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Comprehensive personality ...

1988.

Commending Kushok Bakula Rinpoche’s multifarious contributions, including the revival of Buddhism in Mongolia during his tenure as India’s Ambassador to Mongolia in the 90s, the LG stated that it was his sincere outlook that helped in transforming communist Mongolia into a democratic country in the 90s.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju called himself fortunate for getting the opportunity to unveil the statue of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, terming the moment as ‘something to cherish for years to come.’

Stating that there are only a few divine incarnations like Bakula Rinpoche who leave a lasting impression, Kiren Rijiju recalled the grand reception given to him and the Indian delegation, who were accompanying the sacred relics of Lord Buddha, on their arrival in Mongolia. He also highlighted Kushok Bakula Rinpoche’s contribution to reviving Buddhism in Mongolia.

Kiren Rijiju reiterated the message given by Prime Minister after the ceasefire with Pakistan following the success of Operation Sindoor on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, in which he stated that Shanti Ka Marg Shakti Se Ho Kar Jata Hai along with the message given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Indian community in Vienna, in which he stated that Bharat is a land of Buddha and not Yuddha, underlining Buddha’s message of peace and brotherhood. Calling himself lucky to be the first Buddhist cabinet minister of the country, Kiren Rijiju highlighted various initiatives taken by him for the welfare of Buddhists from Ladakh up to Arunachal Pradesh through the Buddhist Development Plan under which funds would be provided through his Ministry for the development of various centres at monasteries along with playground, fitness equipment, etc. for monks. He also highlighted various initiatives taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for all six notified minority communities in India.

Chairman, CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, in his speech, highlighted Kushok Bakula Rinpoche’s contribution to the development of Ladakh and achieving Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the people of Ladakh along with the Autonomous Hill Development Council for the region. He stated that the people of Ladakh should remember Kushok Bakula Rinpoche’s contribution across all spheres for years to come. He also informed that around Rs five crores were invested to develop the Bakula Rinpoche Memorial Park, along with the plan to develop a Learning Centre at the site.

The Mongolian Ambassador to India, HE Ganbold Dambajav, read out the message from the Hon’ble President of Mongolia, Ukhnaagin Khürelsükh, dedicated to Kushok Bakula Rinpoche’s contribution to the people of Mongolia. There were cultural performances by the Women’s Association of Spituk village.

Earlier, Ven Thupstan Paldan welcomed the guests while Nambardar, Spituk village, Jigmet Angchuk gave the vote of thanks.

His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, His Eminence Urgyan Rinpoche; Abbot Geshe Lobzang Wangchuk and venerable monks from Spituk monastery, Executive Councillors from LAHDC Leh- Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Gulum Mehdi and Stanzin Chosphel along with Councillors from LAHDC Leh; Chief Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS; DGP Ladakh Police, Dr SD Singh Jamwal, IPS; AOC of Air Force Station Leh; Administrative Secretaries from UT Administration; DC Leh, Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS; former MP Ladakh, Thupstan Chhewang and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; heads from religious organisations/ political organisations; Officials/ government officers; general public and school students were present in the event.

CS calls...

funds for various departmental development works.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, the Director General of Police, Ladakh; Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Departments; Joint Directors (Finance and Planning); and officials from the CPWD.

Pertinent to mention here that on the directions of the Chief Secretary and the Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture, UT Ladakh, a team led by the Assistant Director, Tourism, Leh, Padma Angmo, conducted a field visit to Nyoma, Demchok, Hanle, and Puga to assess tourism infrastructure, with a particular focus on public washroom facilities.

The visit was held the other day in the presence of the Councillor of Nyoma Constituency, Eshay Spalzang, officials said on Monday.

The Assistant Director was accompanied by the Assistant Tourist Officer, Leh, and the Junior Engineer, Tourism Development Authority (TDA). The active involvement of the Hon’ble Councillor facilitated meaningful engagement with local residents.

Residents warmly appreciated the government’s proactive outreach and shared encouraging feedback on the positive impact that improved public convenience facilities could bring. They expressed optimism that such developments would enhance both local livelihood opportunities and the overall experience for visiting tourists. The team received valuable inputs during on-site inspections to identify suitable locations for setting up public toilet units and discussed ideas to further strengthen tourism infrastructure in the region.

During the interactions, the Assistant Director assured villagers that necessary steps are being taken to address infrastructure gaps. and reiterated the department’s commitment to working in close coordination with local communities.

Parl panel...

told reporters after the three-hour meeting, which he said was attended by a record 24 members, that the committee unanimously expressed solidarity with Misri in the face of the “unwarranted attacks” he had faced online after the two sides agreed to stop military actions.

His and his family having been at the receiving end of trolls’ vitriol, Misri’s role drew support from the committee for his good service for the nation. The committee wanted to pass a formal resolution but the Indian Foreign Service officer requested against it, the Congress MP said.

One member said the panel was unanimous in its condemnation of the trolling of Misri.

The foreign secretary faced heavy trolling on social media in wake of India and Pakistan reaching an understanding on May 10 to halt all military actions. However, he had received support from political leaders, former bureaucrats and defence veterans.

Among the lawmakers who attended the meeting were the TMC’s Abhishek Banerjee, the Congress’ Rajeev Shukla and Deepender Hooda, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, and the BJP’s Aparajita Sarangi and Arun Govil.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of the Indian Armed Forces carrying out Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam attack and the subsequent military actions between the two countries.

7 out...

terror infrastructure across the border. “In our area of operation, we carried out seven of the nine precision strikes under Operation Sindoor, effectively destroying terror infrastructure,” he added.

Pakistan”s retaliatory attacks targeted civilian and Army areas but caused no significant damage, he said.

“There was hardly any damage from their side. They targeted multiple locations using drones, missiles, and artillery, but our air defence systems responded meticulously and neutralized all threats,” he said.

Under Operation Sindoor, India on early May 7 destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The two sides reached an understanding on cessation of hostilities on May 10 after four days of confrontations.

The Army official said Pakistan also attempted to attack a divisional headquarters and two brigade headquarters, but no damage was inflicted.

“In retaliation by our troops south of Pir Panjal, around 50 fatalities were inflicted on the adversary as we targeted their military formations,” the official said.

“We did not target civilian areas, unlike Pakistan,” he added.

The morale of Pakistani troops is low following Operation Sindoor and the subsequent Indian response, he said.

“All intercepted communications point to the fact that the morale of Pakistani troops is down,” he said, adding that Indian troops are maintaining high morale.

He stated that the proxy war waged by Pakistan has forced India to respond in a befitting manner.

“We will not tolerate such actions,” the officer asserted.

Men and machines are in full operational readiness along the LoC, maintaining a high degree of vigilance over adversary movements south of the Pir Panjal range.

“We are on high alert round the clock, monitoring every movement along the border. We are fully prepared,” said an officer commanding a unit deployed along the LoC.

HM Shah...

in 2005.

It provides for registration as OCI all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on January 26, 1950, or thereafter or were eligible to become citizens on January 26, 1950, or their descendants.

“Today, launched the revamped OCI portal with an up-to-date user interface to make registration of overseas citizens seamless. The new features will include improved functionality, enhanced security, and a user-friendly experience,” Shah said in his post.

The revamped OCI portal is accessible at ociservices.gov.in/onlineOCI, he added.

No person who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country, as the central government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an OCI cardholder.

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that India is continuously striving to provide world-class immigration facilities to OCI cardholders and efforts must be taken to ensure that they face no inconvenience when visiting or staying in the country.

Launching the revamped portal of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), Shah also said the portal with an updated user interface has been introduced to simplify the registration process for overseas citizens.

The home minister said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is continuously striving to provide world-class immigration facilities to its OCI cardholder citizens.

Noting that many Indian-origin citizens reside in various countries, he said “we must ensure they face no inconvenience when visiting or staying in India”.

“Today, launched the revamped OCI portal with an up-to-date user interface to make registration of overseas citizens seamless. The new features will include improved functionality, enhanced security, and a user-friendly experience,” Shah said in a post on X.

The new portal will provide enhanced functionality, advanced security, and a user-friendly experience for the existing over five million OCI cardholders and new users.

The new OCI portal is available at the existing URL: https://ociservices.gov.in.

The Overseas Citizen of India scheme was introduced through an amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955, in 2005.

The scheme provides for the registration of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) as Overseas Citizens of India, provided they were citizens of India on or after January 26, 1950, or were eligible to become citizens on that date or their descendants.

However, individuals who are or had been or whose parent or grandparent or great grandparent citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh are not eligible.

The existing OCI services portal was developed in 2013 and is currently operational in over 180

Indian missions abroad as well as 12 Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs), processing approximately 2,000 applications per day, an official statement said.

Given the significant technological advancements over the past decade and feedback received from OCI cardholders, a revamped OCI portal has been developed to address existing limitations and enhance user experience.

The new OCI portal introduces several user-friendly features, including: user sign-up and segregation of registration menu, auto-fill of user profile details in registration forms, dashboard displaying completed and partially filled applications, integrated online payment gateway for those who filed in FRROs.

Seamless navigation across application steps, categorization of requisite documents to upload based on application type, integrated FAQ in the portal, and display of eligibility criteria and requisite documents based on selected application type are other key features.

There are a number of technical features in the new portal too. They include high availability with multiple web servers and load balancer on latest operating system, software and platform upgrades, enhanced security protocols, data management, cybersecurity enhancements, among others, the statement said.

Depts to...

citizen-centric governance through digital transformation.

During the meeting, the Administrative Secretary highlighted the need for a centralized and integrated digital ecosystem to streamline service delivery and enhance inter-departmental coordination.

The discussions also included formulating a roadmap for the complete digital integration of departmental services, strengthening IT infrastructure, and building capacity within departments to support effective digital governance.

The Secretary directed the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and all stakeholders to submit a detailed action plan with defined timelines for implementing integrated online services. She also emphasized the establishment of regular monitoring mechanisms to track progress and address any bottlenecks promptly.

The Secretary instructed departments covered under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) to bring their services online and nominate a nodal officer responsible for updating services on the digital platform. She also directed the timely update of the official UT Ladakh website.

The meeting was attended by the State Informatics Officer (SIO), NIC Ladakh; Senior Director, NIC Ladakh; Director, Health Department; Joint Director, Planning Department; Deputy Secretary, Public Works Department; Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department; Under Secretaries; and Officers on Special Duty (OSDs) from various departments.

Later in the day the Administrative Secretary of the Information Technology Department, Shashanka Ala, chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, to discuss the provisioning of two 1G NKN/NICNET P2P Internet Leased Lines (ILL) to the State Data Centre in Leh.

During the meeting, Sunil Kumar, State Informatics Officer (SIO), NIC Ladakh, provided a detailed update on the status of the project. He informed that a dedicated line from Chandigarh to Leh is being planned, with implementation to be carried out by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

Secretary Shashanka Ala directed the SIO, NIC Ladakh, to expedite the finalization of the project and ensure the timely award of the work to the selected agency. She also instructed the SIO to arrange a comprehensive presentation by RailTel to assess their proposal and technical capabilities.

Emphasizing the importance of transparency and cost-effectiveness, the Secretary directed the SIO to conduct a comparative analysis and verify the rates proposed by both PGCIL and RailTel. She added that final approval for awarding the project would be accorded by the Secretary, IT, following due diligence.

The meeting was attended by the SIO, NIC Ladakh; Senior Director, NIC NOC Jammu; Senior Director, NIC Ladakh; and representatives from the IT Department, PGCIL, RailTel, PowerTel, Aman Technologies, and LSDC.

LAHDC committed...

cherry, and apricot, and the fencing of 34 kanals of land to safeguard the orchard.

He also lauded the dedication and proactive work of Chief Horticulture Officer, Ali Raza, and urged the department to conduct more awareness and outreach programmes to ensure that the people of Kargil fully benefit from horticulture-related government schemes.

Dr Akhoon further highlighted the significance of Seabuck thorn, locally known as Tsoks-kyur, a traditional medicinal and cosmetic herb native to Ladakh. Rich in Vitamin C and known for its sun-protective properties, he said the plant has great potential in both skincare and herbal medicine sectors.

He also drew attention to the growing reputation of Karkichu apples, which are now being exported to Saudi Arabia, and mentioned that the Red Delicious variety is gaining popularity across markets.

The CEC shared recent progress achieved in the constituency. He noted the upgradation of Poyen High School to Higher Secondary level, and Biathang Middle School to High School, as well as the long-pending Lift Irrigation Project, sanctioned in 2011. The first phase of the project is scheduled for inauguration on May 26, 2025, and the second phase has already been sanctioned.

Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Haji Hanifa Jan, who attended as the Guest of Honour, congratulated the councillor, villagers, and the Horticulture Department for their commendable efforts. He stressed the importance of engaging youth in plantation activities, adding that fruit cultivation, especially of apples and apricots, has the potential to become a major industry in Kargil and help reduce unemployment. He also assured the gathering that the issue of drought in the Sodh region has been raised in Parliament and is being actively followed up.

Chief Horticulture Officer, Ali Raza, reaffirmed the department’s commitment to expanding fruit plantations across the district in line with the directions of LAHDC Kargil. He said the department is actively reaching out to farmers and communities to promote orchard development.

Councillor Mohammad Amin of Poyen-Akchamal expressed his sincere gratitude to the CEC and LAHDC for their support, especially for ensuring the protection and fencing of the 34-kanal orchard land under the Special Development Package (SDP). He also thanked the villagers of Hundurman for their participation and dedication to the initiative.

The event was attended by Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Haji Hanifa Jan, MP Ladakh, Mohammad Amin, Councillor of Poyen-Akchamal, Ali Raza, Chief Horticulture Officer, Sheikh Mussa Ali Irfani, and residents of Hundurman.

Santosh for...

the pressing issues of drug and substance abuse and to strategize effective measures for prevention and awareness.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Rigzen Sandup, opened the meeting by providing updates on drug-related cases, the seizure of various substances, and the tracking of back records.

He also presented an overview of police records, highlighting efforts to combat drug trafficking and substance abuse in the district.

Key discussions focused on the rising incidents of drug abuse and the urgent need for inter-departmental coordination to combat the problem. The meeting emphasized the importance of engaging social media influencers and stakeholders, including religious bodies, sports person to to engage in awareness camps on the pressing issue.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to increase enforcement strengthening regarding cool lips. He also instructed to strengthen the staff at District Drug Deaddiction Centre and provide training and strengthen Yato Club for their work while acknowledging their active involvement in countering this menace.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to develop actionable solutions. The meeting was attended by Additional Superintendent of Police, CMO, Psychiatrist SNM hospital, District Social Welfare Officer, and officers and officials from various departments.

J&K Bank...

StrategiNK Pvt. Ltd. from May 16–18, the honour recognizes his exemplary leadership and significant contributions to cybersecurity and information risk management across industries.

The award was presented by the Chief Guest Amitabh Kant, who is India’s G2o Sherpa and former CEO of NITI Aayog.

Just a day earlier, he was also felicitated as one of the ‘Smart CISOs of India’ by CIO AXIS – a platform that honours transformative leadership in IT and information security in the country.

Notably, over the past few years; the Bank has made significant strides in digital innovation while ensuring that cybersecurity remains a foundational pillar of its transformation agenda. While underscoring the Bank’s relentless focus on operational resilience, regulatory compliance, and customer trust, such prestigious recognitions also showcase the Bank’s pioneering role in creating a secure, resilient and digitally progressive banking ecosystem.

‘Little Big...

for Children & Young People (CIFEJ), has joined as co-producer. With a track record of over 100 festival appearances, including previous editions of Cannes, Mishra brings global recognition to the film. He describes Little Big Dreams as “cinema for good, made by voices often unheard,” celebrating its honest, raw, and rooted narrative.

What truly sets Little Big Dreams apart is the team behind it. The film is being crafted from script to screen by students of the Government School for Children with Special Needs in Leh. Under a unique mentorship initiative by Purple People Labs, these children have been trained in every stage of filmmaking—supported by professionals from the Indian film industry. This inclusive and empowering approach is not only teaching vital storytelling and technical skills but is also giving these students a platform to share their perspectives with the world.

Advocate Tashi Gyalson emphasized the significance of this achievement, noting that the film represents the resilient spirit of Ladakh’s youth. “That students from a special needs school are now representing us on a global stage is deeply meaningful — not just for Ladakh, but for the kind of India we believe in,” he said.

Set across Ladakh and Hyderabad, Little Big Dreams captures the magic of a simple life transformed by an extraordinary dream. With direction by Rakesh E Nair alongside students from the PM Shri Government High School for Inclusive Education, Leh, the film exemplifies inclusive creativity. It is produced by Shweta Parakh, Yash Nagarkoti, and Jitendra Mishra, with a screenplay by Phalak Arora, cinematography by Riyas Arun supported by Rigzen Angchok and Sonam Nurboo, editing by Jatin Gohar, and sound design and music by Tsewang Phuntsog, Tsering Motup, and Stanzin Namgyal.

Presented by LAHDC Leh, Purple People Labs, Cinema For Good, and Hooray Films, the film delivers not just a story, but a statement. It’s about giving voice to those rarely heard and proving that even the smallest voices can dream big.

As Little Big Dreams captivates global audiences at Cannes 2025, it positions Ladakh not just as a scenic backdrop but as a beacon of inclusive storytelling and transformative cinema. The film is not only a cinematic achievement but also a milestone in India’s journey toward creative empowerment and social change.

For global viewers and cinema lovers searching for authentic, socially relevant films, Little Big Dreams stands as a powerful reminder that hope, determination, and imagination can flourish in even the most unlikely places.