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DECEMBER 16-30, 2025

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Preserving Culture, Reviving Heritage: Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association calls for Bhoti inclusion and Kailash Route reopening

**Stanzin Dasal**  
**LEH:** The Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association (HBCA), Leh, has reiterated its long-standing demands for the inclusion of the Bhoti language in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the reopening of the Kailash-Mansarovar route via Ladakh.

HBCA President, Tsering Norbu, stated that these two issues remain the Association's primary focus, and a delegation recently met Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta to present a memorandum on the matter. "He has assured us that the demands will be examined, and we are hopeful of a positive outcome," Norbu said.

**Reopening the Kailash-Mansarovar Route via Ladakh**

Dorjay emphasised that with improved air and surface connectivity to Leh, the Ladakh route is now the shortest, safest, and most cost-effective option for pilgrims. Once the Zojila and Rohtang tunnels are completed, Ladakh will have round-the-year road access to the Indian plains. He also noted the ongoing construction of the Bilaspur-Leh railway line, which will further strengthen connectivity.

Currently, Indian pilgrims undertake the yatra via two alternative routes:

- 1. Uttarakhand (Lipulekh Pass – 5,335 m)**  
– includes over 200 km of difficult trekking and remains vulnerable to floods and landslides.
- 2. Sikkim (Nathula Pass – 4,000 m)**  
– motorable but involves a long 1,559 km drive and a mandatory 35 km parikrama trek.

- significantly reduce travel time and costs,
- boost regional economies in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and J&K,
- and enable local residents to perform the yatra more easily.

The memorandum highlights that discussions on reopening the Ladakh route had earlier featured in two India-China summit meetings during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, when both countries were reportedly close to an agreement. HBCA urged the LG to revive the matter for future bilateral talks.

**Religious and Cultural Significance**

Mount Kailash (Kang Rinpoche) and Lake Mansarovar (Tsom Mapam) hold immense spiritual importance for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and followers of Bon. Kailash is revered as the abode of Lord Shiva and is considered "the Navel of the Universe" in Buddhism. Four major rivers—Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra, and Karnali—originate from its vicinity, adding to its sanctity.

**Bhoti Language: A case for 8th schedule recognition**

HBCA reiterated the significance of the Bhoti language, spoken across the Himalayas—from Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh to Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, and parts of Baltistan. Bhoti, written in the Tibetan script, traces its origin to the ancient Indian



Photo Courtesy: Tuskravel

Sharada script. Scholars like Thonmi Sambhota studied in India to develop the script in the 9th century, linking it deeply to Indian linguistic heritage.

Vikramasila;  
• Strengthen cultural identity and integration of Himalayan communities.

HBCA noted that the reopening of the Ladakh route was previously discussed during India-China bilateral talks under the Vajpayee government, and the two countries had nearly reached an agreement. The Association urged the current government to revive the issue in upcoming dialogues.

The organisation expressed strong faith in the Union Government's ability to take forward-looking decisions in national interest. "A favourable decision on these long-pending demands will be welcomed not only by the people of Ladakh but by the entire nation," HBCA stated.

HBCA stressed that inclusion of Bhoti in the 8th Schedule would:

- Place the language under the protection and development mandate of the Government of India;
- Encourage literature, scholarship, and preservation of ancient texts—including those that survived only through Tibetan translations after the destruction of Nalanda and

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 125 Border infrastructure projects

41 projects in Ladakh among the 125 inaugurated, ensuring improved mobility, tourism, and military logistics

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**  
**LEH:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated 125 strategically significant Border Roads Organisation (BRO) infrastructure projects—the highest number ever inaugurated simultaneously—from Ladakh on December 7.

Spread across Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, and seven states—Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Mizoram—the projects comprise 28 roads, 93 bridges, and four miscellaneous works, completed at an approximate cost of ₹5,000 crore, the highest-value inauguration in BRO's history.

The upgraded infrastructure is expected to substantially improve last-mile connectivity to remote villages and forward military locations, helping integrate these regions more closely with the national mainstream.

In his address, the Defence Minister described the projects as a testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's commitment to strengthening border infrastructure under the vision of Viksit Bharat. The event was held on the Durbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) Road at the Shayok Tunnel, one of the key projects inaugurated. The 920-metre Cut-and-Cover tunnel, built in some of the world's toughest terrain, will provide all-weather, reliable access to a strategic region prone to heavy snowfall, avalanches, and extreme tem-



peratures. Singh said the tunnel will significantly enhance security, mobility, and rapid deployment capability during harsh winters.

The Minister also virtually inaugurated the Galwan War Memorial in Ladakh, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of India's Armed Forces personnel.

Rajnath Singh underlined the Government's resolve to develop border regions, describing connectivity infrastructure as vital for security, economic growth, and disaster management. "Robust infrastructure ensures military mobility, smooth transportation of logistics, increased tourism and employment opportunities, and, most importantly, strengthens faith in development, democracy, and the government," he said.

He noted that India is strengthening its borders at unprecedented speed through roads, tunnels, smart fencing, integrated command centres, and surveillance systems—proof that "connectivity is a backbone of security, and not a

separate entity." Commending the BRO for completing complex projects with speed, efficiency, and indigenous solutions, he said the organisation has become synonymous with "communication" and "connectivity." Singh emphasised the need to further strengthen ties between border regions and the national mainstream so that "the relationship is not influenced by any external factors."

Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan expressed gratitude for the Defence Minister's leadership and the Government's progressive policies and enhanced support, which have expanded BRO's operational capabilities. He noted that the BRO has become the agency of choice for key central ministries—including Home Affairs, External Affairs, and Road Transport & Highways—for executing infrastructure in the country's most challenging and strategic terrains. He acknowledged the dedication and professionalism of BRO personnel as the

...continues on page 2

Ladakh gets enhanced Helicopter connectivity

LG inaugurates revised B-3 services for remote areas and winter emergencies



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta inaugurating the newly revised and expanded B-3 Helicopter Services in Ladakh.

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**  
**LEH:** Ladakh marked a significant milestone on December 12 as Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta inaugurated the newly revised and expanded B-3 Helicopter Services, aimed at enhancing regional connectivity, promoting tourism, and strengthening emergency support for residents of remote areas.

Recognising Ladakh's vast geographical expanse, rugged terrain, and challenging weather conditions, the Lieutenant Governor said that improved air connectivity is not merely a convenience but a necessity for the region's people. The revised scheme features subsidised fares and expanded routes, including Leh-Kargil, Leh-Padum, Leh-Lingshad, Leh-Dibling, Leh-Nyerak, Leh-Diskit, and Leh-Turtuk, ensuring faster, safer, and more affordable travel for both residents and tourists.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the helicopter services will serve as a lifeline during medical emergencies, particularly in the winter months when several road links remain closed due to heavy snowfall. The services will facilitate timely evacuation of patients, swift transportation of essential supplies, and improved access to administrative services for far-flung villages.

Highlighting the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor stated that the Government is committed to accelerating development in border regions through enhanced connectivity, robust infrastructure, and expanded opportunities for youth and local communities. He noted that the upgraded helicopter services are expected to significantly boost Ladakh's tourism potential by enabling easier access to remote destinations renowned for their natural beauty and cultural heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed appreciation to the Civil Aviation authorities, the district administration, and all stakeholders involved in operationalising the initiative. He added that strengthened aviation connectivity would contribute to economic growth, generate employment, and ensure better integration of remote habitations with district headquarters.

With the launch of these services, Ladakh takes another important step towards improved accessibility, enhanced tourism, and a stronger emergency response system.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal also highlighted the increasing demand from residents—particularly from the Zaskar and Singge-Lalok regions—for dependable

...continues on page 2



Fortnightly News

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 125 Border infrastructure projects

organisation’s core strength.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta praised the nationwide inauguration of 125 major projects, including 41 in Ladakh, calling it a historic milestone for the region. He thanked the Prime Minister and Defence Minister for prioritising Ladakh’s rapid and balanced development.

Highlighting major achievements, the LG acknowledged the Cut-and-Cover Tunnel on the Durbuk–Shyok–DBO Road, the world’s highest multi-span Saser Brangsa Bridge, the Nimoo–Padum–Darcha Road—Ladakh’s third and shortest route—and the operationalisation of the high-altitude Mudh–Nyoma Airfield, a strategic asset. He added that improved routes such as Mahe–Chushul and Mahe–Debring have boosted tourism to Pangong, Chushul, and Tso Moriri, promoting adventure and eco-tourism.

Calling Ladakh a symbol of India’s spirit and beauty,

Gupta urged citizens to visit the region at least once to experience its natural grandeur, cultural purity, and evolving border heritage made more accessible through BRO’s world-class roads.

The LG also praised the courage displayed during Operation Sindoor, reaffirming India’s resolve to protect its sovereignty. He expressed deep appreciation for the DGBR and BRO workforce for their nation-first commitment. On Operation Sindoor, the Defence Minister said, “Our Armed Forces launched the operation in response to the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Everybody knows what befell those terrorists.

We could have done much more, but our forces, demonstrating both courage and patience, did only what was necessary. Such a massive operation was possible due to strong connectivity. Logistics were delivered to the Armed Forces in a timely manner, making the operation a historic success.” He lauded the coordination

between the Armed Forces, civil administration, and border residents, calling it “our identity” and what makes India unique.

The event was attended by Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde; Mizoram Governor General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh; Ladakh Lt Gov Kavinder Gupta; J&K Lt Gov Manoj Sinha; J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Mizoram Chief Minister Laldhuma; Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and Kiren Rijiju; Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi; Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh; senior military leaders, officials, and BRO personnel.

In the last two years, 356 BRO infrastructure projects have been dedicated to the nation, marking a new benchmark in strategic infrastructure development. Recognising BRO’s critical role, the Government increased its budget from ₹6,500 crore to ₹7,146 crore in the Union Budget 2025-26.

Ladakh gets enhanced Helicopter connectivity

helicopter services during winter months, when surface connectivity is severely disrupted. He informed that to address emergency and medical requirements, helicopter services have been made available and can be availed through an online booking system.

Those present at the event included Commissioner/Secretary, Civil Aviation, Dr. L. Franklin; Administrative Secretary, PDD, Rudra Goud; Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk; SSP Leh, Shree Raam R; officials from Pawan Hans and the civil aviation sector, along with senior officers of the UT Administration.

10 MVA power transformers dedicated to public at Chuchot Substation



Photo Caption: 10 MVA power transformer installed to augment the capacity of the Chuchot Substation.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The Administrative Secretary, Power and NRE Department, UT Ladakh, Rudra Goud PT (IAS), dedicated a newly installed and commissioned 10 MVA power transformer to the public on December 8.

Chief Engineer, PDD Ladakh, Tsewang Paljor; Superintending Engineer PDD, Tundup Spaljang; Executive Engineer STD Leh, Rinchen Wangmo; along with officers from the Power Development Department and executing agencies, were present at the event.

The project, executed by the Sub-Transmission Division Leh of PDD Ladakh and approved under the SDP Budget 2024–25 of UT Ladakh, was completed at a total cost of ₹2.86 crore. The installation work was carried out by M/s SF Enterprises.

The 10 MVA power transformer has been installed to augment the capacity of the Chuchot Substation, enabling it to meet the rising power demand in areas from Spituk to Palam Chuchot and Choglamsar through newly added feeders.

The Chuchot Substation also supplies power to the newly constructed KBR Airport New Terminal Building through a dedicated 6.3 MVA transformer commissioned in October 2025.

The addition of the new 10 MVA transformer has significantly reduced load stress on the Leh Bombarh Substation, especially during the winter months.

L-G launches 2-day Cooperative Fair, pledges stronger support for self-reliant Ladakh



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta at the 2-day Cooperative Trade Fair 2025 in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, inaugurated the 2-day Cooperative Trade Fair 2025, organised by the Department of Cooperative, UT Ladakh, on December 11. The event showcased the achievements of Ladakh’s co-operative sector while opening new avenues for future growth.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor highlighted that the fair not only displays the accomplishments of the cooperative sector but also guides new directions and opportunities for development. He underlined the indispensable role of cooperatives in Ladakh’s geographically challenging

landscape, where Consumer, Marketing, and Agricultural Societies ensure the supply of essential commodities, agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and vermi-compost, as well as vegetables and fruits during harsh winters. These societies also provide fair market access for local produce. He noted that such efforts exemplify the robustness of Ladakh’s cooperative movement, which has become the backbone of the region’s rural economy.

Referring to the United Nations’ declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives, the Lt Governor expressed pride in Ladakh’s en-

thusiastic participation through initiatives such as the inauguration of a cafeteria-cum-showroom, awareness workshops in Hanley and Khaltse, distribution of milking machines to dairy farmers, school-level programmes, organic manure drives, mass plantation activities, and fruit processing demonstrations—each contributing to community empowerment and self-reliance.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision, he reiterated the mantra “Sahakar Se Samridhi,” which energises the cooperative movement by fostering economic partnership, social unity, collective strength, and

sustainable development. He described the exhibition as a strong symbol of this national resolve.

Looking ahead, the Lt Governor stressed the need to modernise cooperatives through digital platforms, branding, value addition, packaging, and quality improvement. He encouraged youth and women entrepreneurs to lead innovation and help Ladakh emerge as a model cooperative region.

In his concluding remarks, he reaffirmed the UT Administration’s commitment to policy support, financial assistance, quality enhancement, and institutional strengthening to build a self-reliant and sustainable coop-

erative network in Ladakh. He expressed confidence that the fair would reinforce community unity, partnership, and prosperity in the spirit of cooperation.

Later, Kavinder Gupta felicitated top-performing cooperatives with excellence awards, including Gulbahar Milk and Dairy Cooperative Society Minjee, Fruits Growers Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society Kargil, Tibetan Refugee Service Co-operative Society Ltd Choglamsar, and Ladakh Transport Cooperative Society. He also visited various stalls displaying products and food items from cooperatives across Ladakh.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal emphasised the importance of cooperatives in both developed and developing nations, highlighting their role in improving livelihoods, fostering social bonds, and promoting interdependence. He acknowledged significant growth in the dairy and pashmina sectors in Ladakh in recent years.

Administrative Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary noted that Ladakh has 273 registered cooperatives across various sectors, providing economic support and livelihood opportunities to women self-help groups and entrepreneurs—truly reflecting the spirit of “Sahkar se Adhikari tak.”

Additional Registrar Cooperative, Syed Sajad Qadri, also briefed the gathering on departmental initiatives, noting the global significance of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives.

LG Kavinder Gupta visits Puga Geothermal and Pang Solar Projects

Reaffirms vision of carbon-neutral Ladakh; assures livelihoods of Changthang nomads will not be affected



Photo Caption: The Lieutenant Governor interacting with residents at Samad Rokchan/Tsokar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, visited the Changthang region on December 12 to review the progress of two flagship clean energy projects—the 1 MW Geothermal Power Project at Puga, being implemented by ONGC, and the proposed 11 GW Solar Power Project at Pang, being implemented by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). Both projects are central to the vision of transforming Ladakh into a carbon-neutral region and a national hub for renewable energy, in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

At the Puga hot springs, the site of the ongoing geothermal project, the Lieutenant Governor was informed that drilling up to 450 metres has been completed, with an additional 600 metres of drilling scheduled over the coming months. Two thermal wells are currently under construction to harness geothermal energy. Officials

further informed him that, contrary to initial estimates, the project is now expected to generate approximately 4 MW of power instead of the originally planned 1 MW. The power generated will be integrated into the grid and supplied for domestic consumption to nearby villages, making it the first geothermal power project of its kind in the country.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the medicinal properties of the hot springs at Chumathang and Puga and informed him that the Administration plans to develop hot and cold bath facilities at these sites to promote wellness tourism while improving amenities for local residents and visitors.

At Pang, the Lieutenant Governor inspected the ongoing work at the proposed 11 GW solar power project site and reviewed the 500 kWp Solar Demonstration Project. He was informed that the demonstration plant,

constructed at a cost of Rs 4.93 crore, was completed within three months to demonstrate to local residents—particularly nomadic communities—that cattle can safely graze within and around the solar plant area without any adverse impact.

Officials explained that the solar photovoltaic panels have been installed with a ground clearance of 1,200 mm, allowing sufficient space for grass growth and grazing beneath the structures. The piling design has been strengthened to support the elevated structures and configured to ensure there is no risk of injury to livestock.

The Chief Secretary further informed that two scientists and research scholars from the University of Ladakh have been engaged to study the impact of solar panel installations on grass growth and the local ecosystem, ensuring the project remains environmentally compatible with Changthang’s pastoral livelihoods. Project engineers from

Sunnery Systems and LREDA briefed the Lieutenant Governor that all inverters and components of the demonstration project have been rigorously tested to withstand Ladakh’s extreme climatic conditions, ranging from high summer irradiance to sub-zero winter temperatures. The project was commissioned in the last week of October, and electricity is already being supplied to local residents.

During the visit, the Lieutenant Governor also interacted with a delegation at Tsokar led by Nambaradar Samad Rokchan, who raised concerns regarding unreliable mobile connectivity, the need for a dedicated Medical Officer at the local Health and Wellness Centre, and the allocation of a designated area for commercial establishments to support livelihood opportunities.

Describing the Puga geothermal and Pang solar projects as critical milestones towards making Ladakh carbon-neutral, the Lieutenant Governor said that Ladakh, with more than 300 sunny days annually, has immense potential to emerge as the solar energy hub of the country. He emphasised that the 11 GW solar project will generate substantial revenue through power sales to other states while creating significant employment opportunities for local youth and communities. He assured residents and nomadic herders that traditional livelihoods and grazing rights would be protected, citing the demonstration project as proof that cattle can move and graze freely beneath and around solar installations. He added that these projects would ensure reliable 24×7 power supply to remote areas.

Highlighting the importance of Changthang pashmina in the local

economy, the Lieutenant Governor underlined that pashmina-based livelihoods—especially for Changthang communities and their self-help groups—are central to the region’s socio-economic fabric. He assured that all efforts would be made to promote Changthang pashmina at national and international platforms. The Chief Secretary also briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the Hemya–Nyoma transmission line and its expected role in providing reliable and uninterrupted power to the region. He further informed him about the construction of fully insulated homes for nomadic families under the Changthang Development Package, under which huts costing Rs 15 lakh each are being provided. A total of 30 such clusters are planned across Changthang to improve living conditions and resilience against extreme winters.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the UT Administration, in close coordination with the Government of India, remains fully committed to harnessing Ladakh’s solar and geothermal potential for clean energy while safeguarding the environment, preserving traditional livelihoods, and ensuring inclusive development for the people of Changthang and Ladakh.

Among those present during the Lieutenant Governor’s visit were Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Administrative Secretary, PDD, Rudra Goud, Deputy Commissioner Leh Romil Singh Donk, SSP Leh Shree Raam R. SDM Nyoma Kacho Asgar Ali Khan, and senior officials from the Power Development Department and other government departments.

UT Ladakh evaluates 11,000 students in first-of-its-kind independent assessment



Photo Caption: Students taking assessment drive conducted by school education department.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**LEH:** The School Education Department conducted an Independent Assessment on December 11 to evaluate the overall academic progress and learning outcomes of students across all Government Schools in Ladakh.

The assessment covered students from Class 1 to Class 9 (excluding Class 8) in both Leh and Kargil districts. Approximately 11,000 students across the UT appeared for the test, which evaluated their proficiency in key subjects including English, Urdu, Mathematics, Science, and Social Sciences. The examination followed a Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) format and was conducted simultaneously across all educational blocks.

For the first time, the UT Administration introduced OMR-based answer sheets, with question papers designed in accordance with prescribed learning outcomes. To ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the examination, Centre Superintendents, Duty Magistrates, and Invigilators were deployed to all designated centres. Nearly all examination centres were equipped with CCTV cameras, strengthening monitoring and ensuring transparency throughout the process.

The Independent Assessment aims not only to measure students’ conceptual understanding but also to reflect the effectiveness of teaching practices across government schools in Ladakh.



Fortnightly News

Ladakh Umlingla Challenge 2026 announced – Registrations open from 16 December

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ladakh Umlingla Challenge 2026 — the world’s highest-altitude ultra marathon — has been officially announced and is scheduled to take place on 10 July 2026. The event aims to strengthen border tourism, highlight Ladakh’s breathtaking landscapes, and offer runners a once-in-a-lifetime experience at nearly 19,000 feet (5,900 m).

Registrations open on 16 December 2025; <https://ladakhumlinglechallenge.sarmang.com/>

Organised by the Sarmang Society and Sarmang Adventure Tours, the race will be hosted at Umling La Pass, one of India’s most remarkable strategic and engineering accomplishments under BRO’s Project Himank. The pass has gained global attention for its extreme altitude and proximity to India’s forward areas, standing as a symbol of national pride and high-altitude endurance.

The Ladakh Umlingla Challenge serves as a unique platform showcasing the region’s significance in India’s border tourism narrative. The race route passes through remote Ladakhi villages, the vast Changthang plateau, and the rugged terrain that characterises India’s frontier landscape.

Race Director and Secre-



tary of Sarmang Society, Anil Mohan, stated: “Umling La is a gift to India and the world. Through this event, our goal is to bring Ladakh’s border villages, its culture, its harsh yet stunning beauty, and its unmatched altitude challenges to the global running community. Every participant becomes an ambassador of Ladakh’s frontier tourism.”

The event promotes responsible and sustainable tourism, encouraging athletes and adventure seekers to explore Ladakh beyond its commercial hotspots.

With race categories of 70K, 50K, 42K, 21K, and 10K, the Ladakh Umlingla Challenge offers participants the rare opportunity to run in oxygen levels nearly 50% lower than at sea level. The thin air, towering mountains, and silent valleys create an immersive, unmatched experience.

Participants will traverse some of Ladakh’s most

striking landscapes — vast high-altitude deserts, distant snow-covered peaks, remote settlements, and unique wildlife habitats.

The event is also expected to benefit local communities, including homestay owners, guides, transport operators, artisans, and cultural groups, thereby supporting the local economy while respecting Ladakh’s fragile environment.

Ladakh has steadily established itself as a premier destination for adventure tourism. The Ladakh Umlingla Challenge further elevates this reputation, making the region a global hotspot for ultra runners, mountaineers, and explorers seeking to push their physical and mental boundaries.

The 2026 edition is expected to attract participants from across India and around the world, placing Umling La among the world’s most iconic high-altitude racing destinations.

Assessment camp held in Leh to boost livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities



Photo Caption: Administrative Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare Department, Shashanka Ala at assessment camp to help Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the District Social Welfare Office, Leh, organised an assessment camp—cum—pre-event activity aimed

at helping Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) access meaningful placement and livelihood opportunities across various sectors.

The initiative was conducted in collaboration with the All Ladakh Guesthouse & Hotel Association (ALGHA), Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Leh, and other partner organisations in Ladakh.

The event was graced by Administrative Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare Department, Shashanka Ala, accompanied by the Director, Social & Tribal Welfare Department, Kunzes Angmo; District Social Welfare Officer, Mohd Safdar Bhat; and representatives from civil society organisations, including PAGIR and Munsel Society. Their participation highlighted the administration’s strong

focus on empowerment, accessibility, and social inclusion for PwDs across the UT.

The camp served as a vital platform where participants received assessments, counselling, and guidance on future opportunities. Officials and representatives from the hospitality industry, skill development institutes, and self-employment agencies interacted directly with PwDs to understand their interests and help identify suitable job roles, training programmes, and avenues for small business development.

Secretary Ala also spent time engaging with chil-

dren and young participants, listening to their needs and aspirations. She spoke to parents and caregivers about ensuring proper training, learning facilities, and a supportive environment that enables children with disabilities to grow confidently and independently.

She further reaffirmed the government’s commitment to creating more inclusive workplaces in Ladakh, strengthening coordination with NGOs and community groups, and building long-term support systems that ensure the wellbeing and empowerment of persons with disabilities across the region.

Ladakh unveils new Bhoti language textbooks for early education



Photo Caption: Officials launching the new Bhoti language textbooks.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a major step toward preserving and promoting Ladakh’s linguistic heritage, new Bhoti language textbooks for Balvatika 1, 2, 3 and Grades 1 and 2

were officially launched on December 5. The ceremony took place at the Purple Studio of the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Bhanu Prabha (IAS), Administrative Secretary, School Education, UT Ladakh, and Guest of Honour Tashi Dolma (JKAS), Director, School Education, UT Ladakh. The launch was attended by eminent Bhoti language scholars, educators, and DIET faculty members.

The release marks a significant milestone in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Ladakh, which emphasizes mother-

tongue-based foundational learning. The newly developed textbooks aim to provide young learners with a strong foundation in Bhoti language and script through age-appropriate, culturally rooted content. The scholarly team behind the creation of these textbooks was led by Maryul Stanzin Nurbo, the principal designer. Their dedicated efforts, along with the support of DIET Leh faculty, were widely appreciated at the event.

Addressing the gathering,

Chief Guest Bhanu Prabha expressed strong support for the initiative and praised the quality of work accomplished so far. She urged the team to extend textbook development up to Class 12 and to set a clear timeline to achieve this goal.

The event reaffirmed the UT Ladakh School Education Department’s commitment to strengthening linguistic identity, enriching classroom learning, and advancing a robust multilingual education system across the region.

Ladakh Police holds 2-day conference on Implementing DGSP/IGSP Recommendations 2025



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A 2-day State/UT-level conference on the Dissemination of DGSP/IGSP Conference Recommendations 2025, organised by Ladakh Police, was held at the CIBS Auditorium Hall in Choglamsar on December 10–11.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, stressed that emerging “white-collar” terror modules pose a significant and evolving security challenge. He highlighted the need for enhanced intelligence gathering, financial trail tracking, cyber vigilance, and seamless inter-agency coordination to counter such threats. He further emphasised the rapid deployment of modern investigative tools and advanced training to ensure the police force remains capable of addressing unconventional and technology-enabled challenges.

The Lt Governor pointed out that Ladakh’s unique realities—its strategic location, harsh climate, limited connectivity, and evolving security landscape—require a shift from conventional policing to technology-driven, intelligence-led, and community-centred proactive policing.

Calling the conference a vital platform for strengthening Ladakh’s security architecture, he reiterated the urgent need for modern investigative tools, structured training, and data-driven decision-making to counter emerging threats effectively.

The Lt Governor also expressed concern over ris-

ing radicalisation trends and urged the police to intensify community engagement, awareness campaigns, educational outreach, and early-intervention mechanisms to safeguard youth and preserve Ladakh’s social harmony.

Outlining a roadmap for a “Surakshit Ladakh” aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat, he stated that the region’s security framework must rest on strong intelligence systems, cyber vigilance, modern infrastructure, AI-supported monitoring, geospatial intelligence, advanced communication networks, and robust community partnerships. He underscored the need for continuous skill upgradation through structured training, field exercises, and digital learning platforms like iGOT to keep Ladakh Police resilient and adaptable. Recognising Ladakh Police’s crucial role in tourism management, public order, and border security, he stressed the importance of ensuring tourist safety and maintaining vigilant border policing for the UT’s security and economic stability.

Describing the conference discussions as “action-oriented and outcome-focused,” the Lt Governor urged officers to frame clear, measurable, and implementable recommendations. Reaffirming full support from the Union Territory Administration, he expressed confidence that Ladakh Police will evolve into a modern, accountable, and citizen-centric force and emerge as a national model.

DGP Ladakh, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, briefed attendees on the All India DGSP/IGSP Conference 2025 held in Bhubaneswar, where the Prime Minister directed States and UTs to disseminate and implement key recommendations to enhance policing efficiency. He said the recommendations relevant to Ladakh—covering disaster management, crime control, cybercrime, tourist safety, law and order, advanced policing technologies and new criminal laws—were deliberated upon during the conference.

Principal PTC Stongsar, Altaf Shah, presented a detailed summary highlighting key areas such as iGOT Karmayogi training, NATGRID, CCTNS 2.0, coordination with UT-DRF for disaster management, modern anti-riot and crowd-control techniques, narco-investigation tools, tourist safety through the Jullay Tourist app, and the integration of AI and OSINT in strengthening policing in Ladakh.

DIG Leh–Kargil Range, Vikas Kumar, briefed the Lt Governor on the conference objectives, while Staff Officer to the DGP, Farhan Jahanzeb Naqash, delivered the vote of thanks.

The event was attended by IG NWF ITBP Akun Sabharwal, Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh Spalzes Angmo, senior police officers, judicial officers, and resource persons.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal inspects key development projects in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chief Secretary of Ladakh, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, conducted a series of visits to major development sites in Leh on December 8 to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects.

The Chief Secretary began his inspection at the newly constructed UT Secretariat Building, Leh, where he reviewed the progress of works and directed the executing agency to expedite the remaining tasks while ensuring adherence to high-quality standards. He also instructed the agency to make the entire building fully disabled-friendly by incorporating all necessary accessibility features.

Dr. Kotwal was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary, Finance & Planning Department, Dr. Laltinkhuma Franklin; Secretary, Information Technology, Shashanka Ala; Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk; engineers from CPWD; and other concerned officials.

He later inspected the newly constructed Youth Hostel, reviewing the building layout and various rooms. He instructed the Executive Engineer, R&B Leh, to complete the pending works at the earliest. During this visit, he was joined by Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Moses Kunzang; Deputy Commissioner Leh,

Romil Singh Donk; Chief Engineer, R&B, Abdul Mutalib; the Superintending Engineer, Leh; Executive Engineer, R&B Leh, Mohd Ali Khan; District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Leh; and other officials.

Subsequently, the Chief Secretary visited the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC) office, where he inspected laboratory facilities and interacted with officials regarding operational procedures. He also reviewed the functioning of the Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring system and instructed officials to install AQI display boards at suitable locations across Leh in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk; Chief Engineer, R&B, Abdul Mutalib; the Superintending Engineer; Executive Engineer, R&B Leh, Mohd Ali Khan; and other concerned officers during the visit.

Government School Stok upgraded to ‘Ladakh Model School’



Photo caption: Students of Government School Stok during the upgradation ceremony.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

STOK: In a major step toward strengthening local education, Government School Stok was officially upgraded to Ladakh Model School Stok on December 4. The transformation marks an important milestone aimed at raising academic standards through improved infrastructure and modern learning facilities for students in the region.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Secretary, School Education, Bhanu Prabha (IAS) and Director, School Education, Tashi Dolma (JKAS), who jointly led the initiative. Both officials expressed a strong commitment to enhancing

the quality of government education, highlighting the administration’s dedication to providing equitable access to high-quality learning environments.

The event also showcased strong community participation. Distinguished local figures, including National Awardee Sonam Gyaltson, the Nambardar, and the President of Phanday Tsokspa Stok, attended the ceremony along with other community representatives. Their active involvement reflected the close collaboration between the Education Department and the local community—an effort expected to drive meaningful reforms benefiting students, teachers,

and families.

Speaking at the event, officials stressed the vital role of community engagement in improving educational outcomes. They encouraged parents and local leaders to remain actively involved as the school adopts the Model School framework, which will include enhanced technology access, teacher training, co-curricular development, and a more student-centered approach to learning.

The Education Department extended gratitude to all contributors and reaffirmed its vision to uplift government schools across Ladakh through similar initiatives.

Govt extends electric vehicle subsidy scheme to accelerate electric mobility in Ladakh



Photo Caption: Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, UT Ladakh, Bhupesh Choudhary.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, UT Ladakh, Bhupesh Choudhary, IAS, announced the extension of the Early Bird Incentive under the Ladakh Electric Vehicle and Allied Infrastructure Policy, 2022.

The Early Bird Incentive—which provides a subsidy on the purchase of electric vehicles—has now been extended up to 31st March 2027 to further promote EV adoption across Ladakh.

Choudhary reiterated the government’s commitment to sustainable mobility, stating that Ladakh aims to make electric vehicles more affordable for the public, transport operators, and government establishments. The incentive will remain valid for nearly one and a half years from the date of notification and offers up to 20% subsidy on the ex-showroom price of EVs, depending on the vehicle category and prescribed caps.

As per the policy, the Early Bird Incentive covers 116 electric vehicles across multiple segments:

- 35 electric two-wheelers
- 10 e-rickshaws/e-carts
- 10 electric three-wheelers
- 40 electric cars
- 11 electric buses

- 10 electric LCVs/Maxi Cabs

These represent the maximum number of vehicles eligible under the early adoption category.

The Secretary also detailed the subsidy limits for each segment:

- ₹30,000 for electric two-wheelers
- ₹60,000 for e-rickshaws/e-carts
- ₹1,00,000 for electric three-wheelers
- ₹5,00,000 for electric cars
- ₹1,00,00,000 for electric buses
- ₹6,00,000 for electric LCVs/Maxi Cabs

In addition to the Early Bird Incentive, the EV Policy offers a 10% subsidy during the main policy period. Choudhary noted that these incentives significantly reduce purchase costs—for instance, an electric car priced at ₹5 lakh may effectively cost around ₹4 lakh after the Early Bird subsidy.

He urged the residents of Ladakh to take advantage of the extended incentive period, adopt electric mobility, and contribute to protecting Ladakh’s fragile ecosystem while moving toward a cleaner and more sustainable transport future.



People’s Voice:

Residents of Tia and Temisgam Highlight JJM Failures

Stanzin Dasal

Ensuring access to clean drinking water for every household under the Jal Jeevan Mission remains a major challenge in many villages of Ladakh. Ground reporting from Tia and Temisgam villages in the Sham region reveals wide-spread dissatisfaction with the scheme.

In several areas, pipelines were laid long ago, yet no water flows through them. Elsewhere, extremely high water pressure has caused frequent damage, raising concerns among residents. The use of substandard pipes and tap fittings has made water flow difficult to control, and the absence of a proper drainage system has created additional problems.

Winter brings further complications. Despite guidelines requiring pipelines to be buried at least four feet below ground to prevent freezing, many lines have been laid on the surface, resulting in complete freezing during harsh temperatures.

Here’s what the villagers have to say.



**Tashi Namgyal, Resident of Tia Village:** It is disheartening to see that the government has spent such a huge amount on implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission, yet people here are not receiving even a fraction of its intended benefits.

The pipelines were laid merely to show that the work was completed, without any proper topographical or geographical study of the area and without consulting the people who actually live here. As a result, most of the pipelines remain dry, and there is no water supply at all.

In several locations, the use of substandard pipes has led to frequent bursts due to high water pressure, creating unnecessary chaos for residents. One of the most distressing incidents was the damage caused to the walls of Sogra Lhakhang—a temple deeply valued by the community. The walls cracked due to water leakage, and we were forced to rebuild them. Such losses could have been avoided with proper planning and quality work.



**Tashi Tundup, Former Councilor, Temisgam Constituency:** Our village has a reliable and abundant water source, and scarcity has never been an issue here. However, the Jal Jeevan Mission has become one of the biggest concerns for the com-

munity due to its poor and unsatisfactory implementation. In some areas, water does reach the taps, but because of low-quality fittings and taps, leakages and breakages happen frequently.

Under JJM, there is no proper system for maintenance, nor are line-men provided with the necessary materials to address routine issues. Whenever we raise these concerns with the department, the response is always the same—there is no budget for maintenance. This clearly shows that the execution of the scheme has been far from proper, leading to chaos, complaints and frustration among villagers.

Moreover, during the implementation of JJM, many of the old PHE pipelines were damaged, creating additional problems. In summer, people somehow manage by collecting water from streams, springs or available tap water. But winter is extremely challenging due to freezing temperatures. If JJM had been executed properly, it could have solved the winter water crisis once and for all.

Unfortunately, there is no accountability. The contractors completed their work and left, and the villagers are now left to deal with the consequences.



**Sonam Angdus, Resident of Tia Village:** In summer, we do get some water, but as soon as winter approaches, the water in the pipe-lines stops completely. The taps and fittings used are of such poor quality that they break frequently. We are very unhappy with the way the work has been carried out. If the intention is truly to benefit the people, then the

concerned authorities must ensure proper execution. Otherwise, it is better not to implement anything than to cause damage and give people false hope.

We keep hearing that huge amounts of money have been spent on this scheme, but what is the point when the citizens are not receiving any benefit? We don’t even know whom to approach for help. When we go to the department, they tell us to speak to the contractors; the contractors direct us to the lineman or the JE. We are left confused about who is actually responsible. This lack of accountability has made the situation even more frustrating for the villagers.



**Dadul, Resident of Tingmosgang:** In some parts of the village, pipelines connected to a borewell are functioning well, unlike in other areas. But this borewell system covers barely 5 percent of the project, and while that small portion is successful, the remaining 95 percent is a complete failure. We are not receiving what the government intended to provide, despite crores of rupees being spent under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

In Tingmosgang, a few households have access to the borewell, and since it works smoothly, officials often visit only this area during inspections. However, this does not reflect the true situation. The majority of villagers is facing serious issues and is unhappy with the scheme. The ground reality is far from what is being shown.

SoulSpeak

Dr. P.P. Wangchuk  
Be grateful, and be happy

To be grateful is to be happy, and the secret of happiness lies in being grateful. There is hardly any other act that can help you more to have a good and a purposeful life.



The biggest thing about being grateful is that you are ‘wired’ with people, and, in the process, you get to find how you see the world. We are social animals, and but for our society, our friends and relatives, we would be reduced to a ‘nothing thing’. In other words, when we are wired and are one with society, we get to do meaningful and purposeful activities that benefit everybody

around us.

Gratefulness lets you understand that happiness is a ‘product’ that comes from within, and not from any outer source. Once you are grateful, you get a beautiful chance to know yourself, your inner being that makes you feel your real worth.

Gratefulness also teaches you to be sensitive and humble, and never to be haughty. When you say ‘Thank You’ to someone for any reason, it comes out of your inner-self, and is a reflection of your genuine self of being what you really are.

It also teaches you to appreciate the good things of life like familiar faces, quiet evenings and sunny and bright mornings. And that gives you hope and a sense of being one with the rest of the world. You enjoy things around, and you are ready to appreciate and talk in positive terms. That, in turn, keeps you happy and hopeful.

Therefore, it is important that we consciously and effortfully learn to manage the art of gratitude practice. Those who are serious about life and its purpose make it a point that they never fail to exercise the acts of gratitude. It gives them a kind of vibe that makes them capable of appreciating the little things of life which, in turn, gets them big dividends.

And, lastly, saying ‘thank you’ is more than good mannerism. It is an act of appreciation and comes from your good soul. It keeps the giver and the receiver equally pleased. As someone has said, gratitude is the finest blossom that springs from within. The punchline: Gratitude is the best attitude, and it places you on the right track.  
Courtesy: WongWorld  
The writer is a New Delhi-based Editor-at-large, columnist and professional speaker.

Minorities Rights Day



Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on December 18 in India to highlight the importance of safeguarding the rights of minority communities. The day reinforces the nation’s commitment to building an inclusive society where people from diverse cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds live with equality, dignity, and mutual respect.

India, home to a rich tapestry of cultures and faiths—including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis—celebrates its diversity through its democratic and constitutional framework. Despite this diversity, minority communities often face challenges such as discrimination, social exclusion, and limited access to opportunities. Minorities Rights Day serves as a reminder of the constitutional protections that ensure their welfare and equal

status.

The observance aligns with the United Nations’ adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities on December 18, 1992. This declaration emphasized the protection of cultural identity, language, and traditions of minority groups worldwide. India began commemorating this day to reaffirm its commitment to these global principles.

Minorities Rights Day offers an opportunity to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that remain. There is a continued need to bridge gaps in education, employment, and social inclusion while fostering an environment rooted in respect and equality. The collabora-

tive efforts of the government, civil society, and citizens are crucial in upholding the values of justice and equity.

Ensuring that minority communities feel represented, respected, and included strengthens the foundations of India’s democracy. The day stands as a testament to the country’s pluralistic ethos and its dedication to nurturing a society where diversity is celebrated and equal rights are guaranteed.

By working together, India can further its vision of harmonious coexistence and inclusive development for all.

Courtesy: India Today

DID YOU KNOW



Courtesy: www.savit.in

**Mount Everest isn’t the tallest mountain on Earth.** Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa in Hawaii, the twin volcanoes, are taller than Mount Everest as 4.2km of their height is submerged underwater. The twin volcanoes measure a staggering 10.2km in total, compared to Everest’s paltry 8.8km.

**Wind turbines kill between 10,000 and 100,000 birds each year in the UK.** Interestingly, painting one of the blades of a wind turbine black can reduce bird deaths by 70 per cent.

**Snails have teeth.** Between 1,000 and 12,000 teeth, to be precise. They aren’t like ours, though, so don’t be thinking about snails with ridiculous toothy grins. You’ll find the snail’s tiny ‘teeth’ all over its file-like tongue.

**Sound can be minus decibels.** The quietest place on Earth is Microsoft’s anechoic chamber in Redmond, WA, USA, at -20.6 decibels. These anechoic chambers are built out of heavy concrete and brick and are mounted on springs to stop vibrations from getting in through the floor.

**A horse normally has more than one horsepower.** A study in 1993 showed

that the maximum power a horse can produce is 18,000W, around 24 horsepower.

**Your signature could reveal personality traits.** A study in 2016 purports that among men, a larger signature correlates with higher social bravado and, among women, a bigger signature correlates with narcissistic traits.

**Your nails grow faster in hot summer.** This is probably due to increased blood supply to the fingertips. It could also be because you’re less stressed while on holiday so less likely to gnaw away at ‘em.

**The Bermuda Triangle is no more hazardous than any other busy ocean route.** The mystery of this patch of sea gained legendary status in the 20th century, but the number of incidents in the Bermuda Triangle isn’t significantly higher than in any other part of the ocean.

Courtesy: BBC Science Focus



Fortnightly News

In Conversation with  
Chhunzin Angmo, First visually impaired Woman to Scale Mount Everest

**Q. Congratulations on becoming the first visually impaired woman to scale Mount Everest. Could you begin by telling us about your background and early life?**

Jullay, and thank you to Reach Ladakh for giving me this opportunity to share my journey. I am from the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. I lost my eyesight at the age of 8 due to a reaction to medication. Later, I moved to Ladakh and completed my schooling at Mahabodhi Residential School. That opportunity truly gave me a second life, as it allowed me to continue my education.

I went on to complete my graduation and post-graduation from Miranda House, Delhi University. Currently, I am working with the Union Bank of India.

I have always been passionate about sports and adventure activities. I won a gold medal in swimming at the state level and participated in a national-level judo championship. I have also won two bronze medals in national-level marathon events, participated three times in the Delhi Marathon, as well as in the Pink Marathon and the Delhi Vedanta Marathon. In addition, I play football at the zonal and national levels, and I also engage in cricket, cycling, mountaineering, hiking, trekking, and other adventure sports.

**Q. Being visually impaired, how did it shape your childhood, and what inspired you to keep going?**

I come from a remote village with very little awareness about disability, and no one imagined that a visually impaired child could study. Losing my eyesight at 8 felt like the end of everything, but I was blessed with parents who supported and treated me just like my siblings. They never showed their worries and always encouraged me.

Joining Mahabodhi School in Leh changed my life. It gave me the opportunity to study and grow. I am grateful to Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, my teachers, and friends who constantly motivated me, guided me, and helped me participate in different activities. Although I initially lacked confidence and felt different from other students, their continuous encouragement helped me overcome my hesitation.

The confident person I am today is because of the support of my parents, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, teachers, and friends.

**Q. What first drew you to mountaineering and when did the idea of climbing Mount Everest come to you?**

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal



During school, I read about Erik Weihenmayer, the first blind person to summit Mount Everest. I didn't yet know much about mountaineering, but I was curious whether I could try it. Later, when I moved to Delhi for higher studies, I got a chance to enroll in a basic mountaineering course for both disabled and non-disabled individuals at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (Manali, Himachal Pradesh). I was selected and among 30 trainees, I received the "Best Training" award.

That experience made me realize mountaineering isn't just about physical strength; it also builds mental resilience. On researching, I found that no visually impaired woman in India had yet climbed Everest. Previously, my plan was to prepare for the UPSC exam but I saw a unique gap in mountaineering for disabled people. That difference appealed to me, and I decided to pursue the challenge.

I knew it would be tough, and when I shared my dream many people doubted me saying if sighted climbers struggled, how would a visually impaired person succeed? Their reactions only strengthened my resolve. I was determined to prove that disability doesn't define one's limits.

**Q. Tell us about the Everest journey what was going through your mind?**

Before attempting Everest, I pushed my limits through various expeditions. I cycled from Manali to Khardung La in 2018, completed a Nilgiris cycling expedition across three states in six days in 2019, and rode from Manali to Kalpa through Spiti and Kinnaur in 2023. I also climbed Mt. Kang Yatse II (6,250 m) in Ladakh and was part of a Divyang team that scaled an unnamed 6,000-metre peak. In 2021, I became the only woman with disabilities to be part of the team that scaled the Siachen Glacier under Operation Blue Freedom, setting a new world record.

For Everest, the biggest challenge was financial support, and I am deeply grateful to Union Bank of India for believing in me and sponsoring my expedition. When I reached the base, I saw other climbers who had prepared for years training in gyms, hiring personal coaches but I arrived with just a dream and determination. When people asked about my preparation, my honest answer was, "I just came."

One of the toughest parts was crossing the ladders. For sighted climbers, it's possible to stand and walk across, but for me, I had to crawl. When I asked my guide if it was safe, he simply said, "Do what feels comfortable." I trusted his instructions, sensed his movements, and followed.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“**My blindness is not my weakness—it is my strength. I want to tell all specially-abled people to focus not on their disabilities, but on their abilities. Once we overcome challenges and work on our strengths, nothing can stop us from achieving our dreams.**”

...continues on page 6

Fortnight Highlights



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the Hanulungpa Bridge one among the 125 infrastructure projects on the Khatse Batalik road near Hydropower House Hanu on December 7. Constructed under Project Vijayak by 16 BRTF, 81 RCC, BRO, the Hanulungpa Bridge is a 35-metre steel super-structure.



Students of 12th Class from Higher Secondary School Diskit, visited Government Degree College Nubra for an exposure tour aimed at giving them first-hand insight into college life and higher education opportunities.



Medical Health checkup for workers of Tsangda project was conducted under the 'Swatchhta hi Seva' campaign at SRMC Choglamsar leh by Block Development Office/ RDD Leh.



Smooth and comprehensive Third-Party Assessment has been successfully conducted across all nine complex heads in the Nubra zone. The exercise, which spanned all nine complexes, achieved a high student participation rate, with 90% of total students appearing for the assessment.



A public outreach camp was organised today at Skampari 2nd Community Hall as part of the "Mimang-Si-Jabstogs -Administration at Your Doorstep" initiative. As part of the health-related activities, the Medical Department conducted BP and sugar check-ups, screened individuals for non-communicable diseases, and facilitated the generation of 32 Aadhaar cards for local residents.



The outreach programme "Mimang Si Jabstok" was conducted at Skalzangling, where representatives from various departments and agencies briefed the public about ongoing schemes, services, and initiatives.



The 10th Hemis Winter Festival, held under the leadership of HE Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche at Hemis monastery from December 12 to 14. This Winter Festival was initiated ten years ago with the blessings and guidance of HH Gyalwang Drukpa, and it has been joyfully celebrated every year since its inception. The program includes ritual prayers, general teachings for the devotees, activities dedicated to serving the environment and protecting animals, along with many other meaningful events.



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Sea Buckthorn at Nimoo on December 4, marking a major step toward scientific cultivation, processing, and structured value-chain development of Ladakh's "wonder berry."



# Fortnightly News

## In Conversation with Chhunzin Angmo, First visually impaired Woman to Scale Mount Everest

...Continuity of page 5

During the final summit push, exhaustion hit me hard. My body felt like it was shutting down, and I could barely lift my feet. I asked my guide for a break, but he refused because climbers behind us were moving in a single line, all clipped to the same rope. At that moment, I knew I couldn’t give up after coming so far.

- Four things pushed me forward:
1. My long-held dream of climbing Everest I finally had the chance to make it real.
  2. The trust of Union Bank of India, who supported me financially.
  3. The words of Romil Sir, who told me before the summit, “The real adventure starts now. Finish it calmly.”
  4. My parents, friends, and the entire specially-abled community I wanted to prove what we are capable of.

These four thoughts carried me to the top, and I realized that along with physical strength, mental endurance is what truly completes the journey.

### Q. How did you feel when you reached the top of Mount Everest?

When I reached the summit, I just sat down and became emotional realizing that I was finally standing on top of Mount Everest, the dream I had carried for so many years. I thanked the mountain for allowing me to climb and fulfill my dream. I felt immense gratitude for everyone who supported, encouraged, and prayed for me, and I silently wished for a safe descent.

### Q. Tell us about your achievements.

I was honoured to receive the Sarvshresth Divyangjan National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from President Droupadi Murmu. I have also been awarded the NAB Madhu Sharma Young Achiever Award, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities Award from the National Association for the Blind, Delhi, and the Cavinkare Ability Mastery Award.

### Q. What misconception about disability do you hope your story dispels?

I don’t expect 100 percent change, but even a small shift matters. People with disabilities face challenges of inclusion every day. When I started mountaineering, many were skeptical and questioned how a visually impaired person could do it. Today, through my achievements, I hope fewer people will hear those doubts and that society will begin to see ability beyond disability.

### Q. Your achievement is historic. What message do you believe it sends about how society perceives disability, courage, and possibility?

I believe everyone has some form of limitation or “disability,” though it may not always be visible. Society should not judge people by their physical abilities but give everyone a chance to prove themselves. Failure is part of the journey, but discouragement should not be a barrier.

There is nothing in this world that we cannot achieve. With technological advancements and support, anyone can accomplish their goals. The key is to believe in us, encourage us, and provide opportunities, rather than focusing on our disabilities instead of our abilities.

### Q. Now that you’ve stood on the highest point on earth, what are you planning to conquer next?

I aim to conquer the highest peaks on all seven continents, known as the Seven Summits. I have already completed two: Asia’s Mount Everest (8,848 m / 29,029 ft) and Europe’s Mount Elbrus (5,642 m / 18,510 ft). Next, I plan to climb Africa’s Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m / 19,341 ft). My goal is to make history as no visually impaired person has completed all seven summits so far.

## ‘Padega Kargil, Badega Kargil’: District conducts major student assessment drive



Photo Caption: Under the initiative “Padega Kargil, Badega Kargil”, the District Administration Kargil conducting third-party assessment of school children.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Under the initiative “Padega Kargil, Badega Kargil”, the District Administration Kargil successfully conducted a third-party assessment of school children across the district on December 11. The examinations were

held at 81 centres throughout Kargil.

The assessment aimed to evaluate the overall development and subject comprehension of students. A total of 91.46 percent of students—out of 8,169—

appeared for the examination, marking a notably high turnout driven by enthusiastic student participation and strong support from teachers and parents. Sensitive examination materials were dispatched from the strong rooms in Kargil and Zaskar, escorted by designated sectoral magistrates. At the zonal level, the materials were further distributed from SDM offices to the respective centre superintendents.

Magistrates were deployed across all zones, with separate officials assigned to remote areas such as Itchoo and Sharchay to ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

The assessments covered Classes 1 to 9, excluding Class 8. The exam con-

sisted of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). Students from Classes 1 to 4 marked their answers directly on the question paper, while those from Classes 5 to 9 used OMR sheets. The initiative also provided students with valuable firsthand experience in MCQ- and OMR-based examinations.

The results of this assessment will be used for rationalisation and for implementing the newly framed, fair, and transparent teachers’ transfer policy. The public, especially the teaching community in Kargil, has expressed optimism about its implementation, which was recently adopted by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil.

## Haj Committee Ladakh holds Hajj 2025 feedback programme in Kargil



Photo Caption: During the Hajj Feedback Programme for the 2025 pilgrims at the Conference Hall, Baroo, Kargil.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Haj Committee Ladakh organised a Hajj Feedback Programme for the 2025 pilgrims at the Conference Hall, Baroo, Kargil, on December 12, to review the facilities and services provided during this year’s Holy Haj pilgrimage.

The programme was attended by Member Haj Committee Ladakh, Mohd Ali Chandan, and Member Haj Committee, Zaheer Hussain Babar, along with a large gathering of Hajis who recently returned from the pilgrimage.

During the interactive session, the Hajis expressed deep gratitude to the Government of India for ensuring smooth arrangements during the pilgrimage. They extended special thanks to Haji Ali Majaz, Chairperson, Haj Committee Ladakh, for his dedicated efforts in facilitating seamless services for pilgrims from the Union Territory.

A major public demand reiterated during the session was the construction of a Haj House in Kargil and the establishment of a Passport Seva Kendra, both essential for easing travel formalities and

documentation for the residents of the district. Participants also stressed that the Hajj Inspector must possess adequate knowledge of Haj rituals and recommended the involvement of religious scholars or individuals with prior Hajj experience.

While acknowledging that overall arrangements including accommodation and amenities were satisfactory, the pilgrims suggested improvements that could further enhance the experience. They also thanked Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, for ensuring smooth Haj arrangements despite Indo-Pak tensions last year and for facilitating special flights during crucial periods.

The Hajis also recommended increasing the number of doctors and paramedical staff assigned to Ladakhi pilgrims to strengthen medical aid.

A detailed feedback form was distributed covering key service areas including, Embarkation point, Madina accommodation, Madina-Makkah bus services, Aziziyah accommodation, Transport facilities between Aziziyah, Haram and Mina, Mina and Ara-

fat tent services, Muzdalifah night stay, Jamarat movement and return arrangements, SHI services, Mobile and internet connectivity, and Medical services across all locations.

Chairperson Haji Ali Majaz thanked the Hajis for their valuable suggestions and assured them that all feedback would be incorporated to improve future arrangements. He noted that while the Haj Suvidha App was useful, it required upgrades to better support users unfamiliar with smartphones.

He informed the attendees that the proposal for constructing a Haj House in Kargil has already been initiated, with the land allotment file under process and further steps to follow after approval from LAHDC Kargil.

He further announced that the Passport Seva Kendra for Kargil has been approved, with the first floor of the Post Office Kargil identified as its location. Operations are expected to begin by May next year.

Haji Ali Majaz also highlighted that throughout 2025, regular passport camps were organised in Kargil by RPO Srinagar, benefitting thousands of residents.

## Encroachment removal drive conducted from BSNL office to Goma Kargil



Photo caption: Encroachment removal drive along the stretch from the BSNL Office Kargil to Goma Kargil.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner Kargil, an encroachment removal drive was conducted on December 11 along the stretch from the BSNL Office Kargil to Goma Kargil. The initiative aimed to clear road obstructions to ensure smooth traffic flow and enhance public convenience. The operation was jointly led by the Tehsildar Kargil, SHO Kargil, AEE R&B, Naib Tehsildar Kargil, Inspector Traffic, and officials of the Municipal Committee Kargil. During the drive, various roadside encroachments—including water tanks, sand

heaps, stones, construction materials, and other obstructing items—were identified and removed on the spot. The team also sensitized shopkeepers, residents, and construction workers about maintaining road discipline and ensuring that public spaces remain free from obstructions. The Deputy Commissioner Kargil urged the public to cooperate in keeping roadways clear for the safety and convenience of all commuters. He further stated that such drives will continue and strict action will be taken against repeated violations

## Workshop in Kargil charts roadmap for sericulture development in Ladakh



Photo Caption: Distribution of certificates to trainees of the 45-day Intensive Bivoltine Training-cum-Demonstration Programme.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute (CSR&TI), Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Galandar, Pampore, in collaboration with the University of Ladakh, organised a consultative workshop on Sericulture Development in Ladakh at the Conference Hall, Baroo, Kargil, on December 9.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation

from around 100 stakeholders, including heads and representatives of major line departments of Kargil.

The event was chaired by Mohd. Jaffer Akhoo, Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, who lauded the efforts of the Central Silk Board (CSB) for introducing sericulture in Ladakh. While distributing certificates to trainees of the 45-day Intensive Bivoltine Training-cum-Demonstration Programme, he expressed confidence that sericulture would soon emerge as a sustainable livelihood option for the people of Kargil. He also extended gratitude to P. Sivakumar, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, and Padmini Singla, IAS, Joint Secretary (Fibre), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, for advancing the commitments made during the “Ekta Event” held in Leh in June 2025. He assured that steps would be taken to create a sericulture wing within an appropriate line department until a full-fledged sericulture department is established under LAHDC.

Aga Syeed Mujtaba Mussavi, Executive Councillor (Social Welfare/Agriculture/Animal & Sheep Husbandry/ICDS), LAHDC Kargil, reaffirmed LAHDC’s commit-

ment to popularizing sericulture in the district and assured full support to CSB for its development initiatives.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Sardar Singh, Director, CSB-CSR&TI Pampore, highlighted that under the leadership of P. Sivakumar, IFS, the Central Silk Board is committed to promoting sericulture in Ladakh. He noted that CSB has been conducting training programmes in Kargil since 2016, and the region is now well-positioned to adopt sericulture as a viable income-generating activity. He emphasized that Kargil’s climatic conditions are favourable for silkworm rearing. The workshop also featured discussions on the agro-based model of sericulture, seri-tourism potential, and integrated farming systems.

A notable highlight was the participation of trained farmers who showcased cocoons harvested during their training. Their enthusiasm to adopt sericulture commercially reflected the growing acceptance and potential of this sector. Farmers also appealed for continued support from CSB and the Government of Ladakh.

During the session, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, Scientist-D, CSB, informed that over 6,000 wild mulberry plants are naturally available in and around Kargil. He announced CSB’s plan to plant 5,000 additional mulberry saplings in farmers’ fields during the upcoming plantation season to strengthen the region’s mulberry resource base.

The local coordinator of NRLM clusters assured that sericulture would soon become a key livelihood activity under NRLM. Officials from KVK Kargil, faculty from the University of Ladakh, and representatives of various line departments also pledged full support for scaling up sericulture in the region. Executive Councillors of LAHDC Kargil, senior CSB scientists, entrepreneurs, NGOs, SHGs, and trained farmers actively participated in the workshop.

The workshop concluded with a set of recommendations and a roadmap for commercial-scale expansion of sericulture in Ladakh, marking a significant step toward livelihood generation and rural economic development in the region.



Fortnightly News

Human Rights Day: DLSA Leh conducts outreach programme at Old age home, Shey



Photo Caption: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Leh observing World Human Rights Day at the Old Age Home in Shey.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**SHEY:** The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Leh observed World Human Rights Day at the Old Age Home in Shey on December 11, under the chairmanship of the Chairman, DLSA Leh. The programme was attended by Advocate Nema Stanzin, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, along with elderly residents, caretakers, staff members, and PLVs.

The event served as a meaningful gathering aimed at reaffirming the universal values of human rights and promoting awareness among senior citizens. Deputy Chief, Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Nema Stanzin, highlighted the deep connection between human rights and the In-

dian Constitution. He emphasised that human rights form the foundation of a fair and just society, and that the Constitution stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to protecting these rights for all citizens. His address also offered valuable insights that led to discussions on the practical aspects of human rights and their significance in today's socio-legal environment. Awareness programmes at old age homes play a crucial role in educating senior citizens and their families about their rights, as well as the importance of maintaining health and overall well-being. Such initiatives often include discussions on hygiene, sanitation, and the need for regular health check-ups. They also aim

to strengthen community bonds and provide emotional support to the elderly.

Aligned with these objectives, the DLSA conducted a dedicated legal awareness session on senior citizens rights at the Old Age Home, Shey, to inform residents about the legal protections and frameworks available to them.

The DLSA expressed gratitude to all stakeholders and reaffirmed the commitment of Legal Services Institutions to promoting inclusivity and ensuring equal access to justice. As a gesture of care and support, refreshments were distributed among all participants.

Government Model Degree College Zanskar celebrates World Mountain Day



Photo Caption: Government Model Degree College (GMDC) Zanskar observed World Mountain Day.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** Government Model Degree College (GMDC) Zanskar observed World Mountain Day on December 11 in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Zanskar-Kargil, highlighting the importance of mountains and the urgent need for their conservation. The event was held under the supervision of Dr. Amjad Ali Abassi, Principal, GMDC Zanskar, who emphasized the critical role mountains play in maintaining ecological balance and sustaining life on Earth.

The programme featured a special PowerPoint presentation by Rasool Lal, Tourist Officer, Zanskar. He discussed the signifi-

cance of Zanskar's mountains, the region's heavy dependence on them, and the unique geological features of the Zanskar range. His presentation underscored the need for conservation and sustainable development in the region, particularly in light of challenges posed by climate change, tourism pressures, and human activities.

Dr. Jamphel Sheyan, Assistant Professor (English), GMDC Zanskar, highlighted the urgent need to protect glaciers and conserve mountain ecosystems by adopting organic products and reducing carbon footprints.

Students and faculty mem-

bers also shared their ideas and suggestions on promoting conservation and encouraging the sustainable use of mountain resources.

A documentary on the mountains and glaciers of the Zanskar region was screened for the students, offering valuable insights into the importance of preserving their natural heritage.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the significance of mountains and the risks they face, including climate change, biodiversity loss, ecological imbalance, deforestation, and unsustainable development.

Participants appreciated the college's efforts to promote environmental awareness and conservation, pledging to contribute to the protection of the fragile mountain ecosystem.

On the occasion, Dr. Vilayat Ali, Assistant Professor (History), GMDC Zanskar, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the event.

LG flags off major infrastructure push in Zanskar; stresses inclusive development



Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta during a public meeting in Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, reaffirmed the UT Administration's commitment to inclusive growth, grassroots empowerment, and improved public infrastructure during a public meeting in Zanskar on December 5. He dedicated several key development initiatives to the people, describing them as milestones that will strengthen the region's foundation for long-term progress.

Highlighting the administration's resolve to bridge developmental gaps, the Lt Governor inaugurated four new Community Halls constructed under the Special Development Package in Lungnak Block at a cost of ₹1 crore. He said the facilities will function as vital centres for community activities, educational programmes, winter tuitions, social events, and public outreach, thereby enhancing community cohesion and grassroots engagement.

The Lt Governor also launched the 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' campaign, a national initiative aimed at promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and gender-sensitive community environments. He said the campaign will play an important role in addressing gender-based discrimination through targeted training sessions, workshops, and community involvement.

Further, Kavinder Gupta unveiled the RGSA Training Calendar 2025-26, under which the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has sanctioned ₹9.82 crore for Ladakh's

Annual Action Plan. This year, 5,883 participants, including elected representatives, Panchayat Secretaries, frontline workers, and community leaders, will undergo structured training worth ₹1.88 crore. He noted that the capacity-building initiatives will strengthen digital governance, decentralised planning, transparency, and accountability in grassroots institutions, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continuous guidance and support, the Lt Governor said that the PM has consistently emphasised the holistic development of Ladakh, recognising the region's community strength, natural assets, and untapped potential. He added that the newly inaugurated projects reflect the PM's vision of making India's border regions strong, self-reliant, and equipped with modern infrastructure.

Applauding the people of Zanskar for their cooperation and resilience, Kavinder Gupta urged them to take forward these initiatives as a collective movement. He said Ladakh's vision of becoming a progressive, empowered, and people-centric region can be achieved only through teamwork and community partnership.

He expressed confidence that the new infrastructure and governance initiatives will create sustainable opportunities, promote inclusive development, and significantly improve the quality of life in Zanskar and Ladakh as a whole.

Addressing the gathering, Executive Councillor LAHDC Kargil, Er Punchok Tashi, thanked the UT Administration for addressing the longstanding demand for district status for Zanskar and expressed hope for the early establishment of a fully functional district.

Administrative Secretary, Shashanka Ala, highlighted key developmental achievements in Zanskar, including improved road connectivity reducing travel time and ensuring regular electricity supply. She noted that strong cooperation between administration and locals has accelerated development, reflected in the completion of the NPD road and Karsha Block—now ranked top among national aspirational blocks across 39 indicators covering agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, and social progress. She also highlighted the construction of 620 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in the subdivision.

Councillor Karsha, Stanzin Jigmet, and Nominated Councillor, Namgyal Phuntsog, also spoke on the occasion.

The event was attended by Executive Councillor Er Punchok Tashi; Councillors Stanzin Jigmet and Namgyal Phuntsog; Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; Director RDD; SDM Zanskar; ACD Kargil; Chief Engineer PHE; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kargil; Chief Medical Officer Kargil; community leaders; members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs); and other officials.

LAHDC Kargil launches 'Padega Kargil Badega Kargil' initiative to improve school education



Photo Caption: During the launching ceremony of 'Padega Kargil Badega Kargil' initiative.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon, launched the 'Padega Kargil Badega Kargil' initiative on December 9. The programme aims to assess the overall development and learning outcomes of school-children across the Kargil district.

The ceremony began with opening remarks from Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, who outlined the objectives and structure of the initiative. He noted that a new transfer policy for teachers in the Education Department will be implemented based on the results of upcoming third-party assessment examinations. The policy is expected to enhance accountability and improve service delivery in the education sector.

Speaking at the launch, CEC Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoon described the new transfer policy as a historic step, assuring that the process will remain transparent, fair, and merit-based. He emphasized that the initiative will significantly improve the quality of

education, benefiting both students and teachers. He also commended the dedication and commitment of Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar in uplifting educational standards in the district.

Dr. Akhoon further expressed gratitude to all Councillors of LAHDC Kargil for their continuous cooperation and support in finalizing and advancing the Education Department's transfer policy.

Councillors present at the event also conveyed their appreciation to the Deputy Commissioner and the Education Department officials for their efforts to strengthen the district's education system.

The event was attended by Executive Councillor Er. Punchok Tashi, Executive Councillor Aga Syed Mujtaba, Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, Councillors, Principal DIET Kargil, Chief Education Officer Kargil, Assistant Director Information, and other senior officers.

rZamba Trust and Royal Enfield review winter learning programme in Kargil with VECs



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**KARGIL:** The rZamba Trust, in collaboration with Royal Enfield, held a review meeting with Village Education Committees (VECs) of various schools on December 4 to strengthen the Winter Alternative Learning Programme. Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteeaz Kacho, VEC members, and the rZamba team led by CEO Shifa Saldon attended the session.

The programme began with a welcome address by Shifa Saldon, who greeted all participants and outlined the purpose of the gathering.

In his address, ADC Imteeaz Kacho lauded the rZamba team for consistently introducing innovative and impactful initiatives in Kargil's education sector. He noted that communities are increasingly forming Village Education Committees with strong support from rZamba, inspired by its pioneering interventions. Stressing that children are the nation's future, he said that guiding them in the right direction ensures the holistic development of the country. He added that nurturing children in a homely and conducive environment is vital for their overall growth, and that creative activities motivate students to attend school regularly, contributing to improved early childhood education.

Kacho further emphasized the importance of socio-emotional learning, stating that education must focus on the holistic development of children, not merely on academic output. In a rapidly changing world, he said, it is crucial

to impart education that aligns with traditional values, culture, and ethics.

During the programme, Shifa Saldon presented a detailed overview of rZamba's Winter Alternative Learning Programme, currently implemented in 20 remote areas of UT Ladakh. She expressed sincere gratitude to teachers, students, VEC members, and the wider community for their continued support, which she credited as central to the success of the initiative.

She outlined rZamba's vision of empowering every child in UT Ladakh through equitable and quality education, and its mission to empower youth, strengthen communities to take ownership of government school development, and build strong strategic partnerships.

Saldon also highlighted the unique challenges faced by students in remote areas, including long winter breaks that disrupt learning, the need to travel to towns for academic support, and financial constraints that hinder access to tuition outside their villages.

To address these issues, rZamba launched the Winter Alternative Learning Programme to ensure academic continuity during harsh winter months. She urged VECs to support the programme through regular coordination, local-level planning, and enhanced community involvement. She also sought continued support from the District Administration to prioritise child education in remote regions.

The meeting concluded with active feedback and constructive suggestions from VEC members, who reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the Winter Alternative Learning Programme for the benefit of children across remote villages.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH  
OFFICE OF THE EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICER EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

## Public Notice

It is for the information of general public of the locality of Durbuk, Leh-Ladakh that Mr. Thenlay Angchok, S/o Tundup Nurboo R/o Durbuk, Leh Ladakh has applied for liquor license LAEL-4 (Retail vend of foreign liquor in a Bar attached to a Restaurant) under the name & style "M/s Migla " at Durbuk, Leh-Ladakh.

Objections, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of this notice period.

Inspector  
Excise Range Leh-Kargil

No: ETO/LEH/2025-26/14  
Dated: 12-12-2025

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH  
OFFICE OF THE EXCISE AND TAXATION OFFICER EXCISE RANGE LEH-KARGIL

## Public Notice

It is for the information of general public of the locality of Rumbak Village, Leh that Shri. Tsewang Nurbo S/o Lobzang Namgail R/o Rumbak, Leh Ladakh has applied for liquor license LAEL-4 (Retail vend of foreign liquor in a Bar attached to a Restaurant) at The House of Rumbak, Rumbak, Leh Ladakh.

Objections, if any may be filed in the office of Excise & Taxation Officer, Excise Range Leh-Kargil within a period of sixty days from the publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of this notice period.

Inspector  
Excise Range Leh-Kargil

No: ETO/LEH/2024-25/453  
Dated: 24-01-2025

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that Stanzein Ingsal, D/o Sonam Tundup, R/o Choglamsar Tashi Gatsal, Leh, UT Ladakh, has reported the loss of her NCC 'C' Certificate bearing no. JKSW/09/34721 issued in 2011 by NCC Directorate Srinagar. She has applied for Issuance of a duplicate NCC 'C' Certificate. Any person having objection, if any, to the issuance of the duplicate certificate may submit the same in writing to the NCC Directorate Srinagar within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.



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