



REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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OCTOBER 16-31, 2025



In Conversation with

Champspa Rinchen Dorje, Graphic Designer

In Focus:

September 24 violence in Ladakh: How SNM Hospital managed the crisis

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REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Published at:
Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter
Contact: +91 9858394403
+91 8899418322

Printed at:
Ala Printing Press
3636 Katra Dina Baig
Lal Quan Delhi -110006

Wheels of change: How skateboarding is transforming youth culture in Ladakh

Despite challenges and no skatepark, young Ladakhis are building a movement that blends resilience, creativity, and mountain spirit

By: Stanzin Norzom

LEH: Once known mainly for its majestic landscapes, ancient monasteries, and the serene chants of monks, Ladakh is now reverberating with a new sound the rhythmic clack of skateboard wheels. Across Leh and its surrounding regions, a growing number of young people are embracing skateboarding, transforming streets into makeshift skate spots and forging a passionate community that thrives despite the odds.

From skating in Leh Market to representing Ladakh at national competitions, skateboarding is becoming more than just a hobby for Ladakhi youth it's becoming a way of life.

The skateboarding scene in Ladakh owes much to two determined individuals Adnan Zayed and Jigmet Wangchuk.

Adnan, from Choglamsar, is recognized as the first skateboarder in Ladakh. His journey began in 2012 after being inspired by the video game Tony Hawk's Pro Skater.

"One of my friends showed me the game, and I got really interested," Adnan recalls. "I asked my brother to buy me a skateboard from Delhi, and that's how it all started."

Over 11 years later, Adnan has become a mentor and an

inspiration to many young skaters. His favorite trick the 360 flip, a challenging move where the board spins 360 degree and flips at the same time reflects both skill and style. "Skateboarding teaches me commitment and progress," he says. "It's fun and helps create a stress-free environment."

He remembers how people initially reacted with curiosity. "At first, people liked it because I was the only one doing it. But when more skateboarders joined in, the public reaction changed. Some started complaining, thinking it was a nuisance or vandalism."

Despite public criticism, Adnan's family remained supportive. "They were worried about injuries but never stopped me," he says.

Now, Adnan teaches younger skaters starting with the basics before moving on to advanced street-skating techniques. "There are many forms of skateboarding park skating, ramp skating but in Ladakh, we mostly do street skateboarding," he explains. The group even runs an Instagram page, @ladakhskateboarding, to share their journey.

Adnan has also represented Ladakh in skateboarding events across India, from Delhi to Bangalore, often

paying his own way to participate. "The Indian skate community is very supportive," he says. "Even though we're from a remote region, they always welcome us. Right now, we have about 15 to 16 skateboarders in Ladakh."

But it's not easy. The streets of Leh are often uneven and crowded. There are no ramps or rails. And the police, responding to public complaints, sometimes confiscate boards. "We've even ended up at the police station," We are not allowed to skate in public spaces anymore.

From Tirith village in Nubra Valley, Jigmet Wangchuk is another rising name in Ladakh's skateboarding community. Unlike Adnan, Jigmet discovered skateboarding later in life.

"I bought my first skateboard in 5th grade, but I really got into it when I was in 12th," Jigmet says. "During the COVID lockdowns, I started learning tricks on YouTube and realized it was more than just rolling around."

By 2020, Jigmet had connected with other skateboarders in



Photo Caption: Adnan Zayed and Jigmet Wangchuk while skateboarding.

In 2024, Jigmet again represented Ladakh at the Nationals in Bangalore, alongside skaters Wangdae Gyatso and Norboo. Despite lacking access to professional facilities, the Ladakhi team performed on par with athletes who trained at world-class skateparks. "It was surreal," Jigmet says. "We practiced on streets full of cracks and slopes, but somehow, we held our own."

The biggest hurdle Ladakhi skateboarders face is the lack of Skate park. Without a skatepark, they're forced to practice on the streets — often leading to conflicts with locals and authorities.

"Older generations don't understand skateboarding," says Jigmet. "They think it's dangerous or useless. My own family didn't support me at first. My dad never even bought me a skateboard. But after I competed at Nationals, his attitude changed a bit."

In early 2025, thanks to efforts by the NGO CT Kids (Chispay Tolop Khang Library), Ladakhi skaters finally got the attention of local authorities. The CEC of Ladakh, Tashi Gyalson, promised to fund a skatepark and even allocated land in Solar Colony. However, construction has yet to begin.

"There's hope," Jigmet says with a smile. "But we're still

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Fortnightly News

Wheels of change: How skateboarding is transforming youth culture in Ladakh

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waiting.”

In a region where temperatures drop below -20°C in winter and oxygen levels are low year-round, skating itself is an act of endurance. “The altitude makes it tough,” Jigmet explains. “Skaters from other parts of India struggle when they visit. But for us locals, it builds stamina and strength.”

They even have their own lingo for the thrill of the slopes. “When we skate down steep roads, we call it a hill bomb,” says Jigmet. “It’s scary but addictive.”

Both Adnan and Jigmet see skateboarding as much more than a physical pursuit it’s a source of peace, patience, and self-expression.

“Skating helped me deal with stress and gave me patience,” says Jigmet. “It teaches you that you’ll get it when you get it. Even if it takes weeks to land a trick, once you do, it feels amazing.”

Adnan says. “When you finally land a trick you’ve been practicing for weeks, that moment of success is everything.”

While Adnan dreams of joining more competitions soon, Jigmet balances his passion for skateboarding with his farming project, NGA-TI Farm, where he cultivates mushrooms and promotes local agriculture. “I’m a farmer and a

skateboarder,” he says. “When I’m in Nubra, I focus on farming. When I’m in Leh, I skate. It’s all about balance.”

Despite the challenges, both skaters see skateboarding as a source of balance mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

In recent years, the number of skateboarders in Ladakh has quietly grown. Many young children now recognize Adnan and Jigmet from Instagram or YouTube. Some approach them in Leh Market, asking to try a board. Others borrow old decks to learn their first push.

Social media has become a lifeline for this isolated community. Through reels and short clips, Ladakhi skaters showcase their progress sometimes using borrowed cameras or phones. “If someone wants to go professional, they can send videos to brands for sponsorship,” Adnan explains. “In India, it’s still a small scene, but opportunities are growing. Contests are becoming bigger every year.”

Across India, the sport is gaining recognition, especially after skateboarding’s debut at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Cities like Bangalore and Pune now host regular competitions, and NGOs are building skateparks in rural areas. Yet in Ladakh, the movement is still in its infancy.

That’s precisely what makes it special raw, self-taught, and full of heart.

For Ladakh’s skateboarders, this culture is not

just about tricks or trophies it’s about identity. It’s a way to express creativity in a place often defined by stillness and silence.

Adnan believes skateboarding connects Ladakhi youth with the wider world. “It’s a universal language,” he says. “You don’t need words just your board.

Jigmet says. “It’s not about showing off,” he says softly. “It’s about freedom. When I’m skating, everything else disappears the worries, the noise, the expectations. It’s just me and the board.”

Both dream of a day when Leh has its own skatepark, where kids can learn safely and freely. “If we get a proper space,” Jigmet says, “I’d love to coach children and help build a real skateboarding culture here. It’s not about money or fame it’s about joy.”

From Choglamsar to Nubra, these young dreamers are carving their own paths quite literally on four wheels. In a place defined by mountains, they’ve found movement. In a land known for its stillness, they’ve found speed. And in a world that often overlooks them, they’ve built a community rooted in courage, creativity, and connection.

As Adnan puts it simply, “Skateboarding gave us a voice. It taught us that even in a place like Ladakh, you can roll forward if you just keep pushing.”

Peace meeting held in Leh following September 24 incident; Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal leads deliberations



Photo Caption: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chairing Peace Coordination Meeting with all stakeholders in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, chaired a Peace Coordination Meeting to deliberate on the recent unfortunate incident of September 24 and its aftermath.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Kotwal highlighted that Ladakh has always been known for its peace, patriotism, harmony, unique culture, and hospitality, which draw people from across the world. Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss of four lives, he assured that the UT Administration stands firmly with the people of Ladakh and is committed to restoring normalcy at the earliest.

The meeting began with a two-minute silence in memory of the deceased citizens.

Prominent religious and political leaders, including Apex Body President Thupstan Chhewang, Chering Dorje Lakruk, Ashraf Ali Barcha, and Abdul Qayoom, extended condolences to the bereaved families. They called for a judicial inquiry into the September 24 incident and urged the release of innocent youths currently in police custody. The leaders also demanded adequate financial compensation for the victims’ families, many of whom come from middle-class backgrounds.

The leaders jointly condemned sections of the mainstream media for portraying Ladakhis as “anti-national,” emphasizing the region’s historic contributions to the nation, including over 600 gallantry awards earned by its citizens. They reiterated collective demands for Sixth Schedule safeguards and statehood for Ladakh, urging the early resumption of talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Leh, expressed that while the loss of lives cannot be undone, constructive dialogue with the Government of India must continue to bridge the trust deficit. He stressed that the LAHDC Councils should serve as a vital bridge between the government and the public, ensuring transparency and sincerity in all deliberations.

Dr. Kotwal reaffirmed the UT Administration’s commitment to peace, justice, and the welfare of Ladakh’s citizens. He noted that the Government of India has already addressed key issues such as domicile and job reservation and expressed optimism that remaining demands would be resolved soon to restore lasting peace and harmony in the region.

The Chief Secretary also directed the immediate restoration of internet services in Leh.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Thiksey Rinpoche; H.E. Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche; Thupstan Chhewang, President, Apex Body; Chering Dorje Lakruk, President, LBA Leh; Adv. Tashi Gyalson, CEC, LAHDC Leh; Ven. Dorjay Stanzin, President, Ladakh Gonpa Association; Abdul Qayoom, President, Anjuman Moin-ul-Islam; Ashraf Ali Barcha, President, Anjuman Imamia; Sonam Parvez, President, Christian Association; Thinles Nurbu, Vice President, Youth Wing, LBA; Motup, Member, Leh Apex Body; Stanzin Onpo, Member, Leh Apex Body; Gelek, Member, Leh Apex Body; Tsering Namgyal, Councillor, Lower Leh and Leader of Opposition; Tashi Gyalson, State President, BJP; Tsering Phuntsok, State President, AAP; and P.T. Kunzang, BJP.

Ladakh witnesses first-ever Retinal Laser procedure at SNM hospital



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a landmark achievement for the Union Territory of Ladakh, SNM Hospital, Leh, successfully performed its first-ever retinal laser procedure, marking a significant advancement in specialized eye care for the region.

The pioneering procedure, known as Sectoral Panretinal Photocoagulation (PRP), was carried out by Dr. Qamar Nauman Jawaid, Vitreoretina and Phaco Surgeon. The procedure was performed on a patient diagnosed with Branched Retinal Vein Occlusion (BRVO) in the left eye, accompanied by subhyaloid hemorrhage, a condition linked to long-standing hypertension and borderline homocysteinemia.

With proper consent, the laser treatment was conducted at 153 General Hospital, Leh, ensuring the patient received timely care locally without the need to travel to distant referral centers.

“This is a critical step forward in making advanced retinal care accessible locally,” said Dr. Qamar. “The ability to perform such procedures in Ladakh will help prevent avoidable blindness and reduce the burden on patients who

previously had to seek treatment outside the region.”

Sectoral PRP is a vision-saving laser procedure commonly used to manage retinal vascular diseases. It works by reducing the risk of further retinal bleeding and progressive vision loss, particularly in conditions such as diabetic retinopathy and vein occlusions.

This medical milestone reflects the growing capabilities of Ladakh’s healthcare system and reaffirms the commitment to enhancing tertiary eye care services in remote and high-altitude regions.

The SNM Hospital team extended heartfelt gratitude to Brigadier Rajan Kapoor, VSM, and Major Kapil Joshi, Gd (Spl) Ophthalmologist of 153 General Hospital, Leh, for their valuable support in facilitating this historic procedure.

Tripartite MoU signed for establishment and operation of dog pound at Thiksey, Leh



Photo Caption: Signing of the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Municipal Committee, Leh, Thiksey Monastery, and the Chamba Animal Welfare Society, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a significant step toward strengthening animal welfare and managing stray dogs in the Union Territory of Ladakh, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on October 10 between the Municipal Committee, Leh, Thiksey Monastery, and the Chamba Animal Welfare Society, Leh for the construction, establishment, operation, and

management of a Dog Pound facility at Thiksey, Leh. The MoU was signed in the presence of Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development / Tourism & Culture Department, UT Ladakh.

Under the agreement, the Municipal Committee Leh will coordinate with the Housing and

Urban Development Department for funding under the Grant-in-Aid for Creation of Capital Assets and oversee the construction of the Dog Pound. Thiksey Monastery, in coordination with the Chamba Animal Welfare Society, will allocate suitable land on a 40-year lease for the facility, ensuring community cooperation and local support.

The Chamba Animal Welfare Society will be responsible for the operation and management of the Dog Pound, including feeding, shelter, medical care, vaccination, sterilization, and adoption of stray dogs in compliance with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. The Society will also conduct awareness campaigns to promote responsible pet ownership and humane treatment of animals.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, appreciated the collaborative efforts of all three partners, stating that the partnership reflects Ladakh’s commitment to a cleaner, compassionate, and sustainable urban environment. He directed the Executive Officer of the Municipal Committee Leh and the Chamba Animal Welfare Society to prepare a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) within 15 days for a facility capable of accommodating 2,000 dogs, and to finalize the lease deed agreement for the project site.

Two-day free AYUSH health camp benefits over 70 elderly in Shey and Choglamsar



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Directorate of Ayush, UT Ladakh, under the National Ayush Mission (NAM), in collaboration with the Ladakh Nun Association, successfully organized a two-day Free Geriatric Health Camp to promote holistic and preventive healthcare for senior citizens.

The camps were held at HelpAge India, Shey

on October 6 and the Tibetan Children’s Village (TCV) Old Age Home, Choglamsar on October 8, benefiting over 70 elderly individuals.

On October 6, approximately 30 senior residents at HelpAge India, Shey, received medical consultations for common ailments such as joint pain, migraines, indigestion, phlegm disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension,

and general weakness. Personalized diagnoses were followed by the free distribution of AYUSH medicines to all attendees.

On October 8, the camp at TCV Old Age Home, Choglamsar, provided care to around 40 elderly patients with health concerns including thyroid disorders, arthritis, hepatitis, asthma, constipation, gastritis, chronic joint conditions, nerve disorders, and psychiatric issues. Free AYUSH medicines were distributed following individualized consultations.

Led by Dr. Kunzes Dolma from the Directorate of Ayush and Ven. Dr. Palmo of the Ladakh Nun Association, the camps emphasized natural and integrative healing through AYUSH systems of medicine, tailored to the unique needs of geriatric care. The initiative was warmly received by residents and staff, who appreciated the focus on traditional and holistic healthcare approaches.

This outreach reflects the Directorate of Ayush’s commitment to delivering accessible, community-centered healthcare, particularly for vulnerable and elderly populations across Ladakh. The collaboration with the Ladakh Nun Association underscores the power of partnerships in promoting wellness and enhancing awareness of AYUSH benefits in geriatric care.

PAGIR President meets LG Kavinder Gupta, highlights issues of persons with disabilities in Ladakh



Photo Caption: President of the People’s Action Group for Inclusion and Rights (PAGIR) with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: President of the People’s Action Group for Inclusion and Rights (PAGIR), a Ladakh-based organisation working for the empowerment of persons with disabilities, called on Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on October 8 to discuss key issues faced by divyangjan in the region.

During the meeting, the PAGIR President highlighted the challenges encountered by persons with disabilities (PwDs) in Ladakh, particularly concerning accessibility, livelihood opportunities, and the need for stronger institutional support to ensure inclusion in all spheres of life.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed the UT Administration’s commitment to the welfare of divyangjan through a series of initiatives aimed at ensuring inclusivity,

accessibility, and financial security. He mentioned that the Social and Tribal Welfare Department has been actively implementing the Unique Disability ID (UDID) project, under which 3,591 UDID cards have been issued to enable beneficiaries to easily access government schemes and entitlements.

He also informed that District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) are being established to provide specialized rehabilitation services and that efforts are underway to make public buildings barrier-free across the Union Territory.

The Lt. Governor emphasized that both the Government of India and the UT Administration of Ladakh remain committed to enhancing livelihood prospects for persons with disabilities through skill development, entrepreneurship support, and empowerment programmes.

Fortnightly News

Lt. Governor Kavinder Gupta reviews security; commends citizens and administration for restoring peace



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Reflecting a complete return to peace and stability, the Union Territory of Ladakh has restored full normalcy with uninterrupted internet services, smooth functioning of educational institutions, resumption of public transport, and revival of civic activities. All restrictions have been lifted in view of the people’s cooperation and responsible conduct.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting on October 9, Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta expressed satisfaction over the prevailing calm across Ladakh. He lauded the collective efforts of the civil and police administration, security forces, and citizens in maintaining peace and harmony.

“The people of Ladakh have demonstrated remarkable patience, unity, and maturity during recent challenging times,” said the Lt. Governor. “Their cooperation has been instrumental in restoring normal life swiftly. This stability reflects the people’s trust in the administration’s commitment to ensuring safety, stability, and inclusive growth.”

Highlighting the deep-rooted patriotism of Ladakh’s citizens, Kavinder Gupta stated, “Ladakhis are among the most patriotic citizens of our nation, always standing shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the country in safeguarding national interests.”

The Lt. Governor urged people to continue supporting Ladakh’s development journey, calling upon all sections of society to work together with renewed energy for the region’s progress and prosperity. He reiterated the administration’s focus on equitable growth across sectors — including education, health, infrastructure, and employment — with special emphasis on youth empowerment and sustainable tourism.

He further assured that the administration remains dedicated to addressing public concerns through transparent and people-centric governance.

Kavinder Gupta also urged citizens to remain vigilant, uphold law and order, and actively participate in ongoing developmental initiatives to ensure a secure and prosperous future for Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal; Director General of Police Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal; DIG, CRPF, P.R. Jambolkar; Deputy Commissioner Leh; Senior Superintendent of Police Leh; CO 79 Battalion Sanjay Kumar; and other senior officials.

The Lt. Governor directed officials to maintain close coordination and heightened vigilance to sustain the peaceful environment and ensure continued public convenience across the Union Territory.

L-G Kavinder grants one-month relaxation for taxi operators to install vehicle tracking devices



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta with delegation from the Ladakh Taxi Operator Co-operative Ltd.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, interacted with a delegation from the Ladakh Taxi Operator Co-operative Ltd on October 8, addressing their concerns regarding the mandatory installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDS) as directed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

The meeting was attended by Mohammad Usman Khan, Additional Secretary, Transport Department; Hidayatullah Mir, ARTO Leh; and Thinlay Namgial, President, Ladakh Taxi Operator Co-operative Ltd, along with Vice

Presidents Stanzin Toldan and Ajaz Ahmad.

During the meeting, taxi operators highlighted that the recent economic slowdown and reduced tourist inflow had caused financial strain, making it difficult for them to immediately install the VLTDS. They requested a one-month relaxation period to complete the process so that their vehicles could meet fitness certification requirements.

The Additional Secretary, Mohammad Usman Khan, informed the Lt. Governor that MoRTH had made VLTLD installation mandatory for all commercial

vehicles to ensure road safety and real-time tracking. However, he noted that taxi operators in Ladakh had not fully complied with these directives in the past two and a half months.

After reviewing the matter, the Lt. Governor granted a one-month extension for the installation of VLTDS, while making it clear that no further relaxation would be permitted beyond the stipulated period.

He emphasized that the installation of VLTDS is a critical safety and regulatory measure, aimed at improving passenger safety, enhancing operational efficiency, and ensuring better monitoring of transport services in Ladakh. The LG urged all transport operators to complete the installation process within the given timeline to avoid disruption in vehicle operations or certification.

Expressing gratitude, the Taxi Operators’ delegation welcomed the Lt. Governor’s decision and assured that all commercial vehicles in Ladakh would be equipped with VLTDS within a month.

LG Kavinder Gupta vows to transform Ladakh into a World-Class Winter Tourism destination

Says dire need to promote Ladakh as year-round adventure hub



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, emphasised transforming Ladakh into a top winter tourism and adventure sports hub, highlighting the need for sustainable development, modern infrastructure, promotion of local talent, and creating employment opportunities while preserving the region’s unique natural and cultural heritage.

high-altitude sports infrastructure that empowers youth, supports local livelihoods, and highlights Ladakh’s unique landscapes. He directed officials to ensure timely implementation, maintaining safety and environmental standards.

Kavinder Gupta stated that there is a dire need to promote Ladakh as a year-round adventure and winter sports destination, focusing on innovative tourism initiatives, community engagement, and sustainable practices to attract both domestic and international visitors. He stated that the development of winter tourism should go hand-in-hand with promotion of local culture, handicrafts, and hospitality services, ensuring that the benefits of tourism reach every section of the community while preserving Ladakh’s pristine environment.

Lt Governor chaired a meeting on October 6 attended by Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Chief Secretary, and Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh and Chief Engineer PWD Abdul Mutalib, to discuss the establishment of Chair Lifts at Drass and Surface Ski Lifts at Zaskar, aimed at enhancing winter sports facilities and attracting global adventure enthusiasts.

Lt Governor Gupta called for coordinated efforts among government departments, private stakeholders, and local communities to make Ladakh a world-class destination for winter adventure, sports excellence, and sustainable tourism.

33 Karnataka forest trainees visit Ladakh to learn high-altitude forestry techniques



Photo Caption: A group of 33 Range Forest Officer (RFO) trainees from the Karnataka Forest Academy, Dharwad during their 5th study tour to Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A group of 33 Range Forest Officer (RFO) trainees from the Karnataka Forest Academy, Dharwad—including 24 male and 9 female officers—undertook their 5th study tour to Ladakh from October 1 to 4. The visit was aimed at enhancing their field knowledge and understanding of forestry practices in extreme high-altitude environments.

shared insights on afforestation techniques suited to Ladakh’s cold desert ecosystem, such as native species selection, seasonal plantation planning, and strategies to overcome challenges like low soil fertility and water scarcity.

During the tour, the trainees visited key ecological and research sites including Hemis National Park, the Plant Field Research Station at Tsokstot (Diskit), Nubra, and the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary.

The group also gained valuable exposure to biodiversity conservation efforts, learning about the unique flora and fauna of the Nubra and Changthang regions.

They were briefed by Range Forest Officers of Nubra and Durbuk, who

The study tour provided the trainees with practical insights into ecological management and sustainable forestry practices in fragile and climatically challenging landscapes, enriching their overall professional training experience.

Zonal Education Officer Nubra visits Middle School, Tongstet near Siachen border



Photo Caption: Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Nubra, Sonam Dolkar, during her official visit to the MS Tongstet.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Nubra, Sonam Dolkar, conducted an official visit to the remote and strategically significant Middle School Tongstet on October 10, located near the Siachen border. The visit aimed to assess the school’s functioning, address ongoing educational needs, and engage with the local community.

Upon arrival, ZEO Dolkar observed that all teachers were present and actively participating in a productive meeting with the School Management Committee (SMC) members and parents. Discussions primarily focused on preparations for the upcoming Term II examinations. She praised the active involvement and

sincere support demonstrated by the parents toward the school’s initiatives.

A notable development discussed during the meeting was the joint decision by the headmaster, staff, parents, and SMC to establish a residential hostel for students until the completion of Term II exams. This initiative, aimed at ensuring student safety and convenience, was highly commended by the ZEO.

The school was found to be well-managed, with all children from the village—including children of teachers—enrolled. MS Tongstet also functions as a central school for three feeder schools, accommodating students from these institutions after they complete Grade 5.

During her visit, SMC members and parents expressed a strong demand for upgrading MS Tongstet to a residential high school. Currently, students must relocate to the NSCBV Tribal Hostel in Diskit for further studies beyond Grade 8. The community emphasized that upgrading the school would provide a safe and supportive learning environment and secure better educational prospects for their children.

The visit highlighted the community’s commitment to accessible, quality education and their active role in supporting the school’s development.

Over 430 teachers trained in FLN mission programme conducted by DIET Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Kargil successfully concluded a comprehensive Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Mission Training Programme under the NIPUN Ladakh initiative, covering all seven educational zones of Kargil district. The training, conducted in two phases, featured three-day sessions in each zone and witnessed active participation from teachers, Key Resource Persons (KRPs), and zonal officers.

The primary objective of the programme was to equip FLN teachers with innovative pedagogical techniques to make foundational-level teaching more joyful, engaging, and contextualized—ensuring that every child attains the expected learning outcomes.

The first phase of the training commenced on September 23, beginning with the Zaskar Zone, followed by Drass, Chiktan, and Taisuru Zones, cov-

ering 180 teachers. The second phase extended the training to Sankoo, Kargil, and Shargol Zones, reaching over 190 teachers. In total, the initiative trained approximately 430 FLN teachers across all zones during 21 training days held at various locations.

Prior to the zonal-level sessions, DIET Kargil, in collaboration with the 17000ft Foundation, organized a capacity-building workshop for 45 Key Resource Persons (KRPs). These KRPs received intensive training at DIET Kargil on core aspects of FLN pedagogy, classroom management strategies, and assessment methods. The trained KRPs subsequently facilitated the zonal-level sessions with enthusiasm and expertise, ensuring effective dissemination of knowledge to teachers across the district.

The programme marked a significant milestone in advancing the NIPUN Ladakh Mission, aimed at achieving universal foundational literacy and

MP Ladakh tours Drass sub-division; reviews developmental activities



Photo Caption: Member of Parliament (MP) Ladakh, Mohmad Haneefa Jan during his tour to the Drass Sub-Division.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Member of Parliament (MP) Ladakh, Mohmad Haneefa Jan, conducted an extensive tour of the Drass Sub-Division on October 13 to review ongoing developmental works and assess local issues at the grassroots level.

The MP was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Imteaz Kacho, SDM Drass, Vishal Atri, Deputy CMO, Dr. Fatima Banoo, Chief Agriculture Officer Kargil, Ashiq Hussain, BMO Drass, Dr. Sajjad Hussain, along with heads of various departments and concerned officials.

During the visit, the MP directed the ADC to ensure that all departmental heads accompany him during future tours to enhance coordination and ensure a prompt

response to public grievances. At Biaras, Drass, villagers raised several issues, including the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a proposal for developing a tourist viewpoint, blacktopping of internal roads, lift irrigation schemes, restoration of irrigation khuls, construction of a village bridge, and water supply for the new colony at Haripora. The MP assured the villagers that immediate measures—such as the installation of a submersible pump—would be explored within his jurisdiction, while long-term solutions would also be pursued.

He further assured that an inquiry would be initiated into the JJM-related concerns and emphasized that all works would be prioritized based on urgency and feasibility.

At Goshan (Old Meeting Hall), the public submitted a detailed memorandum listing demands such as the restoration of the Tololing Irrigation Khul, installation of a submersible pump, construction of a Jal Shakti water tank at Tololing, upgradation of Government Middle School Majapur to a High School, development of a reservoir tank, blacktopping of internal roads, and establishment of a Medical Sub-Centre and Food Store.

Addressing the gathering, MP Haneefa Jan expressed gratitude to the people for their continued trust and support. He stated that the purpose of the tour was to review developmental challenges firsthand and ensure timely redressal through coordination with the ADC and SDM. He assured that both immediate and long-term measures would be undertaken to address the issues. The MP further mentioned that recommendations for the upgradation of Middle School Majapur would be made as per norms and that the MPLAD Plan was under process.

At Ranbirpura, villagers highlighted concerns related to the Jal Jeevan Mission, blacktopping, and link roads. The MP directed officials to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the link roads and instructed that the Khundiylal Submersible Pump be made functional within three days.

The MP also took note of the demand for a dedicated electric line for the Sub-District Hospital Drass along with the appointment of a lady gynecologist, a physician, and provision of ultrasound facilities. He further directed that the duty roster at the hospital be restored to its earlier schedule.

In Focus:

September 24 violence in Ladakh: How SNM Hospital managed the crisis

By: Stanzin Norzom

LEH: September 24, now marked as a black day in Ladakh, left a deep scar not just on the land but on the hearts of its people. What began as a peaceful protest demanding the Sixth Schedule and full statehood for Ladakh spiraled into chaos and violence, leaving dozens injured and claiming four lives.

At the center of the unfolding tragedy stood the team at Sonam Norboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital in Leh doctors, nurses, paramedics, and students who were pushed to their limits as they responded to an emergency unlike any they had ever faced.

“We didn’t expect it to turn into such a tragedy,” recalls Dr. Rinchen Chosdol, Medical Superintendent of SNM Hospital, describing the moment when patients began pouring in.

“We all know what happened on the 24th. It was an unfortunate and heartbreaking day,” she says. “That morning, everyone was busy with routine work some doctors were in the Operation Theatre upstairs, orthopaedists were checking patients. No one imagined what was coming.”

Around noon, the first few injured arrived just one or two, at first.

“We thought it was minor, stone-related injuries,” Dr. Chosdol continues. “But then, more and more patients started coming in. I immediately sent a message in our group chat, asking all doctors, surgeons, orthopaedists to stop their routine work and gather for emergency duty.”

The hospital shifted into crisis mode in minutes. Routine surgeries were suspended. Every department focused on emergency care.

“What we saw was shocking heavy bleeding, deep wounds, patients arriving without names or relatives,” she says. “But



despite that, we managed to treat them all. It was teamwork in action.”

Dr. Tsojung Lamo, Consultant Surgeon, was in the OPD when she received the emergency alert. She rushed to the OT immediately.

“At first, I thought it would be a few minor injuries maybe a couple of fractures. But soon, the flow of patients became endless,” she says. “Every OT was full. We performed eight life-saving surgeries that day.”

For Dr. Lamo, the experience was both professional and deeply personal. “As a doctor, it’s our duty to help patients. But as a Ladakhi, seeing young boys and girls so badly injured really shook me. It wasn’t just another day at work.”

In the orthopedic wing, Dr. Tsering Wangchuk, Orthopaedic Consultant, was dealing with a different kind of emergency. Most of the patients he saw that day had orthopedic injuries many caused by bullets.

“Some had bullets lodged in their arms or legs, damaging nerves,” he explains. “These patients needed immediate surgery. If we didn’t act fast, they could have died or lost limbs.”

Working alongside two senior doctors, he performed surgeries non-stop.

“Some procedures were routine fractures, but many required urgent nerve repair. Doctors from all departments orthopedics, anesthesia, general surgery worked together. Blood donors also came forward, which helped immensely.”

Dr. Yangzin Dolma, Consultant Anaesthetist, walked into a scene of urgency on the ground floor. “There was a boy gasping for breath when I entered,” she recalls. “I immediately intubated him. Other doctors, surgeons, and the neurosurgeon joined in to try to save him, but we couldn’t.”

Another boy arrived shortly after, but he was already gone. Then a young Tibetan girl was brought in.

“She didn’t need intubation, but we gave her oxygen. Later, she was airlifted to Delhi,” Dr. Dolma says.

One of the most challenging cases was this Tibetan girl who was shot and needed advanced care. “Finding her family and figuring out who would take care of her in Delhi wasn’t easy,” Dr. Chosdol explains. “But with help from Tashi Mutup of Ashoka Mission, we contacted Tibetan organizations in Delhi.” The girl was treated at the Trauma Centre and has since been discharged. “It was a huge relief,” she says.

Dr. Yangzin Dolma explains that in at least four critical cases that day, timely intervention by anaesthetists, surgeons, and orthopaedists made the difference between life and death.

...continues on page 6

The World of Juniors

National Post Day 2025 is celebrated across India on October 10 to honor the Indian Postal Department (India Post) for its remarkable contribution to communication, public service delivery, and rural empowerment. The day recognizes over 150 years of service in connecting India’s diverse regions from urban centers to remote villages and transforming from a traditional postal network into a digital, financial, and logistics powerhouse.

The observance is part of National Postal Week (October 9–15), reflecting the department’s continued relevance in the era of e-commerce, digital finance, and inclusive governance. For UPSC aspirants, the evolution of India Post provides key insights into India’s administrative history, socio-economic development, and digital governance transformation.

National Post Day is not just a ceremonial event; it serves as a reminder of India Post’s transformation from the days of handwritten letters to modern banking, e-commerce logistics, and digital payments through the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

Postal service was introduced in India by the British. It was found-

National Post Day

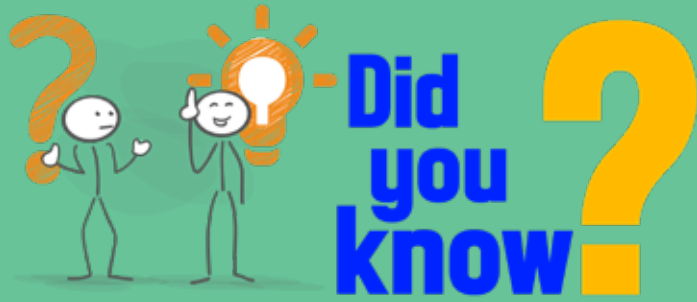


ed in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie. Currently, it functions under the Ministry of Communications and is the most widely distributed postal system in the world.

The post office delivers mails, remits money in the form of money orders (which is the only way of sending money for many Indians). They also run small savings schemes, provide life insurance coverage under Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance. It also plays an important role in discharging government services such as payment of pensions to senior and retired citizens. Wages under MGNREGA is also distributed through post offices.

India has 23 postal circles and 9 postal zones including Army Post Office. Post offices in Indian follow a 6-digit PIN Code system, which was introduced in India in 1972.

Courtesy: Adda 247 & Business Standard



- The longest over-water flight without alternate airports is from the coast of California to Honolulu, Hawaii.
- “Yesterday” by The Beatles is considered the most covered song in music history.
- After Steve Carell left “The Office,” James Gandolfini of the “Sopranos” was reportedly offered the role and turned it down.
- Clarinets are made almost entirely out of wood from the mpin-go tree.
- The first successful electric car in the U.S. was made by chemist William Morrison in 1890.
- At around 22 months, elephants have the longest gestation period of any mammal on earth.

- It takes roughly 540 peanuts to make a jar of peanut butter.
- Actor Roy Scheider improvised the famous “Jaws” quote, “You’re gonna need a bigger boat.”
- In 1971, astronaut Alan Shepard played golf on the moon.
- Ferret-legging is a endurance sport in which competitors attempt to keep ferrets trapped in their pants for as long as possible.
- Sir Isaac Newton invented the color wheel in 1666.
- The oldest living land animal on earth is a 192-year-old tortoise named Jonathan.
- The hardest bone in the human body is the femur.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.
- The deepest part of the ocean is approximately 35,876 feet down.
- A silverback gorilla can lift over 1,763 pounds.

Courtesy: today.com

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk

A day in a successful person’s life



A day in a successful person’s life needs our attention. That is because such people can act as a lighthouse to guide us and show the right direction. A successful person adheres to certain principles of life that most of us fail to do because of sheer carelessness or ignorance.

Therefore, let us see what a great person’s daily life is all about. The foremost quality of such a person: A strict disciplinarian. He or she takes discipline as a ‘must-thing-to-stick-to’ to the level of being seen as crazy. Every day, they stick

to the norms towards a successful life.

- They make it a point that they are ruled by positive vibes, and negative factors are kept far away from their access-range. That helps them to be kind, loving and caring.

- They plan well everything that is to be done any given day. Some of the moments of their life in a day are given away to help the poor and the needy. They do as much as possible to help them and make their day a better one.

- They get up early and go to sleep early, and try to sleep for at least 7 hours. And during their active hours, they rarely go off their planned plans. If they are unable to do a particularly task to be accomplished on any day, they don’t get into a ‘lost case.’ Instead, they get determined all the more to do it the next day, and the next day’s plan includes what was missed the previous day. They are down-to-earth people and know that one can’t do everything every day. They leave some room for ‘some misses’ that can happen to anyone because of some reason or the other!

- They always make it a point that they live within their means, and they set long-term goals, be that financial or any other.

- Once started, they get serious about their planned goals for the day. They try every possible effort in achieving their objectives because they are the believers who go by the dictum that nothing is impossible to those with the right kind of approach and determination.

Courtesy: WongWorld

The writer is a New Delhi-based Editor-at-large, columnist and professional speaker.

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with
Champspa Rinchen Dorje, Graphic Designer

Q. First of all, could you please tell us about yourself and take us back to where your journey in design, craftsmanship, and calligraphy began?

Julley! My name is Rinchen Dorje, and my journey with art and craft has been a lifelong passion. I've been drawn to creating things with my hands ever since I was a child it always gave me a sense of joy and calm that I couldn't find anywhere else. Growing up, I was endlessly curious about different materials, textures, and techniques, and I loved experimenting with them.

It was during my time at Sainik School Nagrota that I had the opportunity to formally explore this passion. I chose Art and Craft as one of my subjects, and that really became the foundation of my creative journey. I spent hours in the workshop, learning how to transform simple materials into objects of beauty, whether through design, calligraphy, or traditional crafts. Those early experiences taught me not just skills, but patience, attention to detail, and the joy of seeing an idea take shape in physical form.

Even today, that sense of connection to the process of making of working carefully with my hands and seeing each piece come alive remains at the heart of everything I do. It's not just about creating art; it's about carrying forward a tradition of craftsmanship while exploring new ways to express myself through design and calligraphy.

Q. At what point in your life did you realize that design and craftsmanship could be more than just a personal interest and actually become your life's work?

After finishing school, my art teacher recognized my potential and encouraged me to pursue a creative path. He suggested exploring fine arts or fashion design, which led me to apply to the Government College of Art in Chandigarh. There, I discovered various departments such as painting, sculpture, printmaking, and applied arts. I chose Applied Art, which focuses more on commercial design including branding, advertising, and packaging.

I completed my Bachelor's in Fine Arts there, and later pursued a Master's in Graphic Design at the National Institute of Design (NID). It was during this time that I truly realized art and design could be more than just a hobby they could be my profession and lifelong journey.

Q. Tibetan calligraphy seems central to your artistic identity. What inspired you to start this? Also, you work with materials like wood, leather, and thread why do you

Interviewed by Stanzin Norzom



MESSAGE TO THE READERS
“Look closely at your own culture, explore its depth, and take pride in your roots. Every skill you learn connects you to your heritage and lets you express yourself in a unique way. Don't be afraid to experiment, to blend tradition with your own creativity, and to share it with the world. Remember, the value of art lies not just in what you create, but in the story, identity, and spirit it carries forward.”

choose to focus on these?

Having spent most of my life outside Ladakh, I felt a strong need to stay connected to my roots. That's how my interest in Tibetan calligraphy began. I wanted to share and teach the Ladakhi script and Tibetan calligraphy, especially to people outside Ladakh. Initially, I learned through online books and resources, and eventually started classroom-based projects and workshops. Over time, calligraphy became a significant part of my creative identity.

As for materials like wood, leather, and thread, I've been drawn to them since childhood. At NID, the multidisciplinary environment gave me the freedom to explore other departments such as leather design, textile design, lifestyle accessories, and furniture. I attended classes in these areas and gradually took on small projects involving these materials. Working with my hands gives me a sense of satisfaction and connection that digital tools can't replace.

Q. In Ladakh, multidisciplinary designers and artists like you are still rare. What are your thoughts on this, and what do you see as the future of such work in Ladakh?

Yes, multidisciplinary designers are still rare in Ladakh, but I believe there is immense scope for design here. Ladakh is developing rapidly, with numerous government projects, startups, and businesses that require design solutions.

In textiles and apparel, some progress is being made locally. However, in graphic design and visual communication, we are still in the early stages awareness and infrastructure are limited, particularly in Leh. Despite that, I see great potential for growth. If more people enter this field, Ladakh has the opportunity to develop a unique design culture deeply rooted in its traditions, blending modern creativity with local heritage.

Q. Nowadays, we all live in a digital-dominated and fast-paced world. What value do you think handmade and slow artwork holds in today's digital age?

For me, whenever I create something whether it's a design, a crafted object, or a piece of calligraphy I don't start with thoughts of sales or profit. I focus on making something valuable and meaningful. I believe that if we approach our work with sincerity and respect, it will naturally create its own value over time.

Yes, it's a slower process, but that's precisely where its beauty lies. Handmade work has soul, something that machines or

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



As part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2025, a cleanliness drive was organized at the District Court Complex under the leadership of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Leh Manoj Parihar. The program commenced with the administration of the Swachhata Pledge, wherein all judges, court officials, staff members, and advocates reaffirmed their commitment towards maintaining cleanliness and contributing to a litter-free environment.



In a dedicated effort supporting Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative, the office of the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), Nubra, organized a massive cleanliness drive. The event saw ZEO Nubra Sonam Dolkar, along with the Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO), the Head Assistant, and staff members, actively participating in cleaning the office premises and surrounding areas.



The Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT Ladakh, conducted a series of activities aimed at raising awareness, strengthening community participation, and promoting human-wildlife coexistence under the banner of Wildlife Week -2025.



In a testament to unwavering dedication, the teachers of P/S HUNDAR Dok school have been lauded by Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Nubra, S. Dolkar, for their exceptional commitment to providing education in a challenging, remote environment.



A Memorandum of Understanding is signed between National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh and Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, New Delhi. The main objective of the MoU is to work in collaboration between above two institutions on Survey, collection and documentation of High-Altitude Medicinal plants used in Homeopathy and Sowa Rigpa system of medicine.



LAHDC Leh, observed two minutes of silence to pay tribute to the victims of the tragic incident that occurred on 24th September which claimed the lives of four young individuals.



Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed Superintending Engineer, R&B Kargil, Dr. Tsewang Thinlas.



The annual magazine of Government Degree College Kargil "Kaliman" was launched by Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC-Kargil Dr. Mohammad Jaffar Akhoun in presence of Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC-Kargil, Rakesh Kumar (IAS).

Fortnightly News

In Conversation with Champspa Rinchen Dorje, Graphic Designer ...Continuity of page 5

mass production can never replicate. Professionally, I work as a graphic designer, but my art and craft projects—like calligraphy, woodworking, or thread work—are my passion projects. I do them for my own peace of mind, not for business, and that’s why they hold a special place in my life.

Q. How can people, especially the youth of Ladakh, learn from your art and take something away from it?

I believe that as Ladakhis, the first step is to look inward, at our own rich culture. Ladakhi art, language, and traditional crafts are full of depth, history, and uniqueness. If we dedicate time to learning and sharing these skills, we can create something truly valuable—something that is authentically ours. Our culture has its own voice; it doesn’t need to imitate Western styles or trends.

Even learning one small traditional skill can have a profound impact. It strengthens personal and cultural identity and gives us a sense of pride in something that is uniquely ours. For the youth of Ladakh, engaging with traditional arts—whether it’s calligraphy, leatherwork, textiles, or other crafts—offers more than just a skill. It’s a way to preserve heritage while also interpreting it creatively for the modern world.

When young people connect with these art forms, they don’t just become practitioners—they become storytellers, carrying forward Ladakh’s traditions in ways that can inspire others, both locally and globally. It’s about building a bridge between the past and the future, and discovering the value in our own roots.

IN Focus : September 24 violence in Ladakh: How SNM Hospital managed the crisis ...Continuity of page 4

“Thankfully, most patients were brought in during the golden hour, which gave us a fighting chance.”

Amid the chaos, there were quiet acts of heroism. Dr. Chosdol remembers one such moment a young boy from Kargil who needed A-negative blood.

“Due to the situation outside, arranging donors was difficult,” she says. “But Phuntsok from Basgo, known for his social work, helped us look for donors. Eventually, a person named Lolo from Yurtung, who has O-negative blood a universal donor came forward. His donation saved that boy’s life.”

By the end of the day, 46 blood transfusions had been carried out. Nursing students worked shoulder to shoulder with doctors and nurses, moving patients from ambulances to wards, fetching supplies, and offering support.

“They were outstanding,” Dr. Chosdol says. “Many are still students, but their courage was extraordinary.”

While the emergency wards were overflowing, the forensic team at SNM Hospital carried out one of the day’s most difficult tasks the postmortems.

Dr. Firdos Khan, Consultant Forensic Expert said, “On September 25, we began postmortems. We found chest, head, and neck injuries. In each case, we recovered small metallic fragments, which were sent to FSL Srinagar for ballistic analysis. Preliminary reports have been submitted to the police.”

Dr. Khan clarifies that families cannot receive postmortem reports directly from the hospital.

“We hand over sealed reports and samples to the police in the presence of a magistrate. Families must request the reports officially.”

Through the chaos of September 24, SNM Hospital became more than just a medical facility. It was a place where **professional duty met human compassion**.

Doctors from different departments worked side by side. Volunteers and donors rushed in. Students, often unnoticed in regular times, carried stretchers, handed instruments, and held the hands of the injured.

“We came together as professionals, as Ladakhis, and as people who refused to give up,” says Dr. Chosdol.

The wounds of that day are still fresh in Ladakh. Families continue to mourn. Survivors recover slowly. But amid the pain, the tireless work of SNM Hospital’s staff stands out a symbol of hope, resilience, and humanity.

“That day tested us beyond anything we imagined,” says Dr. Dolma. “But it also showed us what we can do when we stand together.”

Yasin Ansari’s book “Ladakh Mai Dard Sheen Ki Amad” released in Kargil



Photo Caption: Member of Parliament Ladakh, Mohd Hanifa Janalong with other dignitaries launching the book “Ladakh Mai Dard Sheen Ki Amad”.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Member of Parliament Ladakh, Mohd Hanifa Jan, launched the book “Ladakh Mai Dard Sheen Ki Amad” authored by renowned writer and poet Mohammad Yasin Ansari on October 12.

The event, attended by literary figures, public representatives, and admirers of literature, celebrated the richness of Ladakh’s evolving literary culture and its deep emotional and cultural expressions.

Addressing the gathering, MP Mohd Hanifa Jan lauded Mohammad Yasin Ansari for his remarkable contribution to Urdu and Shina literature.

The MP emphasized the need to encourage local writers and poets, adding that literature plays a vital role in preserving cultural identity and fostering inter-community understanding.

Councillor Mohd Jawad, in his address, congratulated the author for his creative accomplishment and said that the book stands as an important addition to the literary landscape of

Ladakh.

Councillor Abdul Wahid, said preservation and promotion of culture and language is necessary and appreciated Ansari’s effort. He also urged institutions and cultural organizations to provide more platforms for regional writers to share their voices.

The event was also addressed by Padma Shri awardee Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, Travel Expert Mohd Hamza, BMO Kargil Dr Jaleel and Anayatolah.

Author Mohammad Yasin Ansari expressed gratitude to the dignitaries and audience for their appreciation. The event concluded with an interactive session where attendees discussed the growing importance of literature in shaping the contemporary identity of Ladakh.

World Mental Health Day observed in Kargil with focus on access to services



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The District Mental Health Society Kargil observed World Mental Health Day on October 10 at the Syed Mehdi Auditorium, Kargil, with the theme “Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies.” The event aimed to raise awareness about mental health issues, promote access to mental health services, and highlight the importance of psychological support during crises and emergencies.

Organized under the District Mental Health Programme, the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, medical

professionals, and officials from various departments.

The CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Other key dignitaries included Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Imteez Kachcho, Nodal Officer DMHP, Dr. Fatima Nissa, ARTO Kargil, Khadim Hussain, and Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Kargil, Dr. Abbas.

In his address, CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon appreciated the efforts of the District Mental Health Society and expressed concern over the rising stress levels among youth due to changing lifestyles and academic pressures. He assured that LAHDC Kargil is committed to supporting initiatives that enhance access to mental health care across the district.

Dr. Akhoon emphasized collective cooperation in addressing mental health stigmas and advised that faith healing should be practiced in accordance with scientific principles and patient safety. He also congratulated SSP Kargil for cracking a drug racket case and urged youth to avoid drugs.

ADC Imteez Kacho encouraged educational institutions and civil society organizations to play a proactive role in raising awareness about

mental health and breaking the stigma attached to mental illnesses. He stressed the importance of identifying individuals suffering from depression and implementing pragmatic management strategies as a service to society.

Dr. Fatima Nissa highlighted the significance of the day and stressed the urgent need to strengthen community-level mental health services, especially during natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. She emphasized that mental health must be treated with the same seriousness as physical health and outlined ongoing programmes under the Mental Health Society Kargil.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation on mental health issues, early detection, and coping strategies was delivered by Clinical Psychologist Syed Hassan, which was highly informative and interactive.

The event also featured theatre plays, songs, skits, and speeches presented by students from different schools and colleges in Kargil, all centered around the theme of mental well-being and resilience during crises. These performances highlighted the importance of empathy, community support, and early intervention in maintaining good mental health.

PM Shri HSS Pashkum set for transformation with ₹6.22 crore grant for CBSE-level infrastructure



Photo Caption: PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Pashkum.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In a major boost to educational infrastructure in Kargil district, ₹6.22 crore has been sanctioned under the Special Development Plan (SDP) for the development of CBSE-standard facilities at PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Pashkum.

Separate funds have also been approved for clearing existing liabilities related to the completion of the school’s Multipurpose Hall, ensuring the timely realization of a long-pending project.

This significant allocation marks a transformative milestone for HSS Pashkum, which currently operates from an upgraded high school building. The new infrastructure will bring the institution in line with national CBSE norms, substantially improving

the academic experience, infrastructure quality, and learning environment for students in this remote region.

The Principal, staff members, and School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) of HSS Pashkum extended heartfelt gratitude to, Zakir Hussain, Executive Councillor for Education, LAHDC Kargil; Kacho Feroz, Executive Councillor for Rural Development and Tourism, and Councillor, Pashkum Constituency; Bhanu Prabha, Secretary, School Education, UT Ladakh; and Tashi Dolma, Director, School Education, UT Ladakh for their steadfast support, timely intervention, and commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure across Ladakh.

Additionally, the installation of an independent 64 KV transformer for the school—facilitated through the efforts of EC Zakir Hussain—will ensure an uninterrupted power supply, supporting both academic and administrative activities.

These developments mark a new chapter for HSS Pashkum, with the school community expressing optimism that such strategic investments will promote empowered learning, better student outcomes, and contribute meaningfully to the holistic development of the region.

Three landmark agri-missions launched by PM Modi; Kargil farmers attend telecast



Photo Caption: Progressive farmers, Self Help Group (SHG) members, and agriculture department staff witnessing the live telecast of the launch of three agri mission.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three landmark agricultural missions — PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, National Dalhan Mission, and the National Mission on Natural Farming — during a grand event held at Bharatratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on October 11.

In Kargil, the event was witnessed live by progressive farmers, Self Help Group (SHG) members, and agriculture department staff at the Farmers’ Training Hall, Kurbathang, where the Prime Minister’s address was telecast. A total of 152 participants, including farmers and officials, attended the pro-

gram, gaining insights into the vision and objectives of the newly launched schemes aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth in agriculture.

As part of the celebrations, a field visit and on-farm training programme was organized under the National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (ATMA). Farmers were taken to key agricultural institutions and demonstration units in Kargil, including, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Campus, Kargil; SM Farm, Kurbathang; Mushroom Production Unit, Kurbathang; School of Agriculture, Kurbathang, Kargil.

The on-site exposure offered valuable insights into modern agricultural practices, natural farming techniques, and innovations in pulse production and value addition. The field training also encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable farming methods and actively participate in government programmes.

The Department of Agriculture, Kargil, expressed gratitude to all participating farmers and stakeholders for making the event successful and reaffirmed its commitment to support the farming community in aligning with the Prime Minister’s vision for the agriculture sector.

CEC Kargil reviews winter preparation and inspects Zojila tunnel progress



Photo Caption: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon inspecting the ongoing work at the Zojila Tunnel.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon, reviewed winter preparedness measures along the Zojila road and inspected the ongoing work at the Zojila Tunnel on October 10.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, Councillor Abdul Wahid, SDM Drass, and SHO Drass.

At the Zojila axis, the CEC directed Project Vijayak officials to ensure snow clearance and road maintenance up to India Gate throughout the winter season. He instructed that adequate quantities of soil be stockpiled at strategic locations for use during snowfall to maintain road traction and safety.

Dr. Akhoon emphasized the importance of keeping men and machinery on standby for emergency deployment

during heavy snow. He assured that with coordinated efforts from the District Administration, LAHDC Kargil, and Project Vijayak, all possible measures would be taken to keep the Zojila axis functional during winter.

Later, the CEC inspected the ongoing work at the Zojila Tunnel. Officers informed him that approximately 1.5 kilometres of excavation work remain, with both tunnel ends expected to be connected by May or June 2026.

Dr. Akhoon appreciated the dedication of officers, engineers, technicians, labourers, and workers providing essential services under harsh climatic conditions. As a token of appreciation, he presented khataks and souvenirs to the officials and staff working at the tunnel site.

Fortnightly News

Indian Army defuses UXO, 6 unexploded bombs at Kurbathang



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Acting on the directions of District Magistrate Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, the Sappers of the Forever in Operations Division successfully defused an unexploded ordnance (UXO) and six additional unexploded bombs near the Municipal Committee’s Solid Waste Manage-

ment Plant at Kurbathang on October 10.

The UXO was initially discovered by officials of the Municipal Committee near the waste management facility. Upon receiving the report, the District Magistrate immediately informed the Station Commander, 121 Brigade, and the Army’s Forever in Operations Division took prompt action.

Responding swiftly, the Sappers neutralized the UXO and conducted a comprehensive sanitization of the area. During the operation, six more unexploded bombs were identified and safely destroyed.

Following the successful clearance, the Municipal Committee can now resume the previously halted fencing work at the site, ensuring the safety and security of the facility.

CEC Kargil inspects Akhoon Mohd Sharif heritage site, reviews R&B works in Suru valley



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, visited Stangkung village today to inspect the preservation and development work at the Tomb of Akhoon Mohd Sharif, an important historical and religious heritage site.

During the visit, local residents raised concerns regarding the quality of ongoing work and urged proper implementation of the project being executed under the Kargil Development Authority (KDA). Taking serious note of these concerns, the CEC immediately forwarded the villagers’

complaints to the CEO KDA and Deputy Commissioner Kargil for necessary action and monitoring.

Dr. Akhoon assured the public that strict directions would be issued to ensure the project is executed according to approved standards, preserving the historical site with utmost care and authenticity.

Following the heritage site inspection, the CEC visited the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, Suru Valley Division, where he met Executive Engineer R&B, Syed Mehdi. He reviewed the status of ongoing and pending works, discussed issues related to under-construction projects, and addressed concerns regarding land compensation.

Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon emphasized the importance of transparency, timely completion, and accountability in all developmental works. He reiterated that LAHDC Kargil remains committed to protecting the region’s cultural heritage while ensuring equitable infrastructure development across the district.

DC Kargil reviews JJM, PMGSY, and education works in Kargil; assures timely redressal of public issues



Photo Caption: DC/CEO LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, reviewing the progress of ongoing development projects during his field visit to Barsoo Nallah.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, conducted an extensive tour of Barsoo Nallah on October 11 to assess the progress of ongoing and proposed developmental projects in the area.

He was accompanied by Executive Councillor for Education Zakir Hussain, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil Imteaz Kacho, Executive Engineer SVD, Chief Education Officer Kargil, and other concerned district officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected Government Middle School Pattoo and directed officials to take measures for improving the overall quality of education in line with CBSE standards. He informed that the construction of school buildings has been included under the Capex Plan, and related infrastructure issues will be resolved accordingly.

Rakesh Kumar also reviewed irrigation works, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) projects, and nallah protection works in the area. He assured that all pending works will be examined and included under new schemes for timely implementation. Referring to PMGSY road projects, he stated that the handover and takeover process would be completed this year, after which the works will be transferred to the PWD Department for further action.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the source point of JJM works and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for necessary improvements. He added

that additional road projects will be included in the next year’s district plan, subject to the clearance of proposed road alignments.

At High School Tikat, Rakesh Kumar reviewed the functioning of the institution and emphasized the effective utilization of staff and resources. He also interacted with the local public and listened to their grievances regarding JJM works, link road construction, and the demand for an ambulance at NTPHC. He assured that the ambulance facility will be prioritized and directed that all genuine public demands be forwarded to the district administration for early redressal. The DC further instructed that the school library be opened to the public after school hours while ensuring proper maintenance.

During his visit to Middle School Pangbar, the DC met with residents and listened to their concerns. He directed officials to open the ration store at Pangbar Brok at the earliest. Taking note of damages caused by recent floods, he asked officials to explore compensation under disaster management provisions and assured that a protection band for the village will be taken up next year.

Addressing connectivity issues, Rakesh Kumar stated that the Pangbar road project will be given priority and directed officers to submit a complete list of pending handover works in the district to the DC office. He added that the Sapi–Pangbar road** project has been proposed under the Central Road Fund (CRF) and will also be prioritized.

At Shargandi, the Deputy Commissioner visited local schools and assured that the construction of the Medical Sub-Centre will be completed soon and dedicated to the public.

He also inspected the ongoing construction of the Icho–Pangbar road and instructed concerned departments to ensure its early completion.

Reiterating the administration’s commitment, Rakesh Kumar emphasized that the district is focused on strengthening education, improving healthcare, enhancing connectivity, and ensuring the timely redressal of public grievances through regular field visits and coordinated departmental efforts.

DC Kargil conducts surprise inspections of Schools and Hospital in Drass



Photo Caption: Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar during surprise inspections of several government institutions in Drass.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar conducted surprise inspections of several government institutions in Drass on October 10, including High School Pandrass, High School Muradbagh, Higher Secondary School Drass, and the Sub-District Hospital, Drass, to assess their functioning and ensure accountability. He was accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Drass, Vishal Atri, JKAS.

At High School Pandrass, the DC observed that several teachers had not maintained their diaries, and some were absent without authorization despite attendance being marked. He directed the Principal to obtain parental signatures on student leave applica-

tions and monitor student attendance closely. The Chief Education Officer, Kargil, was instructed to seek explanations from the absentee teachers and withhold their salaries until further clarification.

At High School Muradbagh, the DC reviewed staff attendance and diary maintenance. While satisfied with teacher presence, he instructed that explanations be sought from those who failed to maintain their diaries. He also assessed ongoing remedial classes and expressed satisfaction with their progress. To ensure uninterrupted winter classes, he directed the SDM Drass to make proper arrangements for drinking water supply.

During interactions with students, the DC received positive feedback regarding night classes. Students also expressed gratitude to the SDM for timely resolution of water supply issues.

At Higher Secondary School Drass, the DC inspected the cleanliness of school premises, directing the Principal to maintain hygiene and ensure proper heating arrangements ahead of the winter season. He also reviewed the teaching plan and instructed staff to update and maintain it regularly.

Later, the DC visited the Sub-District Hospital, Drass, where he found good cleanliness and verified that staff attendance was in accordance with the duty roster.

CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon inaugurates multiple crore development projects in Kargil



Photo Caption: Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, Chairman/CEC LAHDC Kargil inaugurating Parking-cum-Canteen Complex at the DC Office premises Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon inaugurated multiple developmental projects worth several crores in Kargil on October 11.

The CEC was accompanied by Executive Councilor Aga Syed Mujtaba, Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, SSP Kargil Raam R., Executive Engineer R&B Mohammad Sadiq, and other concerned officers.

Dr. Akhoon inaugurated the newly constructed VIP Guest House at the Council Secretariat, Kurbathang, built at an estimated cost of ₹6.53 crore. The project was executed by the R&B Department under the District CAPEX budget. The guest house comprises two VIP suites with attached bathrooms, 16 single suites, and is equipped with several modern facilities

ties to accommodate official guests and dignitaries.

Later, the CEC also inaugurated a Parking-cum-Canteen Complex, including a public convenience facility, at the DC Office premises, Baroo, constructed at a cost of ₹1.92 crore under the District CAPEX and executed by R&B Sub-Division Kargil-II.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Akhoon highlighted the Council’s commitment to strengthening public infrastructure and improving civic amenities across the district. He appreciated the efforts of the concerned departments for timely completion and urged them to maintain quality standards in all ongoing and upcoming projects.

Central Administrative Tribunal bench hears 19 cases during 5th circuit sitting in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, commenced its 5th circuit sitting in Kargil on October 8 at the Tourist Facilitation Centre, Biamathang.

The Bench, presided over by Judicial Member M.S. Latif and Administrative Member Prashant Kumar, aims to provide convenient access to justice for government employees and pensioners of the Union Territory of Ladakh by addressing service-related grievances locally.

The Bench was warmly welcomed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Imteaz Kacho, officers of the Law Department, and members of the Bar Association Kargil. Advocates Murtaza, Asgar Yarrken, and Shahnawaz Hussain, Law Officer, also extended a warm reception on behalf of the Law Department, UT Ladakh.

In his welcome address, ADC Kargil described the occasion as a milestone in enhancing judicial accessibility for the people of Kargil. He expressed gratitude to the CAT Bench for holding the sitting locally, noting that it will help resolve several pending

cases, saving time and resources for litigants. He also thanked officers of the Legal Fraternity, District Administration**, and the UT Ladakh Administration for their support and cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, Judicial Member M.S. Latif emphasized that the “flag of justice must always remain burning,” highlighting that the fifth circuit sitting in Kargil was made possible through the consistent support of the Kargil Administration, UT Ladakh Administration, and the Department of Law. He also extended heartfelt thanks to the officers of District Kargil and Leh, the Bar Association Kargil, and representatives of the CAT Srinagar Bench for their assistance and active participation in facilitating the sitting.

A total of 19 cases were listed for hearing on the opening day, with one case disposed of.

The CAT’s circuit sittings in Kargil aim to bring justice closer to the people, minimizing the need for travel to Srinagar and ensuring timely resolution of service-related disputes for government employees and pensioners.

NOTICE

Whereas, Tashi Stobdan S/o Chhering Angchok R/o Charasa Nubra UT Ladakh has claimed that his father's name has been wrongly entered as Tsering Angchok instead of Chhering Angchok in the Driving Licence bearing No. JK-1020160016276 and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary, UT Ladakh with Certificate No. IN-LA09965908174274X to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh within 10 days from the date of publication.

Notice

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as ‘Sherabling Society for Education, Culture & Service Chuchot Shama’ Leh, UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name & Parentage	Residence	Profession	Designation
1	Tundup Dorje S/o Tsering Sonam	Chuchot Shama	Businessman	President
2	Tsetan Namgail S/o Phuntsog Tashi	Chuchot Shama	Unemployed	Vice-President
3	Stanzin Wangyal S/o Tundup Tsering	Chuchot Shama	Unemployed	General Secretary
4	Tashi Dawa S/o Phuntsog Tashi	Chuchot Shamma	Unemployed	Cashier
5	Skaram Dorje S/o Tsering Norboo	Chuchot Shamma	Unemployed	Member
6	Chamba Dorjay S/o Rigzin Yangjor	Chuchot Shamma	Unemployed	Member
7	Tashi Tundup S/o Tsering Norboo	Chuchot Shamma	Unemployed	Member

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to Registrar of Societies, Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of this notice.

President

Sherabling Society for Education, Culture & Service Chuchot Shama

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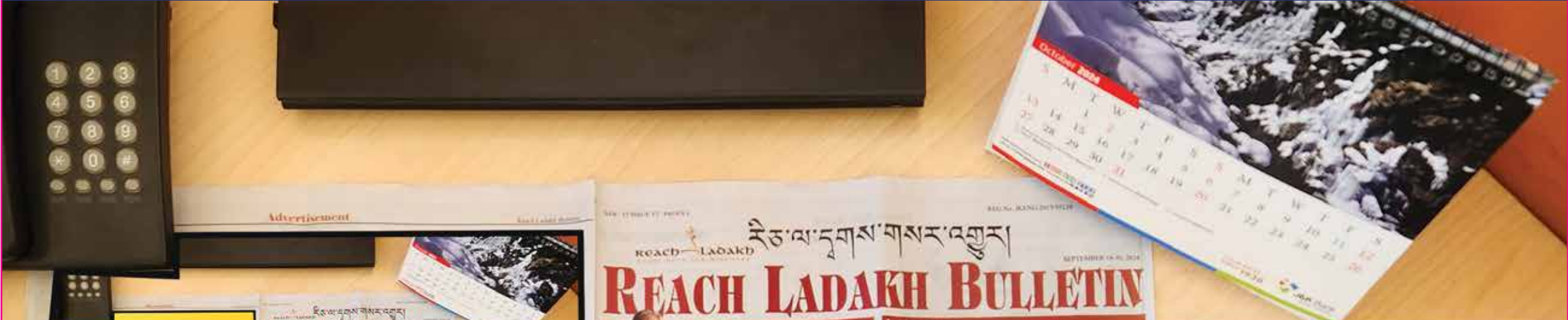
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