

Leh Commemorates 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas with Patriotic Fervour: Tributes paid to Brave Soldiers, Veer Naris, and War Veterans and Ex-serviceman

Leh, July 26: The Union Territory of Ladakh observed the 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas with deep patriotism and solemn reverence, paying homage to the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the 1999 Kargil War.

The commemorative event was held at War Memorial at the Singhay Namgyal Chowk, Leh and was graced by the Chief Secretary of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, as the Chief Guest.

The event began with a welcome address by a president of the Ex-Servicemen, association who expressed heartfelt appreciation for the martyrs and their families. The speaker also extended gratitude to the Ladakh Administration and the Department of Tourism for organizing the event, which not only honors the valiant soldiers but also raises awareness among the youth about the significance of this historic day.

The League requested the UT Administration to consider arranging future commemorations at a more expansive venue that better reflects the spirit and grandeur of the occasion.

In his address, Dr. Pawan Kotwal paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Kargil War, emphasizing the unwavering courage and dedication of the Indian Armed Forces during one of the most challenging military confrontations between India and Pakistan.

“We are gathered here today to pay our heartfelt tribute to the brave martyrs who laid down their lives to defend our nation. The Kargil War reminds us of the unmatched gallantry of our soldiers in defending every inch of our land,” said Dr. Kotwal. He also highlighted strategic pickets that were illegally occupied during the war and recounted tales of valor, including those of Param Vir Chakra awardees and Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, Mahavir Chakra recipient, who was present at the event.

He reaffirmed that the Ladakh Administration, in coordination with the Government of India, is committed to supporting the armed and paramilitary forces, including initiatives like Project Suraj and the development of border infrastructure.

He also acknowledged the immense contribution of ex-servicemen during both Operation Vijay and the recent Operation Sindoor, recognizing them as pillars of strength for the Ladakhi community.

Delivering his speech, the Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Leh emphasized the importance of remembering not just the martyrs but also the sacrifices of their families, especially the Veer Naris. “We owe our freedom and peace to the unmatched bravery of our soldiers. As citizens, we must always remember both our fundamental rights and duties towards the nation,” the CEC stated, urging the public to internalize the spirit of nationalism and remain committed to safeguarding the nation.

The program concluded with a felicitation ceremony by the Department of Tourism and Administrative Secretary where Chief Guest Dr. Pawan Kotwal and CEC LAHDC Leh honored the Veer Naris, war veterans, and ex-servicemen who played crucial roles during the Kargil War and other military operations.

Dignitaries present at the occasion included CEC LAHDC Leh, Deputy Commissioner Leh, SSP Ladakh, former MP Shri Thupstan Tsewang, former CECs Rigzin Spalgon and Gyal P. Wangyal, Administrative Secretary Tourism Shri Sanjit Rodrigues, Mahavir Chakra awardee Col. Sonam Wangchuk, ALTA President, BJP State President Shri Tashi Khachu, and representatives of various religious organizations.



