



LADAKH

@Haneefa_Jan
Heartiest congratulations to all the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police on assuming their new responsibilities in the newly created districts of Ladakh. A special congratulations to Sh. Imteez Kacho (JKAS) on his appointment as Deputy Commissioner, Drass; Smt. Kunzes Angmo (JKAS) as Deputy Commissioner, Sham; Sh. Kacho Ishtiyah Ahmad on his appointment as Superintendent of Police, Drass; Sh. Stanzin Losal (JKPS) on his appointment as Superintendent of Police, Nubra; and Sh. Rigzen Sandup (JKPS) as Superintendent of Police, Zaskar. I am confident that you will discharge your duties with utmost honesty, integrity, and dedication, and work tirelessly for the welfare and development of the people. Wishing you all the very best in your new roles.

ADOLF HITLER KILLED:
On this day in 1945, Adolf Hitler killed himself as Soviet troops were advancing on his underground bunker in Berlin and the Battle of Berlin was drawing to a close. Eva Braun, whom he had married a day earlier, also died.

HOLY RELICS:
Did you know? The relics were divided into 8 parts after the Buddha's passing and given to 8 Kingdoms.

TRUCK PROHIBITED:
As sign itself speaks the area designated is a no entry zone for Trucks or HMV. These could be narrow lanes or congested areas where entry of heavy transport vehicle could obstruct smooth flow of traffic.

Activist Ghulam Mohd welcomes New Districts, urges focus on Healthcare, Education in Ladakh
LEH: Ladakhi social activist Ghulam Mohammad on Wednesday welcomed the approval of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh, while urging the Centre to prioritise improvements in healthcare, education and social welfare in remote areas. In a press release, he expressed gratitude to the Central Government for the creation of Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass districts, stating that the decision is expected to improve administrative access and support regional development. At the same time, he called on the Ministry of Home Affairs to focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure across Ladakh, particularly in far-flung areas. He emphasised the need for deployment of experienced doctors and the availability of advanced medical facilities, including MRI and CT scan services, ultrasound equipment and specialised healthcare personnel. Ghulam Mohammad also underlined the importance of improving the education sector, advocating better infrastructure, availability of qualified staff and wider access to quality learning opportunities for students across the region. Referring to the economic prospects arising from the new administrative units, he said that planned development of tourism infrastructure could generate employment and contribute to the local economy. The activist further raised concern over drug abuse, calling for coordinated efforts to address the issue and safeguard the future of younger generations. He also noted that recent visits by senior officials to remote areas could help identify local challenges and lead to improvements in essential services, expressing hope that these efforts would translate into concrete outcomes.

Imteez Kacho, Ishtiyah Ahmed Kacho take charge as first DC, SP in Drass; stress education, public outreach

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
DRASS: In a display of rare public mobilisation, Drass on Wednesday witnessed a large civic reception as Imteez Kacho and Ishtiyah Ahmed Kacho formally assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, respectively, marking the culmination of a sustained public demand for district status, placing Drass at a critical point in its administrative evolution. He underscored the region's strategic and geographic relevance—as one of the coldest inhabited areas and an entry corridor to Ladakh—and called for a development approach that integrates infrastructure expansion with environmental safeguards. Setting out immediate priorities, Kacho pointed to education, healthcare and tourism as core sectors requiring focused intervention. He announced plans to undertake on-ground assessments of schools across the Matayen-Kharboo belt, signalling a direct administrative engagement with institutional challenges. Recalling the region's academic track record, particularly in Drass and Chiktan, he indicated that restoring educational outcomes would be central to the district's governance agenda. He further emphasised the need for public cooperation, stating that administrative outcomes would hinge on sustained engagement between citizens and the district administration. Superintendent of Police Ishtiyah Ahmed Kacho, speaking on the occasion, described the public response as indicative of high expectations and affirmed that policing in the district would prioritise accessibility and responsiveness. He outlined a focus on youth outreach programmes, coupled with efforts to address social concerns, including substance abuse, through preventive and community-based strategies. In their remarks, the councillors acknowledged the role of national leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, as well as former Lieutenant Governor B. D. Mishra and incumbent Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena, in facilitating the district's formation. They also credited local stakeholders and the wider public for sustaining the demand over time. The event, marked by participation across community lines, reflected a convergence of administrative transition and public expectation, as Drass begins its tenure as a district with a focus on structured governance and inclusive growth.



The reception was led by Councillors Abdul Samadh and Abdul Wahid, alongside officials from multiple departments and local institutions. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kacho framed the moment as the culmination of a sustained public demand for district status, placing Drass at a critical point in its administrative evolution. He underscored the region's strategic and geographic relevance—as one of the coldest inhabited areas and an entry corridor to Ladakh—and called for a development approach that integrates infrastructure expansion with environmental safeguards. Setting out immediate priorities, Kacho pointed to education, healthcare and tourism as core sectors requiring focused intervention. He announced plans to undertake on-ground assessments of schools across the Matayen-Kharboo belt, signalling a direct administrative engagement with institutional challenges. Recalling the region's academic track record, particularly in Drass and Chiktan, he indicated that restoring educational outcomes would be central to the district's governance agenda. He further emphasised the need for public cooperation, stating that administrative outcomes would hinge on sustained engagement between citizens and the district administration. Superintendent of Police Ishtiyah Ahmed Kacho, speaking on the occasion, described the public response as indicative of high expectations and affirmed that policing in the district would prioritise accessibility and responsiveness. He outlined a focus on youth outreach programmes, coupled with efforts to address social concerns, including substance abuse, through preventive and community-based strategies. In their remarks, the councillors acknowledged the role of national leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, as well as former Lieutenant Governor B. D. Mishra and incumbent Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena, in facilitating the district's formation. They also credited local stakeholders and the wider public for sustaining the demand over time. The event, marked by participation across community lines, reflected a convergence of administrative transition and public expectation, as Drass begins its tenure as a district with a focus on structured governance and inclusive growth.

Omkar Rajendra Gundage assumes charge as first DC of Zaskar, emphasises accessible governance

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
ZANSKAR: Omkar Rajendra Gundage on Wednesday formally assumed charge as the Deputy Commissioner of the newly created district of Zaskar, receiving an enthusiastic welcome from officials and residents, and pledging to ensure an open and people-focused administration. Addressing officers and members of the public at the district headquarters in Padum, Gundage said his office would remain accessible to the public, with priority accorded to grievance redressal and welfare delivery as the district begins its administrative journey. He emphasised that effective governance in the newly carved district would require close coordination among departments, particularly in view of the expanded administrative jurisdiction. Expressing gratitude for the reception, he said he felt a deep sense of connection with the people of Zaskar. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with residents at various locations during his journey from Rangdum to Padum. At Shakma Karpo, he was received by local officials, led by the Tehsildar, along with members of the public. Traditional ceremonial greetings marked his arrival at multiple points along the route, reflecting the cultural traditions of the region. Congratulating the people on the conferment of district status, Gundage described it as the fulfilment of a long-standing demand and said the administration would work to translate this development into tangible outcomes on the ground. He also acknowledged the guidance and support of Vinai Kumar Saxena, noting that institutional support would play an important role in shaping governance structures during the district's formative phase.

Nitish Rajora assumes charge as DC Changthang; Abbas Jaffari as SP amid ceremonial reception

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
NYOMA: In a ceremonial yet purposeful transition, Nitish Rajora on Wednesday assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner of Changthang, while Abbas Jaffari took over as Superintendent of Police, marking the beginning of a new administrative chapter in the frontier district. The two officers were received at Nyoma village by Kacho Asgar Ali, Heads of Departments, local representatives, and residents. A ceremonial Guard of Honour by the Ladakh Police underscored the occasion, followed by an official programme at the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex. Soon after assuming office, Rajora addressed the gathering, congratulating residents on Changthang's elevation to district status. He outlined his priorities centred on strengthening governance frameworks, ensuring efficient implementation of government schemes, and improving public service delivery across the region. He stressed the need for sustained administrative effort to develop Changthang into a fully operational district while remaining responsive to local aspirations. The reception drew a broad cross-section of Changthang's civil society and traditional leadership, including the Venerable Chakzot of Korzok Monastery, the President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association Nyoma, former councillors, Nambardars, and representatives from adjoining areas. Officials present described the joint assumption of charge by the new Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police as a coordinated administrative move aimed at reinforcing both governance and law enforcement mechanisms in the strategically located region. Changthang, recently accorded district status, has been witnessing gradual administrative restructuring, with the induction of new leadership seen as a step towards consolidating institutional presence and accelerating development outreach in one of Ladakh's most remote areas.



Kunzes Angmo assumes charge as first Deputy Commissioner of Sham District

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
SHAM: Kunzes Angmo on Wednesday assumed charge as the Deputy Commissioner of the newly created Sham district, marking the formal beginning of administrative operations in the frontier region of Ladakh. The officer was received at Hemischu by officials of Sub-Division Khatse under the leadership of Mohd. Sharif, before proceeding to the district headquarters at Khatse. The reception extended by officials was matched by a large turnout of residents from across the Sham belt, who gathered along the route to welcome the new district head. Villagers from Aryan settlements, including Darchik and Garkhon—recently incorporated into the district—joined the reception led by Rigzin Gurmet. The event witnessed participation from religious leaders, former councillors, representatives of social organisations, and local stakeholders. Among those present were members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association Sham, political representatives, women's groups, and village headmen, reflecting a broad-based engagement from the region's communities. Monastic representatives and local leaders also conveyed their appreciation to the Union leadership and regional representatives for carving out the new district, which they said would improve governance and accessibility. Addressing the gathering, Angmo assured residents that the district administration would work with a focus on service delivery and development. She emphasised a coordinated approach with officials to address public concerns and strengthen institutional outreach in remote areas. The programme concluded with Mohd. Sharif expressing gratitude to participants for organising the reception within a short time frame. He added that a formal meeting involving village headmen from all 27 villages of the district would be convened shortly to discuss administrative priorities. Officials including the SDM Liker and Tehsildar Saspol accompanied the Deputy Commissioner to the district headquarters, signalling the start of coordinated administrative functioning in Sham.



Dr Padma Gurmet gets fresh term as Chair of Sowa-Rigpa committee

EARTH NEWS SERVICE
LEH: Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh, has been reappointed as Chairperson of the Sowa-Rigpa Sectional Committee for another three-year term during the 4th meeting of the Ayush Division Council (AYDC) under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), held in New Delhi on April 28. The meeting, convened at Manak Bhawan under the chairmanship of Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, reviewed the functioning of sectional committees and discussed measures to strengthen standardisation across traditional systems of medicine. According to a press release issued by NISR Leh, the committee also acknowledged Dr. Gurmet's recent conferment of the Padma Shri in Medicine in 2026, recognising her contribution to the promotion of the Sowa-Rigpa system. Deliberations during the meeting focused on improving quality assurance frameworks and ensuring effective implementation of Indian standards within the Ayush sector. The council also reviewed the progress of ongoing initiatives and outlined a roadmap for future activities aimed at strengthening regulatory and certification mechanisms. Smt. Reena Garg, Scientist-G and Deputy Director General (Standardisation-I), BIS, presented an overview of certification schemes, highlighting their role in ensuring quality, reducing health risks, and supporting sectoral growth through standardisation and testing processes. The Bureau of Indian Standards, functioning under the BIS Act, 2016, serves as the national standards body responsible for standardisation, marking and certification of goods and services. Discussions at the meeting underscored the importance of these mechanisms in maintaining quality and promoting trust in traditional medicine systems. Officials said the continuation of Dr. Gurmet in the leadership role is expected to provide continuity in the development of standards related to Sowa-Rigpa and contribute to ongoing efforts to integrate traditional medicine systems within the broader regulatory framework.



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