

# Govind begins significant Ladakh tour; reviews key issues, progress

Focus on new districts, development, visit of HH Dalai Lama



LEH: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday arrived on a significant visit to the Union Territory of Ladakh, during which he re-

viewed the administrative and developmental initiatives and progress in the Cold Desert.

In what was a fast-paced day, the Home Secretary's dis-

cussions centered around the modalities being finalized for the formalisation of the five new districts announced by Centre in August last year, its

impact on the alteration of the constituencies for the upcoming elections to LAHDC Leh later this year, complete implementation of three new criminal laws in the union territory, among others.

The Home Secretary also took stock of the arrangements being made for the upcoming visit of Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness Dalai Lama to Ladakh, even as also gave attendance to a number of delegations who put forth their issues.

The Union Home Secretary arrived in Ladakh for a two-day visit. Upon his arrival at Leh Airport, he was accorded a Guard of Honour as per protocol.

Accompanied by Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs Prashant Lokhande, Mohan was warmly ►P11

# Ladakh on board, LG approves WII report for rationalisation of Wildlife Sanctuaries

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: In a significant development of far reaching consequences, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) on Monday approved the reports submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), regarding the rationalisation of two Wildlife Sanctuaries of Ladakh.

The approval came as LG Mishra chaired the 12th meeting of the State Board for Wildlife of UT Ladakh.

The agenda of the meeting, held at the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat, centred on the Report presented by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to the members of the State Board for Wildlife regarding the rationalisation of the Karakoram (Nubra-Shayok) Wildlife Sanctuary and the High-Altitude Cold Desert (Changthang) Wildlife Sanctuary for their approval.

LG Mishra approved the rationalised Maps, Report of



both Karakoram and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries as submitted by WII, Dehradun, an official spokesperson informed.

The LG directed the Chief Secretary Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal to compile all issues, concerns, and suggestions raised by the Board members

so that necessary measures can be taken to safeguard the interests of both inhabitants and wildlife without altering the rationalised boundaries proposed by WII.

At the outset, the CS Kotwal briefed the members about the extensive rationalisation exercise undertaken by

the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, in close co-ordination with the Department of Wildlife, UT Ladakh, for delineating high-conservation value areas from low-conservation value areas within the Karakoram and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries to enhance ►P11

# PM praises MP'S JGSA

KHANDWA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday praised the 'Jal Ganga Samvardhan Abhiyan' in Madhya Pradesh and termed the works done under the water conservation campaign with people's participation as 'historic'.

He emphasised on the need for water conservation, noting it will bring relief to farmers and also help in running industries.

The three-month-long campaign has been an 'inspiring' effort towards creating awareness among people to make rivers clean, uninterrupted and perennial, he noted in a message sent to a programme organised in Khandwa district on the occasion of conclusion ►P11

# Dispute with India complicated but ready to discuss delimitation: China

BEIJING: China on Monday said that the boundary dispute with India is complicated and will take time to settle but at the same time, it expressed its readiness to hold discussions on the delimitation of the border and keep it peaceful.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his meeting with Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Qingdao on June 26 proposed that India and China should solve the "complex issues" under a structured roadmap comprising steps to de-escalate tensions along the frontiers and rejuvenate the existing mechanism to demarcate the borders.



Singh and Dong held bilateral talks on the sidelines of a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese port

city of Qingdao, with a focus on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Asked for China's reac-

tion to Singh's remarks, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "What I can tell you is that China and India have established the Special Representatives (SRs) mechanism on the boundary question and reached the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question".

The two sides have diplomatic and military communication mechanisms at various levels, she said.

"China stands ready to maintain communication with India on issues including delimitation negotiation and border ►P11

# CEC calls for execution of silk industry initiatives in Ladakh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: Chairman, Chief Executive Councillor Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun lauded the Department of Sheep Husbandry initiative and emphasized the need for financial honorariums for shepherds and support for the implementation of silk industry initiatives in Ladakh.

He made these statements at an Exhibition event organised on Monday. The event served as a vibrant platform for promoting and strengthening Ladakh's textile and wool sectors, especially the world-renowned Pashmina industry.



The Department of Sheep Husbandry, in collaboration with the Central Wool Development Board (CWDB), proudly hosted the inauguration of Exhibition cum Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advantage (EKTA) at Eco

Park, Leh. Dr Mohammad Jaffer Akhoun, Chief Executive Councillor, Kargil, graced the event as the Chief Guest. He was joined by several esteemed dignitaries including Tashi Namgyal ►P11

# CEC lays foundation for Ice Hockey Rink

ALCHI: In a landmark step towards promoting youth engagement and winter sports in the Sham region, CEC LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson in the presence of Councillor Lobzang Sherab laid the foundation stone for an Ice Hockey Rink at Alchi, a long-aspired project that promises to boost opportunities in sport, community engagement, and regional pride.

Addressing the gathering, CEC congratulated the people of Alchi and the broader Khamtsi region for the momentum of ongoing development.

He also commended Councillor Lobzang Sherab for his committed and visible leadership, stating that a true leader is best judged by their actions and the remarkable progress witnessed across the

constituency is a clear reflection of Councillor Sherab's unwavering dedication to public welfare.

Councillor Lobzang Sherab, in his address, extended gratitude to the CEC for his consistent support in fulfilling key local aspirations.

He highlighted the importance of the ice hockey rink as a major step for youth empowerment in the area and assured the public of continued efforts toward inclusive development in the region.

CEC also visited the under-construction community hall, reviewed the status of work, and directed the concerned departments to accelerate the pace of construction for timely completion.

The visit underlined the Council's focus on ►P11

# BDP on anvil for rejuvenation of old Monasteries, says Rijiju

SHIMLA: The Buddhist Development Plan (BDP) is on the anvil for the rejuvenation of Buddhist "math" (religious sites) and old monasteries, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said.

According to a statement issued here, while winding up his four-day visit to Himachal Pradesh, Rijiju told a public meeting in Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti that adequate funds would be allocated for the proposals sent by Buddhist "math" and monasteries under the development plan.

The Union minister of minorities affairs, who spent two days in the tribal districts of Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur and laid the foundation stones of several projects, said these initiatives will result in revolutionary transformation in border areas and added that the highest financial allocation has been made by his ministry for Lahaul and Spiti.

Addressing the public meeting, he said the construction of the Atal Tunnel has eased the problems of the people of Lahaul and the Vibrant Village programme of the Centre for the development of extreme border areas will go a long way in strengthening basic infrastructure like roads, ►P11



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# EAM inaugurates exhibition 'human cost of terrorism'

UNITED NATIONS: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday inaugurated an exhibition at the UN headquarters here, highlighting the human cost of terrorism and attacks perpetrated by terror groups, including by those based in Pakistan.

The exhibition was inaugurated a day before Pakistan begins its Presidency of the UN Security Council for July on Tuesday.

The exhibition titled "The Human Cost of Terrorism" has been organised by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN and highlights the devastating toll of heinous terrorist acts around the world, and the steps ►P11

# J&K Bank bids warm, heartfelt farewell to 2 of its top officers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Monday gave a warm send-off to two of its senior-most officers, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Syed Shujaat Hussain Andrabi, who superannuated as General Managers after serving the institution with distinction for over 35 years.

Executive Director Sudhir Gupta chaired the farewell function held at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. The event was attended by General Managers and other senior functionaries of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta said, "Both Mr. Gupta and Mr. Andrabi have been



valuable pillars of strength for the Bank. Their leadership, deep institutional knowledge, and humane approach have left an indelible impact on our organisation and people."



Managing Director & CEO Amitava Chatterjee also hosted a farewell dinner for the retiring officers over the weekend, which was attended by the Directors on the Bank's

Board.

Speaking at the gathering, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee commended the commitment of both retiring officers.

He said, "Contributing richly to the Bank's growth journey for more than 35 years, Sushil Kumar Gupta brought depth, diligence, and deliberation to every task whether during his time in operations within J&K and beyond or his role as GM Human Resources, Business Support Division or more recently as GM Finance. A soft-spoken gentleman in the truest sense, Mr. Gupta carries a quiet grace and a creative spirit — qualities that we all admire. ►P11

Jai Mata Di

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