

It is never too late to be what you might have been.
—George Eliot

Inking the Truth

LG grants sanction for procurement of 3 lakh biodegradable sanitary pads from women SHGs

Says move to promote women's health, rural livelihoods and environmental sustainability

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a significant step towards promoting girls' health and strengthening women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Ladakh, the Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, has accorded approval for procurement of 3 lakh biodegradable sanitary napkins, meant for school girls, from Sakhi Zamo Village Organisation, which is supported by the Indian Army and registered under the Ladakh Rural Livelihood Mission (LRLM).

The approval, which was pending for some time owing to an increase in cost, has been accorded following the intervention of LG, Saxena, who noted that the procurement of sanitary pads from the local manufacturing units would strengthen the rural livelihoods in Ladakh. Notably, 13

Lakh sanitary pads (8 per pack) are distributed to adolescent girls between 13-18 years, every month. While approval has been given for the procurement of 3 lakh sanitary napkins from the Sakhi Zamo Village Organisation, the remaining 10 lakh will be procured through open tender.

The Lieutenant Governor, while approving the procurement at increased rates, also noted the village organisation's contribution towards women empowerment, local employment generation and production of biodegradable sanitary products. The sanitary napkins produced by the organisation are eco-friendly, biodegradable, and environmentally sustainable, which, when disposed of, leave no toxic residue in the fragile environment of Ladakh.

"The proposal regarding



procurement of biodegradable sanitary pads had been pending for some time and has now been approved, keeping in view the larger interests of women's health and empowering women-led SHGs. Women's health and hygiene remain a priority for the UT Administration, and environmental preservation must go hand in hand with development initiatives in Ladakh. Supporting women-led SHGs is essential for creating sustainable rural livelihoods," said LG, VK Saxena.

The procurement, approved under the National Health Mission (NHM), will be done at a cost of ₹15 lakh, with each biodegradable sanitary pad costing ₹5 per piece. The total consignment will be supplied over a period of ten months at the rate of 30,000 sanitary pads per month.

The Sakhi Ama Tsogspa BIONAP sanitary napkin production facility at Martselang village in Leh is a successful model of Army-civil synergy under Operation Sadbhavana, under the aegis of the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army. It is a sustainable centre for women's empowerment, livelihood generation, and community development in Ladakh. The initiative has provided direct employment to 26 women from Martselang and adjoining villages, including eight wives of serving and retired Army personnel.

The Sakhi Zamo Village Organisation consists of three Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising local women, who are actively engaged in livelihood generation ▶P11

Trump halts planned Iran strikes

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said he halted fresh strikes on Iran at the request of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, asserting that serious discussions were underway with Tehran that could lead to an acceptable deal.

Trump made the announcement on Truth Social on Monday late afternoon, without any reference to Pakistan, the mediator in the US-Iran war.

"I have been asked by the Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, and the President of the ▶P11

LG Saxena urges youth to embrace innovation at EDII Convocation

AHMEDABAD: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena encouraged students to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and use innovation to tackle modern-day challenges. He was addressing the graduating class of 2026 during the 25th Convocation of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) in Ahmedabad.

Saxena, who was the chief guest on the occasion, exhorted young graduates to develop a creative and solution-oriented approach towards addressing emerging societal and economic issues. He also urged the budding entrepreneurs to make maximum use of technology and innovation to contribute towards accelerating the restructuring and transformation of the Indian economy.



Praising the role of EDII in nurturing future entrepreneurs, the Lieutenant Governor said the institute has gone beyond producing qualified and trained professionals by building human resources, which he described as the greatest asset of any nation.

He further remarked that entrepreneurship is not merely an inborn attribute but a skill that can be acquired through proper training and guidance, adding that EDII has successfully demonstrated this through its academic and professional programs.

Congratulating the graduating students, Saxena extended his best ▶P11

Drug abuse rising in Ladakh, CS orders comprehensive action plan within 10 days

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Amid growing concern over the rise in substance abuse cases in Ladakh, Chief Secretary of the Union Territory, Ashish Kundra, on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting and directed all concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive integrated action plan within ten days for discussion at the level of the Lieutenant Governor.

The meeting focused on reviewing the current status of drug addiction, rehabilitation measures, awareness initiatives, and enforcement mechanisms across Ladakh, with officials acknowledging that drug abuse cases are in-



creasing while social stigma continues to prevent many affected individuals from seeking treatment.

During the meeting, Consultant Psychiatrist Padma Angmo informed that opioid-related cases in Ladakh have witnessed a

worrying rise, with 101 new cases reported during the past year and 237 follow-up patients currently undergoing treatment. She stated that medicines and diagnostic tests for Hepatitis-C linked complications are being provided free of cost, although many patients fail to return for regular follow-up consultations.

Angmo emphasized that awareness programmes are gradually showing positive results but stressed the urgent need to normalize treatment at de-addiction centres by removing the stigma attached to seeking help. She also expressed concern over the growing number of female substance ▶P11

Leh Police bust ATM fraud case

LEH: Leh Police on Tuesday claimed to have cracked an inter-district ATM fraud racket with the arrest of three alleged habitual offenders accused of duping bank customers through card-swapping techniques and fraudulent cash withdrawals across Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said the accused had withdrawn nearly Rs 1.20 lakh from accounts belonging to residents of Kargil district and were linked to multiple criminal cases registered in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Twenty-one ATM cards and two motorcycles bearing tampered registration ▶P11

Bol MD reaffirms commitment to banking expansion in Ladakh



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a significant move aimed at strengthening banking outreach in the remote regions of Ladakh, Managing Director and CEO of Bank of India, Rajneesh Karnatak,

visited the Bank's Leh Branch during his maiden visit to the city.

During the visit, Karnatak reiterated the Bank's commitment to delivering comprehensive banking services across the deep interiors of

Ladakh by enhancing digital banking infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of modern banking solutions, including the establishment of 24x7 e-Galleries to facilitate seamless and paperless banking services for customers in

remote areas.

As part of the visit, Bank of India also organized a Customer Outreach Programme at the Leh Branch, which witnessed the participation of reputed customers, executives of the Lions Clubs International and senior officials of the Bank.

Highlighting the Bank's commitment towards social responsibility and community welfare, Karnatak extended CSR support to Lions Club International, Leh for the development of Library-cum-Reading Room infrastructure and other facilities at the Lions Club Children Hostel in Leh.

The programme was attended by Chief General Manager Nitin Deshpande, Field General Manager (Chandigarh) Anil Kumar Verma, Zonal Manager ▶P11

Fuel dispensing continues without restrictions across Ladakh

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies — IndianOil, BPCL and HPCL — continue to maintain uninterrupted supplies of Petrol (MS), Diesel (HSD) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) across Ladakh, despite the prevailing global uncertainties impacting the Oil and Gas sector.

Adequate stocks of petroleum products are available across the supply chain and replenishment is being carried out continuously to meet genuine consumer demand efficiently. LPG supplies to domestic consumers are also being ▶P11

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Apply For - Contractual Positions (On Contract)

Applications are invited for the position of Zonal Security Officers and Financial Literacy (FL) Counsellors (On-Contract) at J&K Bank.

Name of Position	No. of Vacancy	Place of Posting
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Kathua
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Ladakh
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Delhi
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Mumbai
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Bangalore
FL Counsellor	1	Lead District Office - Shopian
FL Counsellor	1	Lead District Office - Poonch

Interested candidates are requested to apply online from 21.05.2026 to 04.06.2026 through the link made available on Banks website (jkb.bank.in) under careers tab. The candidate shall have to pay the requisite fee of Rs. 500/- per application. The detailed notification is available on Bank's website.

No.: JKB/HR/Rec/2026-253
Sd/-
Dated:-18.05.2026
General Manager-HR

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK19385GCO00048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E: info@jkbank.com; W: http://jkb.bank.in

OUR CENSUS

OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-2)

WHAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION?

Self-Enumeration is an online process in which you fill and submit your household details on the SE portal (se.census.gov.in) yourself, without waiting for an enumerator

- ❖ **What are the benefits of Self-Enumeration?**
 - Fill details conveniently
 - Ensures privacy
 - Makes the Census process faster and efficient
- ❖ **How to log in to the Self-Enumeration portal?**
 - Select State/UT
 - Enter name of head of the family, mobile number and email (optional)
 - Verify through OTP
 - Start Self-Enumeration
- ❖ **How to mark the correct location of your house?**
 - Select district/PIN code
 - Enter area/landmark
 - Zoom on map and mark location near your house (Do not worry if exact address is not displayed)
 - Correct location marking is necessary
- ❖ **Can I edit my information later?**
 - Yes, you can edit before final submission during State/UT SE period
 - After final submission changes can be done during enumerator's visit
- ❖ **Can SE portal be accessed outside India?**
 - No, this facility is available only within India's geographical boundaries
- ❖ **What if an error is found after submission?**
 - Correction can be made when the enumerator visits your house
- ❖ **Can I save and complete the form later?**
 - Yes, you can save progress and complete the form within the stipulated time

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Let us fulfill our responsibility, Let us participate in the Census

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