

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena launches Trans-Himalayan Cold Desert Urban Forestry initiative in Drass

Drass, April 13: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today launched the “Ladakh Trans-Himalayan Cold Desert Urban Forestry and Food Forest Initiative” at Khandiyal in Drass, marking a significant step towards enhancing green cover, environmental sustainability, and food security in the region.

Addressing a gathering of public representatives, officials, and local residents, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the unique ecological challenges of Ladakh as a cold desert with less than one per cent green cover. He emphasised the need for collective efforts to increase greenery and urged citizens to treat tree plantation as a shared responsibility, stating that nurturing a tree should be akin to raising a child.

The plantation site, spread over approximately one hectare, includes species such as willow, apricot, poplar, and robinia. The Lieutenant Governor described the initiative as a forward-looking approach to sustainable development, integrating ecological balance, community participation, and climate resilience.

He noted that the initiative would act as a “green lung” for the region by promoting carbon neutrality, improving soil health, conserving water, and strengthening local food security. He also termed the Khandiyal project a pilot model that can be replicated across Ladakh.

Appreciating the collaborative efforts of the Forest Department, district administration, LAHDC Kargil, and local communities, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated the Administration’s commitment to addressing environmental and developmental challenges, including water scarcity, through sustainable and innovative solutions.

He called upon all stakeholders, especially the youth, to actively participate in such initiatives to transform Ladakh into a greener and more sustainable region.





