

Judicial Inquiry Ordered into September 24 Leh Incident: Chief Secretary Dr. Kotwal

Leh, October 17, 2025 – Chief Secretary of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, announced in a press briefing at the UT Secretariat today that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an order for a judicial inquiry into the September 24 violence incident in Leh, meeting the long-standing demand of the people for justice and transparency.

Providing an update on those injured, Dr. Kotwal said five individuals, including an ex-serviceman, are currently under treatment at SNM Hospital, with one expected to take longer to recover. He praised the local medical teams for performing life-saving surgeries on the day of the incident.

Regarding arrests made following the violence, he informed that most detainees have been granted bail, while the remaining are in judicial custody and are expected to be released in due course, following legal procedures.

Dr. Kotwal urged the people and community leaders of Ladakh to maintain peace and avoid large gatherings or protests, especially in light of the government's decision to formally investigate the circumstances that led to the deaths of four individuals. He emphasized that earlier assurances of a peaceful protest were not upheld, and acknowledged that the situation had spiraled beyond the control of the organisers.

Warning of strict action against future disturbances, Dr. Kotwal appealed for restraint, particularly considering the upcoming examination season, and encouraged creating an environment conducive to learning. He also called attention to the adverse impact on the tourism sector, urging collective efforts toward its revival for economic recovery.

Reaffirming the Centre's commitment, he said the Government of India will continue dialogue with the High-Powered Committee (HPC) to address Ladakh's concerns peacefully. He concluded by thanking the people for their cooperation and urged continued support in restoring normalcy across the region.

