

CEC Kargil Meets Union Minister for Culture and Tourism; Submits Proposals to Promote Winter and Adventure Tourism

New Delhi, February 5, 2026: Hon'ble Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, today met Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India, in New Delhi and submitted key proposals aimed at strengthening winter and adventure tourism in Kargil district.

During the meeting, Dr. Akhoun highlighted Kargil's vast untapped potential as a year-round tourism destination and sought the Ministry's support for strategic interventions to enhance tourism infrastructure and employment opportunities.

At the outset, Dr. Akhoun raised the Linkipal Ski Slope Project, noting that despite earlier progress, the project could not be completed due to procedural constraints. He underlined its strategic importance in promoting winter tourism, generating local employment, and positioning Kargil as a premier adventure tourism destination in Ladakh. He requested the Ministry to support the project under an appropriate framework.

Secondly, the CEC raised the issue of operationalisation of the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM) branch at Kargil, affiliated with Gulmarg, which was announced earlier but has not yet become functional. He stressed that making the institute operational at the earliest would facilitate organised winter sports activities, professional training in alpine skiing, and skill development opportunities for local youth in adventure sports.

Further, Dr. Akhoun proposed the organisation of a Familiarisation (FAM) Tour for leading tour operators, travel writers, influencers, and media professionals from across the country. He noted that such an initiative would help showcase Kargil's diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage, adventure tourism offerings, and warm hospitality, thereby enhancing destination visibility and tourist inflow.

Lastly, the CEC proposed the establishment of an Integrated Adventure Sports Centre in Suru Valley, citing the region's high-altitude terrain, glaciers, rivers, and diverse landscapes. He stated that the proposed centre would promote structured, safe, and sustainable adventure tourism, provide professional training facilities, and help develop Kargil as a year-round adventure tourism hub with special emphasis on winter sports.

The Hon'ble Union Minister gave a patient hearing to the submissions and responded positively. Dr. Akhoun expressed hope that the Ministry's support would help unlock Kargil's tourism potential, create sustainable livelihood opportunities, and promote balanced regional development.



