

Ladakh: A serene blend of rugged landscapes and timeless culture



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Inshorts

At least 33 killed in Pak terror attack

ISLAMABAD: At least 33 people were killed and 30 others injured in a gun attack carried out on passenger vans in the Kurram district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday, according to a Tehsil Headquarters Hospital official Dr Muhammad Ishaq.

The medical superintendent of the hospital Alizai said the injured were being referred to various hospitals in the district and some to Peshawar, Dawn reported.

A top provincial official said the toll could go up. Meanwhile, Ahmad Shama Station House Officer Kaleem Shah told Dawn.com that 38 people were killed, including three women, and 11 were injured in the attack that took place in the Lower Kurram area.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the incident and expressed his condolences to the bereaved of the deceased. "Attacking innocent passengers is a cowardly and inhumane act," he was quoted as saying in a post on X by Pakistan people's Party media cell. He added that those responsible for the ►P11

Gautam Adani charged with bribery, fraud

NEW YORK: Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by US prosecutors over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay USD 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

US prosecutors charged Adani, 62, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over USD 250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than USD 2 billion in profit. This, they alleged, was concealed from the US banks and investors from ►P11

SC suggests courtroom at Jail for Malik

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday suggested for setting up a courtroom in Tihar Jail to cross-examine the terror convict Yasin Malik.

The Top Court suggested this while hearing an appeal filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against a special Jammu court order calling for Yasin Malik's physical presence for trial proceedings.

A Bench comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih suggested that a makeshift courtroom could be set up in jail to cross-examine ►P11

Khattar call for removing bottlenecks to ensure smooth execution of all projects

Announces survey of homeless people in Ladakh

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Union Minister of Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar Thursday reviewed the working of the power and housing departments of the Union Territory of Ladakh at Leh.

Union Minister Khattar said that all efforts are being made on war footing to remove the bottlenecks associated with the projects and to ensure smooth implementation of all projects in the UT.

He announced to conduct a survey of all the homeless people in the Union Territory to ensure no one remains homeless.

The Union Minister was warmly welcomed upon his arrival in Leh. He was greeted by Principal Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, and senior officials from the UT Administration at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport. The Union minister is



on a 2-day visit to the UT.

During the meeting, the Minister was given a detailed overview of the working of the concerned departments and was appraised of their achievements by concerned officials.

The Minister expressed satisfaction at the working of the departments and assured of all possible help in over-

coming shortcomings and difficulties being faced by the departments here owing to the tough terrain of the region.

Talking to media after the meeting, the Minister said that Ladakh aims to achieve 100 percent processing of waste material and a detailed report of the project was presented to him today.

He added that the Ministry is keen to improve the working conditions of Safai Mitras so that they do not face any occupational hazards while performing their duties. The Minister has instructed that under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for water supply and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) projects in the regions of Leh and Kargil should be finalized at the earliest.

The timely preparation and approval of the DPRs will ensure the smooth implementation of these vital projects, which will contribute to the overall development and quality of life in both Leh and Kargil.

Manohar Lal said that a survey of all homeless people would be conducted in the UT so that they can avail benefits of PM Awas Yojana. He said that the Ministry ►P11

Kukshow Vill desires inclusion in Sham District; NDC takes note, wraps up visit



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

DARCHIKS: Currently with Kargil District, Delegates from Kukshow village expressed their desire for inclusion in the new Sham District to improve access to services, citing challenges related to migration, livelihood, and education.

Meeting the New Districts Committee (NDC) on Thursday, they also emphasized on the cultural differences with Kargil district and potential benefits of merging with Sham District for their community's well-being.

The NDC led by Chairman Pramod Kumar Jain (IAS Retd.), concluded its two-day visit to Aryan Valley and Sham

Region on Thursday.

The committee engaged with local leaders, residents, and various delegations to gather feedback on the formation of new districts in Ladakh.

The Committee along with members Kacho Asfandyar Khan (IAS Retd.), Tsering Angchuk (IAS Retd.), and Deputy Commissioner Leh Santosh Sukhadev (IAS), met with delegations at the Tourist Dak Bungalow in Darchiks and at Beema as well. Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil Shrikant Balasaheb Suse (IAS) also joined the committee at Darchiks.

During the meeting, Councillor Feroz Ahmad Khan

(Silmo Constituency), nominated Councillor Rigzin Gurmeth, and representatives from Darchiks, Garkon, Silmo, Lalung, Gargardoo, Kukshow, Dargo, and Hanu represented their views, suggestions and submitted their memorandum. The committee listened to the concerns and suggestions regarding the new district formation.

Delegates from Kukshow village, currently with Kargil District, expressed their desire for inclusion in the new Sham District to improve access to services, citing challenges related to migration, livelihood, and education. They also emphasized on the cultural differences with Kargil ►P11

134 kgs of unhygienic, expired meat seized



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: On the direction of Sub Divisional Magistrate, Zanskar, Food Safety Officer Kargil, in a crackdown on food safety violations on Thursday seized 134.700 kgs of expired and

unhygienic beef and 6.500 kg of mutton sticks during an investigation in Padum, Zanskar.

The meat, found in the sealed butcher shops, was non-labelled and failed to meet basic safety standards. The inspection. ►P11

Youth's role pivotal in making India developed nation by 2047: Haneefa

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: Highlighting the pivotal role of youth in achieving the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047, Member of Parliament Ladakh, Haji Haneefa Jan inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue as part of the National Youth Festival 2025 at the SAI Centre Kargil.

The event marked a significant step toward empowering youth and fostering their active participation in the nation's development journey.

Addressing the gathering, Haji Haneefa Jan emphasized that India's youth



represent the country's most valuable asset.

"Ladakh's youth have already showcased their excellence at national and international levels. By providing better opportunities, we can help them unlock even

greater potential," he said.

Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for greater youth involvement, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is a reimagined platform under the Ministry of Youth Affairs. ►P11

Ladakh Education conclave begins today; LG to address

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Higher Education Department, School Education Department, and Ladakh Skill Development are organizing a two-day Ladakh Education Conclave 2024' from 22 to 23 November at the Zen Hotel Leh.

Brig (Dr) BD. Mishra Retd, Lieutenant Governor UT Ladakh, will grace the occasion as Chief Guest, while the Chairman, LAHDC Leh, and Kargil have been invited as Guests of Honour.

The event aims to unite policy-makers, institutions, industries, experts, teachers, students, and communities to collaborate on a holistic approach to education by align-

ing school education, vocational training, and higher education as per the National Education Policy 2020 and current trends.

The conclave will focus on topics like Seamless transition from school to higher education; ensuring continuity and relevance, Skill integration at all levels of education to foster employability and entrepreneurship; Equity and Inclusion; providing access to education for students from remote, tribal, and marginalized communities; innovative pedagogy and digital learning tools to enhance quality and access, especially in rural and challenging geographies like Ladakh and Sustainable ►P11

Modi to launch 'UN Int'l Year of Cooperative 2025'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch on Monday the 'United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025' at International Cooperative Alliance's (ICA) global conference to be held in the national capital.

First time in the 130 years long history of the ICA, the premier body for the global cooperative movement, with the initiative of IFFCO, the ICA General Assembly and Global Cooperative Conference will be hosted by India. The event is scheduled to be held during November 25-30 here.

Addressing a press conference, Cooperation Secretary Ashish Kumar Bhutani informed that the prime minister will formally launch the 'United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025' during the inaugural session of the event on November 25.

A commemorative stamp on International Year of Cooperatives - 2025 will also be launched in the event.

Around 3,000 delegates are expected to attend this event and out of that 1,000 will be delegates from foreign countries, he ►P11

India to have 350 million children by 2050: UNICEF

NEW DELHI: India, projected to house 350 million children by 2050, must navigate critical challenges like extreme climate and environmental hazards to ensure their well-being and rights, according to a new UNICEF report.

It underlined that although India will see a decline of 106 million children compared to today, it will still account for 15 per cent of the global child population, sharing this responsibility with China, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

UNICEF's flagship State of the World's Children 2024 report, The Future of Chil-

dren in a Changing World, was launched in New Delhi on Wednesday, spotlighting three global megatrends, demographic shifts, climate crises, and frontier technologies that are set to reshape the lives of children by 2050.

The report was unveiled by Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Representative, alongside Suruchi Bhadwal of The Energy Research Institute (TERI), UNICEF Youth Advocate Kartik Verma.

The report pointed out that by the 2050s, children will face dramatically increased exposure to extreme climate and ►P11

J&K Bank launches Virtual ATM facility in collaboration with Paymart India Pvt Ltd

CEO stresses on Customer-Centric approach as key to success

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Committed to enhancing digital convenience for its customers, J&K Bank has launched a Virtual ATM Facility (vATM) - a cutting-edge technology platform.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash inaugurated the innovative facility today in the presence of Director & CEO Paymart India Pvt. Ltd. Amit Narang, Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General



Managers, IT Head (Paymart India) Suvir Chopra, DGMs and other senior officers at

the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Bank's Divisional Heads and Zonal Heads from

Kashmir, Jammu and Rest of India also joined the inaugural ceremony through VC.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "In today's fast-evolving digital banking landscape, we continue to innovate in extending convenience to our customers. Launching of the Virtual ATM facility (vATM) demonstrates our strong focus on leveraging technology for financial empowerment of people especially in rural areas with no presence of ATMs or other banking channels. Developed in collaboration with Paymart, the ►P11

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