

## **CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon Graces Book Launch "Stories from a Kargili Kitchen"**

Kargil, June 02, 2026: Hon'ble Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, attended the launch of the book "Stories from a Kargili Kitchen" today as the chief guest. The event, organized by Roots Ladakh and led by founder Muzammil, was an evening dedicated to celebrating the rich food memories and cultural heritage of Kargil.

Muzammil, the visionary behind Roots Ladakh, began by sharing the inspiring journey of the book. As he detailed, "Stories from a Kargili Kitchen" is a heartfelt endeavor to revive and document Kargil's unique traditional foods, passed down through generations. He extended his gratitude to the entire team whose dedication made this book possible and urged all dignitaries to distribute it widely in educational institutions.

Following Muzammil, co-author Neha Nair, a distinguished Anthropologist, took the stage. She recounted her research journey, emphasizing that Kargil is a region beyond war and borders. Neha added that this book is not just a culinary journey but a cultural revival.

Co-author Yash Saxena then shared his personal experiences with food culture across different regions, highlighting how Kargil's food heritage is gradually fading and calling attention to its causes and impacts.

Renowned Writer Reza Amjad Badgami, known for his work in Shina literature, underscored the significance of buckwheat (known as "Baro" in Shina/Balti). He highlighted its historical presence in literature.

CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, in his address, lauded the entire team, especially Roots Ladakh, for their invaluable contribution to promoting Ladakh's culture, food, and organic farming—a crucial identity of Kargil. He highlighted LAHDC's ongoing efforts in tourism promotion and expressed optimism that Kargil and Ladakh would gain national and global recognition. He assured that the book would reach every educational institution and thanked all contributors for their passion.

Member of Parliament Haji Hnifa Jan, congratulated the authors, especially Yash, Neha, and Muzammil. He praised Muzammil's efforts to promote Kargil's culture and tourism at both national and international levels, urging youth to engage in preserving Ladakh's unique traditions.

The event was attended by a distinguished lineup of dignitaries. The special guest, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, along with other special guests, including SSP Kargil Nitin Yadav, Brigadier Joshi (Commander, 121), former CEC Kacho Ahmed Khan, and former CEC Feroza Ahmed Khan, graced the occasion.

The evening concluded with the felicitation of all contributors with traditional Khataks, leaving the audience inspired by the rich tapestry of Kargil's food and culture.





