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# Centre, UT ...

This initiative—undertaken in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and the local administration—will empower community members with telescopes and training, thereby creating a sustainable source of income and preserving Ladakh’s pristine dark skies.

Earlier, Councillor Nyoma, Ishey Spalzung, along with Nominated Councillor Ven Konchok Tsephel, requested the early formalisation of new districts, exposure training for pashmina goat herders, and the upgradation of healthcare centres in Changthang.

Similarly, social activist Sajjad Kargili met the Lt Governor and raised demands, including the opening of the Drass-Gurez and Panikhar-Pahalgam roads, issues related to recruitment of contractual and permanent faculty members in the University of Ladakh, promotion of police personnel, and fresh recruitment of Sub-Inspectors in Ladakh Police. Another delegation of Electrical Contractors also met the Lt Governor and submitted their demands.

Concluding the interactions, the Lt Governor reiterated that the UT Administration is committed to addressing the genuine concerns of people and assured that all constructive suggestions received from the delegations would be duly considered in the overall development roadmap of Ladakh.

## Planet Local ...

diverse professional journeys and experiences, underlining how culture, ecology, and community action are deeply intertwined in Ladakh. Tsewang Chujung also spoke about the enduring influence of Helena Norberg-Hodge in Ladakh, noting that she was recently honoured with a Special Appreciation Award during the Ladakh Spal Ngam Duston 2025 for her decades-long contribution to cultural and environmental conservation.

Their reflections set the tone for the summit by connecting global challenges with local realities and highlighting the value of sharing knowledge across regions and professions.

A cultural performance by Dorjay Stakmo and Stanzin Kunzel added vibrancy to the day, celebrating Ladakh’s rich artistic traditions.

As part of the programme, an interactive session was held between Chief Guest Dy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk, and Shri Padma Rigzin, a social anthropologist from Ladakh and member of Local Futures.

Their conversation revolved around politics, ecology, and the agricultural challenges of the region, with questions and reflections flowing between them.

When asked about the preservation of Ladakh’s ecology, Dy Chairman Angchuk recalled the contributions of the generation that had worked with Helena Norberg-Hodge to safeguard the region’s culture, language, and natural resources.

He also reflected on his own journey before entering politics, sharing how those formative experiences shaped his commitment to sustainable development in Ladakh.

Additionally, when asked about the ecological and environmental concerns and the role of LAHDC, Dy Chairman Angchuk highlighted a range of initiatives being pursued, such as the introduction of e-cycles, hydrogen and electric buses, and efforts to subsidise and customise eco-friendly vehicles suited to Ladakh’s terrain.

He stressed that these measures must be accompanied by awareness campaigns and active grassroots participation.

He also underlined the importance of long-term sustainability, noting that it was LAHDC that had framed an organic mission policy in 2018 with the goal of making Ladakh self-sustainable and fully organic, as it once was before modern technologies were introduced in the region.

Responding to a question on the role of Panchayati Raj institutions, he noted that agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, and supplies are closely interlinked, and called for collective efforts at the village and panchayat levels to ensure sustainable practices.

The day concluded with participants mingling and interacting informally, creating a vibrant space for the exchange of ideas and strengthening connections before dispersing after the lunch session.

## Kargili accuses ...

presence of competent Ladakhi candidates. He also raised objections to the exclusion of local governance representatives, including the Chief Executive Councilors of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil, from the

University Council, a practice described as undermining institutional accountability.

Referring to UGC guidelines (F.1-8/2014/SCT), which obligate state-funded institutions to comply with reservation norms, and recalling a parliamentary clarification reiterated by Minister of State for Education Dr. Subhas Sarkar in February this year, Kargili said the University of Ladakh’s continued deviation from national policy requires urgent intervention.

Concluding his appeal, the activist urged the Lieutenant Governor to act in the interest of Ladakhi students and scholars who have been awaiting recruitment for six years, stressing that the academic future of the region depends on timely and fair implementation of reservation provisions.

## ‘Won’t rest ...

to making India Naxal-free.  
"The Modi government will not rest until all the Naxalites either surrender, are caught or eliminated," he said.

Shah said the bravery and valour displayed by the jawans during Operation Black Forest will be remembered as a golden chapter in the history of anti-Naxal operations.

Despite the heat, altitude, and threat of IEDs at every step, security forces carried out the operation with high morale and successfully destroyed a major Naxal base camp, he said.

The material dump and supply chain of the Naxals established on Karregutta hill were valorously destroyed by personnel from the Chhattisgarh Police, CRPF, DRG, and CoBRA, he added.

The home minister said Naxals have inflicted severe damage on some of the country's least developed regions, disrupting schools, hospitals, and obstructing government welfare schemes.

Due to continued anti-Naxal operations, there has been a "new sunrise" in the lives of 6.5 crore people across the region stretching from Pashupatinath to Tirupati, he said.

Shah also said the Modi government is taking all necessary steps to support security personnel who have suffered serious injuries during anti-Naxal operations, ensuring their lives are made easier.

The government is committed to eliminating Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026, he added.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma were also present on the occasion.

## AI transforms ...

Founder of CoRover, a Bengaluru-based company, delivered a detailed presentation on the scope of AI-driven solutions in governance, including the use of conversational platforms and chatbots to improve citizen engagement and streamline government services.

The Lt Governor observed that the integration of AI into governance frameworks, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, education, skilling, and tourism, would not only ease administrative burdens but also address public grievances more effectively, thereby enhancing the satisfaction levels of citizens.

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of AI as a means to strengthen human values and capabilities while ensuring the use of Responsible AI, the Lt Governor underlined the UT Administration’s commitment to delivering effective and efficient services to the people of Ladakh through technological innovations.

He stressed that human-technology interaction, especially in healthcare, education, and tourism, would play a pivotal role in providing better medical and educational facilities to Ladakhis, while also ensuring a seamless and enriching experience for tourists.

The Lt Governor directed the Secretaries and Heads of Departments to analyse the potential of AI-driven solutions in easing citizen outreach and service delivery.

He asked them to assess how such technologies could help departments connect with people more effectively, respond to their concerns in real time, and make governance more accessible and responsive.

Concluding his remarks, Shri Kavinder Gupta said that Ladakh, with its unique challenges and opportunities, can emerge as a model UT for AI-driven good governance.

He emphasised that the ultimate aim of adopting such technologies should be to empower citizens, strengthen transparency, and make public service delivery more accessible and efficient.

## Ladakh sees ...

mm that the region expects at this time of year.  
This unprecedented weather event prompted

widespread disruptions across Ladakh, leaving the region cut off from vital road and air links for several days as floodwaters damaged infrastructure and isolated many villages.

Leh, the region’s capital, itself logged 55 mm of rain, compared to its monthly average of just 5.6 mm. Similarly, Kargil district received 32.6 mm against its usual 2 mm for August.

The deluge caused flash floods, destroying critical bridges, farmland, and severely impacting daily life.

Meteorologists point to an unusual interaction between the southwest monsoon and a succession of western disturbances, weather systems that typically carry moisture from the Mediterranean into the western Himalayas, as the reasons behind Ladakh’s extreme rainfall.

In August 2025, these two systems converged over northwestern India, resulting in persistent and heavy rainfall across Ladakh and neighbouring regions. Further contributing factors included a persistent monsoon trough, back-to-back low-pressure systems moving northwest from the Bay of Bengal, and upper air cyclonic circulations.

Meanwhile, important to mention her that the IMD Director of Ladakh informed that eastern Ladakh has been experiencing continuous rainfall for 48 to 72 hours. Continuous rain has been occurring in eastern Ladakh for approximately 48 to 72 hours. Intermittent rain is also happening in Leh, he said.

Ongoing climate change is turning once-rare events, such as August snow and multiplying rainfall, into new possibilities for Ladakh, raising fresh risks for the region’s population and infrastructure.

The impact extended beyond weather records, as excess rain and even unusual summer snowfall disrupted festivals and forced the cancellation of flights in and out of Leh.

A new study by IIT Bhubhaneshwar researchers showed that India is experiencing unusual extreme rainfall events, marked by exceptionally high rainfall over short periods.

Not just rain, Ladakh is also facing the unprecedented challenge of melting glaciers, which is adding to the woes as the region eyes water scarcity in the near future.

With authorities warning that such extreme patterns may become more frequent, the vulnerability of Ladakh and the wider Himalayas to climate instability is a growing concern.

Ladakh’s August 2025 deluge was driven by a unique meeting of monsoon and western winds, amplified by climate change, and has set a landmark in the region’s weather history.

Meanwhile, amidst continues heavy rainfall across North India, the IMD Director for the Union Territory of Ladakh, Sonam Lotus, stated that Eastern Ladakh has been experiencing continuous rainfall for 48 to 72 hours.

Continuous rain has been occurring in eastern Ladakh for approximately 48 to 72 hours. Intermittent rain is also happening in Leh, he said.

Further, giving the status of the situation on the ground, Lotus said that the intensity of the rain is expected to remain higher in various regions of the union territory, such as in Central Ladakh, Leh and Kargil, on Wednesday.

“Tonight, the intensity of rain is expected to be higher in Central Ladakh, Leh, and Kargil areas,” Lotus added.

However, Lotus said that the situation will gradually improve as the rain in Eastern Ladakh is expected to decrease, and the weather is expected to improve by the fourth day.

“However, the rain in Eastern Ladakh is expected to decrease gradually. Improvement in the weather is expected from the 4th,” added Lotus.

In other parts of India, the weather agency has issued red alerts in several states across districts such as Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, northern Punjab, northern Haryana, eastern Rajasthan, southwest Uttar Pradesh, northwest & eastern Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.

As per IMD, districts under red alert include Poonch, Mirpur, Rajouri, Reasi, Jammu, Ramban, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua, Doda, and Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir, while in Punjab, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Nawashahr, Rupnagar, Moga, Ludhiana, Barnala, and Sangrur are under red alert. Additionally, in Himachal Pradesh, districts such as Mandi, Una, Bilaspur, Sirmaur, and Solan were also issued similar warnings.

Meanwhile, following the occurrence of a landslide in Kullu, the search and rescue operations are ongoing at the Akhara Bazaar area. Moreover, 80 km away from Mandi, around 15 houses were evacuated in Jogindernagar due to a landslide that hit the area.

Hence, as a precautionary measure, the residents have been safely evacuated from the area. The local administration continues to monitor the situation on the ground.

## High Court ...

placed as Section Officer (Administration) in the

District and Sessions Court at Kargil.

In the cadre of Head Assistants, Ajaz Hussain has been posted as Nazir at the Court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Kargil, while Nissar Ali has been assigned as Reader in the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate Kargil. Dechan Lamo has been designated as Accountant in the District and Sessions Court Leh and Altaf Hussain as Reader in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kargil.

Further, Kunzes Dolma has been transferred to serve as Record Keeper in the Court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh.

In the senior assistant category, Padma Youron has been posted as Nazir at the Special Mobile Magistrate’s Court in Leh, while Kaneez Fatima-li has been elevated as Senior Assistant Nazir in the Court of Additional Special Mobile Magistrate at Khaltsi.

Other reshuffles include postings of Deachan Angmo and Tsering Chorol, both of whom will serve as Senior Assistants but remain attached to the Court of Principal District Judge Leh for the utilization of their services.

Mohammad Arif has been transferred as Nazir in the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Court at Drass, while Lobzang Lundup will function as Nazir at the Munsiff Court in Zanskar. Ahmed Hussain has been designated as Criminal Clerk in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kargil and Zainab Naz has been adjusted as Senior Assistant at the Munsiff Court Nobra.

Among Junior Assistants, Tsering Wangyal has been posted as Criminal Clerk in the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate Leh, and Mohammad Ali has been placed as Judicial Clerk in the District Magistrate’s Office at Kargil.

The order directs all concerned Presiding Officers to ensure that the transferees are relieved within fifteen days of issuance. Copies of the order have been forwarded to the Registrar General, Registrar Vigilance and Registrar IT of the High Court for information, besides communication to the Principal District and Sessions Judges of Leh and Kargil for necessary action.

## Punjab's resilience ...

natural calamity but a man-made disaster caused by the AAP government’s negligence. “Even after the devastating floods of 2023, the Mann government took no lessons. Instead of months of preparation, it carried out only a token 17-day exercise, leaving Punjab at the mercy of swollen rivers,” he said.

He added that the government’s failure to clean drains, canals, and natural waterways, its refusal to desilt rivers, and its encouragement of illegal mining and rampant encroachments on riverbanks—all these turned a seasonal flood into a catastrophic deluge.

Chugh emphasized, “Punjab is the land of Gurus, saints, and martyrs. Every person here is connected to a tradition of service and sacrifice. Today, in this hour of calamity, gurdwaras, temple committees, kar seva organizations, NGOs, the Army, NDRF, SDRF, and Punjab Police are all working together in the service of humanity. This is Punjab’s real strength, and it assures us that together we will overcome this difficult time.”

He said these humanitarian efforts saved thousands of lives while the Mann administration was missing. “The people of Punjab themselves rose to the occasion and took it upon their shoulders to save their motherland and fellow citizens,” he added.

Targeting Kejriwal, Chugh remarked, “Punjab does not need appeals from Delhi to send relief material. What Punjab needs is a long-term rehabilitation plan for flood victims and a contingency roadmap to ensure this disaster is not repeated next year. Collecting relief goods is not the job of the Punjab government—hundreds of NGOs are already doing that. The government must focus on rehabilitation and prevention, instead of publicity stunts.”

## Donk spearheads ...

agencies, who would then coordinate with landowners. He also stressed the need to complete the settlement of towers as quickly as possible.

The meeting concluded with a strong call for inter-departmental coordination and timely resolution of ROW issues to ensure early completion of the transmission line project, which is crucial for strengthening Ladakh’s power infrastructure and providing reliable electricity to remote areas.

The meeting was attended by key officers including Assistant Commissioner (Rev), Divisional Forest Officer Leh, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Durbuk, Kharu, and Nyoma, Executive Engineers of PDD and STD PDD Leh, Executive Engineer (Project Division, PDD Leh), and the Chief Manager, PG-CIL Leh.