

@lg_ladakh

Lt Governor, Shri @KavinderGupta, today met Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji & held a detailed discussion on key developmental priorities, financial support, and strengthening infrastructure to accelerate #Ladakh's inclusive growth and progress.

**@DIPR_Kargil**

Basit Afzal, Founder of Arces of Ice, met with the Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Mohd Feroz, and gave a detailed presentation on data-driven innovations aimed at optimizing water management and enhancing agricultural resilience in high-altitude regions of Ladakh.

**AIRCRAFT:**

On this day in 1903; The Wright brothers first flew an Aircraft named 'The Flyer', this 12-second flight revolutionized the world.

**MONUMENTS:**

There are 15 protected monuments in the Union Territory of Ladakh under and regular conservation and maintenance by the Archaeological Survey of India.

**U-TURN PROHIBITED:**

This sign can be seen at some of the busy intersection on roads. The U turn at these intersections could result in major accidents or traffic jams. The driver should not violate this sign to avoid fine and any untoward incident.



SIMATS Engineering wins Smart India Hackathon'25

**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

CHENNAI: Students of SIMATS Engineering have won the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025, securing first place at the national level and a cash award of Rs 1.5 lakh, for their technology-driven solution developed for the Government of Sikkim's Tourism Department.

The winning project addressed the official problem statement titled "Digitize and Showcase Monasteries of Sikkim for Tourism and Cultural Preservation." The challenge witnessed participation from multiple teams across the country, reflecting strong national-level competition. Following a rigorous multi-stage evaluation process, only five teams were shortlisted for the grand finale, where the SIMATS Engineering team emerged as the overall winner.

The SIMATS students developed a comprehensive digital platform focused on cultural preservation, tourism accessibility, and visitor security. The solution digitised monasteries using immersive 3D models and 360-degree virtual walkthroughs, supported by VR integration, enabling remote access to heritage sites. To enhance security

and monitoring, the platform incorporated location-based access features. Addressing connectivity limitations in remote and hilly regions, the solution also enabled offline and anywhere-access functionality, ensuring uninterrupted availability of content. In addition, the platform integrated end-to-end tourism services, including transport booking, accommodation reservations, monastery entry ticket booking, and digital access to historical manuscripts. An AI-powered tour planner, developed using generative AI principles, provided personalised travel itineraries aligned with user preferences. The jury commended the SIMATS team for the solution's technical depth, scalability, and real-world deployability, noting its effective integration of heritage conservation with modern tourism infrastructure.

Organised by the Government of India through the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and AICTE, the Smart India Hackathon is the country's flagship initiative to promote innovation, problem-solving, and industry-ready skills among students by crowdsourcing solutions for challenges faced by government departments.

Founder of Arces of Ice Basit calls on EC Kargil, Kacho Mohd Feroz

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: Basit Afzal, Founder of Arces of Ice, met with the Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Mohd Feroz, and gave a detailed presentation on data-driven innovations aimed at optimizing water management and enhancing agricultural resilience in high-altitude regions of Ladakh.

During the meeting, Basit Afzal outlined a scalable model for the construction of artificial, automated reservoirs specifically designed for high-altitude terrains. The technology seeks to address acute water scarcity while empowering local communities to preserve their traditional livelihoods and adapt effectively to the challenges posed by climate change. Appreciating the initiative, Executive Councillor Kacho Mohd Feroz congratulated the founder, co-founder, and members of the organization for devel-



oping a much-needed technology for regions like Ladakh. He noted that with rapidly changing climatic conditions and a drastic reduction in groundwater levels and natural water reservoirs, such innovations could play a pivotal role in ensuring long-term water security. The Executive Councillor further requested Basit Afzal to initiate capacity-building programmes for officials from departments such as Irrigation & Flood Control, Public Health Engineering (PHE), and for interested members

of the local community, so that the technology can be effectively utilized, maintained, and sustained by local stakeholders. Emphasizing the need for foresight, EC Kacho Mohd Feroz stressed that a long-term and sustainable vision for the entire Ladakh region is essential to meet future water-related challenges. He also expressed optimism about collaborating with Arces of Ice in the near future to address these pressing and urgent concerns of Ladakh.

Admin Secy reviews 'Cold Desert Agriculture Research' at SAS&T Leh

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Administrative Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries/Industries & Commerce including Mining & Geology/Power Development & New Renewable Energy, UT of Ladakh, P.T. Rudra Goud, IAS, visited the School of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SAS&T), Stakna Campus, Leh, to review ongoing academic, research and development initiatives focused on cold desert agriculture. The Secretary was formally welcomed by Dr. Dorjay Namgyal, Dean, Agricultural Sciences, SAS&T, who briefed him on the man-

date of the institution, its academic programmes, research activities, and infrastructure and institutional capabilities.

Special emphasis was laid on research and development initiatives tailored to the unique challenges of high-altitude and cold desert farming systems in Ladakh.

During the visit, the Secretary inspected the Precision Farm Development Centre (PFDC) at SAS&T. He appreciated the successful cultivation of green leafy vegetables under trial conditions, particularly during the harsh winter months, terming it a significant achievement towards en-



hancing local food security through protected cultivation.

Dr. Sonam Spaldon explained the various greenhouse structures designed for high-altitude regions, highlighting the efficiency of

the three-wall greenhouse model. She also elaborated on the range of green leafy vegetables being grown during winter using advanced protected cultivation technologies. The Secretary also interact-

ed with Dr. Kunzes Angmo, Forage Scientist, to understand the fodder species being cultivated and evaluated in the region. Stressing the importance of addressing livestock feed shortages in Ladakh, Goud emphasized the need to develop and submit a collaborative proposal on fodder development, involving SAS&T and the concerned departments, to ensure sustainable solutions for the livestock sector.

In a major assurance, the Secretary stated that the project for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) plates at Pang would be sanctioned soon, acknowledging its critical role in promoting renewable energy and sus-

tainable power use at the campus.

The visit and discussions were attended by Dr. Mohammad Ismail, Director, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Dr. Dorjay Namgyal, Dr. Stanzin Thekchos, Prof. Deldan Namgail, Dr. Kunzes Angmo, and Dr. Sonam Spaldon, among others. The visit concluded with constructive deliberations on strengthening protected cultivation, advancing fodder development research, and integrating renewable energy solutions, reinforcing the UT Administration's commitment to sustainable agriculture and allied sectors in Ladakh's challenging climatic conditions.

UoL, Army organise cycle rally and motivational lecture on Vijay Diwas

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: As part of Vijay Diwas celebrations, the University of Ladakh, in collaboration with the 108 Medium Regiment (Kargil), successfully organised a Cycle Rally and a Motivational Lecture on Tuesday, commemorating India's historic victory in the Indo-Pak War of 1971 and paying tribute to the valour and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces.

The programme commenced at 7:30 AM with the flag-off ceremony of the Cycle Rally from the University of Ladakh premises to the Hall of Fame War Memorial, Leh. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and Indian Army jawans, symbolising unity, courage, and national pride. The event aimed to inspire a spirit of patriotism while promoting physical fitness and collective remembrance of the nation's military heroes.

In a notable highlight of the rally, Imran Khan, Head Cook, Boys' Hostel, Leh Campus, secured the third position, reflecting active participation and encouragement of fitness and patriotic spirit among university staff members alongside students. Following the rally, a motivational lecture on "Join Indian Army"



was organised at 8:00 AM in the Conference Hall, Leh Campus. The lecture was delivered by Major Harman and Lieutenant Shivani of the Indian Army, who provided valuable insights into career opportunities in the Armed Forces, selection procedures, training, and the life of an army officer. The interactive session inspired students and instilled a strong sense of patriotism, discipline, and service to the nation among the youth.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Waseem Raja

Malik, who acknowledged the support and cooperation of the Indian Army, university administration, faculty members, staff, and student participants in making the event a success. The entire programme was conducted smoothly under the overall supervision of Dr. Subrat Sharma, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Ladakh, reinforcing the university's commitment to promoting national values, youth engagement, and close civil-military cooperation on important national occasions like Vijay Diwas.

GDC Kargil conferred 'Pride of Nation Award' on Vijay Diwas

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: In a moment of immense pride for the Union Territory of Ladakh, Government Degree College (GDC) Kargil has been conferred with the prestigious "Pride of Nation Award 2025" on the occasion of Vijay Diwas.

The award was presented at a grand ceremony held at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi, in recognition of the college's exemplary contribution to nation-building beyond the academic sphere.

GDC Kargil was adjudged the Best College from UT Ladakh, honouring its outstanding initiatives in promoting nationalism, patriotism, civic responsibility, and holistic student development.

The recognition highlights the institution's sustained efforts in instilling national values and encouraging student participation in activities that strengthen social cohesion and a sense of duty towards the nation.

The award was presented by Veterans India, in collaboration with leading national bodies including the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Board of Accreditation (NBA), Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), and more than 1,000 higher education institutions across the country, underscoring the national stature and credibility of the honour.

The University of Ladakh has placed on record its deep appreciation for the visionary leadership and relentless guidance of Prof. Saket

Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh, whose efforts have played a pivotal role in nurturing GDC Kargil as one of the premier centres of higher education in the region. The University also extended heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Disket Angmo, Principal, GDC Kargil, for her exemplary leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to institutional excellence, which have been instrumental in achieving this significant milestone. This distinguished recognition stands as a matter of great pride for the University of Ladakh and reaffirms its steadfast commitment to excellence in education, nation-building, and service to society, while inspiring institutions across the region to contribute meaningfully to the national ethos.

LSSSB holds Counselling for provisionally shortlisted candidates under Matriculation Level Examination

**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

LEH: The Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board (LSSSB) successfully conducted counselling for provisionally shortlisted candidates at the District Panchayat Resource Centre, Agling, Leh, for the 99 posts ad-

vertised under the Matriculation Level Examination. The counselling process was organised to seek post and department preferences from the selected candidates. During the process, all shortlisted candidates were given an opportuni-

ty to choose the post for which they had been selected, strictly in order of merit.

Higher-merit candidates were accorded priority in selecting posts, after which candidates were allowed to choose the department of their interest against the available vacancies.

The counselling was conducted in a transparent and fair manner in accordance with the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring equal opportunity for all candidates.

Michael M. D'Souza, IAS, Board Member, along with Secretary, LSSSB Dr. Zahida Bano and other Board Officers were present to oversee the entire exercise.

UoL faculty participate in national workshop on 'Gender Sensitization & ICC'

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: A five-day National Workshop on "Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of Universities in India" was organized by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi, from December 8 to 12, 2025, bringing together faculty members and administrators from universities across the country to strengthen institutional mechanisms for gender equity and safety. Around 30 faculty members from 17 universities participated in the intensive workshop. The University of Ladakh was represented by Dr. Yangchen Dolma, Associ-

ate Dean (Academic Affairs), and Dr. Stanzin Mantok, ICC Member, who actively participated in the deliberations and delivered a presentation on behalf of the University of Ladakh, sharing institutional practices and perspectives. The primary objectives of the workshop were to enhance understanding of gender sensitization in higher education, strengthen knowledge of the legal framework under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), and build the capacity of Internal Complaints Committee members to handle complaints effectively while ensuring fairness, confidentiality, and sensitivity.



The programme featured expert sessions, interactive discussions, and case-based learning aimed at equipping participants with practical tools to address gender-related concerns on campus. As a key outcome, the workshop significantly enhanced participants' awareness, confidence, and preparedness to respond to gender issues, while also contributing

to improved and more effective functioning of ICCs in their respective institutions. The participation of University of Ladakh faculty in the national-level workshop reflects the university's continued commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive academic environment in line with national legal and policy frameworks.