

MoS Sports Raksha Khadse Concludes Three-Day Visit to Ladakh Border Villages under Vibrant Village Programme; Interacts with Youth, ITBP Personnel and Local Communities

Youth Empowerment, Border Development and National Integration at the Core of Strategic Frontier Visit

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Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Smt. Raksha Khadse, successfully concluded a three-day visit to strategically significant border areas of Ladakh from June 11 to 13, 2026 under the Vibrant Village Programme. The visit underscored the Government of India's commitment to strengthening border villages through youth participation, community engagement and last-mile development, while reinforcing coordination with security forces deployed in frontier regions.

The visit also highlighted the growing role of MY Bharat in mobilising youth participation, nurturing leadership and creating opportunities for young citizens in remote border areas to contribute actively to nation-building.



During the visit, the Minister was accompanied by Smt. Tazmul Ara, State Director, MY Bharat; Shri Nitish Rajora, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Changthang; Shri Tashi Namgyal, DIG, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP); Shri Priyanjan, Deputy Commandant, ITBP; and other senior officials and dignitaries.

Tribute to India's Bravehearts at Hall of Fame

The visit commenced on June 11 with a visit to the iconic Hall of Fame in Leh. Smt. Raksha Khadse paid homage to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in defence of the nation. She observed that the courage, discipline and patriotism displayed by India's Armed Forces continue to inspire every citizen and strengthen the nation's resolve.



The Minister also viewed exhibits depicting the valour, sacrifices and operational achievements of the Armed Forces in safeguarding India's borders under challenging conditions.

Youth Engagement and Community Participation in Hemya Village

On June 12, Smt. Raksha Khadse visited the border village of Hemya, where she received a traditional welcome under the aegis of MY Bharat. The programme featured vibrant cultural performances by local artists and school children, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Ladakh.

Young participants associated with the Vibrant Village initiative shared their experiences, aspirations and ideas for strengthening development opportunities in border villages. The interaction provided an important platform for understanding local perspectives and encouraging greater youth participation in community development and nation-building efforts.



On the occasion, Smt. Raksha Khadse felicitated DIG ITBP Shri Tashi Namgyal, Deputy Commandant Shri Priyanjan, the village Sarpanch and local artists for their valuable contributions towards community development, youth engagement and national integration.

The Minister also interacted informally with MY Bharat volunteers, youth participants and members of the local community at the residence of the village Sarpanch, where discussions centred on opportunities for youth empowerment, skill development, sports participation and community-led development.

Special Interaction with ITBP Personnel

Following the village programme, Smt. Raksha Khadse visited the ITBP camp and interacted with officers and personnel deployed in the region. Addressing the Himveers, she commended the force for its exceptional dedication, resilience and service in some of the country's most demanding operational environments.



She noted that the contribution of the ITBP extends beyond border security and plays a vital role in supporting development initiatives, facilitating connectivity and strengthening confidence among border communities. The Minister also appreciated the force's active support in the successful implementation of the Vibrant Village Programme and other developmental efforts in remote frontier areas.

Visit to Thiksey Monastery

On the final day of the visit, June 13, the Minister visited the revered Thiksey Monastery and participated in the morning prayers. She interacted with members of the monastic community and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and continued progress of the nation.

Minister's Message

Speaking at the conclusion of the visit, Smt. Raksha Khadse said:

“Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, India's border villages are emerging as the nation's first villages and gateways of development. Empowering youth in these frontier regions through sports, skill development, community participation and nation-building initiatives remains a key priority of the Government. The energy of our youth and the dedication of our security forces will play a vital role in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.”

She further added:

“The youth of our border villages are not merely beneficiaries of development; they are active partners in building a strong, self-reliant and developed India. Through initiatives such as MY Bharat and the Vibrant Village Programme, we are creating opportunities that enable them to contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.”



About the Vibrant Village Programme

The Vibrant Village Programme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at improving the quality of life in villages along the northern border through enhanced infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, connectivity, public services and community participation. The programme seeks to ensure inclusive development while strengthening the social and economic fabric of frontier regions.

The three-day visit demonstrated the Government's integrated approach towards border area development by bringing together local communities, youth organisations, civil administration and security forces. It also reinforced the role of MY Bharat as a powerful platform for connecting young citizens from remote regions with the national development agenda and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

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