

L-G VK Saxena flags off the Inaugural Ladakh Bike Week 2026

Week-long event to strengthen Ladakh's position as India's premier high-altitude motorcycle and adventure tourism destination

Motorcycle rally, Himalayan Basecamp and vintage motorcycle showcase to promote responsible tourism and boost local livelihoods

Leh, September 1: Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena today flagged off the inaugural edition of “Ladakh Bike Week 2026”, organised by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh, to showcase Ladakh's growing stature as a premier motorcycling and high-altitude adventure tourism destination.

Ladakh's dramatic mountains, rugged terrain and some of the highest motorable passes in the world have made the region a sought-after destination for motorcycle enthusiasts from across India and abroad. Bike Week seeks to build on this growing popularity and position Ladakh not merely as a place bikers travel through, but as a destination they choose for adventure, exploration, and experiential travel.

A major component of the festival is the Ladakh Motorcycle Rally, being held from September 1 to 3. Eleven professional riders from across India will participate in the Galwan Motorcycle Rally, traversing some of the strategically and geographically significant landscapes of eastern Ladakh, representing a symbolic journey that celebrates adventure, national integration, and the spirit of exploration in Ladakh.

The Himalayan Basecamp at Chuchot, Leh, scheduled from September 4 to 6, will be another major attraction. It will feature activities, experiences, demonstrations, workshops, exhibitions and community engagement programmes and is expected to attract around 5,500 visitors every day.

The Vintage Motorcycle Showcase, from September 1 to 7 at Leh Market, will feature 15 curated classic and vintage motorcycles representing different eras of motorcycling heritage.

Ladakh Bike Week 2026 is one of the eight flagship UT-level tourism festivals identified for destination promotion, visitor engagement and diversification of tourism across the region. Conceived as a signature celebration of Ladakh's global reputation as a motorcycling destination, under the guidance of LG, Shri Saxena, the event aims to showcase its unique landscapes, culture, heritage and hospitality while generating new opportunities for local communities and businesses.

The Lieutenant Governor, while interacting with the bikers, emphasised that the growth of adventure tourism must remain responsible, safe and environmentally sustainable, ensuring that the increasing popularity of Ladakh translates into meaningful opportunities for local youth, entrepreneurs and communities while protecting the region's fragile Himalayan environment.

“Ladakh's rugged mountains, high-altitude passes and breathtaking landscapes have already made it a dream destination for motorcycle enthusiasts from across the country and the world. Through Ladakh Bike Week, we want to take this growing identity to the next level by showcasing Ladakh as a destination for adventure, experience and responsible tourism. I urge every visitor and every rider to explore Ladakh responsibly, respect its fragile Himalayan environment and carry back not only memories of its magnificent landscapes, but also the warmth of its people and the richness of its culture,” said L-G Shri Saxena.

Notably, Ladakh Bike Week 2026 is also expected to contribute significantly to the local economy and benefit the tourism units in terms of increased occupancy in hotels, guest houses, homestays and tourism establishments while creating business opportunities for transport operators, guides, restaurants, handicraft sellers and local service providers. The event will also provide a platform to promote lesser-known tourism destinations, local experiences and community-based tourism initiatives.

