

In Social

@firefurycorps

On the momentous occasion of 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas, mountaineers of Fire and Fury Corps paid tribute to our Bravehearts by sumitting Mt Kang Yatse I & II at an altitude of 6400m in Markha Valley of #Ladakh. The Parashu Warriors Expedition Team was flagged in today at Hall of Fame, #Leh. The expedition honed the mountaineering skills and encourage mountaineering teams to explore the challenging peaks of Ladakh.

@utladakhtourism

Today, Hemis Monastery came alive as countless devotees and visitors witnessed the majestic celebration of the #HemisFestival - a vibrant display of faith, culture, & timeless tradition in the heart of Ladakh. #LadakhTourism #FestivalsOfLadakh.

In History

AFRICA :

On this day in 1964, Malawi, a country on the continent of Africa, became independent from Britain in 1964 and this day was declared as the national day of this country.

DISTRICTS:

The union territory of Ladakh currently has seven districts. These include the existing districts of Leh and Kargil, and the newly formed districts of Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.

Traffic Signs

TRUCK PROHIBITED:

As sign itself speaks the area designated is a no entry zone for Trucks or HMV. These could be narrow lanes or congested areas where entry of heavy transport vehicle could obstruct smooth flow of traffic.

## Indian Army honours Kargil Bravehearts at Mount Kang Yatse

**LEH:** Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps added yet another feather to its illustrious mountaineering history by successfully sumitting Mount Kang Yatse in the challenging terrain of Ladakh's Markha valley. The expedition was flagged off by Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, General Officer Commanding, Fire and Fury Corps on 25th June to pay tribute to our bravehearts on the occasion of 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas. A team of highly trained mountaineers of Indian Army undertook the expedition with effect from 25 June 2025 to 04 July 2025 and successfully summited both Mount Kang Yatse I (6400 m) and Mount Kang Yatse II (6245 m). The team faced formidable challenges, particularly while scaling Mount Kang Yatse 1, a peak renowned for its technical difficulty, unpredictable weather and demanding climbing conditions, therefore, preferred by mountaineers for rehearsal prior to expedition to Mount Everest. The successful ascent of this peak is a testament to the exceptional skill, endurance and teamwork of the Indian Army mountaineers, reflecting their unwavering commitment to excellence. Mount Kang Yatse expedition marks a significant milestone in Indian Army's ongoing efforts to enhance operational readiness and technical proficiency in high-altitude environment. This paves way to enhance future mountaineering ventures, as the technical expertise and experience gained by the team will serve as a valuable foundation for planning and executing even more challenging expeditions in the Himalayas and other high-altitude regions. The expedition also serves as a demonstration of the Indian Army's ability to operate in some of the world's most inhospitable terrain. Besides, high-altitude training and exposure are crucial for maintaining operational superiority in the strategically important sectors of Eastern Ladakh where terrain and weather poses constant challenges. The technical competence displayed by the team not only boosts individual and collective confidence but also enhances the army's overall preparedness to respond to any contingency in these critical regions.



## Alam-e-Hazrat Abass procession observed with great devotion in Kargil under the banner of JUIAK

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**KARGIL:** In a powerful expression of faith and remembrance, the Alam-e-Hazrat Abass (AS) procession was held with deep religious fervor in Kargil under the banner of Jamiat Ul Ulama Isna Ashriya Kargil-Ladakh (JUIAK) as part of the Muharram commemorations. Despite of sorching heat with the temperature crossing 35 degree Celsius the event saw thousands of mourners from different parts of Kargil reached Main Bazar Kargil to pay homage to Hazrat Abass ibn Ali (AS) — the valiant standard-bearer and loyal brother of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). The mourning procession began in the early hours and passed through key landmarks of Kargil town before culminating at Isna Ashriya Campus. The participants carried the sacred Alam (standard) symbolizing the unwavering loyalty, strength, and courage of Hazrat Abass (AS), who is remembered for his sacrifices at the battle of Karbala. Throughout the procession, mourners performed chest-beating (Matam), recited elegies (Nohas), and engaged in Matam Zanjeer, expressing profound grief and spiritual connection to



the martyrs of Karbala. The event was marked by discipline, devotion, and unity, with large numbers of youth and elders participating in the rituals. The highlight of the day was the majlis (religious sermon) delivered by Sheikh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi, President JUIAK Ladakh. In his deeply moving address, he shed light on the life and noble character of Hazrat Abass (AS), describing him as a symbol of unmatched loyalty, bravery, and spiritual strength. He urged the community, especially the youth, to take inspiration from the selfless virtues of Hazrat Abass (AS) and Imam Hussain (AS) in confronting modern-day injustice and oppression.

Sheikh Nazir Mehdi also offered special prayers for global peace and communal harmony, with a heartfelt remembrance of the oppressed people in regions such as Parachinar (Pakistan), Palestine, and other conflict zones across the world. He emphasized the need for solidarity with the suffering and a commitment to justice, echoing the timeless message of Karbala. Adding to the spirit of service and compassion, various local organizations, volunteers, and welfare groups set up Sabeels (refreshment stalls) along the procession route. They provided water, traditional drinks like Darba, and snacks to the mourners — a gesture that reflects the legacy of service

and support associated with the Karbala tragedy. The district administration and local law enforcement authorities ensured smooth coordination, maintaining peace and order throughout the event. Medical assistance and emergency services were also deployed as precautionary measures, ensuring the safety and well-being of the participants. The Alam-e-Hazrat Abass procession in Kargil continues to serve not only as a religious observance but also as a powerful expression of unity, resistance against oppression, and remembrance of divine sacrifice, resonating deeply with the values of humanity and justice that the Karbala movement embodies.



## Creative Writing Workshop by Novelist Harry Whitehead held

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**KARGIL:** A one-day creative writing workshop on the theme "How to Tell Good Stories" by Novelist Harry Whitehead was successfully conducted at the Academy Hall of Ladakh Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages (LAACL), Kargil. The workshop was jointly organised by the Ladakh Writers Club (LWC) in collaboration with the Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation (LAMO) and Ladakh Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages (LAACL). The session was led by renowned novelist and author Professor Harry Whitehead, who engaged participants in a detailed and insightful discussion on various aspects of creative writing. The work-

shop covered a range of genres including prose fiction — novels, short stories, flash fiction — as well as creative non-fiction. Dr Whitehead delved into the craft of storytelling, focusing on key elements such as characterisation, plot structure, story moments, conflict, setting, and different points of view. The interactive three-hour session attracted writers and young academicians from diverse writing backgrounds, offering them a fresh and engaging experience. Emphasising the importance of reading, Dr Whitehead encouraged participants to explore fiction from various cultures, noting how global narratives are often dominated by English literature. He also discussed how different storytelling mediums

— including books, audio, and film—can enrich narrative expression. Participants actively engaged with Dr. Whitehead, raising questions on character development, plot design, and other nuances of storytelling. He also shared his own journey and experiences as a fiction writer and screenwriter. The event began with a welcome address by Mur-taza Fazily, member of the LWC Kargil chapter, who thanked the organising partners and expressed gratitude to Professor Whitehead for traveling from Leh to conduct the session. As a token of appreciation, Dr. Whitehead was felicitated with traditional khataks by Arif Ladakh, Convenor of LWC Kargil chapter. The participants expressed their satis-



faction with the workshop and thanked Professor Harry Whitehead for an inspiring and insightful ses-

## Likir: CAZRI organizes Field Day on Greenhouse Cucumber Cultivation

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**LEH:** Greenhouse cucumber farming is catching the attention of Ladakh's farming community, as nearly 50 farmers gathered in Likir village to attend a Field Day organized by the ICAR—Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Regional Research Station, Leh. The initiative focused on promoting climate-smart farming practices that can thrive in the region's cold desert environment. The event was led by Dr M.S. Kanwar, Principal Scientist and Head of CAZRI Leh, along with Dr. A.R. Chichagare, Jigmet Stanzin, and Stanzin Landol. Shakil Ur Rahman, District Agriculture Officer, was the chief guest. He reviewed the results of greenhouse cultivation and expressed interest in encouraging its adoption in more villages. Farmers took part in live demonstrations of cucumber

farming inside greenhouses specially designed for Ladakh's high-altitude weather. Dr. Kanwar shared practical methods and solutions to common challenges faced in protected farming. The CAZRI team also listened to farmers' concerns and gave guidance on improving productivity and income. The event also featured stories from two local women farmers. Sonam Dolma shared how she harvested 390 kg of cucumbers last winter and sold them for Rs 50 to Rs 80 per kg. Miss Sonam Angmo, a young entrepreneur, highlighted the summer income potential from greenhouse crops. Participants visited local greenhouses where CAZRI had set up demonstrations. Farmers explored the structure, layout, and methods for better crop growth and disease control. Many expressed eagerness to apply the same methods in the coming season.



## Hemis Monastery came alive as countless devotees and visitors witnessed the majestic celebration of the Hemis Festival - a vibrant display of faith, culture, & timeless tradition in the heart of Ladakh.

## On the Sole Authority to Recognize the Reincarnation of HH the 14th Dalai Lama

By Jamyang Tsering Namgyal

**LEH:** As the world comes together to celebrate the 90th birth anniversary of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama—rightly commemorated as the “Universal Year of Compassion”—I take this solemn occasion to reaffirm a matter of profound spiritual, cultural, and geopolitical significance: the exclusive authority to recognize the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama lies solely with the Tibetan people, in accordance with the authentic traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. His Holiness is not only the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people but a global beacon of peace, wisdom, and compassion. Millions

across the world—particularly in India, Nepal, Mongolia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and beyond—revere His Holiness and follow the sacred Nalanda tradition of Buddhism, which embodies centuries of philosophical depth and spiritual resilience. In light of His Holiness's recent reaffirmation that the institution of the Dalai Lama will continue, and that the Ganden Phodrang Trust of the Dalai Lama alone holds the legitimate authority to recognize any future reincarnation, I extend my full and unequivocal support. This position upholds the unbroken spiritual lineage that began with Gyalwa Gedun Drupa, the First Dalai Lama, over six centuries ago.



The continued interference by the People's Republic of China in the sacred process

of identifying His Holiness's reincarnation is not only unjustified but out-

right illegitimate and condemnable. The recognition of a spiritual incarnation

is a matter of religious tradition—not state control. A regime that has long curtailed religious freedom in Tibet cannot claim any moral or spiritual legitimacy in such matters. The 2007 State Religious Affairs Bureau Order No. 5, through which the Chinese Communist Party asserts control over Tibetan reincarnations, is a blatant violation of religious freedom, a direct assault on Tibetan cultural heritage, and an affront to millions of Buddhists worldwide. This politically motivated imposition is spiritually void and fundamentally flawed. To the global community, I say this: Only the Tibetan people and the Tibetan Buddhist tradition—guided by His Holiness the Dalai

Lama and the Ganden Phodrang—possess the rightful, moral, and spiritual authority to determine His Holiness's reincarnation. Any so-called “Dalai Lama” appointed by the Chinese government will be categorically rejected by the Tibetan people and by the global Buddhist community. Religious identity and continuity cannot be dictated by authoritarian regimes. The international community must stand firmly in defense of the Tibetan people's right to preserve their religious and cultural institutions, free from external coercion. As a devoted Buddhist, a follower of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and a representative of the Himalayan people who share deep civ-

izational ties with Tibet, I call upon all democratic nations, spiritual leaders, and human rights defenders to denounce this attempted appropriation by the Chinese state and uphold the sanctity of Tibetan spiritual traditions. Let truth, compassion, and spiritual continuity triumph—not propaganda and political coercion. (Jamyang Tsering Namgyal is a National Council Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), former Member of Parliament for Ladakh in the 17th Lok Sabha, and former Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor of LAHDC Leh. He has been a steadfast advocate for the spiritual and cultural rights of the Himalayan and Tibetan communities.)