



Ladakh

The
Earth News | 3
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In Social
@WANGCHUK66 FORMER FINANCE MINISTER ON STATEHOOD FOR LADAKH We were always told by home Ministry that Ladakh didn't have the resources to run a state or even a UT with legislature. Met Yashwant Sinha ji today who was finance minister of india 3 times, last in Vajpey ji's government till 2002.And before that an IAS officer in Bihar cadre...@narendramodi @AmitShah @PMOIndia

In Numbers
60 : **GOAT BREEDING** Under the new incentive by Union Territory Administration, 60% of the amount received by Pashmina growers will be reinvested in scientific breeding programmes to improve the quality, productivity and sustainability of Pashmina goats across Ladakh.

In History
'IPOD' n this day in 2001, Apple introduced the iPod, a portable media player that became one of the most successful and revolutionary products of the early 2000s.

Traffic Signs
LEFT REVERSE BAND This road sign indicates the actual design i.e., a sort of Z formation of the road ahead. It cautions the driver about the zigzag turn towards Left. The driver should reduce the speed at the sight of this sign and maneuver the vehicle cautiously.

Ladakh Tourism Deptt releases first dedicated Tourist Guide to Zaskar



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ZANSKAR: The Tourism Department of the Union Territory of Ladakh has released Zaskar's first dedicated tourist guide, aimed at helping domestic and international visitors explore the region's cultural heritage, natural landscapes and adventure tourism opportunities. Titled "Zaskar – The Last Great Himalayan Wilderness: A Traveller's Guide", the publication was prepared by the Tourist Office Zaskar and formally released on Thursday by Deputy Commissioner Zaskar Omkar Rajindra Gundage at his office chamber. Superintendent of Police Zaskar Rigzin Sandup, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Zaskar Jasif Amin, Tourist Officer Zaskar Ghulam Rasool Lal and other district officers were present at the release. The guide brings together information on Zaskar's major tourist destinations, monasteries, historical and cultural heritage, flora and fauna, wildlife, trekking and mountaineering routes, adventure tourism activities and traditional festivals. It also includes a detailed tourist map of Zaskar and a map of Padum town, along with information on road connectivity, travel arrangements, permit requirements, medical facilities, emergency contacts and responsible tourism practices. The publication is intended to serve as a ready reference for visitors, helping them plan their journeys while encouraging exploration of lesser-known destinations across the region. It also seeks to promote Zaskar's potential in cultural, heritage, nature-based and adventure tourism. The initiative is part of efforts to strengthen tourism promotion and present Zaskar as a distinct destination for travellers from India and abroad.

DIET Leh trains 100 Teachers on Nanritam Holistic Progress Card



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh, organised a one-day orientation programme on the Nanritam Holistic Progress Card (HPC) for around 100 teachers from the Leh Educational Zone to familiarise them with its objectives and implementation in schools. The programme was organised in accordance with the directions of the Chief Education Officer, Leh, issued through Order No. CEOL/2026/3407-60 dated October 17, 2026. The Holistic Progress Card is aligned with the guidelines of PARAKH and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It promotes a comprehensive approach to student assessment, moving beyond academic performance to cover learners' overall development, competencies, skills and learning progress. The orientation provided teachers with an understanding of holistic assessment and its practical application in classroom teaching and school-based evaluation. It also aimed to familiarise them with assessment practices that focus on students' individual learning needs and competencies. The initiative is expected to support the adoption of competency-based and learner-centred assessment methods in schools, in line with the objectives of NEP 2020. DIET Leh said the programme was part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen teachers' professional capacities and improve the quality of school education across the district.

Focus on Global Markets, Branding and Fibre quality Ladakh Pashmina Conclave to bring Global Experts, Buyers to Leh on October 23–24

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: International delegations, research institutions, textile experts and local entrepreneurs will gather in Leh on October 23–24 for the Ladakh Pashmina Conclave 2026, an initiative aimed at strengthening the region's Pashmina value chain, improving product quality and expanding access to premium domestic and international markets.

Organised by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Union Territory of Ladakh, under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, the two-day conclave will bring together policymakers, scientists, artisans, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss sustainable production, value addition,

branding and global market opportunities.

The discussions will cover the entire Pashmina value chain, from Changthang's high-altitude pastures and Changthangi goat rearing to fibre processing, spinning, weaving, product development and marketing.

A proposed memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Textiles and the UT Administration of Ladakh is among the planned highlights of the inaugural session. A special postal cover dedicated to GI-tagged Ladakh Pashmina is also planned, along with the distribution of toolkits to artisans to support traditional skills and improve productive capacity.

Delegations from Mongolia and Japan are expected to participate, bringing international perspectives on premium natural fibres and ex-



ploring opportunities for co-operation in high-value textiles, sustainable fashion and global market development.

Expert sessions will address Changthangi goat production, grassland restoration, yak and sheep wool development, spinning and weaving technologies, and Pashmina testing and certification. Representatives and experts from institutions including Sher-e-Kashmir Uni-

versity of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), the Central Wool Board, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and the National Institute of Design (NID) are expected to contribute scientific, technical and design expertise.

The sessions will also examine ways to improve fibre

quality, protect fragile high-altitude ecosystems, strengthen processing capabilities and make Ladakh's traditional textile sector more competitive.

Dedicated discussions on Geographical Indication (GI), traceability, quality assurance and branding will explore the proposed development of an umbrella "Pashmina Ladakh" brand to reinforce product identity, authenticity and consumer confidence.

Buyer-seller interactions and presentations by local entrepreneurs will provide opportunities to connect producers and enterprises with prospective buyers, designers and wider markets. The conclave will also examine how improved product design, innovation, enterprise development and stronger market linkages can help pastoral communities and artisans secure greater economic re-

turns.

The first day, October 23, will be held at the Sheep Husbandry Farm in Stakna, while the second day, October 24, will take place at Ladakh Sarai Resort in Ayu, Saboo.

The proceedings are expected to conclude with a set of recommendations to guide future interventions in the Pashmina sector. A gala dinner and Pashmina ramp walk on October 24 will showcase collections by local entrepreneurs, highlighting the craftsmanship and contemporary design potential of Ladakh's renowned fibre.

The conclave aims to bring traditional knowledge, scientific research, institutional support and international collaboration together to strengthen the Pashmina value chain, support sustainable livelihoods and improve

Kargil Cyber Crime Unit sensitises Power Grid Staff on online frauds

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: The Cyber Crime Unit Kargil on Thursday conducted a cyber awareness programme at the Power Grid Station, focusing on online financial frauds, phishing attacks and preventive measures to protect officials against emerging cyber threats. The programme, organised in compliance with the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kargil, aimed to strengthen cyber awareness among Power Grid officials and promote the safe and responsible use of digital platforms. Officials of the Power Grid Station, including the Senior Deputy General Manager (DGM), participated in the awareness session, during which they were sensitised to common cybercrime methods, online scams and essential precautions for safeguarding themselves against digital fraud. A major focus



of the programme was the importance of reporting cyber financial frauds without delay to help minimise potential financial losses. Participants were also briefed on phishing attacks, safe digital practices and preventive measures to reduce the risk of falling victim to cybercriminals. The session highlighted the need for greater vigilance while using digital platforms, particularly as online financial transactions and digital services expose users to evolving forms of cybercrime. Awareness of common fraud techniques and timely action in

suspected cases can help users respond more effectively to cyber threats. The initiative forms part of efforts to educate officials about cybersecurity risks and encourage responsible digital behaviour. By engaging personnel at the Power Grid Station, the Cyber Crime Unit sought to improve awareness of online threats and reinforce the importance of preventive action. The programme concluded with an emphasis on adopting secure digital practices and promptly reporting cyber financial frauds to the appropriate authorities.

Adv Gyalson congratulates Druk Padma Karpo School on securing Rank 2 in Leh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Former Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, has congratulated Druk Padma Karpo School, Shey, on securing Rank 2 in the co-educational day school category in Leh in the Education World India School Rankings 2026–27.

The award was received in New Delhi by the school's Founder Director and Chairman, His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche.

In his congratulatory message, Gyalson praised the leadership of Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche and commended the dedication of the school management, faculty, staff,



students and parents in contributing to the institution's achievement.

He said the recognition was a matter of pride for Ladakh and reflected the school's commitment to providing quality education, nurturing moral values and ensuring

the holistic development of students.

Gyalson also acknowledged the collective efforts of the school community in building an educational environment that focuses on academic learning and the overall growth of young minds.

Women's Reservation Draw held for 13 Panchayat Halqas in Zaskar

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ZANSKAR: A draw of lots to determine women's reservation in 13 Panchayat Halqas across three blocks of Zaskar district was conducted at Government Model Degree College, Zaskar, on Wednesday under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Omkar Rajendra Gundage.

The exercise was attended by Superintendent of Police Zaskar Rigzin Sandup (JKPS), Sub-Divisional Magistrate Jasif Amin (JKAS), other district officers, political and public representatives, and local residents.

During the proceedings, Block Development Officers briefed participants on the reservation process and the rules governing women's rep-



resentation under the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) framework.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the participation of public representatives and other stakeholders in the exercise, which was conducted to determine women's reservation across the identi-

fied Panchayat Halqas in the three blocks.

The draw forms part of the administrative process for implementing women's reservation in Panchayati Raj Institutions, which provide a platform for grassroots representation and local governance.

Around 100 join BJP from eight Sham villages; Party chief Khachu, Adv. Gyalson welcome new entrants

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KHALTSE: Around 100 people from eight villages across the Sham region joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at a programme in Khaltse on Thursday, in a move the party said would strengthen its grassroots presence in the area.

The new entrants came from Tia, Tingmosgang, Lamayuru, Wanla, Khaltse, Dha, Beema and Hanu. The joining programme was organised under the leadership of BJP Ladakh State President Tashi Gyalton Khachu in the presence of former Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh Chairman and



Chief Executive Councillor Tashi Gyalson.

The programme was organised by Konchok Ishay Stak, BJP Sham District President, and attended by senior party leaders and office-bearers from different organisational wings.

Those present included Tonyot Tashi and Phunchok

Kailash, Co-Prabharis of Sham district; former BJP Ladakh State President Phunchok Stanzin; Kisan Morcha State President Lobzang Lharjay; Mahila Morcha President Rinchen Dolkar; former councillors Lobzang Sherab, Morup Dorjay and Padma Dorjay; and former nominated councillor

Rigzin Gurmet.

Morcha leaders Tundup Dorjay, Thinles Angmo and Angdus Pan also attended the event. The BJP said the participation of people from different villages reflected its efforts to expand its outreach and engage with local communities. The party reiterated its commitment to the welfare and development of Sham and to its vision of a developed and inclusive Ladakh under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The number of people who joined was provided by the BJP in its press release; no independent verification or details of their previous political affiliations were included.

Ladakh to hold substance use, mental health awareness program for students in Chandigarh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Ladakh Administration will organise an interactive awareness programme on substance use disorders and mental health for students at Panjab University, Chandigarh, on October 24, with a focus on prevention, peer support and access to professional help. The programme, titled "Understanding Substance Use Disorder, Mental Health Awareness, and Finding Support", is being organised by the Department of Social and Tribal Welfare under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA). It will be held at the Department of Zoology, Panjab University. The initiative aims to help students understand the causes and consequences of substance use disorders, recognise signs of distress among peers and learn about available support services. It will also en-

courage students to seek help without fear of stigma or discrimination. The programme is being organised in collaboration with the Departments of Health and Medical Education and School Education, Ladakh Police, Ladakh Student Association Chandigarh, Zangskar Student Association and All Ladakh Student Welfare Association Chandigarh. Participants will be sensitised to mental well-being, responsible decision-making and the importance of timely intervention when a student or friend is facing difficulties. The organisers aim to foster an environment in which students can discuss their concerns openly and support one another. A scholarship help desk will also be set up during the programme to provide students with information and guidance on scholarship schemes and related opportunities.