

Reiterates commitment of Admn in empowering people

# CSR powers Ladakh’s growth: LG Gupta; lauds impactful initiatives



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta emphasized the transformative role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in boosting Ladakh’s development through education, healthcare, rural infrastructure, environmental ef-

forts, and skill-building.

In a meeting with HDFC Bank and partners like CII Foundation, Citizens Foundation, Himmotthan Society, and PHIA Foundation, the LG praised CSR for strengthening public-private partnerships and fostering trust by driving visible social and economic

progress.

Gupta highlighted how these initiatives enhance access to essential services, empower women and youth, and promote local entrepreneurship and job creation for sustainable growth in Ladakh’s challenging terrain.

“CSR investments not

only strengthen public-private partnerships but also enhance public trust by creating visible social and economic impact, particularly in challenging terrains like Ladakh,” Gupta said.

Earlier, the organisations briefed the Lt Governor on their ongoing work in Ladakh, which includes waste collection and management, developing an apricot value chain in Sham region, promoting renewable energy, training women self-help groups in handloom and handicrafts, and supporting vulnerable communities through poverty alleviation, entrepreneurship, and capacity-building initiatives.

The Lt Governor assured all possible support from the Administration to ensure that CSR-linked programmes reach grassroots communities effectively and create long-term impact.

On the sidelines, the Lt Governor also met delegations from different ►P11

# India’s highest dam construction counters China’s mega-dam threat

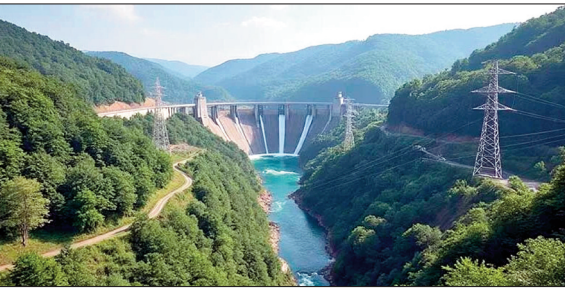
**ITANAGAR:** India has launched construction of the 278-meter Dibang Multipurpose Project, set to be the world’s highest concrete gravity dam, in Arunachal Pradesh’s Lower Dibang Valley. It will be a bold strategic maneuver.

This \$3.8 billion strategic move counters China’s massive Yarlung Tsangpo dam, which could disrupt South Asia’s water flows and spark a “Himalayan water war.”

Led by NHPC Limited, the project will generate 2,880 MW of clean energy annually, bolster India’s Northern Grid, and serve as a flood buffer.

Slated for completion by 2032, it will deliver 12% free power to Arunachal Pradesh and inject ₹700 crore yearly into the local economy.

Amid rising geopolitical tensions, Chief Minister Pema Khandu emphasized its role in national security, safeguarding downstream communities from potential Chinese water releases. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the project last year, but work has gained



unprecedented momentum in recent weeks.

“This isn’t just a hydro dam; its real objective is to save the Siang River and protect our people from upstream threats,” Khandu stated earlier this year, referencing fears of sudden water releases from Chinese infrastructure that could trigger devastating floods in downstream areas.

The Dibang River, a key tributary of the Brahmaputra, contributes about 7% to the mighty river’s annual runoff at Pandu in Assam. Experts hail the project as a multifaceted boon: bolstering energy security, moderating floods, and fostering regional development through thousands of jobs and improved infrastructure. Yet, it arrives at a pre-

carious moment, triggered by Beijing’s aggressive upstream ambitions. China’s Yarlung Tsangpo megaproject – dubbed the Motuo Hydropower Station – broke ground in July 2025 in the seismically volatile Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon, the world’s deepest land canyon.

Costing an estimated 1.2 trillion yuan (\$167 billion), this cascade of five hydropower stations is projected to produce 300 billion kWh of electricity yearly, tripling the output of the Three Gorges Dam and positioning it as the planet’s largest hydropower facility by 2033.

The Yarlung Tsangpo flows southward from Tibet, entering Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang River before merging with the ►P11

# Religious, Trade groups in Ladakh slam Raja's land lease to outsider

**LEH:** A major controversy has erupted in Ladakh after several prominent religious and trade associations jointly objected to Raja Jigmet Wangchuk Namgyal of Stok Palace leasing land to an outside business entity.

In a strongly worded letter, addressed to Raja Jigmet Wangchuk Namgyal, representatives of the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association and the Travel Tour Association alleged that land at Stok had been leased out to the Postcard chain of business entrepreneurs for setting up commercial activities linked to tourism.

The associations stated that the move violated a previously agreed decision taken in a joint meeting of the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association and the All Ladakh Travel Tour Association, which had resolved not to sell or lease land to non-locals in order to safeguard the business interests of local entrepreneurs.

The letter was endorsed by top religious and ►P11

# August Rainfall in Leh highest in 52 years LG declares flash-floods & landslides in Ladakh as ‘State Specific Disasters’

Move enables SDRF-backed relief and rehabilitation

■ YASH KHAJURIA

**LEH:** The Union Territory Administration of Ladakh has officially declared the recent spate of flash floods, landslides, and mudslides—triggered by prolonged and intense rainfall across the fragile Himalayan terrain—as State-Specific Disasters.

The notification, issued by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction on September 17 following approval by the Lieu-

tenant Governor, has been framed in accordance with revised guidelines governing financial assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), as communicated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India. The decision was earlier deliberated and endorsed at the meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Ladakh Disaster Management Authority on August 29.

According to the order, the extreme weather events have caused extensive damage to public assets,

vital infrastructure, agricultural holdings, road connectivity, and communication networks across the Union Territory. With the calamities now classified under the disaster framework, the administration is empowered to extend structured relief and rehabilitation measures through SDRF provisions. Assistance will remain strictly guided by the protocols set out in MHA’s directives dated October 10, 2022, and revised on July 11, 2023. Officials noted that the categorisation provides ►P11

# Rakesh leads inspiring School visits in Zaskar

**ZANSKAR:** In a proactive move to uplift educational standards and infrastructure in remote regions, the worthy Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, along with the Chief Education Officer Kargil, Sonam Wangchuk, District Coordinators UDISE and Yountab, and the VVM State Coordinator, conducted an extensive visit to several schools in the Zaskar Zone today.

The team visited Middle School Rangdum, PM SHRI Middle School Skyagam, Higher Secondary School Phay, and High School Tungri. During the visit, DC Kargil thoroughly inspected the infrastructure and facilities at each institution, attentively listened to the concerns and grievances of school staff, and assured timely redressal of the issues raised.

Recognizing the readiness of newly constructed facilities, DC Kargil issued a clear instruction to the school administration of MS Rangdum to shift operations to the new school building within four days. ►P11

# Hospital Infra touches 80% completion CEC orders rotational trainings in Kargil to tackle emergencies

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KARGIL:** To address the shortage of trained staff in times of emergency, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, directed the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Kargil to arrange rotational training programs for hospital staff.

The CEC on Thursday inspected the ongoing developmental works at District Hospital Kargil.

During the inspection, the site engineer informed the CEC that the MRI Room, with an estimated cost of ₹51



lakh, is nearly 80 percent complete.

During the recent visit of CEC Kargil to Leh he was informed by Principal Secretary Health that the MRI Machine is expected to reach Kargil around October 15, ac-

cordingly two staff members will undergo operational training.

Reviewing the progress of other works, the site engineer briefed the CEC that the Administrative Block, a G+2 structure ►P11

# Army honours Changthang’s vibrant heritage at Snow Leopard Expo 2025

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**NYOMA:** The Indian Army hosted the Snow Leopard Cultural Expo in Nyoma, at the heart of Ladakh’s stunning Changthang region in a remarkable celebration of local heritage and centuries old culture.

Led by Brigadier Amish Rastogi of the 254 Snow Leopard Brigade, the event celebrated the area’s rich cultural tapestry while strengthening ties with local communities. The expo showcased ►P11



# 'Battle of Galwan': Salman Khan wraps up Ladakh schedule

**LEH:** Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has reportedly wrapped up the Ladakh schedule of his upcoming war drama 'Battle of Galwan'.

After spending 45 days shuttling between the film’s high-altitude sets and the Mumbai film studios, the actor has reportedly wrapped up work on this intense schedule that reportedly involved the shoot of some epic battle and high-octane action scenes. On Thursday, the actor’s photos from ►P11

# Hunger strike enters Day-10

**LEH:** More people joined in on Thursday as the hunger strike in Leh entered Day-10 demanding inclusion in the 6th Schedule of Indian Constitution and other prominent demands.

Led by the climate activist Sonam Wangchuk the 35-day Hunger Strike began on September 9 in Leh district, pressing demands under Four-point Agenda.

The other demands include creation of a Public Service Commission, and two Lok Sabha seats one each for Leh and Kargil districts. ►P11

# LAHDC gets new Council Secretariat building in Leh



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**LEH:** The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Thursday inaugurated its new Council Secretariat Building in Leh.

The ceremony was graced by the Chairman, CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson,

who formally unveiled the new office complex in the august presence of Deputy Chairman, Tsering Anchuk; Executive Councillors, Ghulam Mehdi, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, and Stanzin Choshpel; Deputy Commissioner, CEO, LAHDC Leh, Romil Singh Donk, IAS; along with the ►P11

# Is Rahul dancing to the Tune of ‘Deep State’, asks Chugh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI:** BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh Thursday said that Rahul Gandhi seems to be playing into the hands of the “deep state” by spreading a disruptive and misleading narrative in the country.

Taking strong exception to the unsubstantiated claims Rahul Gandhi made at a media interaction, Chugh said the Karnataka High Court had already delivered a big blow to the shallow campaign on the voters’ list being built by the Congress leader.

Chugh pointed out that the Karnataka judgment,



which has set aside the election of a Congress MLA, has put the Congress on the defensive and comprehensively established that Rahul Gandhi is calculatedly trying

to run down constitutional institutions.

He further asked Rahul Gandhi to explain his repeated secret overseas sojourns and to clarify ►P11

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