

# Ladakh

In Social

**@lg\_ladakh:** Deeply saddened by the passing of Professor P. Stobdan, distinguished former Ambassador and eminent intellectual from Ladakh. His contributions to diplomacy, scholarship, and public life will be remembered with respect. My heartfelt condolences to his family and admirers.



In Numbers

600

The Pathology & Blood Banking Unit at SNM Hospital in Leh has the storage capacity of about 600 blood units. Blood Transfusion service is a vital component of the Health Care Delivery System.



In History

**APOLLO 16:** On this day in 1972, The Apollo 16 mission landed on the Moon after struggling for six hours. The team of John Young and Charles Duke became the fifth team in history to land on the Moon.



Traffic Signs

**BARRIER AHEAD:** Many a times the road passes through toll collection point/check posts etc. One can find barriers on such places. This sign indicates that there is a barrier ahead on the road and vehicle has to stop there.



## 90.4 FM Drass marks World Heritage Day with call for sustainable tourism

**LEH:** Community Radio Station (CRS 90.4 FM) in Drass marked World Heritage Day with an awareness programme that brought heritage preservation and sustainable tourism into sharp public focus, as speakers called for collective responsibility to safeguard the region's cultural legacy.

Addressing the gathering, Professor Tsewang Gyaltson of Government Degree College Drass stressed the urgency of protecting local historical sites and maintaining the distinct cultural identity of Drass. He drew attention to the area's scenic viewpoints and heritage assets, describing them as vital resources that demand careful stewardship.

Linking preservation efforts with economic prospects, the academic underscored that tourism growth in Drass must be guided by sustainability. He argued that responsible visitor practices, supported by informed local communities, can ensure that heritage sites are not only protected but also contribute to long-term economic resilience.

The event, organised by the community radio station, served as a platform to sensitise residents on the value of conservation. Organisers reiterated their commitment to amplifying awareness campaigns and encouraging grassroots participation in preserving cultural and historical assets. Participants attended in large numbers, reflecting growing public interest in heritage-related issues. The programme concluded with a renewed appeal for community-driven initiatives to secure the region's legacy for future generations.

## DIET, PM Shri School Chuchot Yokma hold session on building inclusive classrooms

**LEH:** In a focused effort to deepen awareness around equitable learning, an orientation programme on inclusive education was conducted at PM Shri School, Chuchot Yokma, in collaboration with the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh, on Saturday.

The session centred on reinforcing the principle that access to education must extend to every child, irrespective of ability or background. Framed around the theme "Inclusion is Not a Choice, It's a Right," the programme underscored the responsibility of educational institutions to create environments where diversity is acknowledged and supported.

Resource persons led interactive discussions, engaging students on the foundations of inclusive classrooms. The conversations moved beyond theory, urging participants to understand empathy, shared learning spaces, and equal participation as essential components of modern education. Through dialogue and activities, students were encouraged to reflect on their roles in fostering acceptance within their peer groups.

The initiative also aimed to sensitise young learners to differences, promoting a culture where mutual respect becomes a daily practice rather than a policy directive. Messages such as "Every Child is Special, Every Dream Matters" and "Learning Has No Limits" were woven into the session, reinforcing the idea that education must adapt to learners, not the other way around.

Students responded with notable enthusiasm, actively participating in discussions and demonstrating a growing awareness of inclusive values. Educators observed that such engagements play a vital role in shaping attitudes at an early stage, particularly in regions where access and equity remain evolving challenges.

The programme concluded with a collective call for unity and shared growth, reflecting a broader vision for schools across Ladakh to adopt inclusive and holistic practices. Officials associated with the initiative described it as part of a continuing effort to ensure that no learner is excluded from quality education.

As Ladakh's education system undergoes gradual transformation, such initiatives indicate a shift towards classrooms that are not only academically driven but also socially responsive.

## NISR Director Dr Gurmet highlights Himalayan Healthcare at National AYUSH conclave in Delhi

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** The Himalayan system of Sowa-Rigpa featured prominently at a national platform on Saturday as Dr Padma Gurmet presented its public health relevance during "The Week AYUSH Conclave" held in New Delhi, where policymakers and domain experts deliberated on expanding the role of traditional medicine in contemporary healthcare.

Organised by The Week Media Group at the Taj Mansingh Hotel, the conclave was themed "Ayush for the World - Ancient Science for Modern Healing" and brought together senior functionaries from the Ministry of AYUSH, research councils, and industry stakeholders. The gathering focused on strengthening India's traditional systems of medicine while exploring their integration into



modern healthcare frameworks.

The event was inaugurated by Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, who lit the ceremonial lamp and underscored the importance of promoting indigenous medical knowledge systems at the global level.

Speaking during a panel discussion titled "Ayush: For the

World", Dr Gurmet outlined the role of Sowa-Rigpa in addressing healthcare needs in high-altitude and remote Himalayan regions. She emphasised its preventive and community-based approach, noting its continued relevance in areas where access to conventional medical infrastructure remains constrained.

The session brought to-

gether heads of key research bodies under the AYUSH umbrella, including Rabinarayan Acharya, Subhash Kaushik, N. Zaheer Ahmed, N.J. Muthukumar, and Kashinath Samagandi, along with Alarmelmangai D., reflecting a cross-section of India's traditional medicine leadership.

Discussions at the conclave centred on advancing research, fostering collaboration across systems, and enhancing the global outreach of AYUSH disciplines. Participants also examined the growing role of yoga and allied practices in preventive healthcare and wellness.

Dr Gurmet's participation underscored the increasing recognition of Sowa-Rigpa within the national healthcare discourse, particularly in the context of its application in ecologically and geographically distinct regions such as Ladakh.

## CUHP VC SP Bansal to address Ladakh's first international Tourism Conference

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** The forthcoming "LITCON2K26 - 1st Ladakh International Tourism Conference 2026" is set to receive an academic boost with the confirmation that Prof. Sat Prakash Bansal, Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, will attend the event in person as Guest Speaker.

Scheduled for April 27-28 at the University of Ladakh, the conference will be conducted in a hybrid format, bringing together scholars, policymakers and industry stakeholders to deliberate on emerging trends in tourism.

Prof. Bansal is slated to address the inaugural session on April 27 at 10:00 AM and will also deliver a keynote lecture during the first technical session. His address will centre on "GST and the Transformation of India's Tourism Economy: Policy Perspectives and Future Directions," a theme that aligns with ongoing na-

tional discussions on taxation reforms and their impact on the tourism sector.

Organised by the Department of Travel and Tourism Management, the conference is backed by financial support from the Indian Council of Social Science Research and is being held in collaboration with the Indian Tourism and Hospitality Congress as associate partner.

Officials associated with the organising committee said the Vice Chancellor's participation is expected to deepen academic engagement and bring clarity to policy-driven aspects of tourism development, particularly in regions like Ladakh where the sector plays a pivotal economic role.

The event marks the first international tourism conference hosted by the University, positioning Ladakh as a growing centre for academic discourse on sustainable and policy-oriented tourism practices.

## EJM College Leh marks World Heritage Day with Student-centric awareness programme

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** The Department of Anthropology at EJM College Leh on Saturday observed World Heritage Day with a structured awareness programme that brought students to the forefront of discussions on cultural preservation and historical continuity.

The event, held on April 18, combined academic engagement with creative expression, aiming to sensitise participants to the urgency of safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage. Students led much of the discourse, reflecting an institutional push to involve younger generations in conservation efforts.

Opening the programme at 11:00 AM, Dr. Shivanshi Nehria set the tone by emphasising the relevance of World Heritage Day in a rapidly changing cultural landscape. She drew attention to the fragility of traditional practices and historical sites, while placing local heritage within a



broader global framework.

At 11:30 AM, student speakers elaborated on the need to preserve monuments, customs and cultural identity, arguing that heritage conservation must move beyond rhetoric to sustained community action. The addresses underscored the responsibility of youth in carrying forward cultural legacies amid growing modern influences.

The academic segment transitioned into a poster competition between 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM, where participants interpreted themes of cultural diversity, traditions and monuments through visual narratives. The exhibits, marked by originality and thematic clarity, reflected a growing awareness among students on heritage-related concerns.

The programme concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners were felicitated and certificates awarded. Delivering the vote of thanks, Dr. Diskit Wangmo commended the coordinated efforts of organisers and the active involvement of students in shaping the event.

The observance, organisers said, was intended not only as a commemorative exercise but as a sustained reminder of the need to protect cultural identity in Ladakh, where heritage remains closely tied to community life and historical memory.

## EJM College students explore social welfare systems during field visit



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** In a bid to bridge classroom learning with ground realities, students of the fourth semester majoring in Social Work at EJM College Leh undertook a field visit to the Social Welfare Department Leh, gaining direct exposure to welfare administration and institutional mechanisms.

The visit, part of their practical training module, saw the students engage with de-

partmental officials at the Director's Office. Among those who addressed the group was Abdul Rehman, who outlined the contours of flagship programmes such as Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti. The briefing focused on policy intent as well as on-ground execution in areas of child protection and women's welfare.

As part of their field exposure, the students were taken through key institutional frameworks underpinning the district's

social protection system. These included the Observation Home, the Juvenile Justice Board, and the Child Welfare Committee. Each unit provided insights into legal processes and rehabilitation pathways for vulnerable children.

The visit also featured an interaction at the One Stop Centre, where integrated services for women in distress are delivered. Officials demonstrated how legal aid, counselling, and emergency support are coordinated under one roof, offering the students a closer look at crisis response systems. Accompanied by Yangchan Dolma and Tanushree Malahar, the students were guided through administrative processes at the district level, including documentation, case handling, and inter-departmental coordination.

Faculty members noted that such field engagements remain central to social work education, allowing students to connect theoretical frameworks with real-world practice. For the participants, the exercise offered a clearer understanding of how welfare schemes are implemented and monitored within the district's institutional setup.

## Bazm-e-Adab hosts Seminar, Mushaira on Ayatollah Khamenei's intellectual legacy

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KARGIL:** A seminar-cum-mushaira on the life and teachings of Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei was organised by Bazm-e-Adab, the literary wing of the Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust (IKMT), at Syed Mehdi Auditorium Hall here on Sunday, bringing together poets, scholars and members of the literary community from across the district.

The programme featured a blend of scholarly deliberations and poetic recitations, with participants reflecting on the Supreme Leader's intellectual, political and literary contributions. Speakers and poets presented their perspectives through essays and verses, underlining the influence of his writings and speeches on contemporary thought.

Presiding over the event, Sheikh Hussain Lutfi high-



lighted the enduring relevance of poetry as a medium of expression, noting that a single verse can often communicate ideas more effectively than lengthy discourse. Referring to Ayatollah Khamenei's engagement with literature, he said the leader had consistently encouraged poets to draw upon spiritual and ethical traditions in their work.

Lutfi urged participants to incorporate teachings of the Quran and Ahlulbait in their writings, and called for a broader

understanding of the Karbala narrative. He emphasised the need to explore themes such as courage, sacrifice, truthfulness and the struggle for justice associated with Imam Hussain and his companions, rather than limiting discourse to expressions of grief. A detailed paper presented by Dr Mukhtar Zahid Budgami traced Khamenei's phases of Ayatollah Khamenei's life, including his early years, education, political trajectory and literary engagements. The presentation

drew on references from his sermons and writings, and also highlighted several books authored by him.

The mushaira segment saw participation from a range of local poets, including Haji Qalbi Ali Pashkum, Ibrahim Noori, Abbas Zameer, Ahmad Hussain Olpa, Nissar Hussain, Haji Fida Hussain Wazir, Mohd Ali Khumar, Sajjad Ali Shujat, Dr Mukhtar Zahid, Mohd Ali Ashoor, Arif Ladakhi and Mohd Hussain Rehnuma, who recited verses in tribute and reflection.

Among those present were members of Majlis Mandoobeen IKMT, including Sheikh Mohd Hussain Lutfi and Haji Asgar Ali Karbala; Principal of Jamia Fatima al-Zahra, Sheikh Hameed Nasiri; a representative of Anjuman Noorbakshia; alongside members of various IKMT branches, students of Muthahary Public School and residents from different parts of Kargil.

## Outreach camp brings welfare services to Samad Rokchan in Nyoma sub-division

**LEH:** In an effort to deepen administrative outreach in remote areas of Ladakh, a camp under the "Jung sJabs" programme was organised at Samad Rokchan village in Nyoma sub-division on April 18, facilitating direct access to welfare services and government schemes for local residents.

The programme, held as part of the Administration at Doorstep initiative, was presided over by Feroz Ahmed. Officials representing multiple departments participated in the camp, extending on-the-spot services and engaging with villagers to address their concerns. Residents were provided assistance across a range of public services, with officials offering guidance on eligibility, application procedures, and benefits under various welfare schemes. Awareness sessions formed a central

component of the outreach, aimed at improving understanding of government initiatives among the local population.

The camp witnessed a steady turnout, with villagers availing services and interacting directly with departmental representatives. For many, the initiative reduced the need to travel to administrative centres, underscoring its relevance in geographically isolated regions.

Officials indicated that such outreach programmes are intended to streamline service delivery while strengthening the interface between the administration and rural communities. The "Jung sJabs" initiative, they added, will continue to be rolled out across other villages in the subdivision to ensure wider coverage and sustained engagement.

## World Heritage Day: Officials, Students in Kargil join Heritage Walk to promote cultural awareness

**KARGIL:** A heritage walk through Goma village on Saturday marked World Heritage Day in Kargil, drawing attention to the need for safeguarding cultural assets in regions exposed to environmental and socio-cultural pressures. The event, held under a global theme focusing on emergency responses to living heritage in conflict and disaster contexts, saw participation from officials, students and local residents.

Deputy Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, flagged off the walk, while architect Fayaz Ali led participants across a series of historically significant sites, including Khanka Goma Kargil, Old Imam Bargah Kargil, Hartun, Imam Bargah Goma Kargil and Chospang. The walk was organised by the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Council Model High School, Goma.

At each stop, participants were introduced to the architectural features and historical context of the sites. Alongside cultural activist Anayat Ali, the architect detailed the cultural narratives embedded in these structures, offering students an opportunity to engage directly with the region's living heritage.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of linking ed-

ucation with heritage awareness. He referred to recent improvements in Class 10 examination results in the district and called for a shift towards activity-based and experiential learning to strengthen both academic outcomes and critical thinking among students. The administration also acknowledged the role of local initiatives in sustaining cultural awareness. Particular mention was made of Anayat Ali's efforts in organising World Heritage Day events in Kargil since 2022, which have expanded in scale and participation over the years. During the programme, concerns raised by Village Education Committee Secretary Abass Ali Khan regarding school-related issues were noted, with the Deputy Commissioner assuring that these would be taken up on priority. The event witnessed the participation of Headmaster Zareena Batool, members of the Village Education Committee, teachers, parents and students, reflecting coordinated involvement between educational institutions and civil society groups.

The programme concluded with participants expressing a heightened awareness of the need to preserve Kargil's cultural identity, particularly in the face of changing environmental conditions and evolving social dynamics.