



Ladakh

The
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In Social

@SAJJADKARGILI The more unilateral decisions the UT Administration imposes, the deeper public resentment grows. Today's complete shutdown in #Drass district reflects people's anger over the alleged injustice in the allocation of LAHDC seats. Ladakh cannot be governed by imposing decisions while ignoring people's voices. Justice, equal representation and public consultation are essential for democracy.



In Numbers

0.38

0.38 LAKH: EMPLOYMENT In Ladakh, 0.38 lakh job cards have been issued over the past year, providing employment opportunities to nearly 0.50 lakh registered workers, of whom 0.39 lakh remain active.



In History

UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHED

The charter for the United Nations—the world's premier international organization, established at the end of World War II to maintain world peace and friendly relations among nations—entered into force this day in 1945.



Traffic Signs

STEEP DESCENT This road sign indicates that there is steep descent ahead and driver should get ready to descent by putting the vehicle in relevant gear. One should not try to speed up on descent as it loosens the grip on vehicle. Most of the times, these signs are found on hilly road where steep ascent and descent are normal part of travel.



NIELIT to hold Mega Job Fair in Kargil on Oct 29, registration closes on Oct 26

Banking, IT, Education & Tourism employers to join

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: Job seekers across Ladakh have until October 26 to register for the NIELIT Mega Job Fair 2026, scheduled to be held in Kargil on October 29, with employers from banking, information technology, education, tourism and other sectors expected to offer employment opportunities.

The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Leh/Kargil, will organise the fair at the TFC, Biamathang, Baroo, from 10 am to 5 pm. The recruitment drive will provide candidates opportunities to interact with employers through on-the-spot interviews and placement processes. The event is being organised under the Skill Development initiative for Digital Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, in collaboration with the Skill Development Department of the UT Administration and the University of Ladakh. Candidates from Ladakh who have completed Class 10, Class 12, graduation or higher qualifications are eligible to participate. Participating organisations listed in the notice include Jammu and Kashmir Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank and Bandhan Bank. IT firms, educational institutions, tourism-related organisations, automobile businesses and other service-sector employers are also expected to participate. A career counselling workshop will be held alongside the recruitment drive to help candidates assess career options and understand available employment opportunities. Applicants have been advised to complete registration by October 26 and carry their Ladakh Resident Certificate (LRC), educational qualification certificates, four copies of their resumé and an ST/SC certificate, if applicable. For further information, candidates can contact 7051635810. The organisers have urged eligible youth to register before the deadline and attend the fair to explore potential employment opportunities.

ICAI holds financial management program for cooperative societies



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), in association with the Cooperative Department Kargil, organised a capacity-building programme on financial management of cooperative societies on Friday to promote sound financial practices and strengthen governance in the cooperative sector.

The programme was organised through ICAI's CNPO ICAI Committee in collaboration with the Co-operative Department, UT Ladakh.

The initiative aimed to improve awareness of financial management practices and regulatory compliance, while encouraging cooperative societies to adopt transparent, accountable and efficient systems. The programme also sought to strengthen institutional governance and equip cooperative societies to manage their financial affairs more effectively.

The initiative reflects efforts to build the financial and administrative capacity of cooperative institutions in Kargil and promote responsible management of their resources.

DC Kargil reviews Panchayat Poll preparedness, directs departments to expedite arrangements

Orders robust control room, security plans, transport, ballot printing

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar has directed all departmental nodal officers to expedite election preparations, strengthen interdepartmental coordination and ensure timely arrangements for the forthcoming Panchayat elections in Ladakh.

Kumar, who is also the District Panchayat Election Officer, issued the directions during a meeting with nodal officers at his office on Friday to review the district's preparedness in line with the schedule issued by the State Election Commission.

The DC called for the establishment of a robust control room to monitor election-related activities and facilitate prompt coordination. He also directed officials to prepare comprehensive security plans, depute an Accounts Assistant to assist Returning Officers and ensure the availability of all required Master Trainers for election duties.

Reviewing logistical arrangements, Kumar stressed the timely availability of vehicles, refreshments, stationery and other essential supplies. He also reviewed preparations for ballot paper printing and the installation



of cameras to support election-related monitoring. The Assistant Director, Information, was directed to ensure proper media cover-

age of election activities, while all nodal officers were instructed to complete their assigned responsibilities within the stipulated timeline and in accordance with the Election Commission's directions.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joint Director Finance, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Assistant

Director Handicrafts, Assistant Director Information and other concerned officers.

The review focused on the readiness of various departments and the timely completion of arrangements required for the smooth, transparent and efficient conduct of the Panchayat elections.

Kumar stressed that close coordination among departments would be essential to prevent delays and avoid last-minute difficulties during the electoral process.

MP Ladakh, CEO Kargil attend PM Shri School Pashkum's Annual Day

Annual magazine showcasing academic achievements released

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: Ladakh MP Mohammad Haneefa Jan on Friday praised students of PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School Pashkum for showcasing their scientific creativity, cultural talent and social awareness during the school's Annual Day, which also featured an exhibition of scientific models, cultural performances and an anti-drug awareness skit.

Jan attended the programme as the chief guest, while Chief Education Officer Kargil Sonam Wangchuk was the guest of honour. The event brought together students, teachers, parents, alumni and other dignitaries.

The exhibition featured scientific models and innovations, art and craft works, and traditional ethnic food. Students also presented cultural performances and staged a skit under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse and promoting the message of a drug-free society.



The school's annual magazine was released during the event, documenting its academic achievements, educational activities and students' creative contributions.

Principal Eshey Namgyal welcomed the chief guest and guest of honour with traditional khatags. Addressing the gathering, Jan and Wangchuk appreciated the efforts of the school administration, teaching staff and students in organising the programme.

They encouraged students to pursue academic excellence, nurture their talents and take an active part in educational, cultural and co-curricular activities. They also underscored the importance of discipline, dedication and consistent effort in achieving success. The celebration highlighted the school's efforts to promote holistic education by combining classroom learning with scientific inquiry, cultural expression and social responsibility. The programme concluded with a renewed focus on academic excellence and the all-round development of students.

Proposal for more Council Seats submitted: Qari BJP backs Drass seat-hike demand, hits out at Congress-NC shutdowns

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

DRASS: The BJP has backed a demand for more seats in the Drass Hill Council while strongly opposing shutdown politics, accusing the Congress and National Conference of disrupting livelihoods, hurting tourism and imposing hardships on ordinary residents.

BJP Drass district president Fayaz Ahmad Qari said the party had already submitted a proposal seeking an increase in Hill Council seats for consideration by the competent authorities, asserting that Drass's demand for adequate political representation must be addressed through democratic and institutional channels.

Qari said the BJP supported the genuine aspirations of the people and would pursue their demands through dialogue, representation and engagement with the administration. He maintained that shutdowns and forced closures were counter-



productive, affecting traders, hoteliers, transporters, students, patients and daily-wage earners.

He also warned that disruptions to commercial activity could adversely affect the local economy and tourism sector, which many residents depend on for their livelihoods.

"The BJP stands for constructive politics, not destructive politics," Qari said, arguing that public issues should be resolved through proper representation and sustained engagement with the concerned authorities rather than shutdowns that penalise ordinary people.

Appealing to political parties and public representatives to act responsibly, he urged them to place the interests of Drass's residents above political considerations. He said the region's aspirations deserved serious attention but should be pursued through peaceful and democratic means.

The BJP reiterated its commitment to strengthening political representation and promoting development in Drass, maintaining that increased Hill Council representation should be pursued through the appropriate constitutional and administrative process.

Sankoo's First SSP takes charge amid warm welcome

SSP Pawan Kumar vows crackdown on drugs, crime; promises accessible, responsive policing

HABEEL SAGAR

SANKOO: Tackling drug abuse, curbing cybercrime and strengthening public safety will top the policing agenda in Sankoo, Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar said after assuming charge as the newly established district's first IPS officer.

Kumar was accorded a warm welcome by local residents, who expressed hope that his appointment would improve law and order and strengthen policing in the district.

Interacting with the media, the SP said public safety would remain his foremost priority and stressed that the police would work closely with



residents to maintain peace, address local concerns and improve security.

He said the police would organise awareness campaigns on cybercrime, particularly online fraud and other digital threats, to help people recognise and avoid such of-

fences.

On drug abuse, Kumar said awareness drives would focus especially on young people, while those involved in the supply and sale of narcotic substances would be identified and dealt with in accordance with the law.

He also emphasised the need to channel young people's energy into constructive activities and encourage their participation in the district's development.

Addressing policing requirements in the newly established district, Kumar said efforts would be made to gradually strengthen infrastructure and resources needed for effective law enforcement. He called for cooperation among

stakeholders to support Sankoo's progress.

The SP assured residents that he would remain accessible to the public and encouraged anyone facing a problem to approach him for assistance. He said the police would extend all possible cooperation and work towards resolving public grievances.

Kumar's assumption of charge comes as Sankoo begins building its administrative and policing framework following its establishment as a separate district. Residents have expressed hope that his leadership will improve public-police coordination and strengthen efforts against drug-related offences and cybercrime.

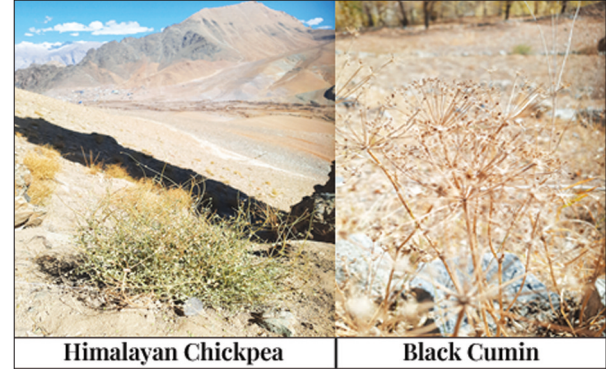
ICAR Scientist Documents Himalayan Chickpea, Black Cumin in Kargil's Batalik

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: An ICAR scientist has explored and documented two valuable plant species — Himalayan chickpea and black cumin — in Batalik village of Ladakh's Kargil district, highlighting their potential for climate-resilient agriculture, livestock fodder and traditional medicinal use.

The research team, comprising scientist Dr Prabhakaran S from Tamil Nadu and senior technician Mohd Raza, studied Cicer microphyllum, commonly known as Himalayan chickpea, and Bunium persicum, or black cumin, in the remote mountainous region near the Line of Control (LoC).

Himalayan chickpea is a wild relative of cultivated chickpea (Cicer arietinum) and belongs to the Fabaceae family. The species is valued for potentially useful genetic traits, including cold and drought tolerance and resistance to other biotic and abiotic stresses. These traits could support efforts to develop crops better suited to challenging climatic conditions.



The plant also contributes to soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen through its root nodules. Locally, it is used as fodder for sheep and goats, adding to its value for pastoral communities. The second species, black cumin, locally known as kala zeera, belongs to the Apiaceae family and is among the region's prized culinary spices. Often referred to as "black gold" because of its high market value, it is also valued for its essential oil and traditional medicinal uses.

Local communities have traditionally used it to relieve digestive discomfort.

The cold-arid climate of the region is associated with the spice's distinctive flavour and aroma, enhancing its culinary appeal.

Situated at an altitude of approximately 9,009 to 9,035 feet, Batalik is known for its rugged terrain and strategic location. The area was a major battleground during the 1999 Kargil War, fought under Operation Vijay, and is home to the Brokpa community.

Youth Parliament to Debate 'ONOE' on Oct 31

MY Bharat invites eligible youth to district-level VB Youth Parliament '27 at University of Ladakh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: Young people in Kargil will get an opportunity to debate the proposal of 'One Nation, One Election' at the district-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2027, scheduled for October 31 at the University of Ladakh's Kargil Campus.

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Kargil, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has invited eligible youth across the district to register for the event through its official portal, mybharat.gov.in.

The district-level programme will focus on "One Nation, One Election", giving participants a platform to present their views on the country's democratic framework and engage in debate on an issue of national importance.

The initiative aims to encourage informed civic participation among young people while strengthening democratic values and developing leadership, critical thinking and public-speaking skills.

Participants will have the opportunity to put forward their arguments, demonstrate their oratory skills and engage in discussions on the proposed electoral reform. The programme also seeks to nurture responsible future

leaders by encouraging young people to engage with democratic processes and public affairs.

MY Bharat, Kargil, has urged eligible participants to make use of the opportunity and take part in the youth-focused initiative. Interested candidates can register through the official MY Bharat portal or contact the district office for further information.

The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament initiative seeks to bring young voices into discussions on issues shaping India's future, offering participants a platform to express their perspectives and engage with questions of national importance.

Kargil to open 50-seat residential hostel for children with special needs at Kurbathang

Registration begins October 24

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: The Office of the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Kargil, has invited applications for admission to a 50-seat residential hostel for children with special needs at Kurbathang, with registration scheduled to begin on October 24 and the facility tentatively set to start functioning in the first week of November. According to a public notice issued by Chief Education Officer Sonam Wangchuk on October 23, parents and guardians of eligible children can register their wards at the CEO's office in Kargil to facilitate the admission process.

The hostel will have an intake capacity of 50 students. Preference will be given to children from underprivileged and economically weaker sections, those living in far-flung and remote areas, and students already enrolled at the Children with Special Needs (CWSN) School in Kurbathang.

The initiative is aimed at providing residential support to eligible children with special needs, particularly those whose families live in remote areas and may face difficulties accessing educational facilities. However, the notice does not specify the hostel's residential facilities, eligibility criteria in detail or the documents required for registration.

The CEO's office has asked eligible parents and guardians to register their children to facilitate the admission process. Further information can be obtained from the Office of the Chief Education Officer, Kargil.