

## **L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena approves construction of 30 unique Ladakhi Smart Bus Shelters**

### ***Ladakhi Gonpa-inspired bus shelters will have heated seating, digital passenger information and climate-resilient design***

**Leh, May 07:** The urban public transport infrastructure in Ladakh is all set for a makeover, with the introduction of unique Ladakhi Smart Bus Shelters that would blend the passenger-friendly modern amenities with Ladakh's distinctive cultural architecture.

Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, has approved the construction of 30 Ladakhi Smart Bus Shelters in Leh. These bus shelters are architecturally inspired by Ladakhi Gompas and feature amenities such as GPS-enabled real-time bus information systems, heated seats, Wi-Fi, CCTV surveillance, solar power, and SOS emergency response buttons. The project will be implemented by the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (SIDCO).

At present, the existing bus stops in Leh lack adequate shelter, comfortable seating, protection from extreme weather conditions, and modern passenger amenities. The new smart bus stops will address these gaps by providing safe and comfortable waiting spaces and enhanced safety mechanisms.

The project will feature traditional Ladakhi architectural elements, including Shingtsak woodwork, decorative finishes, traditional Pentsak painting, mud plastering, lime whitewashing, prayer wheel installations, and artistic wall murals.

The smart bus stops will also be equipped with advanced Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and ICT-enabled facilities, including 55-inch Passenger Information Display Systems (PIDS), secondary LED display boards, GPS-based real-time bus tracking systems, cloud-based estimated time of arrival (ETA) software, Wi-Fi connectivity, CCTV surveillance systems, and SOS emergency response buttons.

Additional passenger amenities will include mobile and laptop charging stations, first aid kits, emergency oxygen cylinders, fire safety systems, seating arrangements, and tactile tiles for visually impaired passengers. Each bus stop will also incorporate a 2 kWp solar photovoltaic system with battery storage and hybrid inverter systems, along with grid connectivity provisions, helping reduce carbon emissions and dependence on conventional energy sources.

The project was conceptualised by Lieutenant Governor, Shri Saxena, and the DPR was prepared on his directions in response to the growing demand for efficient and comfortable public transport infrastructure in Leh, which serves as a major tourist destination and regional hub.

“The initiative aims to transform public transport infrastructure in Leh by creating modern, sustainable, and people-centric urban infrastructure while preserving Ladakh's unique cultural and architectural identity. The Ladakhi Smart Bus Stops will not only enhance public transport facilities and passenger comfort, especially during extreme winters, but will also serve as a model for climate-responsive and eco-friendly infrastructure development in high-altitude regions,” said LG, Shri Saxena.

One of the major highlights of the project is the incorporation of heated seating, thermally insulated walls and roofs and wind-protected enclosures, which will significantly benefit passengers during the harsh winter months when temperatures in Ladakh frequently fall below freezing point.

The project seeks to improve passenger convenience, encourage greater use of public transport, and promote sustainable urban mobility solutions in a high-altitude and climate-sensitive region.

# LADAKH SMART BUS STOP

## GOMPA INSPIRED SHELTER

Traditional Roots. Smart Future.

