



संघ राज्य प्रशासन, लद्दाख  
पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति विभाग  
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THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM & CULTURE

UT SECRETARIAT, LEH, LADAKH

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### Minutes of the Meeting

Sh. Ashish Kundra, IAS, Chief Secretary UT of Ladakh, and Chairman, UT Level Coordination Committee for the Holy Exposition of the Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha in the UT of Ladakh, convened a meeting of the committee on 05<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 at 02:00 PM in the Conference Hall of LAHDC, Leh.

The following UT Level Coordination Committee members, special invitees and representatives of religious organizations attended the meeting:

1. Sh. Mukesh Singh, IPS, Director General of Police, UT Ladakh
2. Dr. Akun Sabharwal, IPS, IG, ITBP, NWF
3. Sh. Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture Department
4. Sh. Romil Singh Donk, Deputy Commissioner, Leh
5. Sh. Rigzin Sampheal, IAS (Retd.), Nodal Officer for Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics
6. Sh. Rajesh Ranjan, Vice Chancellor, CIBS
7. H.E. Choskyong Palga Rinpoche, Naljorling
8. Sh. Tsering Dorje Lakrook, President, All Ladakh Buddhist Association
9. Ven. Dorje Stanzin, President, All Ladakh Gonpa Association
10. Sh. Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Former Member of Parliament, UT Ladakh
11. Sh. Tashi Gyalson, Former CEC/ Chairman, LAHDC, Leh
12. Ven. Bikkhu Sanghasena, Founder Director, Mahabodhi Meditation Center
13. Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Leh
14. Sh. Tsering Paldan, JKAS, Director, Tourism & Culture, UT Ladakh
15. Geshe Stanzin Lotus, Representative, Zanskar Gonpa Association
16. Lupon Chamba Phuntsok, Representative of H.E. Thiksay Rinpoche
17. Ven. Deldan Namgail, Representative of H.E. Bakula Rangdol Nyima Rinpoche
18. Lupon Shatup Khentsey, Dakthog
19. Khanpo Thinles Chossal.
20. Dr. Khanpo Konchok Rigzin, Research Officer, CIBS
21. Dr. Thupstan Norboo, Editor, LAAC&L, Leh
22. Geshe Samdub, Director, Flowering Dharma
23. Sh. Tashi Namgyal, President, Flowering Dharma

The meeting commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting by the Chief Secretary and eminent Rinpoche, followed by introductions from all participants attending physically and virtually. The Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture, provided the overall context, noting that this was the first formal sitting of the UT-level Coordination Committee to deliberate and take decisions on key agenda items for the swift execution of the event. He then commenced the presentation with a video narrating the background and significance of the holy relics of Lord Buddha.

### **Event Theme**

The committee members expressed a preference for adopting "Peace in Times of Conflict" as the event theme, in view of the prevailing global environment marked by war and widespread conflict.

### **Venue Finalization & Timelines**

- The Chief Secretary conveyed that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, in consultation with Eminent Rinpoche decided that previously decided Polo Ground venue was shifted to Jivetsal.
- An indicative timeline covering the arrival, installation, public viewing period, and departure of the holy relics was conveyed. Finalization of the event dates will be undertaken by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, with the tentative arrival scheduled for 28/29 April 2026. It was also proposed that the venue be open to the general public from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM each day.
- It was unanimously agreed that the holy relics will be installed at Jivetsal for the sacred exposition, considering its superior accessibility, security provisions, and capacity to accommodate large numbers of devotees. All ceremonial receptions, prayers, and related arrangements will be undertaken by Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and Ladakh Gonpa Association (LGA).
- President, LBA, President, LGA and former MP Sh. J.T. Namgyal proposed extending the exposition period to one month so that the opening and closing ceremonies could align with both the local and international Buddhist calendars for Buddha Purnima. The Chief Secretary noted that the final dates and duration of the exposition would be determined in consultation with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- President, LGA recommended placing the holy relics at the Dharma Sthal, Choglamsar, for 3-5 days during the Ladakh Monlam Chhenmo; the great prayer ceremony scheduled from 7-13 May, so that the assembled monks could receive blessings at one location. The Chief Secretary again cited that this would be finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.

### **Jivetsal Setup & Readiness**

- The Chief Secretary emphasized that this is a globally significant and high-prestige event. While the LBA and LGA will take the lead in managing the venue, the UT

Administration will extend full support for additional infrastructure and setup requirements.

- Regarding the venue setup at Jivetsal, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) and President, Ladakh Gonpa Association (LGA), along with their volunteers, Gobas, and local village societies, will oversee the arrangements, drawing on past experience from visits of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Ladakh, and will work in close coordination with the UT Administration. Their responsibilities will include making all necessary preparations for the orderly movement of devotees, such as queue management and volunteer deployment, as well as repairing toilets, Mane walls, and Stupas in and around the venue and along the designated route to enhance the spiritual and cultural ambience.
- Former CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Sh. Tashi Gyalsen emphasized ensuring a hassle-free darshan of the holy relics, with priority access for residents of remote areas such as Zaskar. He further proposed preparing a sub-division or zone-wise calendar to stagger visitor movement, noting that without such planning, there is a risk of overcrowding during the initial days as everyone may attempt to undertake darshan at the same time. The Chief Secretary acknowledged the suggestion and added that visitors coming from far-flung areas may be prioritized, and buses may be deployed accordingly.
- LBA informed that they already have certain décor elements in place and will soon communicate the specific areas where support from the UT Administration may be required, including minor repair works and toilet arrangements. They confirmed that all volunteer-related responsibilities will be handled entirely by LBA and LGA. They also suggested that, depending on the duration of the event, priority may be given to remote communities, and separate access routes may be designated for Army, Ladakh Scouts, and other groups. They affirmed full ownership of these responsibilities and will coordinate closely with nearby villages and communities.
- Regarding the public-address system, it was proposed that messages on Panchsheel, core teachings, and relevant spiritual guidance in the local language may be broadcast. Additionally, informational panels on Panchsheel may be installed at the venue, and a voluntary Panchsheel pledge could be considered.
- It was decided that LBA volunteers will facilitate arrangements for wheelchairs, assist privately operated vehicles, and provide necessary support from the parking areas to the venue to ensure smooth movement for elderly and differently-abled visitors.
- A shuttle service will also be deployed, similar to the arrangements made during the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to further ease visitor movement and ensure efficient transportation.
- It was also suggested that a Guard of Honor may be considered for the holy relics. The feasibility of creating a storeroom at the venue may also be examined, ensuring alignment with layout and security requirements. Additionally, it was emphasized that visitors should be properly briefed that the casket is not the relic itself; rather, the relic is housed inside the casket.

- The Chief Secretary further noted that the rest room of His Holiness the Dalai Lama located at Jivetsal could potentially be repurposed as a temporary storeroom, subject to suitability.
- Arrangements will be made at the venue for adequate water supply, along with the establishment of food stalls, handicrafts & handloom stalls, and dedicated Brand Ladakh promotional stalls to showcase local culture and products. These facilities will ensure proper visitor convenience while also providing an opportunity to highlight Ladakh's traditional craftsmanship and indigenous enterprises during the exposition.
- Upon completion of the installation, Jivetsal will be formally handed over to the police for security management. LBA will issue ID cards for all personnel authorized to operate at the site. Police advised conducting a full-scale rehearsal 3–4 days prior to the relics' arrival. It was also noted that once installed, the relics cannot be moved, and the venue must be maintained under strict temperature-controlled conditions. A visit to the Delhi National Museum was recommended to study best practices in relic preservation and environmental control.

### **Ceremonial Procession, Religious Activities & Prayer Series**

- The escort team for the holy relics will be identified and the details formally communicated to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. LBA and LGA will jointly prepare and provide the list, with the escort duties divided into two teams – one accompanying the relics from Delhi and another receiving the relics upon arrival in Leh.
- The entire route for the ceremonial procession will be lined with volunteers carrying khatags, and in coordination with Airport Authority of India, an appropriate ritual point at Leh airport will be identified for the ceremonial welcome.
- It was suggested that a specially crafted ceremonial casket be designed for transporting the holy relics, ensuring that the movement of the relics is carried out with the highest standards of dignity, sanctity, and proper ritual handling throughout the procession.
- It was further suggested that prayer slots inside Jivetsal be allocated sect-wise to ensure balanced representation and inclusive participation from all Buddhist traditions throughout the exposition.
- The suggestion to designate a 'Bodhisattva – Week of Enlightenment' as part of the broader program may be considered during the finalization of the event schedule.
- The Chief Secretary also encouraged monasteries to organize seminars, prayer sessions, and other spiritual activities to build collective participation and create a holistic spiritual ambience leading up to the event. It was also agreed that the Ladakh Gonpa Association (LGA) will organize a week-long pre-arrival Puja series, engaging monks from various monasteries.
- His Eminence Choskyong Palga Rinpoche recommended conducting daily Puja ceremonies involving all sects and schools of Tibetan Buddhism in Ladakh, with LGA coordinating the arrangements. He further suggested holding at least two purification ceremonies at different locations (Leh Airport and Jivetsal) during the invitation and arrival of the holy relics.

## Experiential Engagements

- The Chief Secretary proposed that Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) and Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) organize an interfaith dialogue or seminar during the holy exposition, centered on the agreed event theme.
- It was suggested that experiential components may be incorporated at Mahabodhi, including curated spiritual experiences and a symbolic peace walk in Ladakh, inspired by similar initiatives undertaken internationally. CIBS was requested to extend invitations to distinguished guests and special participants for the event.
- It was agreed that efforts will be made to facilitate visits by Ambassadors and High Commissioners, particularly from Buddhist-majority and culturally aligned countries, during the exposition period. The UT Administration will undertake formal outreach to these diplomatic missions to encourage their participation and strengthen international engagement with the event.
- A series of knowledge sessions, seminars, and thematic conferences will also be explored in parallel, in collaboration with potential partners such as the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), Association of Buddhist Tour Operators (ABTO), the Ministry of Culture, and other relevant institutions.

## Security & Sanitation

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- Ladakh Police were directed to prepare a comprehensive security plan covering safe transportation, crowd management, and surveillance systems for the entire exposition period.
  - The Chief Secretary directed that a massive cleanliness drive be undertaken across Leh town and Deputy Commissioner, Leh was directed to divide the town into operational zones and assign responsibilities to the Municipal Committee, Army, ITBP, volunteers, and other stakeholders to ensure thorough preparation.

## Branding, Communications & Outreach

Regarding the selection of an agency for the branding work, the Chief Secretary emphasized that local firms should be prioritized for this assignment rather than engaging external agencies.

- After discussions, it was agreed that Flowering Dharma, which had voluntarily offered to undertake the branding responsibilities, would be entrusted with this task.
- This includes all design-related work, overall branding, creation of artwork and visual material for digital communication, development of a dedicated website, and other associated creative tasks.
- It was proposed that work on the website and promotional activities should begin promptly, with the aim of launching initial promotional efforts within the next 15 days.
- A suggestion was made to prepare a high-quality brochure for the event, which the Chief Secretary assured that it will be developed as part of the communication plan.

- A dedicated letterhead for this initiative will be prepared, following which outreach efforts may be activated to secure the participation of distinguished and high-profile individuals associated with the event's theme and objectives.

### **Tourism Promotion**

- The Chief Secretary instructed that a separate meeting be convened with the Hotel, Travel Agents, and Taxi Associations to streamline, coordinate, and strengthen overall tourist facilitation measures.
- Another meeting will also be held with the tourism stakeholders of Ladakh and the Association of Buddhist Tour Operators (ABTO) to align and finalize the promotional and outreach strategy for the event.
- The Taxi Union was directed to identify and designate appropriate pick-up and drop-off points to ensure smooth visitor movement and prevent any inconvenience to tourists during the exposition period.

### **Constitution of Sub-Committees**

To ensure smooth planning and execution of all components of the event, it was decided that multiple sub committees will be constituted, each responsible for a specific functional domain. The typical composition of each committee will include one designated government officer, representatives from LBA/LGA, aligned stakeholders, and when required, eminent Rinpoches, to enable joint coordination and timely decision making. Engineers from the concerned departments – SE Civil, Water Supply, and Electricity may also be included in the committee to provide technical oversight and ensure effective coordination of infrastructural requirements. The Chief Secretary directed that all committees should be constituted at the earliest, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The committees proposed are as follows:

- a) **Venue Operation Committee:** Responsible for venue preparation and operations, including venue management, sacred procession planning, logistics, volunteer coordination, and donations management.
- b) **Ceremonial & Spiritual Committee:** To oversee all spiritual and ceremonial aspects, including prayers, rituals, purification ceremonies, religious protocols, and offerings/donations.
- c) **Event Safety & Coordination Committee** (to be led by Ladakh Police): Responsible for crowd management, transport and mobility planning, security arrangements, traffic management, fire services, medical readiness, public safety, and emergency response mechanisms.
- d) **Seminar & Exhibition Committee** (to be led by Mahabodhi): Responsible for organizing the seminars, thematic exhibitions, speaker coordination, knowledge sessions, and scholarly interactions.
- e) **Municipal & Conservancy Management Committee** (to be led by DC Leh): To manage sanitation, waste management, cleanliness, municipal services, and public amenity upkeep during the event.

- f) **Tourism & Protocol Committee:** Focused on monastic tour curation, hospitality arrangements, delegation escorting, protocol management, and tourist facilitation services.
- g) **Media, Publication & Communications Committee:** Responsible for press coordination, publications, official communication, documentation, and public outreach.
- h) **Integrated Technical Committee:** To manage the event's technology infrastructure, digital systems, stage setup, sound and screening arrangements, and wireless communication systems.
- i) **Branding & Event Management Committee:** Responsible for all creative and branding work, including design, artwork creation, website development, printing, social media management, and event management coordination. To be supported by Flowering Dharma, which has volunteered to undertake branding, designing, digital communication artwork, website development, and other creative tasks.

#### **Nodal Officer and Follow-Up Actions**

- The Chief Secretary conveyed that Sh. Rigzin Samphel, IAS (Retd.), will serve as the Nodal Officer for the Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics, with overall responsibility for coordination, supervision, and execution of all event-related activities.
- A joint site visit with all concerned stakeholders is scheduled for 6 May 2026 to review the venue and finalize operational needs, following which specific operational details will be finalized. With regard to security arrangements, it was noted that the event is centered on Lord Buddha's message of peace, and therefore the need for unarmed security may be evaluated. The Chief Secretary directed that Ladakh Police will take an appropriate call based on security assessments.

The meeting concluded with a video featuring Buddhist monks on their walk across the USA with Aloka (Peace Dog), shared to inspire a similar initiative in Ladakh. The Chief Secretary thanked all participants and noted that follow-up meetings will be held periodically to review progress.

  
12-03-26  
**Atul Singh Mankotia (JKAS)**

अवर सचिव/Under Secretary

पर्यटन एवं संस्कृति विभाग/ **Tourism & Culture, Department**

संघ राज्य लद्दाख/ **UT Ladakh**

**Dated: 12.03.2026**

**Secy(Trm)(Buddha Relics)/2026/2822-44**

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