

@DIPR_Ladakh

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.

@SajjadKargili

It's very unfortunate that 30+ @NhmLadakh nurses at District Hospital #Kargil— working round the clock — haven't been paid since March. This isn't the first time. Routine salary delays must END. Nurses are not machines—they have families too. Appeal to Hon'ble @lg_ladakh to act now. Delay Free Ladakh

VASCO DA GAMA:

On May 20 in 1498, The Portuguese explorer, Vasco da Gama, reached Calicut (now Kozhikode) after discovering the sea route to India.

AIRLIFT:

On May 9, following flight cancellations from Srinagar, 240 Ladakhi Haj pilgrims were airlifted via 2 special flights to Delhi, then Madina Munawara, marking a resilient spiritual milestone.

NO ENTRY:

Certain pockets of an area or road are demarcated as no entry areas for traffic. This could be entry to a restricted area or no traffic zone. So the driver should obey it and divert his route.

240

In Numbers

Traffic Signs

Majaz meets Rijiju; seeks swift evacuation of stranded Haj Pilgrims from JK & Ladakh

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Chairperson of Haj Committee Ladakh Haji Mohd Ali Majaz today called on the Hon'ble Union Minister for Parliamentary & Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju in Leh, pressing for urgent clearance of six pending Haj charter flights from Srinagar that have left 1,926 pilgrims from the neighbouring Jammu & Kashmir UT stranded. Chairman Haj Committee was joined by Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC Leh, and Mohd Ali Chandan, Member of the Haj Committee Ladakh and President of BJP Kargil.

During the meeting, the delegation submitted a memorandum representing the aspirations and challenges of the people of Kargil. Central to their



appeal was the immediate activation of the sanctioned Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) in Kargil. They stressed that residents are currently forced to undertake long, often difficult journeys to Srinagar or Leh for passport services—a situation that places undue strain on families, especially during urgent travel requirements. The Chair-

man expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Union Minister for arranging a special flight earlier this month, which successfully evacuated stranded Haj pilgrims from Srinagar to Jeddah. This timely action brought immense relief to the affected pilgrims and demonstrated the government's responsiveness. The discussion also

extended to broader concerns, including the welfare of minority communities and the need for improved infrastructure in Ladakh's remote regions. These areas often remain underserved due to their geographic isolation and harsh terrain. Responding positively, Minister Rijiju assured the delegation that their concerns will be addressed with urgency. He reaffirmed the government's dedication to improving last-mile service delivery in India's border regions, emphasizing the need to uplift communities in areas like Ladakh. The delegation expressed confidence in the Minister's support, hopeful that these initiatives will bring substantial relief to the local population while furthering developmental goals across the Union Territory.

ECI launches Training program for BLO Supervisors



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated a two-day capacity-building programme for frontline election functionaries from Jharkhand at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM), New Delhi today.

The participants, numbering 402, include DEOs, EROs, BLOs and BLO Supervisors. Over the past three months, ECI has trained over 3000 such participants from across the country at IIDEM.

In his inaugural address, CEC Gyanesh Kumar commended the exemplary hard work and dedication demonstrated by the participants at the grassroots level in Jharkhand during enrolment of electors. CEC also exhorted the participants, who will be familiarised with the provisions of first and second appeals under Sections 24(a) and 24(b) of RP Act 1950 to make the electors aware of these provisions.

It may be recalled that the first and second appeals against the fi-

nal electoral rolls can be made with the DM/District Collector/Executive Magistrate and the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the State/UT respectively. No appeals were filed from Jharkhand after the completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise as of 6th-10th of January 2025.

Playing a key role in ensuring correct and updated electoral rolls, the participants are being trained to function strictly as per the Representation of People Act 1950, 1951, Registration of Electors Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and the instructions issued by the ECI from time to time.

The curriculum of the programme includes interactive sessions, role plays, simulating house-to-house surveys, case studies, and hands-on exercises for filling Forms 6, 7 and 8. Additionally, participants will receive practical training on the Voter Helpline App (VHA) and the IT tools. The trainees will also be provided technical demonstrations and training of EVMs and VVPATs including the conduct of mock polls.

Govt Team visits remote Ladakh villages to boost tourism infra and public facilities

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a focused move to strengthen tourism infrastructure in Ladakh, a high-level team from the Department of Tourism conducted a detailed field visit to the remote villages of Nyoma, Demchok, Hanle, and Puga. The visit aimed to evaluate and improve public amenities, especially public toilet facilities, crucial for enhancing the experience of visitors and supporting local communities.

The field visit was carried out on the directives of the Chief Secretary and the Administrative Secretary of Tourism & Culture, UT Ladakh. Leading the team was



Padma Angmo, Assistant Director of Tourism, Leh. She was accompanied by the Assistant Tourist Officer, a Junior Engineer from the Tourism Development Authority (TDA), and the Councillor of Nyoma Constituency, Sh. Es-

hay Spalzung. During the visit, the officials conducted on-ground inspections and interacted with local villagers to identify suitable locations for the installation of new public toilet units. The team also dis-

cussed further strategies for developing sustainable and community-friendly tourism infrastructure.

Local residents welcomed the government's direct engagement and shared positive feedback about the potential impact of improved public conveniences.

Many expressed that such developments could boost local livelihoods, attract more tourists, and improve overall living standards in these remote areas. Assistant Director Padma Angmo assured the villagers that the department is committed to closing infrastructure gaps and will work in close coordination with local communities.

GDC Drass leads cultural revival with Shina language tour to Kaksar



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

DRASS: In a landmark move to preserve Ladakh's indigenous culture and language, Government Degree College (GDC) Drass organized a community engagement tour to the remote village of Kaksar in District Kargil. The event, spearheaded by the college's Department of Shina Regional Languages, focused on promoting and documenting the Shina language, a crucial yet lesser-known part of Ladakh's cultural fabric.

The initiative was held under the leadership of Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal of GDC Drass, who has consistently championed cultural preservation through academic platforms. The tour featured interactions entirely in the Shina language, fostering an authentic exchange between villagers and visiting scholars, including noted language experts Mr. Mohd Shafi Sagar and Mr. Ahsan Ali Bismil.

Students and researchers fluent in Shina participated actively in the fieldwork, gaining practical experience and deeper in-

sight into the community's traditions. The event offered a rare and immersive opportunity for learners to understand linguistic heritage beyond the classroom, reinforcing the role of education in safeguarding cultural identity.

The people of Kaksar responded enthusiastically, welcoming the team with warmth and expressing pride in their heritage being acknowledged at an academic level. Residents praised GDC Drass for recognizing the value of their oral histories, language, and way of life.

Dr. Ayjaz Ahmad Lone, Coordinator of Regional Languages at GDC Drass, played a pivotal role in planning and executing the tour. His efforts ensured that the program remained both educational and culturally respectful, setting a benchmark for similar academic outreach projects.

With this initiative, GDC Drass positions itself at the forefront of cultural and linguistic preservation in Ladakh, highlighting the urgent need to integrate indigenous knowledge into mainstream education.

GDC Drass hosts grand felicitation ceremony and literary event

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

DRASS: In a vibrant tribute to the enduring legacy of the Balti language and literature, the Government Degree College (GDC) Drass, in partnership with the Association of Baltis in Himalayan Territories of Indus and the Balti Coordination Committee, Drass, hosted an impressive Felicitation Ceremony cum Cultural Event today.

The event, held within the scenic confines of Drass—known as the gateway to Ladakh—drew an array of distinguished scholars, cultural luminaries, and dignitaries from across the Kargil district. Chief among them was Padma Shri awardee and revered literary icon Akhone Asghar Ali Basharat, who attended as the Guest of Honour,



lending prestige and cultural weight to the celebration.

The program opened with an illuminating keynote by Mohd Sadiq Hardassi, a Balti language expert and guest lecturer at GDC Drass, who charted the historical evolution of the Balti language and underscored the urgency of preserving its unique literary heritage.

This theme was further explored through evocative addresses by literary giants Mohd Ali Ashoor and Ashraf Ali Sagar, both of whom not only spoke on the relevance of Balti literature in contemporary society but also recited original ghazals, much to the delight of the assembled audience.

In a touching gesture, Ashoor donated his latest book to the college library, enrich-

ing the institution's literary resources.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal of GDC Drass, extended his deepest appreciation to all participants and organizers, singling out the committed efforts of Dr. Ayjaz Ahmad Lone, Assistant Professor of Urdu, and Hardassi for curating a culturally resonant program. "Today's celebration was more than an event—it was a revival," Dr. Abassi said, "a reminder of who we are, and what we must preserve."

As cultural performances and poetic recitations echoed through the hall, the event concluded not only as a celebration but as a call to action—to embrace, promote, and protect the linguistic soul of the Balti people.

UoL VC Prof Kushwaha visits GMS Taru, vows continued support to rural education

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a strong reaffirmation of the University of Ladakh's commitment to rural educational development, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha visited Government Middle School Taru, a school adopted by the University under its flagship community outreach and educational upliftment initiative.

The Vice Chancellor was warmly welcomed with traditional khataks by the Namberdar of Taru, Sonam Chonjor, reflecting the deep community ties the school has nurtured since its partnership with the University. Dr. Jigmet Deachen, In-Charge of Administration at the Leh Campus, was also honored with a traditional reception.



Prof. Kushwaha personally inspected each classroom, expressing appreciation for the vibrant and student-friendly learning

environment cultivated under the leadership of outgoing Headmistress Sonam Choroal. "The school reflects a model of rural

educational excellence," he said, highlighting her creativity and commitment.

With Choroal transferred to a new posting, newly appointed Headmaster Otsal assumed his role the same day. The VC addressed the transition by encouraging Otsal to build upon the legacy of high standards and innovation, assuring full institutional support from the University of Ladakh.

During the visit, Namberdar Chonjor submitted a formal memorandum seeking additional support for the school. Prof. Kushwaha responded positively, reaffirming that UoL remains fully dedicated to the long-term development of Govt. Middle School Taru. "This institution is a success story in the making, and

we will continue walking alongside it," he said.

In a heartfelt community interaction, parents credited the University's intervention for saving the school from near closure due to declining enrollment just a few years ago. Thanks to UoL's sustained involvement, the school has seen a surge in admissions and regained the trust of local families. Parents appealed for continued support to maintain the upward trajectory.

The event was also attended by key community stakeholders, including Tani Gyalpho, President of Geskul Chogsapa Taru, and Namgyal, Chairman of the School Management Committee, both of whom echoed appreciation for UoL's commitment to grassroots education.