

**Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal chairs a meeting to review compliance with NGT directions on river pollution and waste management.**

Leh, November 5, 2025; The Chief Secretary of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS, chaired a meeting today to review the compliance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal regarding river pollution and waste management. The meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, Leh, was organised by the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC) to assess progress on environmental management.

During the meeting, the LPCC presented a detailed report on the current status of environmental management in Ladakh, noting that there are no critically polluted river stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in Ladakh. The Chief Secretary stressed the need to protect the Indus River, emphasising its cultural and ecological importance. He directed the Deputy Commissioners of Leh and Kargil Districts to intensify cleanliness drives and to ensure that no waste or sewage is dumped/discharged into the river, calling it a shared responsibility to preserve Ladakh's most sacred water body.

Dr Kotwal highlighted that while solid waste management is being efficiently handled through the Tsangda Solid Waste Management Project, the need for improving liquid waste treatment was emphasised. He instructed the Public Health Engineering Department to finalise the Detailed Project Report for the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant at Leh.

The Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, informed the meeting that two packages for setting up of decentralised sewage treatment plant in Kargil had already been tendered, with another forwarded for approval under the Swachh Bharat Mission. The Chief Secretary further directed that treated wastewater be used for construction and public utility purposes to conserve the precious fresh water resources.

The meeting was attended by Shri Sanjeev Khirwar, IAS, Principal Secretary for Labour & Employment, Science & Technology, Ecology & Environment. Shri Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, Administrative Secretary for Housing & Urban Development, UT Secretariat, Leh, Ladakh, Ms. Shashanka Ala, IAS, Administrative Secretary for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Ghulam Mohammad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Ms. Ruksana Parveen, Senior Scientific Officer, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC); Shri Moses Kunzang, Director of Urban Local Bodies and Director of Housing & Urban Development; and Mr. Stanzin Rabgyas, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Leh, were participated in the meeting .



