o ₹65 crore disbursed for private land acquisition along the Drass–Padum line.
o ₹99 crore paid to the Wildlife Department for the Phyang–Disket line.
• Realignments:
o Adjustments near Manman Top (Drass Snow Ski site), Drang Drung Glacier, and Shakar Markim villages to balance development with environmental concerns.

With the revised sanction, work on the held-up 220 kV transmission lines will resume at war footing, targeting completion by October 2026.

This milestone marks a decisive step toward a carbon-neutral Ladakh, reducing diesel reliance, enabling renewable integration, and powering sustainable socio-economic growth in Nubra and Zaskar.

DC Leh conducts surprise inspection of Government Schools in Leh town



Photo Caption: DC Leh conducting surprise inspection of Government Schools in Leh town.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk conducted surprise inspections of Government Middle School Skara, Government Middle School Leh, and Government Girls Higher Secondary School Leh.

During the visit, the DC inspected teaching and non-teaching viability in the schools, status of student and staff enrollment, functioning of classrooms, availability of lights, condition of washrooms, and overall infrastructure. He also reviewed the Mid-Day Meal kitchens and the quality of food being served to students.

The DC directed the concerned Headmasters/Principals and staff members found absent to submit reasons for their absence. He instructed Zonal Education Officer, Padma Deachen, and ZEPO, Chamba Standar, to ensure regular inspections and continuous monitoring of schools under their jurisdiction.

On the occasion, Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School Leh, Zunzas Dolma, raised issues pertaining to inadequate washroom facilities and other infrastructural requirements, which were taken note of by the DC for necessary action.

Fortnightly News

Ayurveda Day: Ladakh students explore medicinal plants on educational trip



Photo Caption: Biology students of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Leh, during their educational trip to the Trans-Himalayan Herbal Garden.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: As part of the 10th Ayurveda Day celebrations on September 23, the State Medicinal Plant Board, UT Ladakh, organized a one-day educational trip for Biology students of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Leh.

The trip included visits to the Trans-Himalayan Herbal Garden of the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa and the CSIR-IIIM Experimental Farm, Palam, giving students valuable exposure to medicinal plants and their significance.

Phunchok Angmo, Consultant (Botany), introduced the students to the relevance of Ayurveda Day and highlighted the Board's role in conserving medicinal plants and raising awareness across Ladakh.

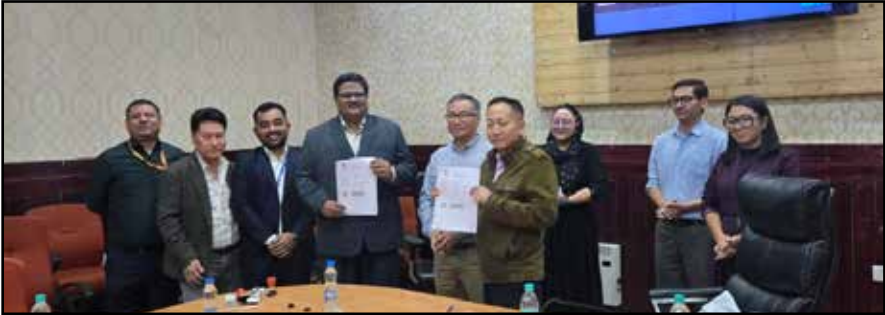
At the Trans-Himalayan Herbal Garden, students were welcomed by Dr. Tsewang Rinchen, Research Officer, who outlined the Institute's work in nurturing and maintaining the herbal garden. Dr. Rinchen, Dr. Sonam Chorol, and Dr. Thupstan Tsewang guided the group through the garden, explaining the scientific names, medicinal uses, and applications of various species in the AYUSH system of medicine, broadening students' understanding of traditional healing practices.

At the CSIR-IIIM Experimental Farm, Palam, Dr. Padma and Zahir Ahmad demonstrated modern plantation techniques and provided hands-on training in saffron cultivation, emphasizing the crop's economic value. A pictorial display and herbarium exhibition further helped students visually connect with Ladakh's rich biodiversity and the importance of conserving these vital resources.

Adding to the academic value, Dr. Dorji Gyalson, Consultant, BSRMS, discussed the role of these plants in the Sowa Rigpa system of medicine and highlighted future opportunities for students in this field.

Dr. Phunchok Angmo expressed gratitude to the experts from the National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, CSIR-IIIM, the lecturers, and the enthusiastic students for their active participation, which made the event a success.

Three-day workshop on Treasury Single Account and TSA Hybrid held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Finance Department of UT Ladakh, in collaboration with the Office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Home Affairs, is conducting a three-day workshop-cum-handholding session on Treasury Single Account (TSA) and TSA Hybrid for accounts personnel of Leh and Kargil districts. The workshop runs from September 22 to 24 in the Conference Hall of the DC Office, Leh.

The sessions aim to provide in-depth insights and practical training on the end-to-end process flow of TSA operations. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Latinkhuma Franklin, IAS, Secretary Finance and Director, Accounts and Treasuries (DAT), UT Ladakh, who highlighted TSA's importance in ensuring transparency and efficiency in financial management.

A key milestone of the event was the signing of an agreement between the Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries, Ladakh, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening the TSA account.

Training sessions are being led by Gayetri Devi, Sr. Accounts Officer, and Ashutosh, Assistant Accounts Officer, CGA, along with RBI officials Gabas Biswas, General Manager (DGBA), and Atul Kumar Dass, Manager (DGBA). From the Ministry of Home Affairs, H. Atheli, Joint CGA, and Anupam Raj, Deputy CGA, also addressed participants.

Attendees include Joint Directors Finance, Chief Accounts Officers, Accounts Officers, and Assistant Accounts Officers from various HoD offices, PAO offices, and the UT Secretariat.

The inaugural session featured a welcome address by the Pay and Accounts Officer, Leh, followed by remarks from dignitaries underscoring the role of TSA in strengthening Ladakh's financial governance.

The program will conclude with a comprehensive handholding session to ensure smooth adoption and implementation of TSA/TSA Hybrid across the Union Territory.

Impact Conclave: LG Kavinder calls for sustainable, inclusive development of Ladakh



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, addressed the LEAD Impact Conclave in Jammu on September 21, highlighting Ladakh's unprecedented growth since becoming a Union Territory and reaffirming the Administration's commitment to sustainable and inclusive development.

Gupta said Ladakh's transformation reflects its focus on renewable energy adoption, paperless governance, and modern administrative reforms, making it a model for other States and Union Territories.

"Our endeavour is to ensure that Ladakh becomes a benchmark of balanced development, where economic progress aligns with cultural values and a sensitive ecosystem," he stated.

Education, health, and tourism remain top priorities. Gupta emphasized strengthening healthcare infrastructure and promoting tourism as a key driver of livelihoods, especially for youth. He cited the recent "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" campaign to improve women's health and family well-being through awareness, screening, and timely medical access.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the importance of cooperatives and Self-Help Groups, aimed at connecting local producers with wider markets to create sustainable livelihoods. He lauded the growing recognition of Ladakh's GI-tagged Pashmina, which is helping artisans—particularly women—earn better incomes.

Commending the conclave, Gupta said such platforms unite citizens, NGOs, businesses, and institutions for Ladakh's progress.

"We will not just make plans but implement them. We will turn ideas into action and make Ladakh a land of hope and opportunity where development is inclusive, modern, and environmentally responsible," he concluded.

Social entrepreneurs, civil society members, and representatives from diverse sectors attended the conclave, pledging their support for Ladakh's growth.

13 BN NDRF holds disaster management camp in Nyoma



Photo Caption: During the disaster management camp in Nyoma.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: The 13th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (13 BN NDRF), in collaboration with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Nyoma, conducted the second day of a two-phase Disaster Management Camp across Nyoma subdivision on September 23 to strengthen community resilience and life-saving skills.

The first phase was held at Government Higher Secondary School, Nyoma, where SDM Nyoma Kachho Asgar Ali, the Principal, students, teachers, and staff participated. Sessions

focused on safe assembly procedures and classroom-level actions during earthquakes, floods, and fire emergencies.

The second phase took place at the Community Hall, drawing a large number of villagers for practical, hands-on demonstrations tailored to rural needs and local hazards.

Key topics and demonstrations included:

- Earthquake safety measures and protective actions.
- Flood response: safe

evacuation routes, use of lifejackets/throw-bags, and post-flood hygiene.

- Basic first aid and CPR for cardiac and trauma emergencies.

- Safe handling of LPG cylinders, leak detection, and emergency shutdown procedures.

- Proper use of portable fire extinguishers and small-scale fire prevention techniques.

- Community roles in early warning, evacuation coordination, and relief reporting.

The training combined concise briefings with live demonstrations, enabling students, teachers, and villagers to practise and retain essential skills. Participants expressed appreciation for the practical approach and pledged to serve as local focal points for disaster preparedness.

DC Leh chairs meeting on PM Gati Shakti implementation



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk, IAS, chaired a meeting on September 22 in the VC Room of the DC Office to review the implementation of the PM Gati Shakti initiative.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Tsewang Gyalson, Executive Engineer (Construction) Imran Khan, Superintending Engineer (PWD) Dorjay Gyatso, and other officials.

Phuntsog Angmo from Team Ladakh PMU delivered a detailed presentation on the objectives and features of PM Gati Shakti, highlighting its integrated, GIS-based digital platform designed to provide a single-window solution for infrastructure planning and monitoring. The platform enables stakeholders to access developmental data and track project status in real time.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of making the platform simple and user-friendly, noting that technology should facilitate rather than burden users. He directed officials to regularly upload project photographs and details, and suggested introducing a color-coded system—green for completed projects, yellow for ongoing works, and red for delayed projects—to enhance transparency.

The presentation showcased advanced features such as dynamic updates, real-time geo-tagging, and workflow tracking through mapping and layering. Officials explained that the platform, powered by BISAG-N's GIS technology, supports uploading and editing of project data with a maker-checker mechanism for verification. Satellite imagery allows users to monitor developmental activities through a map interface similar to Google Maps.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the need for timely updates, accurate data reporting, and effective use of technology to ensure the success of developmental projects under PM Gati Shakti.

University of Ladakh hosts National workshop on Indian knowledge systems

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The University of Ladakh hosted a two-day workshop-cum-conference on "Research Frontiers and Opportunities in Indian Knowledge Systems (RFOIKS-2025)" on September 18–19 at its Leh Campus. The event was sponsored by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the IKS Cell of AICTE, Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

The conference opened with a traditional felicitation led by Dr. Subrat Sharma, Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Ladakh, in the presence of eminent guests including Dr. Om Prakash Chaurasia (Director, DRDO); Prof. Ganti Suryanarayanamurthy, National Coordinator, IKS Cell, AICTE; Dr. V. Ramanathan, Head, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, IIT (BHU) Varanasi; Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa Rigpa; and Dr. Mohd Hussain, Convener of the conference. Distinguished scholars, researchers, and students from across India also participated.

Over two days, the workshop featured four technical sessions and parallel sessions:

Technical Session I: Integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into modern education and research, including multidisciplinary applications, comparative insights on Ayurveda and modern medicine, and the scientific validation of ancient Indian chemistry.

Technical Session II: Medical heritage and Ayurveda, with discussions on Kashmir's contributions, preservation of classical texts, rich medicinal flora, and Ayurveda's preventive, eco-conscious approach to healthcare.

Technical Session III: Indigenous wisdom and sustainability, highlighting the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), innovative mountain-animal feeding systems, and Ladakh's ecological practices for climate resilience.

Technical Session IV: Water and yogic sciences, featuring the Churpon system of indigenous water distribution in Leh and the historical, philosophical, and modern significance of yoga in health and integrative medicine.

Parallel sessions allowed scientists, scholars, and students to share region-specific insights on indigenous healing systems, sustainable agriculture, traditional architecture, cultural practices, and ecological knowledge—bridging grassroots traditions with academic research.

The event was organized in collaboration with the IKS Center of Excellence, IIT (BHU) Varanasi; Defence Institute of High Altitude Research, Leh; National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Leh; Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, Leh; Mahabodhi International Meditation Center, Leh; and the Central Institute for Buddhist



Photo Caption: During the two-day workshop-cum-conference on "Research Frontiers and Opportunities in Indian Knowledge Systems at Ladakh University.

Studies, Leh.

The valedictory session was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha, who emphasized the global relevance of Indian Knowledge Systems and Ladakh's strategic importance as a hub for IKS studies. Prof. Ganti Suryanarayanamurthy, Dr. V. Ramanathan, Prof. Rama Jayasundar (AIIMS), and Dr. Vishwanjanani J. Satigeri (CSIR-TKDL) also addressed the gathering.

Prizes were awarded to outstanding young scholars. Oral Presentation winners: Dr. Basharat Ali (First), Saikrupa Adartha (Second), and Faiza Batool (Third). Poster Presentation winners: Zahra Batool, Ume Kulsum, and Zahida Banoo (First, GDC Kargil).

Dr. Jigmat Dachen, Dean of Colleges, University of Ladakh, expressed optimism about continuing the initiative with the second edition of the Workshop-cum-Conference in 2026.

LG Kavinder inaugurates special Solar Rooftop Scheme for commercial establishments in Ladakh

Says initiative will accelerate UT's journey towards carbon neutrality



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta inaugurating the UT Ladakh Solar Rooftop Scheme for Commercial Establishments.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta inaugurated the UT Ladakh Solar Rooftop Scheme for Commercial Establishments at the Conference Hall, Lt Governor's Secretariat on September 19, marking a major step towards sustainable energy adoption in the Union Territory.

Speaking at the event, the Lt Governor highlighted that solar rooftops not only reduce operational costs through lower electricity bills but also cut carbon emissions, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and leverage Ladakh's abundant sunlight for high-efficiency energy generation. He said this transition from conventional energy to solar power will foster energy independence, strengthen sustainability, and advance the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh.

Gupta emphasized that extending the scheme to the commercial sector will benefit Ladakh's hospitality industry. Hotels and guest houses, long reliant on costly and polluting diesel or kerosene generators, can now switch to

clean energy, lower their carbon footprint, attract eco-conscious tourists, and improve operational efficiency.

"The UT Administration has launched this scheme in response to the commercial sector's demands, where high electricity tariffs have been a persistent challenge. Modeled on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana for residential households, it is tailored to support commercial establishments," he added.

Officials from the Power Development Department (PDD) outlined the scheme's salient features, including eligibility criteria, energy accounting mechanisms, consumer growth projections, subsidy provisions, system capacities, metering protocols, monitoring and inspection procedures, and disbursement frameworks.

The inauguration was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, representatives from the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association, and senior PDD officials.

DC Leh reviews progress of Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 implementation



Photo Caption: Municipal Committee Leh presents an SBM-U 2.0 progress report to DC Romil Singh Donk.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner (DC) LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh Donk, IAS, chaired a District Level Committee meeting on September 23 to review the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) at the DC Office, Leh.

Officials present included the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer of PHE Leh; District Panchayat Officer, Leh; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh; District Officer, Pollution Control Committee Leh; and the Accounts Officer to the DC.

The Municipal Committee presented an overview of SBM-U 2.0 progress, highlighting support for strengthening solid-waste management, wastewater treatment, and sewerage systems to achieve a garbage-free Leh. The committee also noted the ongoing Swachhta Hi Seva campaign, launched on September 17, which is mobilizing community participation through cleanliness drives across the district.

Waste-generation patterns were reviewed, with officials observing lower volumes during winter due to harsh weather and

minimal construction, and peak levels in July–August during the tourist season and migrant influx. The functioning of the Solid Waste Management Plant at Skampari, operational since 2020, and the successful Legacy Waste Bio-remediation Project—which reclaimed land by clearing thousands of metric tonnes of old waste—were also discussed.

Progress in water and sewerage infrastructure was evaluated, including the operational Sewerage Treatment Plant at Agling and the Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant in Leh, both of which have significantly improved sanitation and environmental sustainability. Upcoming initiatives to further enhance waste and wastewater management were outlined.

DC Donk stressed the need for strict timelines, inter-departmental coordination, and active public involvement to meet SBM-U 2.0 objectives. He commended the efforts of the Municipal Committee and line departments, urging continued commitment to make Leh a model city for sustainable, climate-resilient, and circular waste management.

In Focus:

September 24, 2025: Gunfire Shatters Ladakh’s Peace

By: Stanzin Dasal

September 24, 2025, will be remembered as a tragic day in Ladakh—a day when gunshots pierced the region’s long-held calm. Four young people lost their lives and around 90 were injured when a peaceful, 35-day hunger strike led by environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk ended in violence outside the protest site.

What began as a non-violent demonstration turned deadly when parts of the crowd set fire to the BJP office in Ladakh and moved toward the Hill Council Secretariat. Security forces opened fire without prior warning, witnesses said, sparking chaos and fear.

Who is to be held responsible for the violence? Why was live fire used? When asked for their views, Councillor Konchok Stanzin and NGO worker Tsering Nordon shared their perspectives:



Konchok Stanzin, Councillor, Chushul Constituency, LAH-DC-Leh: September 24 is a black day in Ladakh’s history—something our peaceful region has never witnessed before. The indiscriminate firing on protestors, without prior warning or adequate crowd-control measures, is deeply unfortunate and highly questionable. Religious bodies, the Apex Body, KDA and many others are calling for an independent inquiry, which I strongly support.

From many videos circulating online, it appears the forces provoked the crowd with tear gas, which escalated the situation into chaos. The administration and local leaders failed to understand people’s concerns and the reasons behind the protest. Had the ruling leaders met the hunger strikers—who had been peacefully presenting Ladakh’s demands—instead of simply holding press conferences, the outcome might have been different. Years of unaddressed frustration, especially among the youth, boiled over because the government did not take Ladakh’s demands seriously. The delay in dialogue and the inability to handle the situation in time are major reasons for this tragedy. The loss of four young lives is a matter of deep concern for every Ladakhi. Moreover, on September 23 a shutdown call was announced for the following day, urging people to gather at the hunger-strike site. It was clear a large crowd would assemble, yet the administration neither ensured adequate security nor imposed Section 144 to prevent escalation. With better precautions, this violence could have been avoided. Property damage is condemnable, but so is the taking of lives. Everyone involved—including the Centre—must accept responsibility instead of shifting blame.

I also question the response of LAHDC Chairman Tashi Gyalson, who issued a statement only after the violence. At the crucial moment, leaders should have met the families of those killed, visited the injured in hospital, and spoken to those detained, rather than simply announcing financial assistance. Words alone cannot heal these wounds.

Current restrictions and the internet shutdown are counterproductive; the more curbs imposed, the worse the situation may become. The arrest of Sonam Wangchuk is equally troubling. He has always advocated peacefully for Ladakh’s demands. I trust the Apex Body’s leadership and hope that ongoing talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs will soon bring a positive resolution.



Tsering Nordon, Director, Spospa Foundation: I am still speechless at the loss of four young lives on September 24. These brave youths faced bullets fired by security forces and will be remembered as martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the cause of Ladakh. Honouring their courage is essential—but even more important is demanding accountability. How could the forces open fire on unarmed citizens without any warning or non-lethal measures?

I studied in Delhi and have participated in large protests, including the Nirbhaya movement. I have seen water cannons, tear gas and lathi charges, but never live ammunition fired at demonstrators—certainly not at people’s heads and chests. Educated youth across Ladakh are united in demanding answers. Who

gave the order to shoot? On what grounds? The young men who died can never return, but justice for them must remain a collective mission, even if it means petitioning the highest courts of the country.

This tragedy has also exposed the failure of Ladakh’s political leadership. Earlier crises already strained public trust; now that trust feels broken. If our elected representatives have any courage left, they must stand up and fight sincerely for Ladakh’s demands and for justice for these youths. At this moment, party politics and individual opinions are irrelevant. What matters is unity of purpose—not violent protest or inflammatory rhetoric, but steadfast, peaceful action. Sadly, calls for unity are often misinterpreted or twisted, with people slapped with FIRs for “instigation” or “provocation.” I appeal to every leader in Ladakh: look honestly at this situation. Do you have answers for what happened? This is not a time to hide behind office chairs. It is a time to stand with your people, speak out, and work for justice.

There is a wound in every Ladakhi heart. Announcing financial assistance to grieving families or the injured will not heal that wound or fill the empty space left behind. We condemn the cowardly act of firing live bullets at young civilians and demand accountability from all responsible.

Our demands are not outside the Indian Constitution. We are asking only for the rights it already guarantees. Yet some national media outlets have tried to portray Ladakhis as anti-national. This is not only false but insulting. The patriotism of Ladakh’s people is beyond question. Time and again, we have stood alongside the Indian Army to defend our borders—most notably during the Kargil War of 1999, and in other conflicts

The World of Juniors

International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

According to General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271 of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, the International Day is an occasion to “disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness”. The resolution reaffirms “the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence” and the desire “to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence”.

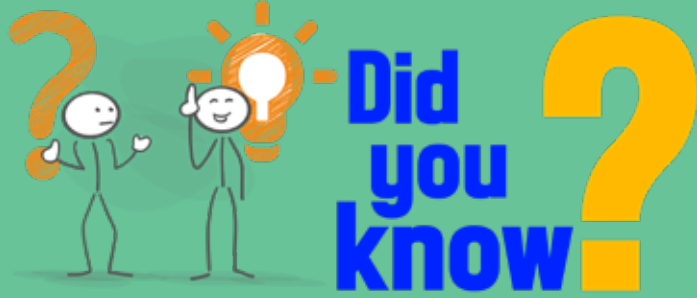
Introducing the resolution in the General Assembly on behalf of 140 co-sponsors, India’s Minister of State for External Affairs, Anand Sharma, said that the wide and diverse sponsorship of the resolution was a reflection of the universal respect for Mahatma Gandhi and of the enduring relevance of his philosophy. Quoting the late leader’s own words, he said: “Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of

destruction devised by the ingenuity of man”.

The special commemorative event for the International Day of Non-Violence, organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, will celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on Thursday, 2 October 2025. Gandhi, who helped lead India to independence, has been the inspiration for non-violent movements for civil rights and social change across the world. Throughout his life, Gandhi remained committed to his belief in non-violence even under oppressive conditions and in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

The theory behind his actions, which included encouraging massive civil disobedience to British law as with the historic Salt March of 1930, was that “just means lead to just ends”; that is, it is irrational to try to use violence to achieve a peaceful society. He believed that Indians must not use violence or hatred in their fight for freedom from colonialism.

Courtesy: United Nation Website



moon released trillions of tons of gas into the air, which created an atmosphere. The gases eventually became lost to space.

- The closest living relative to humans are chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas. We share between 98 and 99.6% of DNA with these species. Gorillas can even catch colds from humans.
- Most mammals have reproductive cycles. However, only humans, humpback whales, and elephants experience menopause.
- To escape a crocodiles jaw, push your thumb into its eyeballs.
- There were more than 600 plots to kill Fidel Castro. Plots were crafted by a variety of enemies, and even included an exploding cigar.
- The patent for the first car was filed in 1886 by Karl Benz for a gas-powered, 3-wheel motor car.
- The moon once had an atmosphere. Volcanic eruptions on the

- 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.
- Scientists have answered the question “what comes first the chicken or the egg?” The chicken came first because the egg shell contains a protein that can only be made from a hen.
- The Doctor Suess book Green Eggs and Ham uses only 50 different words. Doctor Suess wrote the book on a bet from his publisher that he couldn’t write a book with fewer words than The Cat in the Hat, which has 225.
- Woody Harrelson’s father was a hitman, who left the family when the actor was young. Woody didn’t find out about his father’s criminal activity until he heard a radio report on his trial.
- Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-serving British monarch. She has been on the throne for 67 years. The 93 year old queen’s heir is currently her son Charles, who is 70.

Courtesy: Blog.prepscholar.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

Be good, and be happy!



Who does not want to be a good person? And a happy one too? Yes, all of us want to be happy and a nice person. But the problem is that we lack in action to be what we want!

For every good thing to happen, one has to be careful and cautious. Besides, one has to have a sense of looking at things in a positive and loving manner. That leads us to have a sense of belongingness.

The other ‘elements’ that you require to be a good person are: They like their own company and yet do not ignore others. They learn early the art of saying NO. They go for a strict regime of good health and work-punctuality. They do not miss their daily workouts and walks. What is important for them is that no person in their contact should get a reason to feel hurt and disregarded.

They love people around, and never pick up any quarrel or issue that would send them into trouble. Instead, they look for ways and means to get to a solution through mutual dialogues. And they never indulge in unnecessary necessities.

They understand that their health is wealth and without that they can’t do anything good. Therefore, they take care of their health in a manner that they almost form an obsession. Punctuality and timeliness mark the hallmarks of their character. They work hard, and very honestly and smartly because they know mere hard work can’t lead them anywhere.

They have the habit of looking into the mirror, and smile and feel good. They are happy to “see themselves” and happily realise that God has given them much more than what they deserved. They do the practice of ‘thanks-giving’ on a daily basis, and are grateful, always, for what they get to live a good life.

And, finally, to give a nice quote, we go to Imam Ali: “Beautiful people are not always good, but good people are always beautiful.” That’s it! Only a good person can have a smiling and a radiant face, and that gives him the power to act good!

In other words, to repeat in simple words, only a good person can be a happy person!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with
Namgyal Lhamo, Athlete

Q. Please introduce yourself and share how your interest in athletics began.

Jullay! My name is Namgyal Lhamo, and I am from Domkhar village. I studied up to Class 5 in my village school, continued till Class 8 at Government Middle School Housing Colony, and completed Classes 10 and 12 at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Leh. I later earned my graduation degree from IGNOU.

I was always passionate about running and took part in various short-distance races during my school days, often winning titles. While pursuing higher secondary education, a friend, Jigmet Dolma, encouraged me to take my interest further and try long-distance running. That motivation led me to start participating in marathons across different states and countries.

I am grateful to the organizers of the Ladakh Marathon for bringing runners from around the world to our region and providing local athletes with greater opportunities and exposure. Thanks to this event, many of us, including myself, have had the chance to compete in marathons beyond Ladakh.

Q. Tell us about your journey and the accomplishments you have achieved.

My journey as a runner truly began with the Ladakh Marathon, which provided me with the exposure and platform to compete in different marathon categories. Through this opportunity, I learned about trail racing, and I am proud to be the only woman from Ladakh to enter that field.

In the Ladakh Marathon, I participated in the 42 km category almost every year. In 2022, I shifted my focus to ultra marathons. I have participated in the Khardongla Challenge (72 km) four times and have won every year.

I have also competed in trail races in four different states, guided and inspired by Tenzin Doma, a trail racer from Himachal Pradesh. I performed well in all four competitions. Coming from a high-altitude region like Ladakh gives me a natural advantage in trail racing because we are accustomed to challenging terrain and thinner air, which builds strong stamina.

So far, I have won 22 medals in total: 8 gold, 9 bronze, and 5 silver.

Q. What is the biggest challenge you have faced as an

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal



MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“ There is great scope and potential for Ladakhis to become recognized athletes. I sincerely appeal to all parents to encourage their children to participate in sports alongside academics, as this will help them build a brighter and more successful future.”

athlete?

When I first participated in the Ladakh Marathon, I was recovering from fractured legs. Because of this, my family, friends, and even doctors discouraged me from running, fearing further injuries. The doctor advised me not to participate, warning that I might experience recurring ankle twists.

But deep in my heart, I felt strongly that I could do it. I refused to stay back and instead continued with regular medication and therapy while maintaining daily practice.

That was one major challenge. At present, the challenge I face is the lack of a proper coach or guide to help me improve and take my performance to the next level.

Q. What do you think is necessary to encourage more young athletes?

There is great scope and potential in this sport, especially for Ladakhi youth. Our natural body build and stamina are strong because we grow up in a harsh climate and high altitude, which is an advantage when competing in marathons.

However, only a few young boys and girls are currently interested in pursuing it further. To encourage more participation, there is a constant need for good coaches who can guide young athletes, help them improve their skills, and perform at a higher level.

Q. Do you think athletes from Ladakh are getting benefits and recognition, such as jobs under the sports quota?

I have been serving as an SPO in the Ladakh Police since 2019. Over the years, I have noticed very little appreciation for athletes. Many people have advised me to focus on further studies instead of “wasting time” running and participating in marathons, saying there is no future in it and that our achievements hold little value.

Currently, there is no dedicated sports quota for athletes here, even though we have been requesting and demanding it for a long time. Many of my senior fellow athletes, especially women, face the same struggle. For men, it is somewhat easier because they can often find opportunities in the Indian Army, but for women athletes it is much more challenging.

This lack of recognition and support, along with constant discouragement about the supposed “lack of scope,” is one of the main reasons many young people hesitate to pursue this field.

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



Ladakh Festival: “Youthok Lamo” – a play by the Ladakh Theatre Organization, which captivated audiences with its powerful storytelling.



Observing and honouring the spirit of public service, community participation and inclusive governance under the aegis of “Sewa Parv”, the officials of District Social Welfare Office, Leh on 23 September visited the Old Age Home operated by HelpAge India at Shey.



National Deworming Day was observed across various Government and Private Schools, as well as Anganwadi Centres in Khaltse Block, under the supervision of Block Medical Officer (BMO) Khaltse, Dr. Shamim Ahmad.



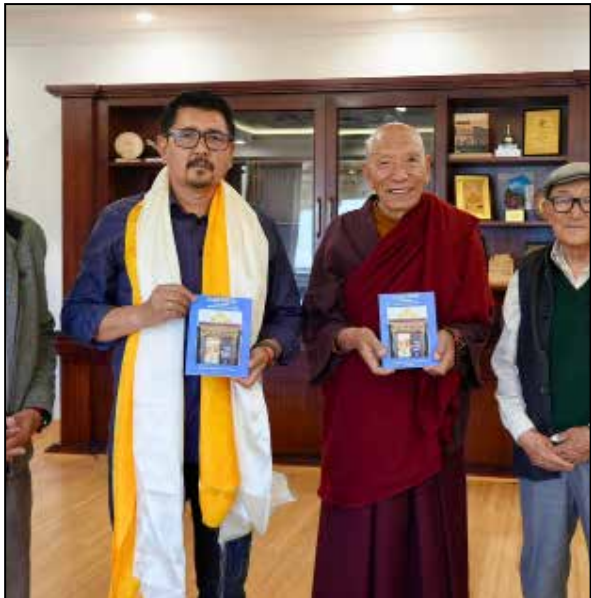
A delegation of 16 artists from the Monpa Institute of Performing Arts (MIPA), Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh with Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson. The troupe was led by Sonam Tsering, Artistic District Art and Culture Officer-cum-Assistant Director of DOKAA, Arunachal Pradesh, and was accompanied by Tundup Gyalson, Inspector Panchayat (LO).



The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh inaugurated its new Council Secretariat Building in Leh. The occasion was graced by prominent dignitaries, including Former Member of Parliament and the first Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor of the Cabinet, Thupstan Chhewang.



A dinner reception was hosted by LAHDC Leh at Ladakh Sarai, Saboo, in honour of the visiting super specialist doctors from AIIMS, New Delhi, who were in Ladakh to conduct the annual charitable medical camp organised by Ashoka Mission in collaboration with LAHDC Leh and the Phande Lekjin Welfare Society.



A delegation led by Sonam Lolden Saboo Spone, accompanied by Ven. Paldan, P. Stobdan Malpak, and Sonam Dawa Saboo Spone met CEC and submitted a request to name the existing Saboo Chowk as “Spone Namkha Spalgon Chowk” in recognition of the scholar’s immense contributions to Ladakh’s literary, cultural, and spiritual heritage.



Ladakh Festival was formally inaugurated by Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, Secretary Tourism, UT Ladakh.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Namgyal Lhamo, Athlete

...Continuity of page 5

Q. What are your plans for the future?

I will be participating in the 100K IAU Asia-Oceania Championship in November 2025, representing India in Bangkok, Thailand. Along with me, five other runners will be representing the country. I am also aiming to participate in the Trail Running Championship to further challenge myself and gain more experience in international competitions.

Q. What is your advice to young boys and girls who want to become athletes?

Ladakhis are naturally gifted with stamina and endurance, and with hard work, we can achieve great success. We have many advantages, and if we focus on our passion and stay committed, Ladakhis can even represent the nation at the Olympics. The key is consistency, seriousness, and dedication. I am always happy to guide anyone who wants to participate in ultra marathons or trail running. I am available to share my experiences, insights, and tips to help aspiring athletes achieve their goals.

Q. How important is it to balance sports and academics?

Balancing sports and academics is very important because it opens up more opportunities. Focusing on only one and neglecting the other is not always a good option. It is essential to pursue both, as this balance helps in avoiding future challenges and ensures overall growth.

In Focus: September 24, 2025: Gunfire Shatters Ladakh's Peace

...Continuity of page 4

with neighbouring countries. Ladakhis have a long history of service and sacrifice for the nation.

To paint Ladakh as disloyal is to ignore our record and our reality. Our call for constitutional safeguards is not secessionist; it is a plea for protection of our culture, environment and way of life, within the framework of India's democracy.

The four young martyrs of September 24 gave their lives not in defiance of India, but in pursuit of justice and dignity within it. Their sacrifice should unite us in peaceful determination, not divide us with suspicion. Justice for them is justice for Ladakh—and a reaffirmation of the values on which this nation stands.

Dr. Pawan Kotwal visits Drass, inspects tourism project and war memorial



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary paying tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Kargil War.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: Chief Secretary Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, visited Drass on September 22 to review a cultural site of national importance and pay tribute at the Kargil War Memorial.

potential as a tourism attraction, noting that the site could appeal to visitors of diverse faiths due to its historical association with Bhim.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, CEO Tourism Development Authority Kargil (TDAK) Nargis Bano, SDM Drass Vishal Atri, Executive Engineer TDAK Morup Dorje, Councillor Bhimbat Abdul Wahid, and other officials.

Later, the Chief Secretary visited the Kargil War Memorial, where he paid tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Kargil War. He toured the Hut of Remembrance and the Wall of Fame, appreciating the Indian Army's efforts in maintaining the memorial as a dignified space that inspires patriotism and respect.

During the visit, Dr. Kotwal inspected ongoing work at the Bhim Stone site at Bimbhat, Drass, directing TDAK officials to preserve its cultural and traditional significance. He suggested redesigning the project to enhance its

Dr. Kotwal lauded the Army for transforming the War Memorial into a symbol of national pride, remembrance, sacrifice, and unity.

Chamshen hosts 8th Siachen Folk festival showcasing local heritage



Photo Caption: During the 8th Siachen Folk Festival at Chamshen Nubra.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: The 8th Siachen Folk Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Chamshen, Nubra, on September 21.

Lhundup, Councillor of Panamik Tsering Sandup, and former MLA of Nubra Deldan Namgyail attended as Guests of Honour. Several Heads of Departments and other distinguished guests were also present, adding significance to the event.

The festival, jointly organized by Chamskyong Chotsog Tsoespa and the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation, highlighted the rich cultural traditions and folk heritage of the region, drawing participation from locals and dignitaries alike.

The festival featured a diverse program, including a traditional archery tournament, cultural performances, and food stalls set up by the Chamshen village community, showcasing the artistry, heritage, and vibrant community spirit of Nubra.

Executive Councillor Stanzin Choshel graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Councillor of Tegar Rigzin

Ladakh athletes gear up for National School Games through UT-level trials



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kargil, conducted a two-day selection trial for Taekwondo, Karate, Boxing, and Thang-Ta Martial Arts for the upcoming 69th National School Games at the SAI Training Centre, Kargil, on September 22.

the best athletes to represent Ladakh at the national-level competitions under the National School Games 2025-26.

The event was attended by Mohd Hassan (PEM, I/C Activities DYSSO Kargil), Mohd Ibrahim (PEM, I/C ZPEO Kargil), Director SAI Centre Kargil Ghulam Mustafa, Taekwondo Coach Mohd Ali, and other technical officials from the Youth Services & Sports Department and SAI Centre Kargil.

On the first day, 50 boys and girls participated in Taekwondo, while 45 boys and girls took part in Boxing and Karate trials from various schools across the Union Territory of Ladakh. The athletes were assessed on their skills and performance to qualify for the national-level Martial Arts competitions.

The UT-level trials aimed to identify

DC Kargil chairs meeting with BRO officers on Land Acquisition issues



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar reviewing land acquisition issues related to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall, Baroo, on September 27 to review land acquisition issues related to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteaz Kacho; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Jahangeer Akhone; Commander 762 BRTF, Shailendra

Kumar; OC 55 RCC, Major Rakesh Rana; OIC Kargil, Ravindra Shah; Tehsildar Kargil, along with other officers and officials. Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Sankoo, Drass, and Shakar Chiktan joined virtually.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed ongoing BRO projects across Kargil district, including the status of National Highway safety works and pending land acquisition cases. He directed the ACR and concerned Tehsildars to expedite the clearance of all pending cases and ensure fair compensation to affected landowners.

The DC also emphasized the importance of safeguarding labourers' welfare and instructed timely and fair disbursement of compensation. Progress on road projects, including NH-1 (Drass sector) and other sub-divisional stretches under BRO execution, was reviewed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed officers to resolve issues in a time-bound manner and ensure visible progress before the next review meeting.



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Nyoma Youth Association, successfully organized the Snow Leopard Cultural Expo 2025 at Nyoma on September 16. The one-day event highlighted the rich cultural identity of the Changthang region and strengthened ties between the Army and local communities.

mander of the 254 Snow Leopard Brigade, attended as Chief Guest. The expo offered a vibrant showcase of Changthang's traditions, handicrafts, cuisine, and nomadic lifestyle—elements of a heritage that faces challenges from modernization and environmental change.

handcrafted jewelry, and other artisan products unique to the high-altitude plateau. Local delicacies gave guests an authentic taste of Changthang's culinary traditions.

The event carried a deeper purpose: preserving the culture of one of India's most remote and ecologically fragile areas. Changthang is famed for its dramatic landscapes, wildlife such as the elusive snow leopard, and centuries-old pastoral practices.

By organizing the expo, the Indian Army not only celebrated this heritage but also reaffirmed its commitment to ecological conservation and community development. The program provided local artisans a wider market for their work, fostering sustainable livelihoods while reinforcing cultural pride.

The day concluded with spirited performances of traditional dance, music, and storytelling, reflecting the resilience and aspirations of Changthang's people.

The Snow Leopard Cultural Expo 2025 stood as more than an exhibition—it was a powerful blend of tradition, cultural preservation, and shared responsibility for the region's future.

Visitors explored an impressive exhibition of handwoven carpets, traditional attire,

Brigadier Amish Rastogi, Officiating Com-

Cancer screening & awareness programme launched in Kargil
LG Kavinder Gupta calls for timely prevention and early detection of Cancer



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, inaugurating Cancer Screening and Awareness Programme in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, inaugurated a Cancer Screening and Awareness Programme on September 23, organized by Al Reza Health Care and Research Foundation in collaboration with Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital. Speaking on the occasion, the Lt. Governor stressed that cancer is one of the world's major health challenges and highlighted the importance of prevention, awareness, and early detection to save lives. He congratulated Al

Reza Health Care for its service to underprivileged communities since 2017.

Highlighting government initiatives, Gupta said that healthcare facilities across Ladakh are being upgraded in a mission mode with a focus on diagnostics, specialized treatments, and improved infrastructure. He announced that the long-awaited MRI machine for District Hospital Kargil will be installed soon and assured that the demand for a 200-bed hospi-

tal in Kargil will be actively explored.

The Lt. Governor commended Al Reza Health Care and Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital for establishing a satellite clinic and cancer screening facility, which will provide timely access to expert consultations within Ladakh. Adding a community perspective, President Jamiat Ul Alam Isna Asharia Kargil, Sheikh Nazir-ul-Mehdi, expressed gratitude to the Lt. Governor for supporting initiatives to improve public health in the region.

Later, Gupta visited former J&K Minister Qamar Ali Akhoun to enquire about his health and wished him a speedy recovery.

The event was attended by senior officers, including Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, SSP Kargil Shree Ram R, ADC Kargil, doctors from Yatharth Hospital, volunteers of Al Reza Health Care, and members of civil society.

Reiterating the UT administration's commitment to quality healthcare, the Lt. Governor emphasized strengthening district hospitals, expanding telemedicine services, and creating robust referral linkages with tertiary care centers to ensure equitable access to health services for residents of remote areas.

Chief Secretary Ladakh reviews NH-301 realignment and Kargil civil airport expansion feasibility



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, inspects the NH-301 realignment site and reviews project challenges with the executing agency.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chief Secretary Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, visited the realignment site of NH-301 (0-6 Package 01) starting from Kurbathang on September 23 to inspect progress and assess on-ground challenges. He sought detailed updates from the executing agency on the project's current status and hurdles. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; GM NHIDCL; the Tehsildar; and other concerned officials. Later, the Chief Secretary visited Kargil Civil Airport to review the feasibility of its expan-

sion. He assessed land availability, the existing runway length, potential for straight expansion within the fenced area, and land availability on the landing side.

An Air Force officer briefed him on the technical aspects and the current operational status. Dr. Kotwal noted Kargil's potential for aircraft landings and expressed hope for a positive outcome in the future. He directed the Deputy Commissioner to initiate steps for the transfer of required land and to expedite all related works to facilitate the airport's expansion.

Training on saffron cultivation held in Kargil; free saffron corms distributed



Photo Caption: Demonstration on scientific methods of saffron cultivation.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In a significant step toward diversifying high-value crops, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), in collaboration with the Agriculture Department of Ladakh, organized a program on September 22 for the free distribution of saffron corms to progressive farmers of Kargil district.

The event, held at the Seed Multiplication Farm in Kurbathang, featured a detailed demonstration by technical expert Zubair Ahmed on scientific methods of saffron culti-

vation, post-harvest handling, and the benefits of adopting the crop in local conditions. The program was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kargil, District Agriculture Officer (DAO), Assistant Agrostologist, Agriculture Assistant (Inputs), and other departmental staff.

Officials highlighted that saffron cultivation could create new income opportunities for farmers and boost the agri-economy of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Farmers welcomed this initiative.

Fortnightly News

DC Kargil reviews facilities at Bal Ashram and local schools



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar (IAS), visited Bal Ashram, Baroo, on September 27 to review facilities and infrastructure.

During the visit, the DC inspected various sections of the Ashram, including rooms, kitchen, smart room, and other facilities. He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteez Kachho; District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Kargil, Sameena Khatoon; Superintendent Bal Ashram; AEE R&B, and other officials. The DSWO informed the DC about the requirement of

funds for repair and maintenance of electrical wiring and other works. She also stated that 19 students are currently enrolled in the Bal Ashram hostel.

The DC directed the dismantling of the existing old building at the earliest and instructed auctioning of the materials. He also asked the ADC to coordinate with KREDA for repairing all solar panels and to share reports of solar plants provided to government departments.

Further, he asked the DSWO to submit a complete inventory of the Ladies Training Center and instructed the utilization of available space for indoor games and as a multipurpose hall. The DC assured provision of indoor games equipment through the Youth Services and Sports department. He also directed the AEE R&B to conduct an assessment and landscaping of the DSWO office area, including fencing for the hostel, and instructed timely handover of all completed school buildings.

Later, the DC visited High School Baroo and Boys Higher Secondary School Baroo, where he inspected day-to-day activities and overall functioning of the schools.

Kargil residents benefit from free cancer screening camp initiative



Photo Caption: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, CEC, LAHDC Kargil, inaugurating free cancer screening camp.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, inaugurated a free cancer screening camp organized by Al Reza Health Care and Research Foundation in collaboration with Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital, Noida, on September 22.

The inaugural event was attended by Mohd Hanifa Jan, Member of Parliament, Ladakh; Sheikh Nazir Mehdi, President, Jamiat Ul Ulama Isna Asharia Kargil; Dr. Mo-

hammad Abbas, President, Al Reza; and a team of expert delegates from Yatharth Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mohammad Abbas said the camp aims to provide doorstep access for cancer awareness and early detection. He noted that cancer cases are on the rise in Kargil and emphasized that such initiatives help people detect the disease at an early stage. The screening camp will continue on September 23 at District Hospital Kargil.

In his address, CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhoo stressed the importance of ensuring that underprivileged patients benefit from this collaboration and assured full support from LAHDC. He urged hospital authorities to extend maximum assistance to poor patients, pointing out the limited availability of NGO and crowdfunding resources. He also expressed hope that the UT administration will allocate dedicated funds for super-speciality treatment for economically weaker sections.

MP Mohd Hanifa Jan and Sheikh Nazir Mehdi also addressed the gathering, thanking Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital for conducting the camp in Kargil.

LAHDC Kargil signs MoU with Golden Mile Learning for Reinforced Teacher Training program



Photo Caption: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, CEC, LAHDC Kargil, inaugurating free cancer screening camp.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Golden Mile Learning, an NGO, to launch the Reinforced Teacher Training (RTT) Program at an event held in Kargil on September 22.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil; Zakir Hussain, Executive Councillor Education; Mohd Hanifa Jan, Member of Parliament, Ladakh; Bhanu Prabha, Secretary Higher Education; Kachho Mohd Feroz, Executive Councillor Tourism; and Dr. Neepa Oza, Programme Director, Golden Mile Learning.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Neepa Oza described the agreement as “a step of hope and aspiration” toward meeting Kargil’s educational needs, particularly in En-

glish education and communication. She noted that the RTT program is tailored to address the unique challenges faced by teachers in Ladakh.

In his address, CEC Dr. Jaffer Akhoo stressed that the program’s impact must be visible at the ground level and announced that its progress will be reviewed annually. He emphasized that the initiative’s primary goal is to benefit students directly and thanked the UT Administration for funding the project. He expressed confidence that the training will strengthen teachers’ English teaching skills, thereby improving student learning outcomes.

The event also featured a presentation by Rinchan Wangmo, who highlighted the RTT Program as a carefully designed initiative to support English language teachers across Ladakh.

Secretary Shashanka Ala reviews rural development schemes in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD & PR), Shashanka Ala (IAS), conducted a comprehensive review of the department’s functioning in Kargil on September 29.

The session began with a detailed presentation by Director RDD & PR, Sh. Syed Sajjad Qadri (JKAS), who highlighted the department’s physical and financial achievements under the State Development Plan (SDP), State Sector schemes, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs).

The review also included in-depth discussions on the execution of flagship programmes such as:

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana
- Ladakh Rural Livelihoods Mission (LRLM)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

- Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)
- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Secretary Ala engaged officers in scheme-wise progress reviews, identifying bottlenecks and suggesting process improvements. She emphasized the need for innovative strategies, convergence of efforts, and efficient resource utilization to maximize impact in Ladakh’s remote and challenging terrain.

Commending the ongoing initiatives, she remarked: “The Rural Development Department plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic progress of Ladakh. While the achievements are commendable, we must strive for greater efficiency and timeliness in execution.”

The meeting was attended by District Panchayat Officer, Raziya Khatoon; Accounts Officer DRDL, Sajad Hussain; Assistant Director Planning DRDL, Mohd Liyaqat; all Block Development Officers (BDOs) of Kargil district; and NRLM staff. Officers from Leh district participated virtually.

Chief Secretary urges timely completion of major infrastructure projects in Kargil



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, reviews developmental works during a meeting at the Conference Hall, Baroo.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, convened a review meeting at the Conference Hall, Baroo, on September 23 to assess the financial and physical progress of developmental works in Kargil district.

The meeting was attended by Chairman/CEC LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo; Member of Parliament (Ladakh), Haneefa Jan; Executive Councillors; Deputy Commissioner Kargil; SSP Kargil; Joint Director (Planning); and sectoral heads of various departments.

Dr. Kotwal reviewed district-wide developmental projects, including the financial status of the District Capex. He took detailed stock of the Sewage Treatment Plant for Kargil town, discussing the existing sewerage system, engineering surveys, collection network design, treatment plant design, and post-tender technical support. He also reviewed the

solid waste management project, the animal rescue centre, and plans for conserving and preserving Kargil’s Old Bazaar.

Other key projects reviewed included the PMDP-15 Transmission Project Line-2, the 220 kV GIS Sub-station at Padum, Transmission Line-02 Package-03, Project Vijayak roads funded by the UT administration, the Drass Winter Sports Academy (with chair lift and ski drag lift), the Zaskar Winter Sports Academy, and the multi-car parking project.

The Chief Secretary directed NHIDCL to expedite NH-301 works and emphasized community involvement in all development activities. He instructed the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer to fill vacant posts and suggested mobilizing religious leaders to raise awareness on dry and wet waste segregation. He also reiterated Ladakh’s vision of becoming carbon neutral and highlighted the socio-economic benefits of grid power under the Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Dr. Kotwal assured that more projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) would be planned in phases. He further directed strict monitoring and timely completion of NH-301 (0-06 Package 01 and other sections) and instructed the Executive Engineer Mechanical to ensure proper weighing and monitoring of legacy waste.

On issues raised by the CEC, MP Ladakh, and Executive Councillors, the Chief Secretary issued necessary directions for early redressal.

Sub District Hospital Drass launches “Swasth Naari Sashakt Parivar” health campaign



Photo Caption: Beneficiaries taking the facilities of free medical services.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Sub District Hospital Drass successfully conducted a health campaign, “Swasth Naari Sashakt Parivar” (Healthy Woman, Empowered Family), on September 22, aimed at providing essential healthcare services to women and children in the region. The event witnessed active participation from local residents and officials.

The campaign was attended by Councillor Abdul Samad and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Vishal Atri, who expressed strong support for community health initiatives. Dr. Sajjad Hussain, Block Medical Officer (BMO) of Drass, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the campaign’s mission to empower families by prioritizing women’s well-being.

The one-day camp offered a wide range of free medical services, making specialized care accessible to the public. Key facilities included:

- Hb Testing & NCD Screening: Early detection of health issues.

- Specialty OPDs: Gynecology, Pediatrics, Surgery, Ophthalmology, and Psychiatry consultations.
- AMCHI OPD: Integrating traditional healing practices with modern medicine.
- Family Planning Counselling: Providing guidance and support.
- Dental OPD: Check-ups and essential dental care.
- Open Mic Awareness Session: Educating participants on health and wellness.

A large number of women and children from surrounding areas participated actively, reflecting the community’s keen interest in health and well-being.

The successful campaign underscores the commitment of Sub District Hospital Drass and the local administration to improving public health outcomes and fostering a healthier, more empowered community.

Secretary Shashanka Ala reviews welfare schemes, calls for stronger outreach in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Secretary, Social Welfare Department, UT Ladakh, Shashanka Ala chaired a review meeting on September 29 to assess the physical and financial progress of works under the Special Development Package (SDP) being executed by NHIDCL and CPWD.

The Secretary took detailed updates on scholarships under Tribal Affairs, including Pre-Matric and Post-Matric categories, and directed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) to prepare a saturation model and ensure proper profiling of old age pension beneficiaries.

She reviewed the implementation of key pension schemes, including the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension (IGNWP), and Indira Gandhi Disability Pension (IGDP). She instructed officers to strengthen coverage under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) and expedite the issuance of Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards.

Further discussions covered the status of REWA LG Scholarship, SAKSHAM Anganwadi, Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), Mission Vatsalya,

and Mission Shakti. Stressing women’s welfare, the Secretary directed the department to devise a robust strategy under Mission Shakti, address manpower gaps, and maintain waiting lists to meet emerging demands.

She also reviewed cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the functioning of One Stop Centers and Child Helpline services. Emphasizing awareness, she called for community-based outreach programmes with clear action plans.

Highlighting the importance of specialized skill development, the Secretary directed the department to design training modules for women in emerging fields such as disaster management, solar panel installation, and other vocational trades, to enhance employability.

The meeting was attended by Director Social Welfare, DPO ICDS Kargil, District Social Welfare Officer Kargil, Accounts Officer Social Welfare, along with other departmental officials.

