

Army takes defence attaches of 22 nations on Leh 'familiarisation tour'

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New Delhi: The Army took defence and military attaches from 22 countries like the US, Russia, France and Australia on a tour to Leh and surrounding areas close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China for the first time this month to "familiarise them" with the prevailing situation in the forward areas.

"It's part of our outreach to the defence attaches posted in their embassies in India. The aim was to familiarise them with the challenges and the operating environment in the border areas and enhance mutual understanding between the Indian Army and their armies, apart from showcasing the diverse cultural heritage of our country," said a senior officer.

The October 15-18 tour included a briefing at the 14 Corps headquarters at Leh,



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which is tasked with guarding the LAC with China in eastern Ladakh as well as the Siachen Glacier-Saltoro Ridge and Kargil, Dras and Batalik areas facing Pakistan.

The foreign service attaches on the Leh trip also included those from countries like Hungary, Singapore, Korea, Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa, among others. "Apart from Army formations, they were also taken to Pangong Tso, Zorawar Fort, Hemis monastery, Pathar Sahib gurudwara and Sangam confluence of Zaskar and Indus rivers," he said.