



Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh

Nation's first Black-Necked Crane Festival of Ladakh
Celebrating the World's only Alpine Crane

Date: 11th – 14th August 2026

Venue: Leh, Tso Kar and Hanely

Programme Schedule
(Version -As on 10-08-2026)

Day 1 - 11 August, 2026, Tuesday	
Time Slot	Inaugural Ceremony at Buddha Park, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh.
10:30 – 11:00 hrs	Arrival and reception of the Guests and VIPs.
11:00 hrs	Arrival and reception of the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh.
11:00 – 11:01 hrs	Chief Guest visiting the Exhibition on wildlife and then proceeding to the inauguration venue
11:01 – 11:05 hrs	Playing National Song.
11:05 – 11:06 hrs	Playing National Anthem.
11:06 – 11:08hrs	Welcome of the Chief Guest, VIPs, Lighting of the Lamp, Creation of Wetland of Hope, Felicitation of the Guests by presenting traditional khataks and mementos.
11:08 – 11:11 hrs	Welcome address by Ven Bikkhu Sangasena, Founder President and Spiritual Director, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh, Ladakh.
11:11 - 11:114 hrs	Festival briefing cum address by Shri Rajesh S. (IFS) Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests/ Chief Wildlife Warden, UT Ladakh
11:14 - 11:28 hrs	Signature Cultural Performances: 1. Black-necked Crane Dance by students of Mahabodhi International School, Leh, Ladakh, India 2. Black-necked Dance by students of the Govt. High School, Phobjikha Valley Bhutan (Visiting Ladakh on Cultural Exchange Programme) 3. Chartses Bird Dance performed by the Communities in Ladakh Welcoming the arrival of the Black-necked Crane – Presented by the Ladakh Art and Culture Society, Leh, Ladakh.
11:28 - 11: 30hrs	Address by Shri.George W. Archibald, Co-Founder, International Crane Foundation, USA
11:30 - 11:32 hrs	Address by Dr. Angela Musimbi Lusigi, Resident Representative, UNDP, New Delhi
11:32 – 11:35 hrs	Address by Shri. Ashish Kundra, IAS, Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Ladakh
11:35 - 11:37 hrs	Release of Knowledge products on Black-necked Crane: 1. Black-necked Crane: India Book 2. Black-necked Crane: Bhutan Book 3. Coffee Table Book on Black-necked Crane 4. Release of An Anthology On Life and Living of the Black-necked Crane in the High Himalayas 5. Bird Economy Status Report, Leh, Ladakh

	6. Release of a Special Postal Cover and cancellation in collaboration with India Post on Black-necked Crane 7. Presentation of certificate to the organizations under the Wetland Adoption Campaign 8. Community Conservation Pledge 9. Release of Ladakh Declaration for Black-necked Crane Conservation
11:37 - 11:44 hrs	Inaugural Address by Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh
11:44 - 11:46 hrs	Vote of thanks by Shri Amarjeet Kujur, IFS, Dy Conservator of Forests(Headquarters), Dept of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh.
11:46 - 11:50 hrs	Playing National Song.
11:50 – 11:51 hrs	Playing National Anthem.
11:51 hrs Onwards	High Tea , Departure of the Chief Guest, VIPs and Other Guests.

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Day 1 - 11 August, 2026, Tuesday	
Time Slot	Parallel Session-1 Roundtable on Black-necked Crane Conservation at Conference Hall, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh.
14:00 – 14:20 hrs	Registration of delegates and networking.
14:20 – 14:45 hrs	Inaugural Session Welcome Address by Ven Bikkhu Sangasena, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh Key Note Address focusing on Black-necked Crane Conservation Across the Himalayan Region: Achievements, Emerging Challenges and the Way Forward by International Crane Foundation. Inaugural Remarks by the Chief Guest, Sh. Rajesh S., IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Wildlife Warden, UT Ladakh
14:45 – 15:20 hrs	Technical Session I: Conservation Status Across the Species' Range Chair: Dr Mahindra Shreshta, Asia Regional Head, International Crane Foundation Invited presentations (8–10 minutes each): - India: Population status and conservation initiatives by Dr Pankaj Chandan, Senior Wildlife Conservation Scientists, International Crane Foundation / Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre - Bhutan: Community-based conservation and monitoring by Mr. Jigme Tsering, Chief of Conservation Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan - International perspective: Flyway conservation and global cooperation by Ms. Apporva, Consultant, Wetlands International South-Asia, New Delhi
15:20 – 16:05 hrs	Technical Session II: Science and Innovation for Black-necked Crane Conservation Chair: Dr VB Mathur, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India Invited presentations (8–10 minutes each): - Climate change and high-altitude wetlands by Prof. Ajay Taloor, Department of Environment and Remote Sensing, Jammu University - Satellite telemetry and movement ecology by Dr Suresh Kumar, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India - Wetland restoration and habitat management by Dr Ritesh Kumar, Director, Wetlands International South-Asia, New Delhi - Advances in population monitoring and ecological research by Dr Jitander Kaur, Director, Saras Conservation Society, Rajkot (TBC)
16:05 – 16:30 hrs	Tea Break & Networking

16:30 – 17:20 hrs	Technical Session 3: Building a Collaborative Conservation Framework for Black-necked Crane Moderated discussion involving representatives from MoEFCC, WII, Government of Ladakh, international experts, research institutions, NGOs and community representatives. Discussion themes: • Transboundary conservation cooperation by Prof. Dr Gargi Rana, Department of Environmental Science, Meruth University (TBC) • Research priorities for the next decade by Dr VB Mathur, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India • Community stewardship and sustainable livelihoods Ms. Lekyi Tsomu, Community Conservationist, Arunachal Pradesh.
17:20 – 17:30 hrs	Presentation and finalization of action plan by the Rapporteur (Dr Pankaj Chandan, Senior Wildlife Conservation Scientists, International Crane Foundation / Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre)
17:30 – 17:40 hrs	Valedictory Session: Closing remarks, vote of thanks and group photograph.

Day 1 - 11 August, 2026, Tuesday	
Time Slot	Parallel Session-2 Youth Conference on Black-necked Crane Asoka-Einstein Hall, Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Leh.
14:00 – 14:20 hrs	Registration and Networking
14:20 – 14:35 hrs	Inaugural Session Welcome Address by Sh. Ankit Sinha, IFS, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh Inaugural Address by Mrs. Bhanuprabha, Secretary, Education Department, UT Ladakh (TBC)
14:35 – 15:00 hrs	Session I: Short presentations (8–10 minutes each) • Presentation on Wildlife of Ladakh by Dr. Phunchok Dolma, Consultant, Wildlife Division, Leh • Presentation by Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh on Birds of Ladakh
15:00 – 15:40 hrs	Session II: Presentations by young researchers, innovators and bird enthusiasts. • Ms. Padma Dolma- Secondary Section - Moravian Mission High School, Leh • Ms. Yasmeen Fatima – Secondary Section - Islamia Public School, Leh

	• Ms. Jisket Angmo- Undergraduate Programme - Punjab University, Chandigarh • Ms. Thenlas Angmo- Undergraduate Programme - School of agriculture sciences and technology, University of Ladakh • Mr. Urgain Raftan- Secondary Section- Government Higher Secondary School, Leh
15:40 – 16:00 hrs	Poster Presentation and Interaction followed by Youth Pledge
16:00 – 16:30 hrs	Tea Break & Networking
16:30 – 17:00 hrs	Youth Action Lab Chairperson: George Archibald Participants divide into four facilitated groups: Group 1: Protecting High-Altitude Wetlands Group 2: Citizen Science and Digital Innovation Group 3: Conservation Communication and Youth Outreach Group 4: Community Stewardship and Sustainable Tourism
17:00 – 17:20 hrs	Group Presentations Each group presents: • Three priority actions for youth • One collaborative conservation initiative • Recommendations for strengthening youth participation in Black-necked Crane conservation
17:20 – 17:30 hrs	Valedictory Session Concluding remarks and vote of thanks.

Day 1 - 11 August, 2026, Tuesday	
Time Slot	Parallel Session-3 Student Nature Programme at Choglamsar Protected Forest, Leh
14:00 – 17:00 hrs	• Bird Race • Bird Treasure Hunt • Painting Competition

Day 1 - 11 August, 2026, Tuesday	
Time Slot	Parallel Session-4 Visit to Matho Wetland (Parallel Session 4)
14:00 – 17:00 hrs	• Matho Wetland developed by the UT administration of Ladakh • Matho Monastery • Thiksay Monastery

Day 2- 12 August, 2026, Wednesday	
Festival Activities in the forenoon session	
08:00 – 12:00 hrs	Travel to Tsokar Ramsar Site for festival activities
Activities in the Afternoon	
12:00 – 13:00 hrs	Arrive at Tsokar, Rest and Lunch
13:00 – 17:00 hrs	Station 1: Meet the Black-necked Crane Visitors learn about Black-necked Crane from life size models, touch screen and interactive maps.
	Station 2: Community Knowledge Circle Visitors get to interact with Changa pastoralist, village elders, Monks, BMCs etc. by sharing experiences and storytelling.
	Station 3: Art for Conservation Artist's Centre to create/ showcase ☐ live painting ☐ pottery ☐ Handlooms
18:00 – 19:00 hrs	Station 4: Community Eco-Market Local handicrafts ☐ Organic local produce and traditional food stalls.
	Station 5: Students Nature Camp Bird Race ☐ Bird Treasure Hunt ☐ Painting Competition
19:00 – 20:00 hrs	Cultural Evening by Tsokar Youth group and woman alliance group. • Jabro Dance • Modern Dance • Cultural Dance
19:00 – 20:00 hrs	Dinner and Rest

Day 3 - 13 August, 2026, Thursday	
Festival Activities in the forenoon session	
06:00 – 09:00 hrs	Birding Session in the BNC Habitat led by Birds Club of Ladakh, Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Chennai and Goa Photography Masterclass led by Birds Club of Ladakh, Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Chennai and Goa
09:00 – 10:00 hrs	Breakfast
11:00 – 13:00 hrs	Conservation Marathon moderated by the Birds club of Ladakh, Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Chennai and Goa Instead of a normal run, every checkpoint includes a conservation task: ☐ Bird identification ☐ Habitat mapping ☐ Waste collection ☐ Quiz Participants earn points based on conservation performance rather than speed.
13:00 – 14:00 hrs	Lunch at Tsokar
Festival Activities in the afternoon session	
14:00 hrs	Travel to Hanle
17:00 hrs	Arrive at Hanle
19:30 – 21:00 hrs	Night Sky Observation at Hanley

Day 4 - 14 August, 2026, Thursday Festival Activities	
06:00 – 09:00 hrs	Early Morning Birding Session in the BNC Habitat Birding Session led by expert birders of Birds Club of Ladakh, Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Chennai and Goa near Hanle Marshes. Photography Masterclass led by Birds Club of Ladakh, Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Chennai and Goa near Hanle Marshes. Mentored by Birds Club of Ladakh
09:00 – 10:00 hrs	Breakfast
Festival Activities in the afternoon session	
10:30 – 13:00 hrs	Station 1: Community Eco-Market Local handicrafts, Organic local produce and traditional food stalls. Station 2: Students Nature Camp ☐ Bird Race ☐ Bird Treasure Hunt ☐ Painting Competition Station 3: Bird Clubs Meet Participated by Birds Club of Ladakh, Delhi, Kashmir, Jammu, Chennai and Goa. Each club presents one successful conservation initiative that can be adapted for Ladakh. Formation of the "Ladakh Bird Conservation Network" By Establishing a collaborative platform for annual monitoring, research, and awareness programmes. Participating agencies -DoFEE, WCBCL, UoL, NCF, SLC-IT, bird clubs in the sister States/UTs etc.
13:00 - 14:00 hrs	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00 hrs	Leisure time at Hanle
Festival Activities in the evening session	
16:00 - 19:00 hrs	Visit to Kalaktartar (Wildlife Spotting Session)
1900 hrs onwards	Stay at Hanley and leave for Leh on 15 th August 2026

PARALLEL CULTURAL EVENTS AT LEH

Day 1 - 11 August, 2026, Tuesday	
Time Slot	Cultural Evening
19:00 – 22.00 hrs	Crane Music Festival at Sindhu Ghat 1. Lharna Music 2. Skit on Black Necked Crane Conservation and Awareness by Ranthak troop 3. Spao Dance by Ladakh Arts and Culture Society 4. Ladakhi Hip-Hop Fusion Dance by Ladakh Dance Academy 5. Poem Recital by Jigmet on Black Necked Crane 6. Jabro Dance by Ladakh Arts and Culture Society 7. Bhangra Hip-hop fusion Dance by Ladakh Dance Academy 8. Shina Dance by Shina Culture Arts 9. Chabskyan Dance by Ladakh Arts and Culture Society 10. Ladakhi and Nepali Fusion by Ladakh Dance Academy 11. Shina Dance by Shina Culture Arts 12. Aly Yato dance by Ladakh Arts and Culture Society 13. Hip-hop and house Dance by Ladakh Dance Academy 14. Fashion Show on Pashmina Products from Changthang Highlands by Utpala 15. Sadiq Ali Ashoor & Group (Balti Singer) 16. Live Music Concert by Faisal Ashoor and Band 17. Live Music Concert by Dashugs Band

Day 3 - 13 August, 2026, Thursday	
Time Slot	Cultural Evening
19:00 – 22.00 hrs	Crane Music Festival at Leh Market 1. Larna (Musical Offering) 2. Spawo Warrior dance 3. Shondol (Royal dance) by female artist. 4. Chabskyan dance 5. Aly yato dance 6. Bollywood Dance by Fit Station Ladakh. 7. Jabro dance 8. Modern Ladakhi dance by Fit Station Ladakh. 9. Tashispa dance 10. One-hour Live music concert by Shava Band

12 - 14 August, 2026, Thursday	
Time Slot 15:00 – 20:00 hrs	Exhibition on Wildlife Biodiversity Themes at Leh Market Organized by Birds Club of Ladakh