

The management and staff of The Earth News greet all patrons and readers on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

Inking the Truth

LG Saxena pulls up Wangchuk over 'misleading and provocative narrative'

Democratic expression must not be taken as license for fabricating falsehoods and rabble rousing

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a sharply worded public statement, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday revealed details of his "candid exchange" with climate activist and innovator Sonam



Wangchuk, cautioning him against what he described as a "misleading and provocative narrative" that could damage public discourse and economic stability in the Union Territory.

Posting on social media

after the meeting, Saxena said the interaction with Wangchuk and Gitanjali Angmo came in the backdrop of the ongoing "constructive dialogue" at the Ministry of Home Affairs level, where both sides agreed that a posi-

tive atmosphere around development and political engagement must be maintained in Ladakh.

The LG, however, struck a stern tone while addressing Wangchuk's recent public remarks and protest campaigns. "Democratic expression must not be taken as license for fabricating falsehoods and rabble rousing," Saxena said, adding that he had specifically cautioned Wangchuk against drawing comparisons between Ladakh and the violence-hit state of Manipur.

According to the LG, Wangchuk admitted that comparing the situation in Ladakh with Manipur "was an error of judgement." ▶P11



Dr Sharma to hold charge of DGP Ladakh

LEH: The Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh has handed over the additional charge of Director General of Police (DGP) to Koshal Kumar Sharma, an IPS officer of the 2012 AGMUT batch.

According to an official order issued by the Home Department on Tuesday, Sharma—who is currently serving as the DIG of the Leh-Kargil ▶P11

LG sounds alarm over explosive rise in drug abuse in Ladakh

Minors and girls increasingly falling prey to narcotics, says LG Saxena as 298 fresh cases surface across UT

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a strongly worded and deeply alarming statement, Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday warned that Ladakh is witnessing a dangerous surge in drug abuse cases, with minors and girls increasingly becoming victims of substance addiction, prompting the administration to order an aggressive crackdown against drug traffickers and their networks across the Union Territory.

Calling the situation a "grave risk" to society and the future of Ladakh's youth, the Lieutenant Governor revealed that as many as 298 new cases of drug abuse have surfaced in recent months alone, including 101 opioid-



related cases and 40 cases linked to cannabis and poly-substance abuse.

"What is more disturbing is the rapidly growing indulgence of minors and girls in substance abuse," the LG stated, describing the trend as a horrifying menace capable of destroying an entire

generation if left unchecked.

The statement marks one of the strongest public acknowledgements yet by the administration regarding the growing narcotics crisis in Ladakh, a region traditionally viewed as socially cohesive and relatively insulated from large-scale drug abuse.

In response to the escalating crisis, the LG said he has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to launch a strict enforcement drive and intensify operations against drug traffickers operating in the Union Territory.

"I have directed DGP to ensure strict enforcement against drug menace in the Union Territory and launch a crackdown against ▶P11

Eid-Ul-Azha holiday on May 28

LEH: The Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh on Tuesday postponed the public holiday on account of Eid-Ul-Azha (Bakrid) from May 27 to May 28, 2026. According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the holiday will now be observed on Thursday, May 28, instead of Wednesday, May 27, across the Union Territory. The order stated that the decision was taken in partial modification of the earlier government order issued on November 14, 2025 regarding the list of gazetted holidays for the year 2026. The notification was issued by Administrative Secretary, GAD, under the orders of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

SIDCO launches comprehensive Urbania Bus Schedule across Ladakh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a major step towards strengthening public transportation and improving connectivity across the Union Territory, the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation (SIDCO) has unveiled its new Urbania Bus Service schedule, offering daily and regular services on key inter-district and inter-state routes.

The newly released timetable includes routes connecting Leh with Srinagar, Manali, Kargil, Nubra, Pangong and Zaskar, making travel more accessible, comfortable and organised for residents as well as tourists visiting Ladakh.

According to the schedule, daily buses will operate

from Leh to Srinagar via Kargil, Leh to Manali via Keylong, Leh to Nubra via Khardongla and Leh to Pangong via Tangtse-Durbuk. Special services for Zaskar through the Nimoo-Padum route will operate on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The return services from Srinagar, Manali, Nubra, Pangong and Zaskar to Leh have also been streamlined to ensure hassle-free travel planning for passengers. SIDCO stated that the initiative aims to provide dependable, affordable and safe transportation while promoting tourism and regional mobility across the rugged terrain of Ladakh.

The Urbania buses are expected to offer a more comfortable travel ▶P11

LG Saxena participates in celebrations marking formation of Sham district

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today visited Khatlse, and participated in the celebrations marking the creation of Sham as a new district in Ladakh. This is L-G's first visit to Sham after its inception as a new district. Amid enthusiastic public participation and cultural performances, LG Saxena was accorded a grand traditional welcome by villagers, public representatives, students, cultural troupes and members of civil society on his arrival at Khatlse, the district headquarters.

The creation of Sham district follows the approval granted by the Lieutenant



Governor on April 27, 2026, districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Sham district

comprises 27 revenue villages, including five villages carved out from Kargil district and 22 villages from Leh district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people on the fulfilment of their long-pending aspiration. He stated that the creation of the new district reflects the personal attention and commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister ▶P11

Sindhu Central University open admissions

LEH: Sindhu Central University has opened online applications for admission to its postgraduate programmes for the academic session 2026-27, inviting students from Ladakh and other regions to apply through the university's official website.

Established through an Act of Parliament in 2021 at Khatlse village in Ladakh, the university is currently offering MTech programmes in ▶P11

LEHO to establish 25 Model Homestays in Nimoo, Stakmo



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a major push towards community-based sustainable tourism in Ladakh, the Ladakh Environment and Health Organisation (LEHO) have announced the establishment of 25 model homestays in the villages of Nimoo

and Stakmo during June 2026.

The announcement was made during a one-day seminar on Sustainable Tourism organised by LEHO at Village Stakmo, which witnessed participation from village community members, Ama Tsogsopa ▶P11

Lukewarm response marks Apex Body's 'Thanksgiving Ceremony'

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: A thanksgiving ceremony organised by the Lehigh Apex Body in Leh on Tuesday witnessed a comparatively lukewarm public response, with attendance falling short of expectations despite the presence of prominent activist Sonam Wangchuk and senior leaders of the movement.

The programme was held to honour members of the Bar Association Leh, medical staff and others who provided legal and humanitarian assistance during the September 2024 violence in Ladakh. Tributes were also paid to those who lost their lives during the unrest, with speakers describing them as

martyrs of the Ladakh movement. Although organisers termed the event a gesture of gratitude from the people of Ladakh, the turnout remained modest compared to earlier mass mobilisations associated with the movement, reflecting what observers described as a subdued public mood amid the prolonged negotiation process with the Centre.

Addressing the gathering, Lehigh Apex Body co-chairman Chering Dorjay Lakrook said the ceremony had originally been planned earlier but was delayed after permission for the gathering was allegedly denied by the administration and later due to the ongoing Sub-Committee talks in Delhi. ▶P11

Director (Per) NHPC visits Nimoo Bazgo Power Station

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH (Alchi): Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC Limited visited the Nimoo Bazgo Power Station from 24th to 26th May 2026. On his arrival at the Power Station, he was warmly welcomed by Sanjay Kumar Rai, Head of Power Station/General Manager, along with senior officials, with the traditional Ladakhi Khataq and bouquet.

On this occasion, a ceremonial Guard of Honour was also presented by the Ladakh Police. During the visit, Director (Personnel) interacted with the officers of NBPS, especially young trainee officers, trainee engineers, and junior engineers. He apprised them of NHPC's vari-



ous employee-friendly policies and organizational values, motivating them to actively contribute towards the growth and excellence of the organization.

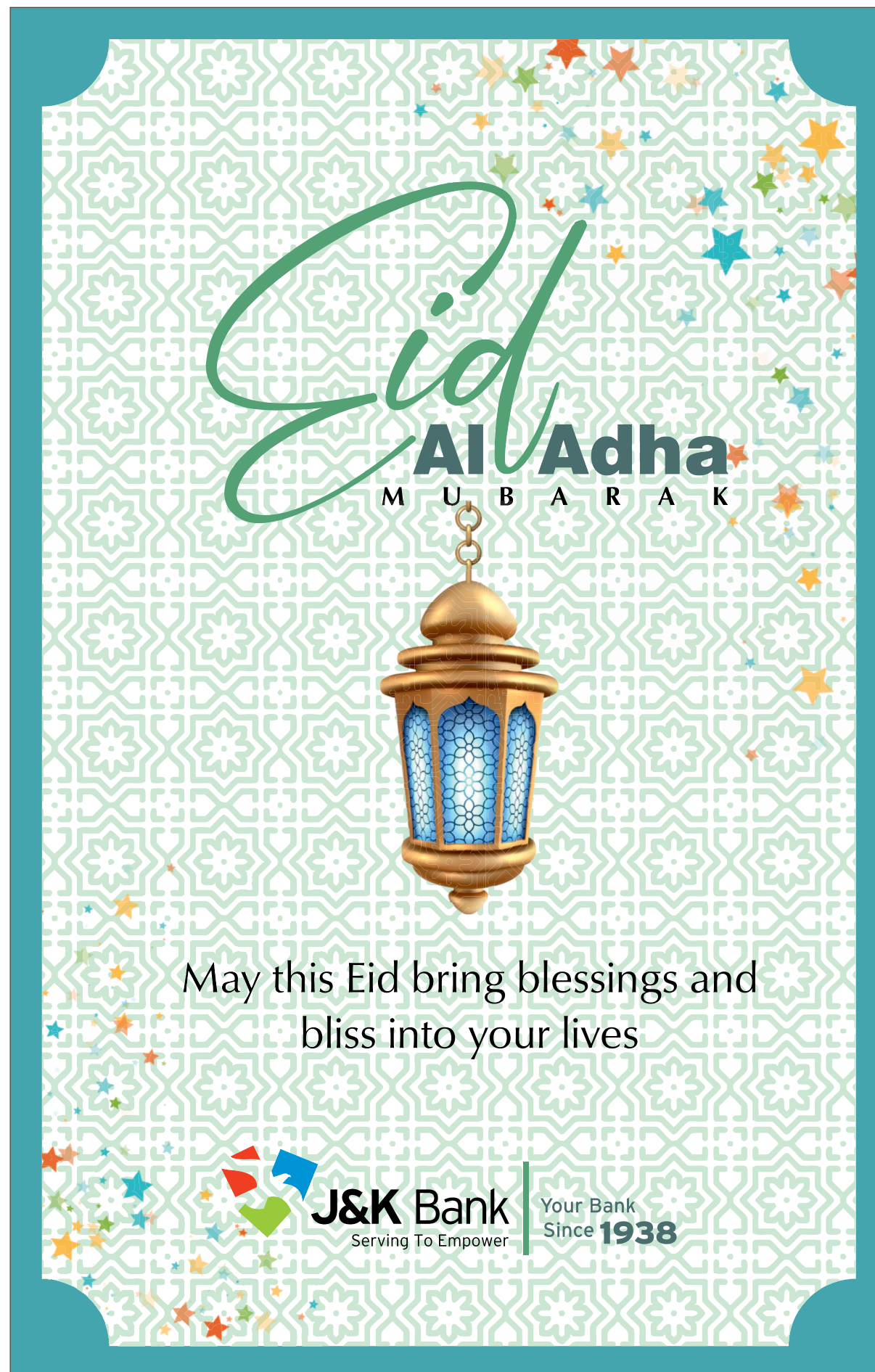
He also shared detailed information regarding the

proposed "Utkarsh Yojana" aimed at the holistic development of NHPC officials. The primary objective of the initiative is to strengthen future leadership through the Leadership Development Cell and nurture capable ▶P11

Indiaslams China-Pak joint statement

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday mounted a sharp diplomatic rebuttal to a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan, categorically rejecting references to Jammu and Kashmir and strongly opposing renewed Chinese backing for projects under the "so-called" China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan-occupied territories.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India", asserting that no other country had the "locus standi" to ▶P11



Eid-ul-Adha
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