

## **Administrative Secretary Tourism, DIPR & HUDD Interacts with Kargil Media Fraternity**

Kargil, August 24, 2025: Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Housing & Urban Development and Information & Public Relations, UT Ladakh, Sanjit Rodrigues, virtually attended from Kargil the press briefing given by Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh during his visit to Kargil. The press briefing was also attended by media persons of Kargil. Subsequently, the Administrative Secretary held an interaction with the media persons of Kargil and discussed various issues like tourism promotion and development activities in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC-Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; SSP-Kargil, Shree Ram R; ADC-Kargil, Imteaz Kacho; Deputy Director, Archives & Archaeology, Khadim Hussain; along with members and representatives of various news organizations were present on the occasion.

Speaking about the upcoming Suru Festival, the Secretary said Kargil should gain its own recognition on the tourism map and attract visitors to stay rather than only being treated as a transit point. He added that to achieve this, the UT Administration is working on various initiatives, among them the Suru Festival being one which is a unique initiative.

Secretary Rodrigues further said that to decentralize tourism in Ladakh, clusters of villages have been identified for setting up homestays under centrally sponsored schemes so that locals can generate supplementary income while staying in their native places.

He highlighted that training youth in avenues like trekking and guiding, along with the establishment of a library and a museum in Kargil, is a priority. He also said that the UT Administration is committed to creating a network of libraries across all Blocks of Kargil besides prioritizing the construction of rock gardens.

The Administrative Secretary then urged media personnel to ensure maximum promotion of the upcoming Suru Festival, along with post-event publicity, to attract more tourists this year and in upcoming seasons thereby benefiting local stakeholders in every aspect.

He further stated that conservation of heritage sites is also a key priority of the UT Administration. In this regard, conservation of sites like Hunderman and other areas will be explored on priority. He added that the restoration of the Karchey Khar Buddha Maitreya statue has also resumed.

Later on, the Administrative Secretary visited Sher Bagh and Bulbul Bagh to take stock of the projects being executed there by various Departments. He was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC-Kargil, Rakesh Kumar;; ADC-Kargil, Imteaz Kacho who is also the Administrator, Municipal Committee of Kargil; Arifa Iqbal, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee of Kargil; Accounts Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Kargil; Deputy Director, Archives & Archaeology, Khadim Hussain; Assistant Executive Engineer, R&B-II Division and other engineering and administrative staff.

He also checked the maps and outlays of the various projects and passed necessary action for speeding up the pace of work. He finally visited the Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC) being managed by the Tourism Development Authority, Kargil.

