

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Brief News

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NCC team meets Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur

LEH: Team of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Leh lead by Col A.M. Shende, Commanding Officer NCC Leh met Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor on February 8 in Leh.

The NCC team participated in the Republic Day function at New Delhi. R K Mathur appreciated the girl cadets for their participation in the Republic day parade and other cadets for their participation in events like PM rally and cultural performances etc.

The jubilant team of young cadets shared their enriching experiences of unity, discipline, integrity, and patriotism.

NCC Parade began in 1954. This parade is conducted on every 28th of January which is also the birth anniversary of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, the first Indian Commander in Chief of the Indian Army. The ground where the rally is held is named after him as Cariappa Parade ground.

THE REALITY

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Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' Episode #8 will be releasing on March 7 (Saturday) TIMING: 4:00-5:00PM on our YouTube channel Reach Ladakh.

Stay tuned 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.

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All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

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Ladakh Students' protest regarding Sixth Schedule continues

After a 17-day study tour to north-east, we are firm on the need of Sixth Schedule for Ladakh, says President, SOUL

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Yet again Ladakh student associations under the banner of Student Organisation for Unified Ladakh took out a peaceful protest rally demanding 6th schedule for Ladakh on February 10 from NDS ground till the main market, Leh.

Despite having so much of hues and cries over needed constitutional safeguards for Ladakh in terms of land, job, environment, culture and identity after the Union Territory status hardly anybody turned up in support of the students and joined the rally. Only around 10 students lead the rally.

Rigzin Dorje, President SOUL with a great disappointment over the low participation of the people in the rally said, "We students are raising our voice and standing up for the future of Ladakh and expected participation at all levels for the cause. It is very disheartening to see such low turnout".

He expressed the importance of every people of Ladakh to come under one umbrella and raise the demand for the sixth schedule for Ladakh.

Starting from December 12, students carried out a massive rally followed with a hunger strike demanding the sixth schedule for Ladakh.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh visited the students sitting on a hunger



Peace protest rally lead by Ladakh student associations under the banner of Student Organisation for Unified Ladakh.

strike on December 15 and after observing hunger strike for four days, they called off their protest for a time being on December 16 and carried out the protest. On January 18, District Administration sent presidents of the student union of Jammu, Nubra, LEAF, and SOUL for a study tour to northeast areas such as Bodoland and Meghalaya for 17 days. Citing security reason for the Republic day celebration, the tent of the students was removed by the administration on January 25 evening. According to the students, the officials asked them to relocate their tent on January 29 but since then students are finding difficulty to

locate their tent.

Students questioned District administration for not allowing them to relocate the tent for standing protest near Leh gate.

When asked about the allegation of students, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh said, "We are not against any peaceful protest but prior giving permission the administration has to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the public. Students were adamant about the location of the standing protest which we feel is not suitable".

"We are not against the students but before granting permission for a protest we

need to ascertain the reports from all the field functionaries of the administration based on which the permission is granted," he added.

The right to protest peacefully is enshrined in the Indian Constitution—Article 19(1) (a) guarantees the freedom of speech and expression; Article 19(1) (b) assures citizens the right to assemble peaceably and without arms.

Stanzin Chosphel, President, Student Union Nubra also one among the member of the study group said, "The study tour to other six schedule areas of the north-eastern states cleared many doubts. We learned about the situation of Bodoland, the loss of their language, culture and ethnic identity before any safeguard. Ladakh needs constitutional safeguards for better tomorrow."

Slamming all the people who comment on social media and shows solidarity with the students, he said, "There is a lot more difference in joining the protest and raising voice then commenting on social media. Anybody can comment on social media but it needs the courage to come on the ground and speak."

President SOUL said that the students are more firm about the need of the sixth schedule for Ladakh after the study tour.

Executive members of SOUL, Tsering Wangyal and Padma Stanzin also spoke on the occasion.

Khelo India Ice Hockey Cup, 2020, women section, concludes

Team Ice Hawk beat Ladakh Women Ice Hockey Foundation by 3-2 goals



Team Ice Hawk winner of the First Khelo India Ice hockey tournament 2020, women section.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The final match of the First Khelo India Ice hockey tournament 2020, women section was played between Ice Hawk and Ladakh Women Ice Hockey Foundation team on February 10 at NDS Ice hockey stadium, Leh.

Team Ice Hawk won the champion trophy by 3-2 goals.

Rinchen Lamo, Nominated Councillor for women, chief guest congratulated the winner and all the participants of the tournament for showcasing such a wonderful match.

She appreciated the effort of the women team for conducting coaching and training in ice skating to children and encouraging many of the younger generations to excel in different fields. She said that Ice hockey women team of Ladakh represents India at the international level which is a matter of pride to all Ladakhi's.

Talking about the difficulties and challenges faced by the ice hockey players in terms of infrastructure, equipment and financial constraint she stressed on the importance of the recognition of the sport.

A total of 3 teams participated in the Ice hockey tournament.

Khelo India Ice hockey tournament 2020: Ladakh Scout beat ITBP with 3-2 goals



Ladakh Scout Regimental Centre Red team winner of the first Khelo India Ice hockey tournament 2020 trophy.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Ladakh Scout Regimental Centre Red team clinched first Khelo India Ice hockey tournament 2020 trophy with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over ITBP team on February 9 at NDS Ice hockey stadium, Leh.

The tournament was jointly organised by District administration, Leh, Ladakh Winter Sports Club, Leh and Department of Youth Services and Sports. A total of 11 team participated in the tournament starting from January 30.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh applauded all the players for making the tournament successful. He said that under Khelo India scheme ample of scopes and opportunities are opened up for young talented

players to play and perform. Also, under this scheme needed infrastructure can be developed at all levels.

Rinchen Tundup, Captain, Ladakh Scout team expressed his happiness over winning the game after a tough fight.

Talking about the Khelo India scheme, Tsering Tashi, Department of Youth Services and Sports, Officer said that like rest other parts of India various activities have been carried out in the region at all levels under this scheme. With this many players getting the opportunity to participate and showcase their talent and skill.

Initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grassroot level and to develop India as a great sporting nation.

First Council meet of University of Ladakh held in Leh

Aims at making the university a high- standard institution



During the first University council meeting of Ladakh University.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first University council meeting of Ladakh University was convened by Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor and C. Phunsog, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh (UoL) on January 30.

Radha Krishna Mathur said that our effort should centre towards gaining the highest standards in education and curriculum of the University of Ladakh. He further stressed to ensure flexibility in the credit system facilitating students to register for courses of their choice and alter it within the academic course.

The orientation of research and development among students to promote a process of producing researchers, and innovators is yet another important aspect, he

added.

R K Mathur appreciated for having C. Phunsog IAS (Retd.) as first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh.

The university council decided to take up the matter of delay in passing out of batches for the years 2015, 16 and timely passing out of 2017, 18, and 19 batches with the University of Kashmir.

Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Kargil requested the university council to conduct the next University Council meeting in Kargil.

C. Phuntsog, VC, University of Ladakh gave a brief account of the inception of higher educational institution in Ladakh from 1889 till the creation of the University of Ladakh in 2018.

The meeting deliberated on various issues viz approval of 'Statutes and Regulations' of the University of Ladakh, budget estimates, building infrastructure, post creation, personnel recruitment, and matters of constituent colleges.

The Council emphasized on the building of winter-ready hostels and college buildings as well as administrative offices. The decision was also taken regarding improvements in the existing degree colleges like maintenance of buildings, making them winter-ready and the faculty in these colleges.

Imteaz Kacho, Registrar, University of Ladakh; Deskyong Namgyal, Controller of Examinations/Dean, Academic Affairs; Prof. Anju Bhasin, Vice-Chancellor Cluster University, Jammu; Professor, Sheikh Javed Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar; Rigzin Samphel; Commissioner Secretary/ Educational/Financial Advisor University of Ladakh; Kaneez Fatima, Former Joint Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, GoI, Ministry of Human Resource Development; Sonam Wangchuk, Founder, Himalayan Institute of Alternatives (HIAL), Ladakh; Rectors of the Satellite Campus of University of Kashmir, Leh and Kargil and the principals of the Govt. Degree colleges were present.

General Council meeting held in Leh

Hill Council, Leh, reviews achievements under Capex Budget 2019-20



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Financial achievements up to ending January 2020 under Capex Budget 2019-20 in Leh district was reviewed during the two day General Council meeting on February 13 and 14 at DC Office Conference Hall.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Gyal P Wangyal, Chairman/CEC, Hill Council, Leh.

Gyal P Wangyal informed that the Government has conveyed a ceiling of ₹136.39 crores under Capex Budget 2019-20 for Leh district, which includes ₹ 57.52 crores under regular scheme, ₹12 crores under NABARD, ₹ 2crore under NABARD state share, ₹55.45 crore under Central Share and ₹9.42 crores under State Matching share for centrally sponsored schemes.

Accordingly, Hill Council, Leh submitted an action plan of ₹ 142.14 crores with a step-up of 10% on the ceiling conveyed under Regular scheme. But, after repeated persuasion the State Govt. has approved only ₹ 57.52

crores under Regular schemes and released total funds of ₹68.32 crores till date. Against the released, ₹23.02 crore has been utilized by the end of January 2020.

Addressing the house, Gyal P Wangyal highlighted the major achievements of present Hill Council Leh in the last 18 months. He said that the UT status for Ladakh is the biggest and historic achievement for the entire Ladakh region.

The house unanimously passed a resolution moved by Councillor Upper Leh Ven. Lobzang Nantyak to express heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi lead Government of India for granting Union Territory status. The resolution was supported by Opposition leader Gurmet Dorjey.

Other major achievements such as University for Ladakh, up-gradation of Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) as Deemed University, opening of two new colleges, medical college for Leh, establishment

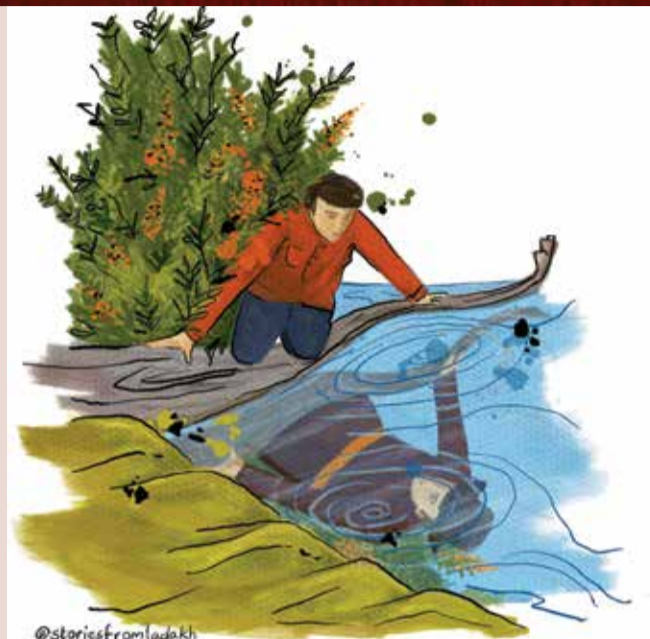
of the National Institute for So-wa-Rigpa (NISR) in Leh as an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of AYUSH at an estimated cost of ₹47.25 crore, SDA and other allowances for govt. employees of Ladakh was highlighted.

Connecting Ladakh with northern grid, implementation of Saubhagya and Ujala schemes, extension of power from 4 to 8 hours through DG sets in other villages of Leh, implementation of MODI schemes, Kisan Samman Nidi Yojana, sanctioning of 26 mobile towers under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in unconnected areas of Leh, digitization of Panchayats, free LPG connection to BPL women under Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana, opening of new tourist routes in Leh, online of AIR Leh, inauguration of 'Special Grade Diesel' for Ladakh, amendment of Council Act in 2018 etc were some other achievements.

Gyal P Wangyal informed about

...Continues on Page 3

Stories from Ladakh



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

My parents sent me to a boarding school when I was ten years old. It was around the time when education migration was taking root in Ladakh. It is a small world here, and when someone sends their kid outside for better education, others tend to follow.

My school was in Mysore. I used to come back to Ladakh once every three or four years. That was very traumatic for me because a lot of distance would build up during my time away. I would feel disoriented every time I came back. I could see my parents getting old. I could see them change. My parents would look at me and think, he doesn't even know how to speak our language properly. Even though I was in a familiar space, I was an outsider.

I was an outsider in Mysore too, and that was equally traumatic. People do not easily accept someone who looks different from them. Racial slurs were often thrown my way when I would visit the town. But then, you get used to it. You begin to believe that this is how people speak, and you start to accept yourself as the slur that is being hurled towards you. That is the most dangerous thing.

This experience really affected the context of my work. My art became my identity. I was very nostalgic, and would often talk about my memories from childhood. They felt so romantic.

Swimming in the brooks of Nimo during the summer. Playing marbles in the fields. Collecting berries to make juice. Picking flowers to gift my favourite teacher.

After I finished my Master of Arts, I was living in Delhi. I did not feel comfortable there either. It was not safe, and I could never completely relax. I began to shut myself off. I was trying to do art but I was not enjoying it. I began to think more deeply about the issues of identity and migration, and how they can be resolved by going back home. I felt that instead of cribbing, I should move back and pursue my art here.

When I came back to Ladakh two years ago, I really felt relaxed. I began to enjoy whatever I was doing. When I was preparing to move back, someone told me that I would not be able to produce good work while staying in a place that seems to be behind the times. I definitely disagreed. Working here brings out a different aesthetics in my work, and there is honesty in that.

Storyteller: Tsering Motup Sidho, Nimo

Do you have a story that you would like to share with us? Write to us at: hello@nyiska.com
For more Stories from Ladakh, follow us on <https://www.instagram.com/storiesfromladakh/>

First Ladakh Winter Conclave, 2020, to be held from Feb 21-23 in Leh

Rigzin Samphel launches the event's web page

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh is going to host the first Ladakh Winter Conclave, 2020 starting from February 21-23 in Leh. Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner/ Secretary Tourism Ladakh officially announced and launched the webpage at his office on February 3.

The three-day program brings together innovators and industry leaders to ideate on developing a roadmap for sustainable tourism in Ladakh. The event will also showcase the potential for Winter Tourism in Ladakh, with winter sports, cultural and culinary experiences being curated for this conclave.

The main highlights of the three days event include heritage walk in Old Town, Leh; experience Leh Dosmoche; Polo Match, Ice Hockey Match, talk sessions on Heritage & Culture, Adventure and Winter Sports and Environment and Wildlife.

Prominent names participating in the event include Rakyes Omprakash Mehra, Mike Pandey, Sumitra Senapaty, Vishwajeet Jadeja, Brig. Ashok Abbey, Condast Traveller & Outlook Traveller (Responsible Tourism) will be present as well.

The conclave will feature presentations by local



stakeholders, including the tourism bodies, non-governmental organisations working in the region to promote art and culture, industry leaders in media and marketing, apart from panel discussions on Adventure & winter Sports, Environment and Wildlife.

The talks and discussions on 22nd and 23rd February 2020 are open to everyone interested. To attend these sessions, register yourself on the official website (www.ladakh.nic.in/winterconclave) before Feb 14, 2020.

Director Tourism Mumtaz Ali, President ALTOA, President Hotel and Guest House Association and executive members and the team involved were present on the occasion.

People of Singay-Lalok get lodging and sanitary complex at Khaltse



Tsering Mutup, SDM, Khaltse along with Tsering Angchuk, BDO Khaltse inaugurating the complex in Khaltse.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KHALTSE: Newly built lodging facility (Sarai) and sanitary complex for the people of Singay-Lalok region (Trans Himalaya) at Block headquarter Khaltse

was inaugurated by Tsering Mutup, SDM, Khaltse on February 1.

Tsering Mutup appreciated the efforts of the Rural Development Department for timely completion of the facilities for the people

of Trans Himalayan region. Also, he appealed people to maintain public asset as their property.

Tsering Angchuk, BDO Khaltse informed that the lodging and sanitary complex under the centrally sponsored scheme (Swachh Bharat Mission) has been constructed by Rural Development Department at a cost of ₹18 lakh. He said that with the construction of this facility, the long pending demand of the people of this area has been fulfilled.

Stanjin Yangdol, BDC Chairman, Lingshed; Ghulam Nabi, Executive Engineer PWD Sub-division level officers/officials, Nambardar and villagers of Lingshed, Dipling and Fotoksar were also present.

Wildlife department gets training in mitigating human-wildlife conflict



Frontline staff of the wildlife department, Ladakh during the four-day training workshop at Gir National Park, Sasan-Gir, Gujarat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

GUJARAT: Frontline staff of the wildlife department, Ladakh learned about the best practices in mitigating human-wildlife conflict during the four-day training workshop from February 1 to 4 at Gir National Park, Sasan-Gir, Gujarat.

The team includes Chief Wildlife Warden, Ladakh, Wildlife Warden, Kargil and 27 Wildlife Guards from both Leh and Kargil along with project associates from SECURE Himalaya Project.

Training in wildlife healthcare and management, maintenance of wildlife holding facilities, diet and feeding of rescued animals, tranquilization, rescue, and release protocols, as well as crime scene investigation, were imparted. They also learned exemplary models of both in-situ and ex-situ conservation of big cat species and their habitats.

The training workshop was or-

ganised by the Department of Wildlife Protection, Ladakh and Govt. of India United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) project, Secure Himalaya. The aim was to expose frontline staff of the wildlife department with best practices in mitigating human-wildlife conflict from one of the most well managed National Parks in the country.

Sajid Sultan, Chief Wildlife Warden of Ladakh expressed his immense gratitude to the Forest Department of Sasan-Gir, headed by Dr. Mohan Ram, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, Sasan-Gir for planning and organising the training visit for their counterparts from Ladakh.

The frontline staff from Ladakh found it highly valuable to observe the Gir Hi-Tech Monitoring Unit, a technology-driven control center for monitoring & patrolling systems put in place by the Forest Department of Sa-

san-Gir to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the landscape.

SECURE Himalaya project is being implemented by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. The project is funded through the Global Environment Facility and co-financed by the Central Government. SECURE Himalaya project aims at ensuring the conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem while enhancing the lives and livelihoods of local communities. One of the components of the project is to enhance enforcement, monitoring, cooperation, and building capacities to reduce wildlife crime, conflicts, and related threats. This training visit was a step towards the objective of building capacities of major stakeholders involved in the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict.

Health Department, Kargil, organises training-cum-awareness programme on mental health

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

SANKOO: Training cum awareness programme on mental health was organised by the Department of Health, Kargil at Community Health Center Sankoo on February 8.

Around 200 paramedical staff of Sankoo zone participated in the training programme.

Resource persons including the Nodal Officer Mental Health, District Hospital Kargil and Dr Fatima Nissa, RMO; Dr Munawar Hussain Wazir, Block Medical Officer Sankoo and Zakir Hussain Psychologist, District Hospital Kargil briefed the participants about various aspects of mental health disorder, mental disorders and their reasons, significance of early detection and treatment.

Dr. Fatima Nissa presentation on depression and mental health dis-



orders underlined the importance of awareness about the connection between physical and mental health, the importance of this interdependence in the prevention of illness and suggesting suitable treatment when an illness either physical or mental is diagnosed.

She also highlighted the need to prevent stigma and discrimination against people living with mental disorders which badly affects their education, employ-

ment and access to care.

Meanwhile, Zakir Hussain, Psychologist gave a presentation on Obsessive Compulsion Disorder (ODC).

The speakers also stated that a large amount of human potential is lost due to non-treatment of mental illness and the need of the hour is to raise awareness on the importance of mental health and the necessity of effectively integrating it with public health.

General Council meeting held in Leh

...Continued from Page 2

the initiatives of present Hill council in devising policies for environment, education, tourism and health sectors for Leh district. He said that a committee of both Leh and Kargil Council is working on to bring more amendments in the Act of Hill Council.

Regarding shortage of Junior Engineers in the district, Wangyal said that by the end of this month posts of Junior Engineers will be outsourced and preference will be given to locals.

Responding to the questions raised by opposition councillors regarding the concern of Job and Environment protection in Ladakh, MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said that in 1990 govt. promised to give Hill Council for Leh but fulfilled the demand only in 1995 and since 25 years the Act of Council is being amended continuously. Fulfilling all the demands in merely 6 months after Ladakh gets UT status is unfair and impossible. He assured that PM Modi lead centre govt is the only government which cares for Ladakh and will protect its interests.

Discussion on the projects under PWD including PMGSY, BADP, CRF, NABARD and other spon-

sored scheme of PHE was carried out.

Regarding completion of Choglamsar Bridge over Indus River, Superintendent Engineer, PWD Leh assured that the remaining work will start in April and the bridge will be completed by the first week of June.

Gyal P Wangyal directed all the Executive Engineers and district officers to give priority to far-flung, unconnected and border villages considering their backwardness and short working season while executing works.

The issue in the delay of execution of small projects under the Rural Development Department was also raised. Councillors complained about the reluctant attitude of contractors in taking small projects and poor response towards tenders. They suggested giving relaxation in the tendering process for small works so that all-important works at village level could be completed timely.

Opening of Project Tsangda in other parts of the district and Handicraft and Handloom market 'Leh Haat' in the premises of Handicraft & Handloom department to provide modern marketing facilities to the artisans of Ladakh was also put forward.

Likewise, all other sectors were reviewed.

Dr. Dawa fondly remembered on his 2nd death anniversary



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Late Former Chairman/Chief Executive Councilor, Hill Council, Leh Dr. Sonam Dawa was remembered on his second death anniversary on January 20 with Lieutenant Governor Ladakh Radha Krishna Mathur, His Eminence Choskyong Palga Rinpoche and Gyal P Wangyal paying tributes to him.

RK Mathur lit the butter lamp and paid his respect to the late Chairman and medical officer by offering khatags at his photo. H.E. Palga Rinpoche initiated with the prayer of Buddha Amitabha.

While reflecting on the life of Dr Sonam Dawa RK Mathur said, "Hearing from people Dr. Dawa was a good student, a good family member, a good professional

as a doctor. As a public leader, he was a successful man who was liked and respected by all and had worked towards the welfare of the people at large".

Lt. Governor hoped that the younger generation will follow his path. He added that we all must rededicate ourselves to achieve his ideals.

H.E. Choskyong Palga Rinpoche speaking on behalf of his family spoke about the intentions of Dr. Dawa and requested everyone to follow his ideals of living in unity and striving towards the common goal of sustainable development of Ladakh.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh walked down the memory lane and spoke broadly about his close association with Dr. Dawa since the early years

of their life. He spoke highly of the respect Dr. Dawa had earned from every walk of life and his achievements.

Earlier, Sachin Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Leh spoke about Dr. Dawa's quality as an able administrator as the Chairman of the Council.

C. Phuntsog, Vice-Chancellor Ladakh University; Rinchen Namgyal, LBA V-President; Tsering Samphel, Ex-MLA (Congress Party) and Dorjey Angchuk, BJP President also spoke on the occasion. They recounted the vitality, exuberance, and passion of Dr. Dawa for working towards the development of the land. Ven. Lobzang Nyantak, Upper Leh Councilor delivered the vote of thanks.

Executive Councilors, Inspector General ITBP Deepam Seth, Col Lobzang Nima, Dr. Chemet daughter of late Dr. Dawa, political personalities, BDC Chairpersons, Councilors, family, relatives, and well-wishers were also present to pay tribute to Dr. Dawa.

Dr. Sonam Dawa died of sudden cardiac arrest on 29th January, 2018.

EXPERT TALK

Zanskar demands separate district status

By Stanzin Dasal



Stanzin Lakpa, Councillor, Cha, Zanskar, LAH-DC, Kargil: Zanskar region situated 240 km away from the district headquarter in Kargil faces many issues due to the lack of basic amenities and remoteness of the region. It takes 12-hour drive to reach the district headquarters and because of the distance the region lacks proper administrative control. And in winters, heavy snowfall keeps the region cut off from its main headquarter.

Even in today's time people of Zanskar are being deprived of basic amenities such as proper health systems, connectivity, electricity, education, and telecommunication services. People face many difficulties and challenges specially women during pregnancy and delivery because of the unavailability of adequate doctors and health facilities. Even for a simple complication, we had to rush the pregnant women to the district hospital on those bumpy and irregular roads. There is a case of women delivering a baby on the way to district hospital; some suffer from infection, lose a child and even mother during delivery. This year because of the heavy snowfall, telecommunication services got hampered for a long time causing a lot of hardships to the people of the native area and student studying outside. The growing issues compelled people to come on the roads raising their issues.

Leh and Kargil were given district status way back in 1979 but Zanskar region despite having an area of 7,770 sq. with significant geographical location and people with its own unique culture and tradition different from Kargil, the region was not declared a separate district. People of Zanskar now and then have been demanding separate district status because of the hardships and struggles people face due to lack of proper basic facilities.

We are thankful to the UT administration for restoring the telecommunication lines and very soon under the direction of Commissioner Secretary, one gynaecologist from the district hospital will be deployed to the Zanskar every month for few days to carry out health camps. These initiatives will solve the issues for a time being but Zanskar needs a solution for the long term.

All these years at various levels, leaders, and people of Zanskar have been demanding district status. In 2006, when Ghulam Nabi Azad was the Chief Minister of the erstwhile J&K state, eight new districts were created but the Zanskar sub-division was neglected. The demand and aspiration of the people of Zanskar were undermined despite assurances from the successive governments and leaders. Also, in the year 2019 people voted BJP candidate in the parliamentary election because of the assurances made by the party. With the changing political scenario, people of Zanskar got a ray of hope in achieving their long-pending demand.

Second most important demand of the people of the Zanskar is the early completion of Nimoo Padum Darcha road which will not only benefit the people of Zanskar but entire Ladakh region to stay connected with the rest of the country.

I have personally met Prime Minister, Home Minister and other concerned ministers and officials in Delhi and expressed the issues and demands of the region. On February 2, 2020, BJP party announced new district units in Nubra and Zanskar which is also a very positive sign. We hope that soon the demand for the region will be fulfilled.

Solutions:

- Separate district status for Zanskar
- Proper road connectivity and telecommunication service
- Early completion of Nimoo Padum Darcha road



Lobzang Tashi, General Secretary, LBA Youth Wing Zanskar:

Zanskar Sub-Division has been demanding separate district status for a long time now. Most of the political parties including the current MP Ladakh have contested election with the manifesto of separate District for the Zanskar Sub-Division and have been able to register their victory on the plank of district status. Since the partition of Ladakh into two districts of Leh and Kargil, Zanskar has been complaining of step-motherly treatment from the Kargil district. The prolonged demand for separate district status for Zanskar stems from economic backwardness, administrative remoteness of the region from its district headquarters, geographical condition and sense of isolation from the current district administration.

Union territory, which was thought to be key for the development of the area and with this dream people of Zanskar have always supported the demand for UT Ladakh. Sixth months have passed since that pop-

ular celebration at Leh market and elsewhere, which were followed by speeches thanking the Union government for granting UT status for Ladakh. But for the people from the margins, it is still the same as they are still living a miserable life.

Zanskar Sub – Division has been facing intermittent communication blackout for more than months, which was restored just a few days back that too under public pressure. BSNL, which is the lone service provider in the region, has failed to provide a stable telecommunication network. Most of the villages do not even have cell phone towers and people are finding it extremely difficult to connect with the outside world and most importantly with their beloved ones studying outside Ladakh. After the snowfall, the only surface link Padum – Kargil national highway connecting Zanskar Sub-Division to the rest of the country gets collapsed. This road link is only surface connectivity for the survival of Zanskar and being predominantly the consumer market, the shutting of highway triggers a huge economic crisis.

Life comes nearly to a standstill in this part of the region due to geographical isolation from the rest of India. Due to its administrative remoteness from the district headquarter; the villages in Zanskar have received fewer roads, secondary schools, and health facilities. Poor living standards of the people of Zanskar are testimony to this fact. Given its strategic location, this region should have been developed as the model tourist destination. Today Zanskar is one of the most underdeveloped and least known regions of India. People also complain that the Government has failed to complete many key projects such as Nimoo Padum Darcha road project which is notoriously infamous for its missing deadlines.

People of Zanskar have been for a long time, demanding effective local administrative arrangements which can help to promote and accelerate the pace of development. Since the bodies below the district administration like the SDM and the BDO do not enjoy a lot of powers, people take most of their grievances to DC. And under the present administrative setup, people of Zanskar have to travel for days to approach the concerned district officer for the redressal of their grievances. By granting separate district status for Zanskar, developmental activities will get a boost and meet the aspirations of the people. This will bring administration closer to the people, which would also lead to better administration of the region. Creating a separate district will also generate employment, more the 59 different departments will be created in the new district, as the DC

...Continues on Page 6

First Ladakh Ice-Climbing Fest held in Gangles



R K Mathur Lieutenant Governor Ladakh presenting certificates to the ice climbers during the Ladakh Ice-Climbing Fest.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh's first Ice climbing festival was held at Gangles valley on February 1 to 3.

The festival was organised by Ladakh Mountain Guide Association in collaboration with Himalayan Institute of Alternatives (HIAL) sup-

ported by Hill Council, Leh; Department of Wildlife Protection UT Ladakh; ALTOA and RIMO expeditions.

Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor Ladakh lauded Ladakh Mountain Guide Association for introducing ice-climbing, bringing forth the aim of UT Administration to promote winter tourism in Ladakh.

He extended all support to promote this sport.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh appreciated the organisers for putting their hard work and effort into this sport and fest. Encouraging the sport-lovers, he suggested exploring the possibility of introducing snow-skiing in Ladakh.

He said that with the announcement of ₹5,958 crores to Ladakh in the recent budget session, many aspirations of the people of Ladakh will be fulfilled.

Dr. Motup Dorjey, Chief Medical Officer Leh; Tsetan Angchuk, President All Ladakh Tour Operator Association (ALTOA); mountain climbers and sports enthusiasts were also present.

Div Com reviews availability of essential commodities in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Stocking position and shortages of essential commodities in Leh and Kargil district to ascertain its availability for the next three months was reviewed by Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner Ladakh on February 3.

Saugat Biswas enquired about the existing stock of essential commodities with the Cooperative Department, Cooperative Associations, Merchant Association and Wholesaler Association of Leh and Kargil.

He directed DC, Kargil and ADC, Leh to execute market survey to ascertain data of monthly consumption and total off-take in the market of essential commodities like salt, sugar, tomato puree, onion, mutton, dal, ghee etc. Based on the survey report shortages will be addressed by airlifting the required commodity. The purchases will be made by the merchant association with the consent of the respective LAHDC's.

Deputy Commissioners were asked to ensure close monitoring of the market by Cooperative CAPD and Merchant Associations to ensure no hoarding of materials. Also, he asked DC's to convene a meeting with the members of Merchant Associations to ensure a proper system in place to have adequate stocking of essential commodities in the



districts of Leh and Kargil for the next 3 months.

CAPD department was directed to give a daily report of availabilities of essential commodities to the Divisional Commissioner and both the Deputy Commissioners.

Anil Koul, Director Cooperative; Zahida Bano, ADC, Leh; Sherab Gyalton, AD CAPD; Presidents of Merchant and Wholesaler Association from Leh were present in the meeting. Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil; Officers from Cooperative Department and President Merchant Association Kargil joined the meeting through video conferencing.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

You too can be a Boss!



Who says you can't be the Boss? Well, it may sound bizarre but it is not. You can be a Boss, a President, a Managing Director whenever you want, and surely easily.

How? Most of you would have that in mind. Brian Tracy, inspirational writer, has the answer: "You can be the President of your own life." I would like to modify it a bit, and say:

You can be the Managing Director of your own life. That is because here you have both, active and functional words: 'Managing' and 'director'. There is action in them, and action is what we need in life to forge ahead and realise our goals.

Managing life is an art, and the product of positive thinking. But what is life that we understand today? Let us, for our convenience, compare it to a beautiful tree that never ceases flowering and bearing fruits. But, for that, one has to take care of the plant meticulously, giving it all its requirements. Similarly, life too has to be productive, as it is not meant to while away time and merry-making all the time.

That is the context for Brian Tracy that you can be your own President. Now, the President or the Managing Director is vested with all kinds of power that are to be exercised with care and insight for the betterment of all. Therefore, when you take over as your own boss, the first thing that you have to remind yourself is to be a highly responsible person so that your action and everything that you do or say contribute to your growth and the welfare of others too.

The second thing to be taken care of after being a responsible person is to be a good planner with your goal in mind. Once the plans are worked out, one has to be a meticulous executor of the plans with great determination, diligence and conviction. Nothing and no force can stop a person in his/her stride with this kind of traits. Even if there are problems and issues, they would be temporary in nature.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Sajid Sultan, IFS, Regional Wildlife Warden

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Brief us about the protected areas and different kinds of wildlife found in Ladakh.

Ladakh has a unique biodiversity and the region is home to a number of rare and endangered species of mammals, birds and plant life. To name a few are the Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Lynx, Pallas's Cat, Wild Ass (Kiang), Ladakh Urial, Himalayan Marmots, Ibex, Red Fox, Blue sheep, black-necked crane, bar-headed goose, golden eagle.

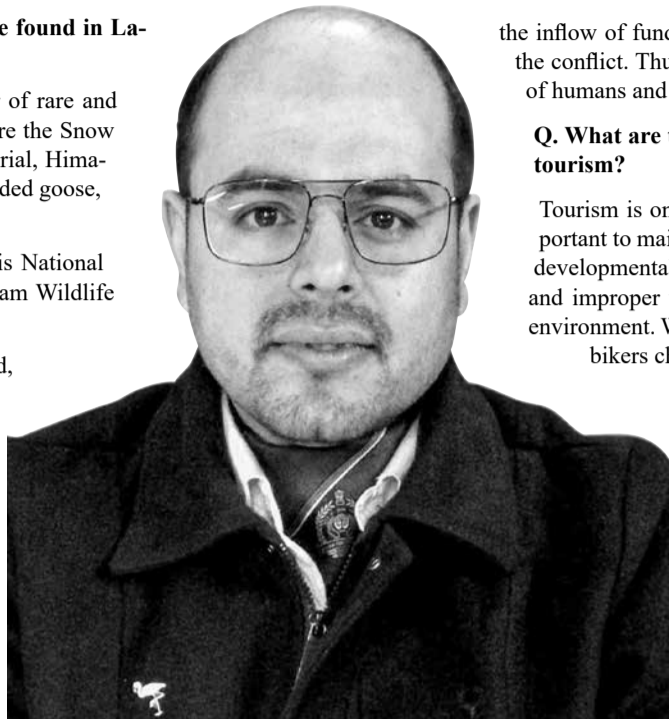
In Leh district, we have three protected areas which include the Hemis National Park, Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, and Nubra Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary.

Hemis National Park is known as the snow leopard capital of the world, having a strikingly significant Snow Leopard Population, attracting a large number of tourists from all over the world to spot the elusive snow leopard. This snow leopard tourism has financially benefitted the dwellers in and around the national park and has had a significant boost in winter tourism in Ladakh, thereby providing a source of income when other tourist options in the region are practically closed.

Similarly, Changthang Cold desert sanctuary is known for the wetlands and places like Tsokar Lake, Chushul marshes which serve as an important breeding ground for many birds, including the famous black-necked cranes. These areas are a paradise for the birding community.

In Kargil district, the ecologically sensitive area with good Biodiversity has been mapped and proposed to be declared as protected areas. The areas have already been approved by the State Board of Wildlife and State Administrative Council of the erstwhile state government.

We are waiting for a final notification from the current administrative setup, to notify both the said areas as Zaskar Wildlife Sanctuary and Suru Valley Wild Life Sanctuary respectively. These areas will provide a new status/name to the area of Zaskar and Kargil, both locally and globally, and in turn hold a good promise to boost tourism and livelihood activities for the locals. Various potentials of the area to drive as local economic engines have already been mapped, such as eco guides, Homestays, camping, trekking expeditions, Local Handicrafts/foods and related activities.



the inflow of funding in these areas will solve various other issues, particularly related to the conflict. Thus, the protected areas will be a means to ensure the peaceful coexistence of humans and wildlife.

Q. What are the different challenges and issues faced on wildlife due to increasing tourism?

Tourism is one of the prime economic sources for the people of Ladakh and it is important to maintain the ecological integrity of the landscape. The unprecedented human developmental activities such as mushrooming concrete structures, commercial units, and improper waste disposal are taking away the pristine natural beauty of Ladakh's environment. We have seen many people driving off roads disturbing the wildlife habitat, bikers chasing wild asses, feeding the wildlife such as marmots, foxes etc, polluting the land and water. Patrolling/policing can't be done all the time and in all the areas; there is an immense need for promoting responsible tourism because it is affecting wildlife and ecology of Ladakh.

We can't just say no for development and changes but it is extremely important to have proper regulation and norms to make it sustainable.

Q. What you have to say about the poaching cases in Ladakh and the reason behind less conviction?

A maximum number of poaching cases mainly happen in far off places, away from human habitation which becomes a challenge to catch hold of the suspect. Also, the absence of eyewitnesses is one of the major challenges in wildlife crime cases. Under Section 50 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, wildlife department officers are empowered to investigate and book wildlife-related cases. We are currently exercising this power, which will help in the easy presentation of the case since the concerned department will be more aware of the forest/wildlife offence.

Training and awareness to all the stakeholders at all levels about the wildlife act, presentation of case categorically and systematically, implementation of the law, etc is very much needed to improve the conviction rate in wildlife cases.

Imparting the right skills to the staff is the priority of the department, and is being taken up at all levels

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Ladakh is a Global model for 'community-based conservation'. We all need to synergize our efforts at different levels and individual capacities to further conserve this fragile ecosystem not only for the present but also the future generations to come.”

With overall growth and changes at various levels, protected areas play an important role in balancing development and conservation. The developmental activities within the zone will be carried out keeping the aspiration of the people and ecological sensitivity intact. Also,

...Continues on Page 6

Fortnight Highlights



Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur visit to Durbuk and Nyoma Sub-Divisions of Changthang.



Youth Association Kanji (YAK) organised 3rd alternative skill-based winter camp in Kanji for 35 days focusing on four major sectors such as Games & Sports, Design & Creativity, Tradition & Culture and IT & Technology.



Employees recruited under Special Recruitment Rule SRO -202 staged a protest in Kargil demanding Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh to abolish SRO 202 completely and avail all allowances that are available to other employees of UT Ladakh.



Spreading awareness to make Ladakh free from Leprosy disease, 'Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign' was launched on Anti-Leprosy Day at Chief Medical Officer, Leh. The awareness campaign will be carried out in the whole district until February 28.



Team Ladakh paired with J&K and Tamil Nadu wins silver medal in 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Tug of War National Integration Championship' (Men & Women) Zone-3. The championship was organised by the Tug of War Federation of India in collaboration with the Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil tours Parkachik area

Takes stock of developmental work and snow clearance work on Kargil Zaskar road



Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil interacting with people during his visit to the Parkachik area.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil took first-hand appraisal of the developmental needs, problems, demands and grievances of the people of Parkachik area on February 12.

Several public delegations put forth their issues and demand including augmentation of water and power supply during the winter season, repair of solar power plants, repair, and renovation of irrigation khuls and macadamization of link roads.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary took sector wise brief from the officers on the issues related to water and power supply, snow clearance works, functioning of Anganwadi centres, schools, roads, health centres, livestock,

and ration supply.

Addressing the people he said that the administration is fully conscious of the problems and issues being faced by the people residing in rural and far off areas. He assured to redress all their genuine demands and concerns in a phased manner. Concerned officers were directed to take necessary measures for early grievance redressal.

He further stressed on the need to establish a mechanism of effective and efficient coordination between the administration and the people. District officers were asked to be responsive to the needs and issues projected by the people and to ensure that these are resolved in a time-bound manner. Also, he asked them to

take effective as well as efficient advanced and timely measures to kick start the developmental projects and works in the area during the next financial year. The officers were asked to conduct a regular field visit to see the status of the implementation of various developmental activities and to get people's feedback.

Meanwhile, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary also took stock of the ongoing snow clearance operation on the Kargil- Zaskar road where the snow has been cleared up to 87 km from Kargil side. He appreciated the snow clearance team for carrying out snow clearance operations despite extreme cold and inhospitable weather conditions.

Executive Engineer Mechanical and Suru Valley Division, Sankoo were asked to provide all facilities and necessary assistance in ensuring snow clearance operations. Also, to ensure uniforms and other warm clothing for snow clearance team at the earliest.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary directed concerned officers to start snow clearance operations towards Zaskar from February 20 subject to fair weather conditions.

MP Ladakh met DG ITBP, discusses border issues



Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh with DS Deswal, Director General, Indo Tibetan Border Police.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh discussed various issues of the region with DS Deswal, Director General, Indo Tibetan Border Police on February 11 at ITBP Headquarter.

He discussed about the transfer of Ladakhi personnel serving in

SSB to ITBP and installation of mobile tower and restoration of DSPTs at ITBP posts in border areas. Both of them decided to pursue with Ministry of Home Affairs jointly.

Talking about the issues of pasture lands and hassle-free movement of a local nomad for grass-

ing, it was decided to allow local nomads residing at Indo-Tibet border in Ladakh to use their ancestral pasture lands without any hassle and utilization of BADP funds more meaningfully to develop border villages.

JTN put forth the demand of giving preference to the youths of border village during ITBP recruitment and early sanction of transmission line project for border areas etc. He also highlighted the promotion of Ice Hockey by ITBP and sought training for local youth in various sports activities.

Jamyang further appreciated the activities for social developments been carried out by ITBP in Ladakh along with border security.

Health Department Kargil organises free Medical Outreach Programmes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Gynaecology and Obstetric services to the pregnant mothers were provided during a medical outreach programme carried out at Padum Zaskar and Drass on February 11.

Over 300 patients were attended at Community Health Center, Padum and Sub District Hospital, Drass respectively. Antenatal check-ups besides 2 normal deliveries were conducted at Sub District Hospital, Drass. Free quality medicines were also distributed to needy patients.

Gynecologists, Dr. Ayesha Malo from Sonam Nurboo Memorial (SNM) Hospital, Leh and Dr. Nasreen Fatima from Community Health Center (CHC) Sankoo conducted the medical check-up.

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Chief Medical Officer, Kargil said that to facilitate needy patients in rural and far off areas, Health Department Kargil will organise more such free medical camps during the coming days.



As per the directions of the LG Ladakh Radha Krishna Mathur, Health Department Kargil has been organising various free outreach medical camps across the district over the past several weeks. The aim is to ensure the provision of satisfactory healthcare services to the people of remote and far off areas at their doorsteps.

During January 2020, 7 free medical outreach programmes

have already been conducted. Also, 1 medical camp each at Parkachik, Stakchay, and Lalung has been conducted by the concerned Block Medical Officers (BMOs) recently.

During the outreach medical camps, apart from curative services, the supervisory and paramedical staff has also been extending preventive and promotive services to the people.

Zaskar demands separate district status

...Continued from page 4

office alone has more than 200 people.

Districts are the third tier of India's governance structure, after the Centre and the Union Territory. As per the rules of the Union Government, 60% of the CSR funds of central government-owned

companies are set aside for health, education and nutrition of the government designated backward district. Thus, creating a new district will lead to development and prosperity in the region.

Solution:

- Separate district status for Zaskar

Sajid Sultan

...Continued from page 5

Q. Human-wildlife conflict is an issue in the region. How can it be reduced?

Yes, Human-wildlife conflict is another major issue in Ladakh because of the presence of predators such as snow leopards and brown bears near human habitations. Livestock losses due to predators and damage to crops and fields by wild asses are reported in the villages. To reduce the conflict, we have initiated building "predator proof" coral pens to keep livestock safe, distribution of chain link fencing to protect fields and farms, promotion of community-based eco-tourism, bringing economic benefits to local communities and provision of compensation for the livestock lost to the predators. An effort is being made to further ease the procedures to claim the compensation making it peo-

ple-friendly. Yet another initiative is being taken to even compensate property damage by wildlife.

Q. Does the department have any plan and project for the protection of the environment and wildlife?

The promotion of "sustainable wildlife eco-tourism" will be a win-win solution to manage wildlife with economic incentives to promote conservation. The coexistence of human settlements and snow leopard habitat is one of the key attributes in Rumbak valley (Hemis National Park). Snow leopard based eco-tourism has become one of the major livelihoods for the locals and this has ensured greater responsibility and happiness in protecting wild animals.

Conservation along with development is a must for peaceful co-existence.

SKUAST
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S. No.	Topic
1	Vermicompost Producer

For any queries please contact Dr. Jigmet Yangchan (Course instructor) on her mobile No.: 9419299822. The TA/DA will also be paid under this programme.

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