

FIRST CIRCULAR

National Seminar on Medicinal Plants conservation and Management: Trans Himalayan Perspective

(Three-day seminar: 28/29/30 August 2025)



Ephedra gerardiana



Aster flaccidus



Cremanthodium arnicoides



Delphinium cashmerianum



Arnebia euchroma



Dactylorhiza hatagirea

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Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh
Leh, Ladakh

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Scientist cum Assistant Professor
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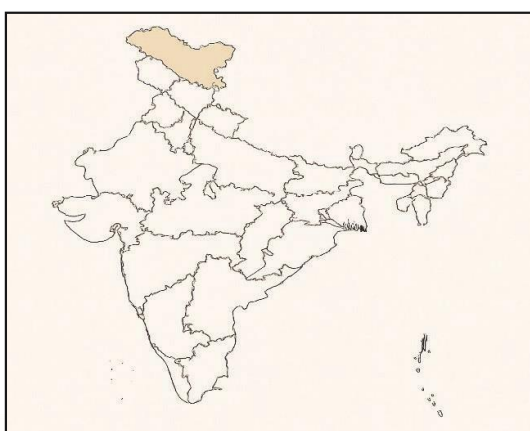
Dr. Anwar Hussain
Scientist cum Assistant Professor SAST,
Leh, UOL, Ladakh

Dr. Sonam Spaldon
Scientist cum Assistant Professor SAST,
Leh, UOL, Ladakh

About the venue— **Leh, Ladakh**

Leh, located in the union territory of Ladakh in northern India, is a land of striking natural beauty and cultural heritage. Surrounded by the mighty Himalayas and Karakoram ranges, it features barren yet majestic mountains, deep valleys, and high-altitude deserts. Leh, the largest town, serves as a gateway for visitors drawn to the area's ancient monasteries, Buddhist culture, and opportunities for trekking, mountaineering, and spiritual retreats. The region's unique mix of Tibetan Buddhism and traditional Ladakhi culture makes it a fascinating destination.

The region is home to unique flora and fauna adapted to its harsh climate. Despite the cold and dry conditions, Ladakh supports a variety of flora and fauna, which are source of basic livelihood in major part of the Ladakh.



How to reach Leh

Air: The nearest Domestic Airport is at the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, which is 2.5 km away from the main city.

Road: Leh is also well connected to the other cities of the country by road and is approx. 472 km from Manali and about 432 km from Srinagar. Both the cities are connected to Leh via National Highways i.e. NH1 from Srinagar and NH3 from Manali.

Weather

The weather during August will be pleasant with cool breeze and beautiful green landscape. The temperature during August will range from 15°C to 20°C. Kindly carry light sweaters or shawls.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be arranged on payment basis in hotels and guest houses at Leh. The hotel/guest house accommodation tariff varies from 2500-10000 per person/day with meals included.

Correspondence related to National Seminar

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Address of the Conference Secretariat

**School of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Leh, University of
Ladakh Stakna - 194201, Leh, UT Ladakh**

Funding Agency:

Ministry of Ayush National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)

Brochure:

National Seminar on Medicinal Plants Conservation and Management: Trans-Himalayan Perspective

Organized by:

School of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SAST), University of Ladakh, Stakna, Leh
(formerly High Mountain Arid Agriculture Research Institute – SKUAST-K)

Dates: 28/29/30 August 2025

Venue: Stakna Campus, Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The cold desert region of Ladakh is a reservoir of rare, endemic, and climate-resilient medicinal plants. These high-altitude species are not only vital to traditional health systems such as Sowa-Rigpa, but also offer immense potential for sustainable livelihoods and pharmacological research.

This National Seminar on Medicinal Plants Conservation and Management: Trans-Himalayan Perspective seeks to bring together researchers, academicians, traditional healers, policymakers, and community stakeholders to explore pathways for the conservation, sustainable use, and promotion of Trans-Himalayan medicinal flora.

Seminar Objectives

- Highlight the ecological and medicinal significance of Trans-Himalayan flora
- Promote documentation and preservation of traditional knowledge
- Encourage community-based and policy-driven conservation models
- Identify research gaps and foster interdisciplinary collaboration
- Explore commercialization potential and value chain development

Major Themes

1. Medicinal Plant Diversity and Conservation in Cold Deserts
2. Ethnobotany and Traditional Knowledge Systems
3. Climate Change and Its Impact on High-Altitude Flora
4. Sustainable Harvesting and Cultivation Techniques
5. Conservation Policies, Certification, and Value Addition
6. Community Involvement and Knowledge Integration
7. Post-harvest management and value addition

Call for Papers

Abstracts are invited from researchers, scholars, and practitioners. Selected papers will be presented during technical sessions and considered for publication.

Abstract of 250-300 words and full length paper (including references) in PDF and word formats to be sent.

Format of the Paper

Full paper : 2500- 3000 words, excluding the references.

Font : Times New Roman

Title : 12 font size **Body** : 12 font size

Sub-title : 12 font size **Line spacing** : 1.5

Abstract Submission Deadline: **20th August 2025**

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- **Certificates will be awarded to the paper presenters and participants attending all the sessions of the Conference and have submitted the conference registration fee.**

About the venue— **Stakna, Leh-Ladakh**

A Trans-Himalayan Hub of Medicinal Plant Diversity

Leh, the headquarters of the Union Territory of Ladakh, lies in the heart of the Trans-Himalayan region — a unique ecological zone known for its fragile environment and rich repository of high-altitude medicinal plants. Located at an altitude of around 3,500 meters (11,500 feet), Leh is surrounded by stark mountain ranges and cold desert valleys, creating distinctive microclimates that support rare, endemic, and climate-resilient medicinal flora. The region is home to valuable medicinal species such as *Arnebia euchroma* (Ratanjot), *Ephedra gerardiana*, *Rhodiola* spp., and the highly prized Seabuckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*). These plants play a critical role in both traditional healthcare systems and modern phytotherapy, making Ladakh a living laboratory for studying sustainable conservation and utilization of mountain biodiversity.

Leh also reflects a deep connection between nature and culture, as seen in the Tibetan Buddhist traditions that promote harmony with the environment. Monasteries like Hemis, Thiksey, and Lamayuru have long preserved traditional knowledge systems, including the Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine, which relies heavily on local herbs. The region's geographical isolation, high-altitude stressors, and growing anthropogenic pressures make it an ideal location to discuss challenges and strategies for medicinal plant conservation, community-led resource management, and policy integration. In this context, Leh Ladakh serves as a relevant and inspiring setting for a national dialogue on medicinal plant conservation and management from a Trans-Himalayan perspective.

About the Host Institute: SAST – University of Ladakh

The School of Agriculture Science & Technology (SAST), University of Ladakh, is located in Stakna village, approximately 30 km from Leh town, offering a tranquil and conducive environment for academic and research activities in high-altitude agriculture. Formerly known as the High Mountain Arid Agriculture Research Institute (HMAARI), SKUAST-K, the institute has its origins as the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Leh, established in 1989 under the National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) of SKUAST, Kashmir. Experimental research began in 1992 at the Department of Agriculture farm in Thiksey. A dedicated area of 300 acres was later allotted under the Igoo-Phey Irrigation Canal, where research activities commenced at full scale after irrigation facilities were established in 1993–94.

Since 2005, all research activities have been consolidated at the Stakna farm, which now serves as the main campus. The institute was later integrated into the University of Ladakh, after UT declaration and continues to serve as a center of excellence for agricultural research, education, and outreach in the cold desert region.



SAS&T offers a range of academic programs tailored to the region's needs, including:

- Basic Horticulture Training (BHT)
- Basic Agriculture Training (BAT)
- B.Sc. (Honors) in Agriculture

The campus, spread over 126 hectares, hosts:

- Administrative and Academic Buildings
- Staff Quarters & Student Hostels
- Guest Houses & Laboratories
- Research and Seed Production Farms
- Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC)
- Medicinal Plant Unit
- Farm Machinery Unit
- Agro-Meteorological Field Unit (AMFU)
- Agro-Forestry Unit
- Seed Processing Units
- Camp Office in Housing Colony, Leh

SAS&T is actively engaged in several in-house and externally funded research projects, many of which aim to address the unique challenges of farming in high-altitude, arid ecosystems.

A significant focus is on improving crop productivity, conserving agrobiodiversity, and promoting sustainable use of indigenous medicinal plants, making it a fitting host for this National Seminar. Through its academic, research, and extension efforts, the school is playing a crucial role in strengthening the livelihoods of local farming communities across Ladakh.

Registration Fee Details

Category	Fee Before Aug 15	Late Fee After Aug 15
Students and research scholar (field visit not included)	₹ 500	₹ 1000
Scientists and Academicians	₹ 1000	₹ 1500
Corporate/ Industry representatives	₹ 2000	₹ 2500



Includes seminar kit, meals, certificate, and field visit.

Registration Link

<https://forms.gle/PTqL35jkQFSk1KaZ8>

Mode of Payment

Registration fee can be paid through RTGS/Google Pay.

Cash will be paid at the time of Registration.

Name of Beneficiary: Revolving Fund

Name of the Bank: J & K Bank Ltd

Account No: 0069040500001121

Branch: LEH

IFSC: JAKA0PRIEST

Contact Details

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