

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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September 1-15, 2019



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Brief News

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Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' དྲི་ཅ་ལ་དྲུག་ས་གསལ་ Episode # 2 will be releasing on 7th September (Saturday) in between 5:00 - 6:00pm on 'Reach Ladakh' Youtube channel.



Guest: Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP
Don't forget to watch and subscribe to our channel

Correction and clarification

It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition, date, news item or the article. You can contact at 9858394403 or email at editor@reachladakh.com. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

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Palam road flooded, residents in the lurch



Villagers of Palam crossing the knee-deep water

Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan & Tsering Dolker

PALAM: The young, the middle-aged and the elderly were all gathered at the Palam Bridge near Agling, demanding better roads in their area, on August 23. The Palam road near Agling is flooded with water from the Indus River, and the residents are left in the lurch.

They said that they were forced to cross the waterlogged road for the one month. Palam village is just 8 kms away from the main Leh town. The villagers informed that they have been facing such problems every year. Repeated pleas to the district administration have not helped.

The villagers have no other way but to walk in the flood water while sending their children to school or crossing the area along with their cattle. Palam village is accessible through old narrow bridge over Indus River which was constructed around 1980. After crossing the bridge, the villagers have to walk for about 500m further.

Tsering Angchuk, a villager, said, "Every summer, we face this issue. Due to the overflow of the Indus water, the water gets logged on the roads and we have to cross the knee-deep water all the time. People face difficulty to get their children to school, and also going for daily work."

Expressing concern, Rigzen Dolker, a villager said, "People who don't have personal vehicle have to cross the flood water every day, while the ones who have their own vehicles take another route covering 15km, when the actual distance from Leh town to Palam is only 8km. Though the foundation of the bridge had been laid in 2010, it's still not done. Our demand is to repair the bridge and the road to Palam."

...Continues on Page 2

Leh observes 30th death anniversary of Nawang, Dorjay, Stobdan

Rich tributes paid to the three brave hearts who sacrificed their lives demanding UT status for Ladakh



His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche while paying homage to the martyrs during the 30th death anniversary of Nawang Dorjay Stobdan

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Rich tribute was paid to the three brave hearts 'Nawang Dorjay Stobdan' on their 30th death anniversary at Martyrs Memorial park, Skyatsags on August 27.

The entire business establishment remained closed for half day. Also, a peaceful procession was carried out from Chowkhang Vihara till Martyrs Memorial park.

On August 27, 1989, Nawang Rinchen from Sankar, Tsering Stobdan from Durbuk, and Tsewang Dorjey from Sa-boo were martyred during the Union Territory agitation. The day marks an important day for the people of Ladakh to remember them and their sacrifices today as the long-pending demands of UT status got fulfilled by the Government on

August 5, 2019.

His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche, Former Minister also expressed the importance of the day and reiterate the struggle for UT status in Ladakh those days. Remembering the contribution of great leaders of Ladakh including Gyalsras Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, Late Sonam Wangyal, Thupstan Chhewang, and many others, His Eminence stressed on recalling the sacrifice made by them.

The torchbearer of the UT demand movement, Thupstan Chhewang, Former Member of Parliament reiterated the contribution of martyrs who laid down their life for a greater cause.

Talking about the importance of the day he said, "27 August is not just like any

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26th Ladakh Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela held in Leh



Rajnath Singh, Defense Minister of India while inaugurating the 26th Ladakh Kisan-Jawan-Vigyan Mela

Tsering Dolkar

LEH: The 26th Ladakh Kisan JawanVigyan Mela was inaugurated by Rajnath Singh, Defense Minister of India on August 29 at Defense Institute of High Altitude Research, Leh.

The two day festival was organised by Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR).

Rajnath Singh expressed his joy on visiting Ladakh and being part of the Kisan JawanVigyan Mela.

Appreciating the work of DIHAR-DRDO, he said that the DIHAR is doing wonderful work in this high altitude region to make the fragile eco system strong.

Talking about the life of the people he said, "It's highly appreciable and proud to see the soldiers securing the nation and farmers cultivating, overcoming all the climatic and geographical challenges of the region."

He also highlighted the importance of bifurcating the J&K state into two union territories

which was the commitment of the BJP government to make one nation.

Rajnath Singh further assured to bring solution to every challenge that Ladakhi people are facing and stressed on 'organic farming'.

Reiterating the Prime Minister Speech on 'Single use Plastic Free' movement, he stressed on for a research to recycle waste plastic for making green houses. He encouraged people to make UT Ladakh an organic and plastic free region.

Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), a constituent laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation, was setup at Leh in 1962 with the mandate to meet fresh food requirement of the soldiers at high altitude cold desert condition and also to make the region reasonably green.

Dr. Satish Reddy, Chairman DRDO briefed about the participation of both army and locals in establishing the organisation. He also talked about the research

laboratories established at Changla and Partapur, Nubra.

He further informed that 10,000 farmers are under DRDO till now and hoping for increase in number by 25,000 in few years.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh said that DIHAR has played a great role for the betterment of socio-economic condition in Ladakh. Out of 10,000 tons of food supply; 5,000 tons are produced by the locals. He further briefed about the Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) which aims to make Leh district fully organic by 2025.

Later, Rajnath Singh took stock of the varieties of vegetables and fruits grown in the farms camels, poultry farming and various other exhibitions of different projects and research.

Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP; Gyal. P Wangyal, CEC, Leh, A.K Singh, Director General Life sciences DRDO, Y.K Joshi, Lieutenant General, DRDO and many delegates were also present during the occasion.

Minister for Culture and Tourism to visit Leh in September

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh met Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) GoI on August 23 in New Delhi.

Briefing about the rich and unique cultural heritage and tourism potential of Ladakh, they raised issues and challenges in culture and tourism of Ladakh.

On inviting Prahlad Singh Patel to Leh, he scheduled to visit the region in the first week of September. The minister will take first-hand review of the issues related to culture and tourism



Prahald Singh Patel, Minister for Culture and Tourism along with Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh

with all the stakeholders in Leh. & Highways GoI at New Delhi.

Gyal P. Wangyal also met I.K Pandey, Director General (RD) & Special Secretary Ministry of Road Transport & Highways GoI and B.K Sinha, Chief Engineer Ministry of Road Transport

Gyal P Wangyal requested both the ministry to release pending CRF funds for Leh district. Director-General and Chief Engineer assured to release the pending funds within 20 days.

Palam road flooded, residents in the lurch

...Continued from Page 1

"Nobody is there to solve our issue, all we get is false promises by the candidates during election campaigns", she added.

Tsewang Norboo, Sarpanch, says that he had requested the district administration many times before, but no heed was paid on this issue. He, along with the villagers, had also raised the issue with the Construction Division.

He said, "During heavy rainfall, this area seems worse than a flooded area. We have been requesting for the renovation of this bridge and the road for many years, and every time our issue has been ignored by the authorities. We are still hoping that the administration will look into this matter and do the needful soon."

Another villager, Rinchen Dorjey, said, "We were demanding a motorable bridge and a good road for a very long time but nobody takes us seriously as Palam has less voters and a village without a leader. It's very difficult for us to take the 15-km route all the time. The authorities should make a plan proactively and hopefully by next year this time

the construction will begin."

On August 23, Ghulam Abass, AEE, Construction Division, Leh, visited the spot and assured that they would prepare a report and send it to higher authorities. He said that the issue was serious and they would conduct a proper survey.

Phunchok Dorje, Phyang Councillor, said that it was not neglected at all. He said, "We have already sent two project reports, one is in Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) worth Rs15 crore. In ERA, only two projects were sent, one from Leh which is for Palam Bridge and the other was from Kargil.

Recently, a second DPR was sent in the third languishing project worth Rs10 crore. In this, the planning is to widen the Palam Bridge like Choglamsar. So far, it's not sanctioned.

"We have raised this issue with Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner, Finance Department, on 25 June when he was here in Leh and he assured that they would sanction most of the projects of Leh. Now that UT has been granted, it will take some time before any work can be taken up."

The residents are hopeful that the administration will help them as it is affecting their daily activities.

EDWIN Ladakh 2019 to begin from September 20, in Leh

An initiative of Overland Escape to promote quality tourism in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To promote quality tourism in Ladakh, Overland Escape in collaboration with Global Panorama Showcase (GPS) is going to conduct EDWIN Ladakh 2019. The familiarisation and educational trip will start from September 20-25 to give an overview of the tourist sector of Ladakh.

About 65 travel professionals will participate sponsored by Overland Escape.

On September 21, one-day B2B session will be held. The B2B session will provide a platform for interaction and business between tour operators and travel agents from different parts of India to understand the tourism potential of Ladakh. It will focus on promoting quality tourism and to educate the agents about the destination by briefing them the tourist spots. There will be discussions about local rules and regulation in the tourism sector of Ladakh and regarding the garbage, transport and environmental issues etc

Tundup Dorjey, Founder, Overland Escape said that the primary reasons for conducting the travel trade is to disseminate proper information regarding the region and to promote responsible tourism. Tourists while travelling here have many expectations and they are not informed about the eco-system and sensitivity of the place.

He informed that the travel professional are invited to inspect the hotels and tourist places for understanding tourism sector in Ladakh and the importance of culture and ecology of the place in a better way.

"The local agents will be charged minimum charges and will benefit as they will meet other professionals in the place itself. Whereas most of the time they have to travel to other places to attend travel trade and bear huge expenses," he added.

Global Panorama Showcase GPS is a premier event for travel and tourism interaction. The main aim of GPS is to empower the travel fraternity by knowledge sharing, engagement and exchange through a business network. GPS has been well received by the travel fraternity and has proved to be the most efficient, effective ways to connect with travel professionals from India's tier II and tier III cities, which today are powerhouses of the travel trade.

Educational Programs and Workshops at GPS have always been well attended by the travel fraternity. To take the educational program further GPS introduces Educational Destination Workshop – International (EDWIN) in destinations and countries to give tour operators a firsthand experience of the destination or product.

This is an opportunity to host interact network and connect with about 65 travel professionals from tier II and III cities of India is here with EDWIN@11380 Ladakh the biggest opportunity to showcase your product/service to professionals first hand awaits you.

Partner with us or book your table right away and get set to grow your business manifold.

Cost of participation

- Single Table for 1 Day of B2B (Solo Exhibitor-1 Delegate): ₹ 25,000 + Taxes
- Extra Delegate: ₹ 5000 + Taxes
- Single Table for 1 Day of B2B (Shared space with another exhibitor): ₹ 15,000 + Taxes

For registration please contact:

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On the concluding day of EDWIN Ladakh 2018.



Travel professionals during the B2B session during EDWIN Ladakh 2018.

CEC, MP demand inclusion of Ladakh in Sixth schedule

Arjun Munda assures to take up the demand to Centre



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Demanding to declare Ladakh as a Tribal Area under Article 244 of the Indian constitution, a meeting was held with Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs on August 17.

Gyal P Wangyal CEC submitted a copy of memorandum demanding Ladakh under the provision of the sixth schedule which will ensure inclusive development of the region.

Gyal P. Wangyal informed Arjun Munda that Ladakh has never received the facilities, incentives and other tribal rights which the region deserves being a tribal area with its distinct cultural identity and inhospitable topography.

He said that with Modi government declaring Ladakh as UT has fulfilled the long pending demand. At the same time, he impressed upon the desire of local people and the need to ensure the

protection of land, environment, fragile ecology and unique identity of Ladakh.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh informed Arjun Munda that Ladakh is predominantly a tribal area with 98% of its population engaged primarily on the primitive land-based economy. He said that the majority of people in Ladakh have limited means of livelihood, poor connectivity, harsh climatic conditions, undeveloped market for their products and low employment opportunities.

He also spoke of the strategic importance of Ladakh being a border area and the fragile ecology of the region susceptible to global warming.

Jamyang strongly advocated the Union Government to extend full support in safeguarding the welfare of the tribal population. He mentioned that Ladakh fulfils all the criteria to be declared as tribal

area and bringing Ladakh under the provision of schedule sixth.

Arjun Munda said that this recent declaration of Ladakh as UT has shown the concern of PM Narendra Modi for the people of Ladakh. He said that in coming days there will be new rules, acts, amendments in UT Ladakh and the autonomous Hill Council will be brought into proper constitutional framework.

He further assured that all the decisions will be taken considering the aspirations, culture, identity, demography and other factors in favour of the locals. Also, he assured to look into the matter and take up with higher authorities at the center level.

Renuka Singh, MOS Tribal Affairs; Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman; all the Executive Councilors; R C Meena, Chairman TRIFED; Chering Dorjay, Former MLC and others were also present.

DC, Leh, discusses state of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Nidhi Yojana

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To discuss the state of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Nidhi Yojana (PMKNY) in Leh district, Sachin Kumar, DC, Leh convened a meeting with the concerned district officers on August 22 at DC office.

Sachin Kumar asked all the officers to complete all kinds of requirements under PMKNY including field and paperwork, verifications of targeted beneficiaries and clearance of FTO by September 5.

Moses Kunzang, Additional Deputy Development Commissioner, apprised Sachin Kumar about the total number of identified farmers as beneficiaries



excluding the farmers who are employed with government or defence.

He said that the process is in progress with the rectification of rejected cases and digital uploading of the present data. Also, he informed that fieldwork too will be soon completed.

Sachin Kumar urged all the officers to communicate and cooperate for effective and timely conduct and completion of the scheme.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Tehsildar Leh, District HQ Officer, Nodal Officer PMKNY and official from NIC, Leh were present.

Leh observes 30th death anniversary of Nawang, Dorjay, Stobdan

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other day, it is a historic day for the people of Ladakh which needs to be recalled by each one of us. The supreme sacrifices made by the three brave souls, Nawang Rinchen, Tsering Stobdan, and Tsewang Dorjay cannot be forgotten".

He recalled the UT demand agitation of 1989 and sacrifice of Ven. Lobzang Tsondu from Likir and Tashi Angchuk from Saspol who laid down their lives on January 24, 1981, during Schedule Tribe (ST) status demand agitation.

Thupstan Chhewang stressed to extend all the possible support and respect to the families of the deceased.

He said, "The grant of Union Territory status for Ladakh on August 5, 2019, keeping the Hill Coun-

cil intact is a very positive thing. We need to accept it wholeheartedly and work unitedly and collaboratively to implement it in a better and stronger way."

Nawang Rigzin Jora, Former MLA reiterated the contribution of Thupstan Chhewang during the struggle of Union Territory status and along with all the Rinpoches, monks and people of Ladakh.

He stressed on proposing the name of Thupstan Chhewang as a first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to the government.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh; Chering Dorjay, Former MLC; P T Kunzang, President, LBA; Ashraf Ali Barcha, President Anjuman Imamia; Deachen Chamga, President, Christian Community; Dr. Abdul Qayum, President, Anjuman Moin ul Islam and many other leaders also spoke on the occasion.

Hill Council, Leh opens new sabzi mandi for local farmers

Aims to promote local vegetable and fruits production at reasonable prices



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A specified local vegetable market (Sabzi Mandi) for the farmers from different rural to sell their agro-produces was inaugurated by Phuntsog Stanzin, EC Agriculture on August 29 near new bus stand.

The market aims to promote local vegetable and fruits production and to ensure reasonable prices.

Farmers from different rural areas attended the opening function and sold varieties of vegetables and fruits many of which

were purely organic.

Phuntsog Stanzin said that this initiative is a step forward towards organic farming in Ladakh, as LAHDC is already in the process of bringing a revolutionary change in the agriculture sector through organic farming.

He urged upon the farmers to grow cash-oriented vegetables with maximum varieties and said that LAHDC will put its all efforts to create marketing facility.

To ensure equal marketing opportunity for all the farmers of different areas near and far,

Phuntsog Stanzin urged to devise a village wise selling roster allotting specific dates for each village. Also, a committee will be formed to keep a close monitor to make the system effective.

He further appealed farmers to extend utmost cooperation at the initial stage which will benefit every farmer with huge income in future.

The farmers appreciated the visionary initiative of Hill Council and demanded to provide a godown for the farmers who can keep their left out-produces during night time.

Martselang constituency by-election; Model Code of Conduct in force from August 20

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Election Authority/ Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Leh on August 20 issued an order of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) making mandatory for all political parties and independent candidates to follow the MCC till the election process is over.

By election of 13- Martselang constituency, LAHDC, Leh will be held on September 19 and the model code of conduct has come into force from August 20.

"One of the main requirements of the MCC is that proper permission needs to obtain for organising public meeting, rallies

and using motor vehicle for campaigning/ electioneering purpose. The permission has a prescribed format which should be displayed on the windshield of the vehicles for information of all concerned. In case of two wheelers, such permission need not to be displayed but should be produced on demand for inspection", said Chief Election Authority.

He further said that the enforcement of the MCC has to vitiate the entire election process and immediate steps are required to check unhealthy practice that includes; no rallies/public meeting of a political nature shall be permitted in the constituency without proper permission which has

to be produced for inspection on demand by government servants like magistrates and police officers/ personnel at the venue of the rally/ public meeting.

The press release reads, "The order will be in force till the by-election is over. Magistrates and the police department will help the authority to seize any vehicle and stop any rally/ procession if found against the order. The Superintendent of Police, Leh will take necessary steps at his/ her own level to enforce this order."

Martselang constituency includes 7 villages, Shang, Martselang, Hemis, Changa, Stakna, Matho, and Stok.

Officials from Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Govt of India, visit Leh

Aims to study potential and scope of animal husbandry sector



Discussing the potential and scope of Animal Husbandry sector in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of officials reached Leh to study the potential and scope of Animal Husbandry sector in newly created Union Territory Ladakh.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC called a meeting with Dr. O.P Chaudhary, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Government of India on August 26 at Council Secretariat Leh.

Potential of Pashmina, strengthening of farm animals and Sheep Husbandry, conservation of rare species like Yak and Camel, health care coverage of animals, ambulance facilities, nutrition supplement schemes and fodder development schemes for both the districts were discussed.

Dr. O. P Chaudhary requested both the Councils of Leh and Kargil to prepare a detail project

report (DPR) of all the sectors of Animal and Sheep Husbandry and submit it to the Ministry of Animal Husbandry Government of India soon.

Gyal P Wangyal, thanked Dr. O. P Chaudhary and his team for visiting Ladakh and hoped that all the pending projects of Hill Council Leh will be taken care of by Modi Government under the upcoming special package.

EXPERT TALK

Sports

By Stanzin Dasal & Tsering Dolker



Tsering Tashi, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Leh: Department of youth services and sports was established in the year 1976 in Leh. Our role is to organise tournaments and competition in different sports at block and district-level among school children. Also, we work to develop sports infrastructure and promotion of sports among children aiming to bring holistic development. Irrespective of private and government schools we encourage every child to take part in different competition and tournament at all levels.

Sport is an agent for social change. It helps in mental and physical growth. In Ladakh, the participation of boys and girls in different sports is increasing every year. We have sportspersons who represented at both the state and national level. In National School games, the archers of Leh and Kargil district are the major participants in the state team. Under 'Let's Play Football' tournament four of our team Under 16 and 19 boys and girls were selected and played Interdistrict competition at Srinagar. Both the teams of girls won the tournament and in under-16 boy's game we got the runner-up title. In handball, our team got third place in Inter district match. Similarly, we have players in boxing, athlete, cricket, volleyball and many more. Organising tournaments at various block level such as Nubra, Khaltsa, Nyoma, etc was very challenging with limited human resource, but at present, we have enough staffs to host tournaments at various block-level and furthermore at the district level.

Schemes

For those who played at State and National level, we have a provision of sports scholarship. The funds are allocated every year from the district budget plan. Earlier, we used to get around ₹30,000 annually which is very less but from last year the amount has been increased from ₹50,000 to 2, 50,000 annually. Due to inadequate funds, the amount distributed among the sportsperson is very meager.

Challenges

Infrastructure, funding and a youth hostel is a basic requirement to organise a tournament. During the tournament time in Leh, participants from far-flung region face hardship to find a place to stay. If there is a youth hostel, we can easily accommodate them there. Sec-

ondly, we need good infrastructure to conduct different type of sports. We have already requested Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, regarding synthetic tracks and gymnasium, so that our youths can take good advantage from that. Thirdly, we need experts at all levels to boost sports.

Present Scenario

We have good potential in sports specially in Archery and Athletics. Our students are also excelling in other sports like cricket, football, boxing, judo, etc. Also, it's good to inform that the mentality of people regarding sports is positive. Nowadays, parents also encourage students to participate in different sports along with academics. There is huge scope in individual games such as archery, athlete, and boxing as compared to the sports which are played in teams such as cricket, football, etc.

Organising various other sporting events like Ladakh School Olympic every year further develops an interest in playing different sports among school children. Also, we are trying our best to introduce different sports such rafting, judo, boxing, chess so that more opportunities and interest can be developed.

With the grant of Union Territory status, we are very hopeful that sports in Ladakh will be further developed.

Solutions:

- Development of infrastructure is must to promote different sports
- There is a need for experts to further train the Physical Education Teachers
- There is a need for adequate funds
- Players need to be encouraged, motivated and appreciated



Tsering Angmo, Incharge, J&K Sports Council, Leh: Sports is developing in our society in a very positive way. Today we see both boys and girls are playing and excelling in different sports at state, national and international level. Sports are not just taken as a recreation but many are aiming to pursue it professionally.

J&K Sport's council in Leh was established in the year 2017 which paves way for young players to participate at all levels. The role of the Sports Council is to promote all the sports which are affiliated to the ministry of sports affairs and to provide infrastructure and platform to all the players.

With the grant of Union Territory status, there will be certain changes such as all the sports which are affiliated under state association such as football, boxing, archery, judo will get their affiliation with the na-

tional one. Our students have more scope because I feel there will be not much of a restriction and challenges like we faced before while being in the J&K state. The training and selection of the players will be done here itself.

Students of Ladakh have a lot of potential in different sports. The football team of our girls is the topper in the state; likewise, there are champions in judo, boxing, archery, athletics, etc. Ladakh being a high altitude area, the players of the region are born with incredible stamina which is a plus point. But along with having good stamina, there is a need of proper guidance, best of the training, infrastructure, and encouragement to excel in the competition. A player needs to be very conscious about their diet, time, dedication, training, etc. Thus, there is a need for a proper academy for different sports such as for the boxing, football, etc where a player can be groomed as it needed.

Ladakh desperately needs good infrastructure. It is sad to see that many of the caliber players are unable to practice and perform better because of the inadequate infrastructure and experts.

Importance

Sports not only play an important role in one's life but also bring social change. Nowadays we see a lot of kids are involved in illegal activities, getting addicted to drugs, tobacco, and many things. Sports can be one important factor to engage a child in a better way.

Secondly, sports teach discipline and punctuality. It further enriches an individual life with more confidence, focus, spirit and overcoming difficulties and challenges.

Present vs Now

Earlier in Ladakh, sports were not given much of an importance because there was less exposure. Today, the scenario has changed we have boys and girls participating in different sports such as Ice hockey, football, Taekwondo, judo, boxing and many other sports at all levels. And most importantly, sports is considered as important as academics for an individual's development.

Today we see many schools with good infrastructure and teachers to train students in different sports. Similarly, the incomplete stadiums in Leh and the grounds need further development and involvement of expert from outside.

Solutions:

- Involvement of an expert is necessary while developing infrastructure
- All the associations need to be active and get their affiliation done
- Adequate funds is needed

Two day Aryan festival concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

HANU YOKMA: Two day Aryan festival concluded with the participation of artist from Hanu, Dha, Beema, Darchik and Garkhon on August 28.

Congratulating people for celebrating the Aryan festival, Gyal P Wangyal stressed on the need to preserve and promote Aryan culture. He assured to provide all kind of support from Hill Council in strengthening the cultural root and promotion of Brokpas.

He urged the foreign and domestic tourists to be the ambassadors of Aryan Festival and spread the message of peace and Aryan culture prevalent in Ladakh to the outside world.

He directed Tourism Department to ensure timely publicity of Aryan Festival from next year to attract more tourists.

Gyal assured to consider the demands of the Aryan community.

He said that the Dha hydel project will be made functional before winter sets in.

Marking the celebration of Aryan Festival in UT Ladakh, he reiterates the struggle of great leaders in the last 70 years to get UT status for Ladakh. The UT status has freed Ladakh from Kashmir and given us our own identity.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal congratulated the people of Brokpa tribe for celebrating Aryan Festival in UT Ladakh. At the same time, he paid tribute to Nawang, Dorje and Stobdan who sacrificed their lives for the cause of UT. He emphasised on the need to promote Aryan culture in the rest of the world for which he suggested to form a common registered cultural group to avail the opportunities through Ministry of Culture to showcase their folk song and dance in foreign countries.

He instructed Tourism Department to put Aryan Festival into



a fixed annual tourist calendar and also ALTOA to include the festival in their tour packages for better promotion for the festival.

He announced that along with Leh-Manali-Bilaspur railway line, a project on Leh Beema rail line has also been proposed and regarding the extension of the road from Khaltsi to Batalik including Hanu, he assured to take up the matter with DG BRO soon.

He assured to support the Brokpa tribe considering their demands submitted to him. He committed to sponsor a tribal hostel in the next 5 year for the students

of Brokpa community and get the support from Government in facilitating home stays for which he urged the community people to get their homestays registered with Tourism Department. Also, he announced ₹2 lakh to those who have a collection of old religious scriptures, ancient historic books, literature, statues, artefacts etc for its preservation and to support them in constructing an ice hockey rink.

Phuntsog Stanzin, EC Agriculture; Tsering Angmo, AD Tourism; President ALTOA and many other dignitaries were also present.

Rotavirus vaccine launched at SNM Hospital, Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Leh launched Rotavirus vaccine in the district on August 28 at SNM Hospital Leh.

The vaccine stimulates the immune system and it protects children under-five-year-old from infections that cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Sachin Kumar appreciated the efforts of doctors and staff members of SNM Hospital towards the successful launch of the Rotavirus vaccine in the district.

Expressing the importance of the vaccine, he said that it can help in bringing down the child mortality rate and to achieve the target of zero mortality rate in future.

He further appealed to the parents

to take their children of 6, 10 and 14 weeks for 5 oral drops of rotavirus immunization to their nearest health centre. The vaccine is made available free of cost.

Dr. Mutup Dorjay, Chief Medical Officer Leh said that the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine is a key milestone in the country's commitment. It will improve the health issues of all the children

and reduce child morbidity and mortality rate.

Manzoor-Ul-Haq, Deputy Chief Medical Officer; Dr. Tsering Samphel, Medical Superintendent Leh; Dr. Tashi Namgail, DIO; Dr. Mohd. Iqbal, District Health Officer; Dr. Norzin Angmo, DTO Leh, Medical staffs and parents with their kids were present during the launch.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Journey of life should be purposeful



"Life is a great journey, and to make it beautiful and purposeful is within our reach. Let's not miss all that is beautiful and good on this journey." That was what I had written in my this year's New Year list of resolutions. It is true that several resolutions remain unfulfilled, but the idea is that an attempt is done. And that makes it easier for the next attempt.

I always list a few points, among a dozen other objectives, on how to make life easier and more purposeful. And those are repeat-points every year. The idea is that there is always a scope for improvement and greater happiness and satisfaction. And this criterion differs from person to person.

As Irish novelist Oliver Goldsmith says, "Life is a journey that must be travelled no matter how bad the roads and accommodations." That means it is important to 'take off' on your journey with great planning and hard work. Those who refuse to do so and take refuge in the easily-available comforts of life are as good as a log. Because life is a continuous journey that brings forth unexpected 'things', some of them good and some others not so good.

And it is also true that 'good' or 'bad' has different connotations from person to person, and what you think to be good may not be my first choice. But the fact remains that life's journey is always for change, and for continuous growth. If one keeps this point while coping up with one's daily struggle, things become easier, and thereby the journey of life too gets rosier.

That is why even Lord Buddha had stressed on the purposefulness of life's journey: "No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path." That is, of course, in a manner that every step you make takes you towards fulfilling your mission.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Dolma Tethong, Founder, Aktion Ladakh

Interviewed by Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

Q. Kindly tell us about yourself.

I was born in Larjay family, Phay village. I left home at a very young age to study in Kashmir; and I was the first girl from Ladakh to go outside to do schooling in a co-ed school. We were a group of children from Ladakh who were sent to the Mahatma Gandhi Sevagram Ashram, Wardha, near Nagpur, to learn skills in handicrafts.

It was Bakula Rinpoche who conveyed the message to the villagers. Except for a few villagers of Nimmo, no Ladakhi people showed any interest in sending their kids to an unknown place. But my dad decided to send me to Gandhi Sevagram Ashram. I was the youngest child at the Ashram. But after a few weeks, they decided to send me back to Srinagar to study in a school there. I was 13-year-old then.

Bakula Rinpoche visited Srinagar and requested Pundit Shridar Kaul to keep me with his family and he agreed. I spent eight years of my schooling with their family. His family treated me like their own child. He would tell his children that I am their elder sister.

I completed my metriculation in Srinagar, and later I got an opportunity to work in AIR, Delhi, for three years. And then I got married to Rakra Tethong Rinpoche, a renowned Tibetan Scholar, in 1958. We left India on August 15, 1960, and served in Switzerland for 36 years and I served as the housemother of the Tibetan House in International Children's Villager Pestalozzi in Trogen.

Immediately on retiring from the Pestalozzi Village, I began working on educational projects in Ladakh and founded Aktion Ladakh.

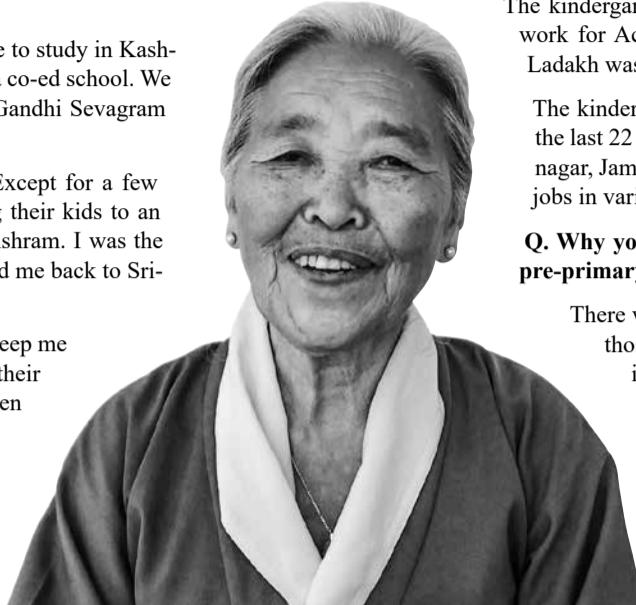
Q. Tell us about Action Ladakh and when it was founded?

Aktion Ladakh was founded in the year 1996. When I had retired from my job in Switzerland, I discussed the decision to open a Kindergarten school in Phey with my friends in Switzerland. The main aim was to provide financial assistance for the new Phey Kindergarten School.

With time, the number of donors increased and it was the generosity of my friends in Switzerland which had made it possible to start three Kindergarten schools in the villages of Phey, Nimmo and Spituk.

Together with the villagers of Phey, I was looking for a solution to help children receive better education.

Q. How many schools have you adopted? How are they performing now?



The kindergarten in Nimoo was started in 2002. At present, two kindergarten teachers work for Aktion Ladakh at Nimoo school. In 2004, the third kindergarten of Aktion Ladakh was built in Spituk.

The kindergarten as well as the middle school of Phey village has grown steadily. In the last 22 years, many alumni were admitted in good schools and colleges in Leh, Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi. Now, students are employed in government as well as private jobs in various fields.

Q. Why you felt that kindergarten system of education should be there in all the pre-primary nursery school of Government schools?

There was a time when the villagers had lost their faith in the village schools, and those who could afford sent their children at a very young age to private schools in Leh. The parents had to carry their children on their shoulders, 2-3 km to the main road to catch the bus and then had to wait at the school gate to bring them back to the village in the evening. Only few students from the poorest families attended the Phey School and the school was on the edge of being closed, as had already happened in other villages.

It is very important to keep the children with their family in the initial years. They learn a lot through practical knowledge. They need care and love. It is very sad to see parents crying when they send their children away.

I got worried because I knew how much effort Bakula Rinpoche had put into opening primary schools in villages of Ladakh. So, Dr Nawang Tsering, the late Lobzang Thapkas and I decided to work for the improvement of the existing village school.

Q. How many volunteers have worked so far?

We have received more than 50 volunteers till date and they did a wonderful job here, in improving the kindergarten education system in Ladakh (Phey, Nimo and Spituk). I was fortunate to have dedicated Swiss supporters and volunteers, and most of them belong to educational fraternity.

Besides, we support teacher training programmes in Zanskar, Nubra and Turtuk. So far more than a thousand government teachers have received training from our volunteers at District Institute of Educational Training Leh (DIET).

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ Our philosophy is to provide the means to develop the physical, social, emotional and intellectual abilities of each child, according to their individual needs, through a warm and caring atmosphere and a wide variety of experiences. ”

Aktion Ladakh supports Kindergarten schools of Phey, Nimoo and Spituk and villagers of these three villages for their untiring and gracious support since 22 years. In 1997, a kindergarten and then a new school building was built in Phey together with the villagers. Aktion Ladakh hired a kindergarten teacher and an additional teacher to support government schools. Today, three kindergarten teachers and a teacher are running the Phey School.

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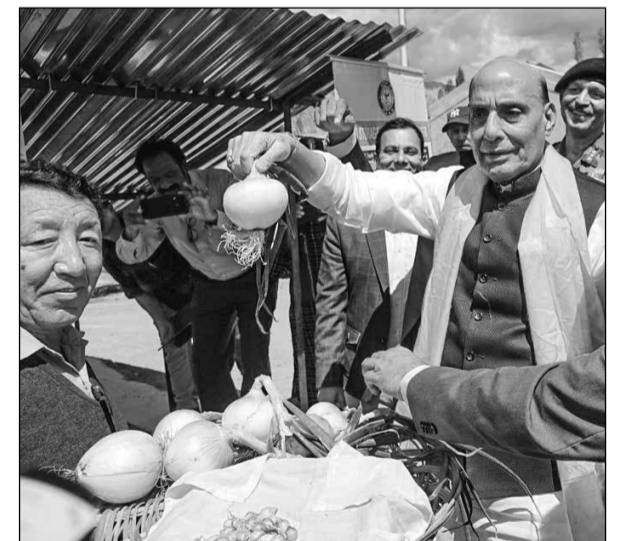
FORTNIGHT HIGHLIGHTS



Trans Singay-La area gets its first ever public transport; District Administration Leh in cooperation with Mazda union Leh started public transport to Trans Singay-La from August 25.



Haji Anayat Ali, Chairman J&K Legislative Assembly, along With District President PDP Kacho Gulzar Hussain, along with two LAHDC Councillors and other leaders joins BJP.



Rajnath Singh, Defense Minister holding a locally grown onion during the Kisan Mela at DIHAR.



Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh attending the two day Aryan Festival in Hanu Yokma. He congratulated the people of Brokpa tribe for celebrating Aryan Festival in UT Ladakh.



Convocation ceremony of 1st Naropa Fellowship; 52 young fellows from India, Nepal and Bhutan completed their one year residential post graduate programme on August 25.

EC, Agriculture, reviews developmental progress at Khaltse sub-division

Asks agencies to ensure completion of all important works within stipulated time

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Under the review meeting of sub-divisional level officers, Phuntsog Stanzin, Executive Councilor Agriculture evaluated department wise achievement under various developmental schemes on August 20 at Khaltse.

Tsering Motup, SDM, Khaltse, and all Sub Divisional level officers were present.

Phuntsog Stanzin urged the agencies to accelerate working mode and ensure completion of all important works within the targeted time frame.

It was apprised that greenhouses costing ₹ 25,000 per unit has been distributed among the 60 beneficiaries. Besides, exposure tour for farmers, distribution of machinery on subsidised rate and soil health cards were also provided to the farmers.

At Higher Secondary School Khaltse, he assured to solve the issue of teaching staff shortages.

While reviewing the Animal Husbandry sector, he was in-



Phuntsog Stanzin, EC Agriculture reviewing developmental progress of different department at Khaltse sub-division

formed that out of the 400 quota of Kissan Credit Card (KCC) scheme only 4 applications were received so far. Phuntsog Stanzin announced the provision of local cow and Jersey cow at a low purchase level.

Under PWD sector, it was discovered that ₹3.06 crore have been earmarked for construction and extension of roads for various villages in Khaltse sub-division. So far ₹1.53 crore has been released. The concerned engineer informed that all the works on the sanctioned roads are ongoing with good progress.

In Power sector, it was informed

that the Urbis village has been electrified on August 18. PDD was directed to restore the damaged power transformers in the region.

To promote horticulture in the area, Phuntsog Stanzin said that a fruit processing unit will be made functional soon. Progress of fruit plantation schemes and distribution of power triller machines was also reviewed in the meeting.

Other issues like toilets and drinking water facilities at few health centres also discussed in the meeting.

District Hospital, Kargil, CHC Sankoo, Chiktan get ambulances



Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, along with other dignitaries during the occasion.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: To respond the medical emergencies, four ambulances worth ₹18 lakh were handed over to District Hospital Kargil, Community Health Centre, Sankoo and Community Health Centre, Shakar Chiktan on August 19. It was procured under Capex Budget (District Plan) 2018-2019.

Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Kar-

gil said that the ambulances have been provided to strengthen basic healthcare and referral services at the district headquarters as well as the rural areas. He said that four more such ambulances are being procured under Capex Budget during the current financial year.

He also assured to provide satisfactory healthcare services to indoor patients, construction of

work on the 200 bedded hospital at Kurbathang, sub-district Hospital, Drass and Community Health Centre, Chiktan.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil asked the Chief Medical Officer, Kargil to work out a mechanism for providing surgical facilities to needy patients by teams of specialist and consultant doctors at CHCs and other health institutions in the district on a fortnightly basis.

He also underlined the need to ensure advance preparations in this regard by assessing the needs and demands of the patients and carrying out the necessary diagnosis.

Meanwhile, issues regarding the overall functioning of the District Hospital Kargil, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres were discussed.

EC Konchok Stanzin reviews developmental schemes of Rural Development Department

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A review meeting of all the developmental schemes of the Rural Development Department was held on August 20 at Council Secretariat.

Tsering Paldan, ACD Leh gave a detail powerpoint presentation about the present progress of schemes like MGNREGA, PMAY, CD Normal, Development of Panchayat, CCDF, BADP, RURBAN and Project Tsang-da being implemented in 16 blocks of Leh district.

He informed that till date 1,02,343 man-days have been generated out of 292615 projected under MGNREGA in Leh district and out of the 231 targets 211 houses have competed under PMAY. Total of 11,142 workers has converted into Aadhaar based payment under Aadhaar Seeding and ABPS in Leh district.



Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councillor convening a meeting with the officials of Rural Development department.

Zakir Hussain, District Panchayat Officer, Leh who look after the Panchayat related issues, Swachh Bharat Mission and 14 Finance Commission also spoke about three schemes being implemented in Leh district.

Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councillor expressed satisfaction over all the ongoing schemes of the Rural Development Department. He appreciated the dedicated work

of the staff headed by Tsering Paldan. The department despite having a shortage of staff is giving their best performances. He hoped that the staff shortage issue and other concern of Rural Development Department Leh will be solved in new UT Ladhak when implemented.

He further stressed on reviewing the progress of all the schemes block and Panchayat wise in the future.

Kisan Fruit Festival held in Skurbuchan



His Holiness Chetsang Rinpoche, chief guest appreciated the farmers for their hard work and producing so many varieties of quality fruits and vegetable.

Other departments like DIHAR, SKUAST and NGOs like Go Green Go Organic and LEHO exhibited their products and disseminated latest farming technologies among the growers.

Farmers from Skurbuchan and surrounding villages showcased their farm produce and the best farmers were awarded. Also, different cultural programs, archery and painting competition were held.

His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche, Bakula Rangdol Nima Rinpoche, Rigyal Rinpoche and Phuntsog Stanzin, E.C Agriculture and many other respected dignitaries were present.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SKURBUCHAN: To sensitize the farmers about the potential of growing income-oriented fruits and vegetables, a three day long Kisan Fruit festival was held on

August 17 in Skurbuchan. It was organised by the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture.

The main objective of this programme was to uplift their economic status of the farmers.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Tsering Wangchuk Kalon S/o Sh. Tsewang Rinchen Kalon R/o Tiger Nubra will be applying for change in name from "Tesma Resort" to "The Kyagar Resorts" with the Assistant Director Tourism office Leh.

If anybody has any objection in this regard may file their report in writing within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Dolma Tethong

...Continued from page 5

Q. Aktion Ladakh has contributed to making schools of Phey, Nimoo and Spituk as model schools. What are the main objectives of Aktion Ladakh?

The primary objective is to support Government education system by ensuring a firm foundation of elementary education in a joyful learning environment.

Another objective is to help children grow in the village environment. It was felt that children should live and grow with their parents, grandparents, and their siblings. When children are with their family, they learn values like helping grandparents, looking after their younger ones, showing respect and caring for their elders. In the village, they learn to keep their surroundings clean and become familiar with their religious traditions. I felt it was important to bring up children in the village environment as I myself grew up in village surroundings.

Q. What are the future plans of Aktion Ladakh?

The Aktion Ladakh Kindergarten School project is based on the principle of 'Helping people to help themselves'. The organization has been supporting the three kindergarten schools in Phey, Nimoo and Spituk, for almost two decades. As the project name itself indicates, Aktion Ladakh is not a prerogative of three village schools but belongs to entire Ladakh. Though Aktion Ladakh is gradually planning to reduce its financial support for kindergartens, it will continue its link with these schools in the educational part and work together with the teachers in future as well. In the meantime, the three villages have already started exploring ways for generating sources of income for their further sustainability when Aktion Ladakh steps back from the scene. Yet, in all the cases of present and future of Kindergarten Schools, it believes in the principle of what Lord Buddha had said: "Mine is to show path, work out your own liberation diligently."



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