

Gupta stresses quality education, sports to empower Ladakh youth

Calls for women’s participation; SSP, SDM, IPS Officer call on LG



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LEH: Students from Ladakh should have access to the best education along with required facilities to compete with the best, and more women should come forward to carry forward the message of women empowerment to promote the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative as envisioned by the Prime Minister of India.

This was stated by the

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, while interacting with a delegation from Turtuk area led by former Councillor, Abdul Ali, at the LG Secretariat.

The delegates highlighted the need to establish a Government Degree College at Turtuk and the need to improve the facilities and infrastructure of the Army Goodwill School. They also raised the demand to recognise Balti among the



state languages of Ladakh. Another delegation comprising members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Ladakh, called on the Lt Governor and apprised him about the upcoming football tournament to be organised at the Football Stadium in Spituk as a part of an awareness programme to sensitise youth against drugs, substance abuse.

Similarly, the Lt Governor

met a delegation from Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMFL) led by Branch Manager, Yatharth Sharma and anaesthesia technicians working on an outsourced basis under the National Health Mission, who requested his intervention in notifying permanent posts for the said post in the Health and Medical Education Department.

The Lt. Governor ►P11

Hunger strike begins for statehood, Sixth Schedule extension to Ladakh

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KARGIL: A three-day hunger strike commenced in Kargil on Saturday morning as the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and Leh Apex Body (LAB) intensified their agitation over the Centre’s delay in addressing demands for Ladakh’s statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The protest at Hussani Park also calls for separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil and the creation of a public service commission for the Union Territory.

The strike follows growing discontent among Ladakh’s political representatives, who accuse the central government of stalling the next round of talks despite earlier assurances.

KDA and LAB, spearheading the movement for the past five years, have engaged in multiple discussions with the Ministry of Home Affairs’ high-powered committee but claim core issues remain unaddressed. Large banners at the venue read “Together, we can build a fu-



ture where Ladakh governs Ladakh,” while placards carried by protesters demanded an end to “colonial treatment” and the restoration of democracy. Supporters chanted slogans as the hunger strike began, signalling renewed determination in the ongoing struggle.

KDA Co-chairman Asgar

Ali Karbalai criticised the absence of substantive dialogue on statehood and Sixth Schedule provisions. He recalled that in May, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and the home secretary had promised talks would begin the following month, but no discussions have taken place. Karbalai al-

leged deliberate delays, stating that such inaction had forced them into this protest phase. He warned that the agitation could escalate if the government continues to ignore their demands, with the KDA-LAB core committee set to decide the next steps. “The entire Ladakh is prepared for this ►P11

LG celebrates Raksha Bandhan with divyangs, school girls, sisters serving in Paramilitary Forces in Ladakh

‘Today’s sisters are no less than brothers in protecting the Nation’

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LEH: Festivals are not merely occasions of joy — they are powerful symbols of unity, love, and mutual respect that bind our diverse society together.

On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, celebrated the festival with divyang sisters, young school girls, and women personnel from ITBP and Ladakh Police, honouring the sacred bond of protection and affection between brothers and sisters.

Speaking at the celebration held



at the LG Secretariat, where Rakhis were tied on his wrist by school students and women from the paramilitary forces, the Lt Governor hailed the exemplary role of women serving in remote and challenging regions like Ladakh.

“Our sisters in uniform are standing guard at the nation’s frontiers, playing the traditional role of brothers by ensuring the safety and security of citizens. Today’s sisters are no less than brothers in their courage and commitment to protect the nation,” he remarked. The Lt Governor underscored that Indian festivals ►P11

PM Modi celebrates Raksha Bandhan with students, others

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday celebrated Raksha Bandhan at his residence here, with school students and members of the spiritual organisation Brahma Kumari among others tying Rakhis on his wrist.

The festival is the celebration of the traditional bond between brothers and sisters.

Modi shared a video clip of the celebration as a bunch of happy young students shared their joy and sentiments.

One student lauded him as a “warrior and saviour”, while some made references to Operation Sindoor. A school kid said she has



brought a peacock rakhi for “Modi uncle”, while another expressed her wish to be a

prime minister like him. The prime minister was seen enjoying the ►P11

CEC chairs follow-up meet for ‘Mission Indus Clean-Up’ August 12 to be observed as district-wide Safai Andolan

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LEH: August 12 will be observed as a district-wide Safai Andolan from Upshi to Phey and Phey to Nimoo under the theme “Zero Tolerance Against Pollution”, aimed at cleaning Ladakh’s lifeline—the Indus River.

In this regard, the Chairman, Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, in the presence of Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh, Ghulam Mehdi chaired a follow-up meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office, Leh, to review and finalise arrangements for Singe Tsangspo Tsande Las-



gul – Mission Indus Clean-Up, scheduled to be launched on August 12.

The meeting reviewed operational roles, logistics, waste management meas-

ures, awareness activities, and coordination among stakeholders to ensure the success of the campaign.

The campaign is being organised with the active

support of LAHDC Leh and the UT Administration of Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, Shruti Arora; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Moses Kunzang (JKAS); Additional District Development Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Nurboo; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Ghulam Mohd.; District Superintending Engineer, PWD Circle, Leh, Dorje Gyatso; Executive Officer, Municipal Committee, Stanzin Rabgais; Col. AK Upadhyaya, Adm Comdt Station HQ Leh; Representatives from the ►P11

Women celebrate Raksha Bandhan with forces at India-China border

GANGTOK: Eighteen women from five states, representing all major religions and ethnic groups of the country, tied rakhi on the wrists of security personnel guarding the India-China border in Sikkim.

The women from Sikkim, UP, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Assam tied rakhis on the wrists of soldiers posted at Nathu La, located at 14,250 ft, and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel at Lungthung Camp, located at 12,500 ft. The women, at first, tied rakhi to ►P11

Development alone isn’t Enough, says Wangchuk

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LEH: Since becoming a Union Territory, Ladakh has seen a surge in infrastructure growth, with faster road development and increased budgets, according to climate activist and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee Sonam Wangchuk.

However, he emphasized that development without a voice leaves locals unfulfilled, comparing it to Tibet’s situation under Chinese control.

Wangchuk’s remarks align with a three-day hunger strike in Kargil, which began Saturday, demanding statehood and sixth schedule sta-

tus for Ladakh to ensure local representation and rights. “I will state the facts as they are... People in Ladakh say they can see a difference in terms of development (in Ladakh), roads have been built...”

However, he also said, “Development is there in China as well... But are the people of Tibet happy? No, because that development is neither in their hands nor is it being done for them,” he said.

“Is that being repeated in Ladakh? In that case, it would be a cage made of gold. There is no platform where people can come together and decide what kind ►P11

OPERATION SINDOOR India shot down 5 Pak fighter jets

BENGALURU: The Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and a large aircraft during Operation Sindoor, in the largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill by India, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh said on Saturday.

This is the first official comment on the damage caused to Pakistan during the Indian strikes over three months ago. Many opposition leaders have been attacking the government over the delay in revealing the extent of damage caused to both India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor,

which was in response to the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

Singh, who was delivering the 16th Air Chief Marshal L M Katre Memorial Lecture here, also presented a detailed account of the May 7 strikes on terrorist headquarters and other terror assets near the border and inside Pakistan.

“We have at least five fighters confirmed killed and one large aircraft, which could be either an aircraft or an AWC, which was taken at a distance of about 300 kilometres. This is ►P11

Kargil gets ready to tackle disaster

KARGIL: To review and strengthen the district’s immediate disaster response mechanism, Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, chaired a high-level meeting with officials from various government departments, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Army, stakeholders, and volunteers.

The meeting was attended by ADC Inteeaz Kachho, senior Army and BRO officers, departmental heads, stakeholders, and dedicated volunteers.

The primary focus was on enhancing coordination among departments ►P11

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