



# UNIVERSITY OF LADAKH KARGIL CAMPUS

## Press Release

Dated: 10-03-2023

### **Extension Lecture on “*Cryosphere dynamics and socio-hydrological interactions: toward an integrated perspective of environment and development in Ladakh*”**

#### **Resource Persons:**

- **Prof. (Dr.) Marcus Nüsser**, Head of the Geography Department, SAI, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- **Dr. Susanne Schmit**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, SAI, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- **Dr. Mohd Soheb**, Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Geography, SAI, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh in collaboration with Department of Geography, South Asia Institute (SAI), Heidelberg University, Germany organized an Extension Lecture on “*Cryosphere dynamics and socio-hydrological interactions: toward an integrated perspective of environment and development in Ladakh*” on 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. Invited dignitaries from Department of Geography, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany **Prof. (Dr.) Marcus Nüsser, Dr. Susanne Schmidt and Dr. Mohd Soheb** were the resource person of the extension Lecture. Honorable Vice Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof. S.K. Mehta and Prof. Neena Mehta, Dean Academic Affairs, Rayat Bahra University were the special guests on the occasion.

At the onset, Worthy Rector, Kargil Campus, University of Ladakh Ms. Kaneez Fatima, welcomed the dignitaries with traditional Ladakhi Khattaks. In her welcome address, she expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the dignitaries from Heidelberg University for coming all the way from Germany to the Kargil Campus. Worthy Rector called the occasion as historic and extremely significant for both students and faculty members of the campus. She made a special mention of the untiring efforts made by Hon’ble VC, UOL in making the event possible and for signing MOU with the Heidelberg University, Germany.

Honorable Vice-Chancellor University of Ladakh in his opening remarks said that, it is a great opportunity for us to host the distinguished faculties from abroad. He stressed that this the MOU between the two universities will be very fruitful for students and faculty and this collaboration will grow more and more through means of research in Ladakh region. He assured to arrange such valuable interaction lecture in future too.

The programme was then followed by an extensive talk on the theme of the extension lecture where, Prof. Marcus and his team highlighted some pertinent issues of Ladakh region like food security, land use dynamics, irrigation, water availability and scarcity. They also focused on historical aspects of Ladakh region to better understand dynamics of Glaciers. Further, they stressed upon the use of Remote Sensing datasets to detect recent changes and historical phases of urban expansion with particular focus on social-hydrology. They explained the impact of climate change on glaciers dynamics and how it led to increasing chances of Glof events in recent years. They also discussed about the anthropogenic



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impacts on Cryosphere components with high variability. They emphasized that the carrying capacity of the region in terms of urbanization and tourist influx after 1974 has crossed the limits and will lead to accelerated rate of degradation of the region. They stressed on the need of harvesting of ice using traditional water harvesting techniques like by construction of mini check dams in catchment areas of rivers. After the talk, a special session for question and answers took place where, students and faculty members interacted with speakers by raising their queries and were enriched by distinguished guests with their in-depth knowledge and wisdom.

At last Dr. Mohd Issa presented the formal vote of thanks to the dignitaries, faculty members and all the participant students of the programme.

### **Convener**

Kargil Campus  
University of Ladakh