

Chief Secretary engages with Ladakh Students on Skills, Innovation and Emerging Career Opportunities



Leh, September 21, 2026: Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, today interacted with students of EJM College and the University of Ladakh at EJM College, Leh, in an engaging session centred on artificial intelligence, emerging career opportunities, skill development, leadership, entrepreneurship and the rapidly changing world of work.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address by

Principal, EJM College, Stanzin Yangdol, who highlighted the contribution of higher education to the development of Ladakh's youth. She noted that the Chief Secretary's interaction with the students reflected the UT Administration's commitment to strengthening higher education and creating greater opportunities for students in Ladakh. She also highlighted the college's academic legacy, newly introduced programmes, academic activities and operational hostel facilities.

The programme was attended by Dean, College Development Council, Tsewang Motup, Principal EJM College Stanzin Yangdol, Staff Officer Mozes Kunzang, faculty members and students of the University of Ladakh and EJM College. The 2025 edition of "Singey Khabab" was also launched by the Chief Secretary and other dignitaries.

During the interaction, the Chief Secretary made a detailed presentation on a wide range of contemporary issues and emerging trends, including candid conversations, artificial intelligence and automation, the changing nature of job opportunities, future leadership skills, reverse globalisation, the emerging post-truth world, investing in new skills, climate change, entrepreneurship and the future of young people. Drawing on developments associated with technology leaders such as Jensen Huang, Sam Altman and Demis Hassabis, he highlighted how rapid advances in AI and computing are transforming professional landscapes and stressed the need for young people to understand, adapt to and effectively use emerging technologies.

He highlighted the rapid evolution of AI and technology, noting its growing applications in areas ranging from coding and computing to healthcare, diagnostics and robotics. He urged students not to fear technological change but to strengthen uniquely human capabilities such as critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, communication, judgement and leadership, while learning to use new technologies effectively.

The Chief Secretary also cautioned students about excessive screen time and urged them to remain conscious of how digital platforms influence attention, habits and thinking. He encouraged them to think independently, question prevailing assumptions and remain open to new ideas and experiences.

Calling upon young people to look beyond conventional career choices, he encouraged them to explore entrepreneurship, private-sector opportunities, creative fields and emerging professions rather than viewing government employment as the only career option. He stressed the importance of continuous learning and upgrading skills in response to a rapidly changing job market.

Speaking about Ladakh, he encouraged students to explore opportunities both within and outside the UT while contributing to the region's development. He highlighted the potential of entrepreneurship, tourism, winter tourism and creative sectors, and referred to government support through subsidies, loans and other assistance. He also referred to the proposed Startup Policy aimed at creating a supportive ecosystem for young entrepreneurs.

During the interactive session, students raised questions on civil services preparation, career choices, entrepreneurship, tourism, professional skills, forensic science, physics, UPSC preparation and the Chief Secretary's own career journey.



Responding to a question on civil services, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of developing a regular reading habit, staying updated, using time wisely, maintaining discipline and pursuing sustained hard work. On career opportunities, he advised students to look beyond government jobs, identify their interests, acquire specialised skills and make effective use of digital resources to access opportunities beyond Ladakh.

On entrepreneurship, he explained that the process begins with an idea, followed by preparation of a project report and understanding the different stages involved in establishing an enterprise. He encouraged young people to take calculated risks and explore available institutional support.

Students also asked about his experience of joining Ladakh and his expectations before coming to the region. Sharing his experience, the Chief Secretary spoke about his earlier professional exposure, including his experience in the Northeast, and highlighted Ladakh's unique cultural and social character. A faculty member also referred to his book, "Look into a Resurgent Northeast," during the interaction.

The students submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary raising issues concerning the student community, including a request related to bridge/road connectivity across the main road near the college. The Chief Secretary took note of the concerns raised.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the Student Council. The interaction provided students an opportunity for direct engagement with the UT administration and encouraged them to embrace new skills, independent thinking, innovation and adaptability as they prepare for a rapidly evolving future.