

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

VOL. 8 ISSUE 4 PAGES 8

March 1-15, 2020



In Conversation with Reach Ladakh

Inspector, Tasleema Parveen

5

Ladakh's journey from Wazarat to Union Territory

4

facebook Find us on FACEBOOK: Reach Ladakh

twitter Follow us on twitter: ReachLadakhBulletin

Visit our website: www.reachladakh.com

Brief News

DISCLAIMER

Reach Ladakh does not take responsibility for the contents of the Advertisements Display/classified published in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.

Members of Hill Council, Leh, Kargil on study tour to Ralegaon Siddhi and Bodoland Territorial Council of Kokrajhar

LEH: To understand the working of Panchayats, Zila Parishad and sixth scheduled areas, a delegation of Hill Council, Leh and Kargil are on a week-long study tour organised by UT Ladakh on February 25.

The delegation comprises of Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman, Hill Council, Leh; Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councillor for Education and Rural; Aga Syed Abass, Executive Councillor for Rural Hill Council, Kargil and Councillors.

They met Anna Hazare at Ralegaon Siddhi village Ahmednagar, President, Zila Parishad, Ahmednagar and District Magistrate, Ahmednagar.

The delegation will also visit Bodoland Territorial Council of Kokrajhar to study the functioning of sixth schedule.

All religious, political parties rally to demand constitutional safeguards for UT Ladakh



Stanzin Dasal

LEH: With the growing apprehension among the people of the region after Union Territory status for Ladakh, all religious heads and political parties under the banner of Ladakh Buddhist Association organised a peace rally demanding constitutional safeguards for Ladakh on February 17.

Thousands of people from different parts of the region holding the tricolour joined the peace rally starting from Chowkhang Vihara till Polo ground.

President LBA, P T Kunzang reiterated the sacrifices made by the people and struggles of leaders who lead the UT demand movement. He said, "People of

Ladakh are happy and expressing their gratitude time now and then to Modi government for the UT status after 70 long years. But, along with it we also need constitutional safeguards to protect the interest of the people of the region".

He said that the growing concern among people of the region regarding land, job, identity and culture is very much reasonable after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A.

P T Kunzang expressed the importance of constitutional safeguards for UT Ladakh to keep the identity of the region alive. He stressed on staying united keeping the interest of the region above-

...Continues on Page 3

Leh observes Dosmoche festival; prays for peace and prosperity



People witnessing the ceremonial burning of ritual effigy, symbolizing driving away of evil spirits and to bring peace and prosperity in the region.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Praying for peace and prosperity in the region, annual religious festival 'Dosmochey' was observed with religious fervor and festivity on February 21 and 22 in Leh.

The festival was organised by Leh Phudho which consists of villages from Ganges to Skara

This year 'Dhos' thread crosses were prepared by the monks of Taktok monastery and the 'Storzok' ritual effigy by the monks of Stakna monastery. Sacred mask dances (Cham) of Hatook, Hashang, Gonbo Gonkar, Lhamo Namses, Chamsing Kitapala, Shawa & Dzo, Serjunma, Shawa Nyes Cham, Zhanak Serkem, Nasol, and Chamjuk were performed by the monks of Thiksey monastery at Leh Chowkhang Vihara.

On the last day of the festival the ritual

effigy was ceremonially burnt symbolizing the driving away of evil spirits and to bring peace and prosperity among people.

The two days festival attracts thousands of people from all region of Ladakh. Along with the sanctity of mask dance and rituals, people also enjoy shopping, Ladakhi cuisine, tambola, ring game, and lotteries etc.

It is believed that the rituals of Dosmoche are performed to cast away the evil spirit, war and diseases in the region and to bring peace and harmony among people.

Meanwhile, the festival was also observed in Likir.

Known as a prayer festival, Dosmoche was introduced by the rulers of Ladakh. The festival is very similar to the popular - Mon-Lam, 'Great Prayer Ceremony of Lhasa'.

THE REALITY



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.

You can contact at 9858394403 or email at editor@reachladakh.com.

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

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorjey

Editor: Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

Assistant Editor: Stanzin Dasal

Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup

Layout: Raul Chhokkun

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

Printed at: Archana advertising Pvt Ltd. C-78 Okhla Industrial Area Phase I. New Delhi, India 110020

For more online videos subscribe to our You Tube channel 'Reach Ladakh' NOW!



Get the latest news and updates from Ladakh. Don't forget to like, subscribe and click the notification bell.

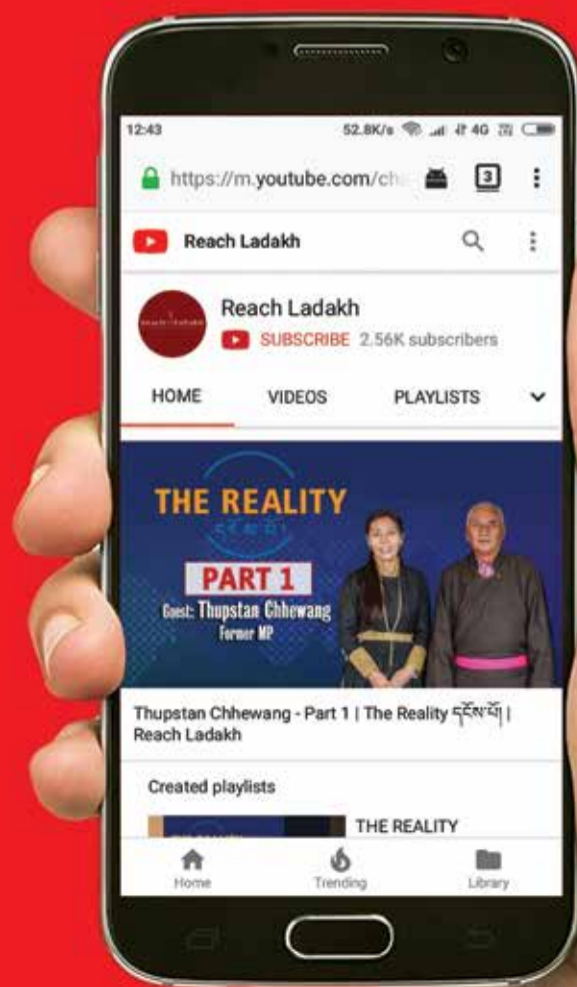


Follow us on: Website: www.reachladakh.com

Facebook: Reach Ladakh

Instagram: reachladakh99

Twitter: ReachLadakhBulletin



Three-day Ladakh Winter Conclave held in Leh for first time

Brings together various experts and eminent personalities associated with environment, tourism, film making and administration



Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary, UT Ladakh along with Padam Shree awardee, Tsewang Motup of RIMO Expeditions and P T Kunzang, President, LBA inaugurating first Ladakh winter conclave in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: First Ladakh Winter Conclave with an aim to promote winter tourism in Ladakh organised by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh in collaboration with its partners held from February 21 to 23 in Leh.

The three-day winter conclave was inaugurated by Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary, UT Ladakh along with Padam Shree awardee, Tsewang Motup of RIMO Expeditions and P T Kunzang, President, LBA.

Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor stated that the tourism industry of Ladakh should work towards a module targeting round the year income generation and distribution of that income over entire population of Ladakh.

He expressed his hope for the constructive execution of all the ideas and suggestions deliberated during the three day winter conclave.

Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary, UT Ladakh said that the ideas, inputs and suggestions by prominent personalities like famous Indian film-maker & scriptwriter, Rakesh Om Prakash Mehra, Mike Pandey & Gautam Panday, Wild-life & environment film-makers, Editor, Outlook Responsible Tourism initiative Soity Banerjee and others in formulating tourism policy of the Ladakh region.

He spoke about the importance of promoting winter tourism in Ladakh. He highlighted efforts of the UT Administration to explore the un-named tourist destinations of the region, keeping in

mind the importance of its fragile ecology, environment, tangible and intangible factors of the region.

Padma Shree awardee Tsewang Motup congratulated the organisers for coming up with such an important event for stakeholders involved in the tourism industry for the first time in Ladakh. He talked about the hidden potentials of Ladakh region and the need for promoting sustainable tourism.

Delex Namgail, General Secretary, All Ladakh Tour Operators' Association (ALTOA) Leh and Zahir Bagh, General Secretary, All Kargil Tour & Travel Association (AKTTA) shared their views and suggestions through power-point presentations.

During the three days programme, all the guests of winter conclave visited Thiksey monastery and learned about its history and architect, Central Asian Museum and Artificial glacier in Gangles. They witnessed other highlights of the conclave such as Ice hockey exhibition match of both men and women teams, figure-skating and speed skating at Guphuks Ice-hockey rink, Heritage walk, cultural and mushaira performances and artists & artisans displaying their locally made products. Also, interactive sessions on Wildlife & Adventure, Responsible Tourism & Sustainable policy, branding and marketing, culture and heritage were also carried out during the three days.

District Congress Committee, Leh, condemns BJP President's speech

Blames them for not talking about 6th Schedule and misusing the platform for political gains



Tsering Namgyal, President, District Congress Committee, Leh addressing a press conference at party office.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: BJP President Dorjay Angchuk speech during the rally organised by all religious and political parties demanding constitutional safeguard for UT Ladakh, triggered a sharp reaction from District Congress Committee, Leh.

Addressing a press conference on February 18 at party office, Tsering Namgyal, President, District Congress Committee, Leh described Dorjay Angchuk speech irresponsible, lowering the very essence of the apolitical gathering organised for the whole Ladakh region.

"Prior rally, it was decided in a meeting that all the speakers will speak and focus only on the safeguard for Ladakh region. But things turned out to be in other

way when BJP President spoke as if BJP campaigning is going on", he added.

He said that the party president has misused the platform for their political gain rather than talking about the need for constitutional safeguards for the Ladakh region.

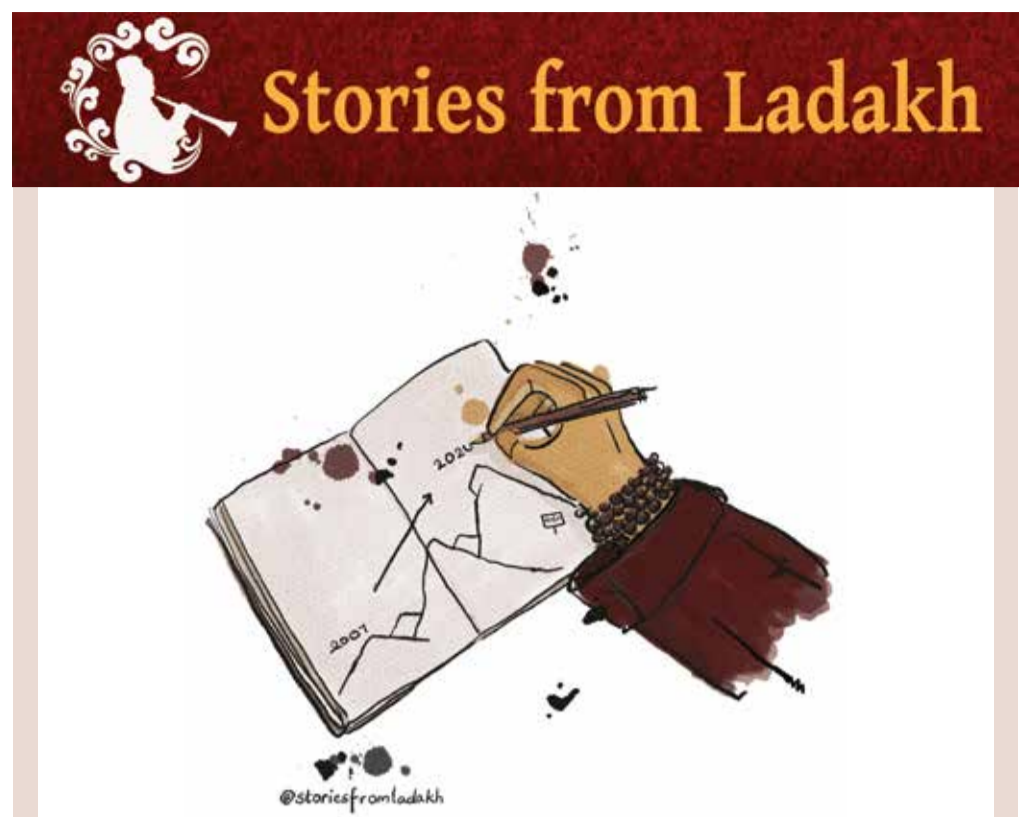
During the rally on February 17 at Polo ground, Leh, Dorjay Angchuk said, "With the grant of UT status for Ladakh, many people came up with different opinions regarding safeguards. Today, everyone came to one decision that Ladakh do not need 6th schedule, 5th schedule or Article 371. The region only needs constitutional safeguard on certain subjects including land, job, environment and identity."

Countering the statement, Tsering Namgyal said, "I wonder which constitutional safeguard he is talking about when most of the leaders and experts already recommended 6th schedule for Ladakh at all levels because it fulfils all the criteria".

He refers to the different recommendation made by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) at a meeting in Delhi on September 11, letter to Home Minister, Amit Shah signed by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Ladakh, Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council Leh and Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Hill Council, Kargil, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda and Congress leader Ambika Soni in the Rajya Sabha. All of them expressed the need of UT Ladakh to be included under the sixth schedule at different levels.

Talking about the limited power of Hill Council, he said that the empowerment of Hill Council with legislative power is must to safeguard subjects of local importance which is in line with the sixth schedule.

Tsering Namgyal strongly raised the need of UT Ladakh to be included under the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution to preserve the tribal identity, custom and environment.



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

I have lived my entire life surrounded by mountains. I feel a deep attachment to them. Climbing them is like meditation. Once I start, my entire focus is on my every movement and every minute detail of the terrain. My mind does not divert because there is so much at risk. Even a small mistake can have dire consequences. To succeed, I have to push myself. I have to challenge myself mentally and physically.

The first peak I ever summited was ten years ago in Nubra. Back then, my blood was hot. I just wanted to climb and summit peaks. That is all that mattered. Since then, I have done basic and advanced mountaineering courses. I have done a course in search and rescue. I have gained experience. Now, I understand the risks involved. The more you learn in this field, the more scared you get.

I have summited 20 different peaks so far. Trishul is the most technical amongst them. There are Ladakhi peaks like Stok that I have climbed 20-30 times. I have them all written down in my journal. The peaks, their heights, and the dates I climbed them.

It is nice to look back and think about the peaks I have overcome. It is, however, not fun while I am climbing them. The icy wind rocks your sleeping bags at night. Water seeps in from the bottom, while the snow falls from above. The food is limited so you hike hungry at times. This is the way of the mountains. They are about survival.

I want to summit every peak in Ladakh. Every single one. But the thing about dreams is that they keep expanding and getting bigger. So I try not to dream about the peaks I wish I could scale. Instead, I just continue to climb the peaks that I get the opportunity to go up.

Last year, many members of the Ladakh Mountain Guide Association applied for the IMF Everest-Masiff Expedition 2020. Climbing the Everest-Masiff is extremely expensive and I cannot afford it. So I thought that I should apply and see what happens. After rigorous training and a thorough selection process, four of us from Ladakh have been selected to join eight other finalists from across India.

I am very grateful to the Ladakhis I have been selected with. I have learnt a lot from them over the past decade. When I had just started trekking, they had already been doing it for years. They are my teachers.

In April, this team of twelve finalists will be divided into groups of four to simultaneously climb four different peaks: Pumoriri (7161 meters), Nuptse (7861 meters), Lhotse (8516 meters), and Mount Everest (8848 meters). There is a lot of risk in these climbs. Nuptse and Pumoriri are extremely technical. They are the kind of peaks that can swallow you alive.

Storyteller: Stanzin Nurboo, Shara

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/>

Gyal P Wangyal meets DDG, USOF, Ministry of Communication

Discusses dire need of communication facilities in far flung rural areas



Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh with Deepak Chanduka, DDG (Spl Projects), USOF, Ministry of Communications, Govt. of India.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh reviewed the work status of 24 towers approved under Universal Service Obligation fund (USOF) with

Deepak Chanduka, DDG (Spl Projects), USOF, Ministry of Communications, Govt. of India on February 23 at New Delhi.

Gyal P. Wangyal provided a list of remaining unconnected vil-

lages and requested to include under USOF. Also, he requested to make DSPTs in far-off villages of Leh functional again.

Deepak Chanduka assured that DSPTs shall be reconnected and functional within a month or two. Regarding the twenty four towers approved under USOF, it was informed that tenders for the same shall be awarded in the month of March 2020 and the installation shall start at the earliest. The pending unconnected villages shall be connected in a phased manner as per the list provided by the Hill Council, Leh.

He also assured to visit Leh for finalizing the process.

Kiren Rijiju inaugurates first Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games, 2020

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: First Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games, 2020 was inaugurated by Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports on February 25 at NDS, Ice hockey stadium, Leh.

The winter game was organised by Department of Youth services and sports and Administration of UT Ladakh in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Services and Sports, Govt. of India.

The opening match was played between ITBP and Ladakh Scout, Red team. ITBP won the match by 2-0 goals.

Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor, Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Ladakh and many other dignitaries were present.

Addressing the gathering, Kiren Rijiju appreciated the skill of the players and expressed the importance of having proper infrastructure to take ice hockey at the next level. He said that the ministry will work on developing standard infrastructure facilities to all the talented players. He also stressed on exploring and



Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports throwing puck, declaring first Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games, 2020 open.

promoting different other sports in the region.

Talking about the recognition of the sport Ice Hockey, he assured to get the sport recognised so that the players will get financial aid along with many other facilities. He said that in the coming days we will be able to have champions representing in Olympic games also.

He also informed various other plans and initiatives of the Government of India to boost the sports sector.

The Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games will feature an open ice

hockey championship, figure skating and speed skating. The competition will be conducted at the block, district and UT levels. About 1700 athletes of different ages, from Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh, will compete.

R K Mathur expressed his hope that under the leadership of Kiren Rijiju, the sports sector in Ladakh will be developed and promoted at a great level. He also highlighted the scope of adventure sports in Ladakh.

Gyal P Wangyal and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also spoke on the occasion.

L-G Mathur launches 'e-stamp' in Ladakh



During the launch of Online Stamp Duty Administration System in Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Online Stamp Duty Administration System for computerization of issuance of stamp paper and collection of judicial and non-judicial stamp duty was launched by R K Mathur, LG, UT Ladakh on February 25.

This is one of the Information Technology initiatives after the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh to adopt e-Stamping solution by replacing the age-old paper stamp system. The e-Stamp System has been brought about by the Revenue Department of UT Ladakh. Rev-

enue Department has entered into an agreement with Stockholding Corporation of India Ltd.

Saugat Biswas, Secretary Revenue, UT Ladakh; Mohd. Shafi Lassu, President, District Bar Association, Leh and member Tsewang Gonbo; P. Paldan, Technical Director NIC Leh; Pramod Joshi, Regional Manager, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd, Chandigarh with his team and other officers were present during the launch.

Stockholding Corporation of India Ltd has been selected as Central Record-Keeping Agency

(CRA) for adoption of e-Stamp and e-Court Fee systems in Ladakh.

With the launch of the Online Stamp Duty Administration System, people of Ladakh can now pay Non-Judicial Stamp Duty and Judicial Stamp Duty through e-Stamping System and e-Court Fees system respectively. Also, they can generate and print the e-Stamp/e-Court Fees on paper from the comfort of their homes. Likewise, all the licensed stamp vendors of Ladakh can also pay and print e-Stamps of all denominations using their secured login credentials. With the implementation of the e-Stamping solution, the licensed stamp vendors, as well as the people, may be able to get stamps of any denomination with ease and availability.

Training programme on e-Stamping or the use of the CSDA system will be carried out for all the Govt. Officials, Registrars, Sub-Registrars, Bar Associations of Leh & Kargil, all licensed Stamp Vendors of Ladakh, nationalised banks and other stakeholders.

All religious, political parties rally to demand constitutional safeguards for UT Ladakh

...Continued from Page 1

all. Representatives of Anjuman Imamia, Anjuman Moin-Ul-Islam, Christian Association, Ladakh Gonpa Association and political parties BJP and Congress also expressed the need for constitutional safeguard for the Ladakh region.

A copy of the memorandum to Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India signed by Presidents of all religious organisations and political parties on behalf of the people of the region was submitted through Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Umang Narula.

The memorandum highlights 15 major demand including protection of land, ecosystem, job, interest of the business community, culture, language and ethnicity of Ladakh and citizenship rights of the indigenous people of the Ladakh. Strengthening, empowerment/Re-organisations and delimitation of Hill Council, separate Rajya Sabha for Ladakh, complete tax exemption, establishment of High Court, inclusion of Bhoti language under 8th schedule of the Indian constitution, caderization of employees, establishment of the Ladakh Public Service Commission and Minority commission and promotion of agriculture sectors were highlighted.

People of Zanskar stage protest, demand basic amenities

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: A massive peace protest rally demanding immediate redressal of grievances faced due to lack of basic facilities was carried out from Maney Rignmo till Area Development Officer/SDM's office on February 21 in Padum.

The rally was organised by Ladakh Buddhist Association - Youth wing, Zanskar and Lambardar Association Zanskar. People from different villages including Numbardars, village representatives, monks from different monasteries and women groups joined the rally. The entire business establishment remained closed for one day.

The protestors demanded separate district status for Zanskar, speedy completion of Nimoo Padum Darcha road project, visit of Hill Council, Kargil officials to redress the issues, opening of a mechanical sub-branch office at Zanskar with workshop, opening of medical aid centre at Ralaking, appointment of permanent technical operator for BSNL Zanskar, simplifying the defunct BSNL communication system, immediate clearance of snow from the roads, and opening of JKBOSE Sub Office at Zanskar.

A copy of memorandum was handed over to the Area Development Officer, Zanskar.

Stanzin Tundup, President, LBA



People of Zanskar during the peace protest rally demanding basic amenities.

Youth Wing, Zanskar stressed on the need of basic amenities to the people of Zanskar. He appraised Area Development Officer about the absence of medical aid centre at Ralaking, Zanskar.

While interacting with the Area Development Officer, Stanzin Tundup and Tsering Chosphe, President, Lambardar Association, Zanskar highlighted the non-existence of permanent technical operator for BSNL Zanskar and requested him to appoint the same. Also, they informed about the poor condition of various roads and urged him to augment the pace of road repairs in the Zanskar.

Stanzin Tundup urged the officer to boost the pace of work on the various outstanding road projects including the much awaited Nimoo Padum Darcha road.

He said that the earliest clearance of snow towards Chaddar

upto Sharlo (Last point to motorable road towards Leh) will make the lives of the local travellers better besides decreasing the time travel distance between Leh to Zanskar via Chaddar.

Absence of proper medical facilities and necessary medical staff in the Zanskar were also raised.

The delegation also requested the SDM / ADO to ensure all the Govt. welfare schemes available for the people of Zanskar as most of the time local people are unable to take benefit due to the lack of awareness and outreach programme carried out by the administration.

The SDM / ADO Zanskar promised to tackle all the issues raised by the LBA, Youth Wing, Zanskar and Lambardar Association Zanskar. He also assured to communicate all the demands of the people before the higher authorities.

Greek municipalities to help Leh in developing urban 'Action Plan'



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The cities of Farkadona/Trikala/Meteora, Greece signed a partnership agreement on February 20 with the European Union International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme to cooperate with Leh on sustainable urban issues.

The agreement was signed by the Mayor of Farkadona, Ioannis Sakellariou on behalf of the Farkadona/Trikala/Meteora Municipalities.

By signing this agreement, the three Greek Municipalities will further engage with the partner city of Leh to develop a Local Action Plan on a mutually agreed area of cooperation and exchange

best practices focusing on various sustainable urban development issues. This cooperation is part of the ongoing European Union International Urban Cooperation program where a total of 24 European Union and Indian cities share best practices and develop pilot projects. Through this programme, the City of Leh will align its urban development targets with international best practices and will experience sustainable benefits for the city.

International Urban Cooperation programme boosts cooperation on sustainable urban development between European Union cities and partner cities in India, East Asia, North and South America.

IUC/India is part of the corresponding global IUC programme. It is financed by the European Union, and implemented by a consortium of GFA Consulting Group GmbH (leader) and CRISIL. Through the programme, local leaders will connect and gain new perspectives on pressing sustainable urban development issues. European Union and Indian cities are paired based on common priorities and development interests, allowing both parties to build cooperation and share knowledge. Representatives from both cities will attend exchange visits and together develop a local action plan to drive the cities' sustainable urban development.

Ladakh's journey from Wazarat to Union Territory



Nawang Tsering Shakspo

In its more than one thousand years of cultural and religious history, Ladakh has gone through many political upheavals, but on the socio-cultural front, the region could maintain the centuries-old essence of Mahayana Buddhist culture and civilization.

Well-documented religious, political and social history on the region points out that commencing from 900 A.D, the descendant of the mythical king of Tibet, Nyathi-tsanpo, ruled the region for about 1000 years and only in the year 1834, the forces of Maharaja Ghulab Singh lead by General Zorawar Singh subjugated the region. From that time onward, it became a colony of the successive Dogra Maharajas naming the region as Ladakh Wazarat, and the Dogra rulers divided the region into three tehsils namely Skardu, Kargil and Leh. Skardu was the summer capital while Leh the winter capital.

On August 15, 1947, India gained independence. With that, most of Ladakh became part of Jammu and Kashmir State. However, Skardu, historically part of Ladakh Wazarat, was annexed to Pakistan. In the new post-independent setup of Jammu and Kashmir State, the region was divided into two tehsils namely Leh and Kargil, and from the administrative point of view, they were put together under one district, with Leh as the district headquarters. Later, Kargil too was made a district, in the year 1975.

From the very first day, placement of Ladakh as a part of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947, the successive government at Jammu or Srinagar treated Ladakh indifferently. For the sake of their carrying routine administration and to pour funds liberally as well as to folly Central Government at New Delhi, they would project Ladakh as a regime as per of Kashmir



and Jammu region. But for distribution of the hefty funds poured by New Delhi, they would project combine Leh and Ladakh as the district of Kashmir division. By doing so the successive administrators of the State fooled the people of Ladakh and chunk of funds to use in the valley only. This policy of the government was openly challenged in 1952, none other than by Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, the then undisputed leader of Ladakh and presently acknowledged as the architect of Modern Ladakh on the floor of State assembly in presence of She-re Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah, who in the year 1947, emerged as the saviour of Kashmiri people aftermath of the partition of India and Pakistan.

And, on the other hand, Ladakhis coming with the protest march against the step-motherly treatment had become common phenomenon in the region and on due to the first massive Buddhist agitation of the year 1967, to resolve the stalemate, a cabinet minister of then Kashmir government was deputed among the corrective step taken aftermath of the visit of the minister was creation of 32 Ladakhi/

Bodhi language teachers, some numbers of Arabic teachers and induction of a Buddhist minister in the Kashmir government. Still, the grievances of the Buddhist could not resolve. This led the Government of India and the State Government at Srinagar had to constitute a number of commissions for the redressed of the people grievances.

Among the commissions constituted were the Gajendragadkar Commission after the Buddhist agitation 1968, the Sikri Commissioner in 1975. Among the major demands of the Ladakhi was a degree college at Leh. Since this and other demands were not fulfilled, the Buddhists again came on the streets and demanded NEFA-type administration, which finally turned for the demand for UT status for Ladakh. With that momentum was gained for the grant of Schedule Tribe status to the region in the year 1972, the status which was finally confirmed to certain tribes of Ladakh in the year 1985. Still, the demand for the separation of Ladakh from Kashmir and the grant of Union Territory status to Ladakh stayed unabated. This resulted in the successive

government at New Delhi to intervene in the Kashmir government affairs, which coincided with the long spell governor rule in the J&K State. The Government of India, without touching the sanctity of section 370, granted the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) Leh and Kargil instead of UT status through a Presidential notification.

With the emergence of two Hill Councils, 30 persons in each of Leh and Kargil district got elected as Councillors with hefty monthly salary. On the other hand, discontentment started brewing among the youngsters, particularly among the unemployed youth. As the State government did not empower the Hill Councils regarding the creation of posts and promotions, particularly of the Divisional Cadre posts, the two LAHDCs could not do much for the unemployed educated youths.

On the other hand, in those days for the government of India, the main task was to cool down the turmoil in the Kashmir Valley on a priority basis. Towards this direction, the Government of India appointed three-men Interlocutor Group on J&K in 2010 and its report was submitted in 2012. In the report of the interlocutors, among other recommendations, it was said that Ladakh may be separated from Kashmir, meaning granting of Divisional status. Unfortunately, on this attention-grabbing recommendation, Ladakhi leaders belonging to various political parties kept silent, and in the year 2013, I attended the 14th conference of International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) held at Heidelberg University, Germany, with a paper on Divisional Status to Ladakh, highlighting the benefit from the Division Status particularly to the educated youth regarding employment. In this regard, I must say, to some extent, I succeeded in mobilizing people's opinion on the issue. Interestingly, Greater Kashmir newspaper, published my write-up in the issue of July 5th, 2012.

...Continues on Page 6

LG Ladakh, R K Mathur meets Director General, BRO

Stresses opening of Shinkula pass and Zojila tunnel on priority basis



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Radha Krishna Mathur, Lieutenant Governor discussed vital projects carried out by BRO in the Ladakh region with Lt. General, Harpal Singh, DG, BRO and several other senior officers on February 20.

Brigadier Amrinder Singh, Chief Engineer, Project Himank and Brigadier Amit Singh Sohal, Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak presented an

overview of their respective Area of Responsibility (AoR). They gave recommendations for future projects which could help in mitigating the road connectivity issues of the region.

Different challenges faced by the BRO due to the high altitude terrain of work area and long supply of chain, as well as the requirement for additional equipment, proper identification of avalanche prone stretches, etc. was highlighted. Measures such as a change in the alignment of roads, conducive clothing for labourers, and proper weather forecasts by the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) were recommended to deal with the challenges.

BRO thanked UT administration, particularly the Lieutenant Governor for timely intervention and support in the land acquisition proposals in Ladakh.

Acknowledging the tremendous amount of work done by the BRO, Radha Krishna Mathur assured all possible support to make Ladakh well-connected and a carbon neutral area.

He stressed on the opening of Shinkula pass and Zojila tunnel on a priority basis to make the region round the year accessible.

Girls of Ladakh retain titles in New Delhi marathon

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Four girls representing UT Ladakh retained their titles in the fifth edition of the IDBI Federal Life Insurance, New Delhi marathon on February 23.

The marathon was flagged off by Indian cricket star Sachin Tendulkar from Jawaharlal Nehru stadium. Over 22,000 runners participated in four different categories -the Full Marathon (42.2 km), Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10 km Timed Run and 5 km Swacch Bharat Run.

In full marathon, Jigmet Dolma won bronze medal with a timing of 03:03:10s. In the half marathon, Tashi Ladol clinched gold with a timing of 1:28:28 followed by Stanzin Chondol 01:31:13 and Stanzin Dolkar 01:31:43.

Ladakh Marathon founder Chewang Motup said that the Ladakhi runners had natural advantage of physical endurance and little support and guidance is all needed.

Ladakh Marathon was started in 2012 giving ample of opportunities and scopes to young athletes of Ladakh to participate in number of marathon taking place around the country.



Half marathon winners in the fifth edition of the IDBI Federal Life Insurance, New Delhi marathon.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Be choosy about your company



As they say, you are known by the shoes you wear. Similarly, we also know that one is known by the company one keeps. That clearly means you are identified with the people you live with. For example, if you have thieves as your friends, you too are/will be a thief.

Why do we say this? Simple: Because in an association of any kind of people, there will always be transmission of vibes, positive or negative, purposeful or destructive. So, if you are with positive-thinking people, rest assured you too will be a positive person; and a negative one if you associate yourself with negative people.

Therefore, it is, in one's life, very important to be very choosy when it comes to friends and associates. After all, one's mission of life is to progress peacefully and happily so that the entire society is benefited by each other's activities.

That is why former US security Advisor Colin Powell says that a mirror reflects a man's face but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses! And, similarly, Puerto Rican author Esmeralda Santiago had said: "Tell me who you walk with, and I will tell you who you are."

Positive vibes are powerful instruments for mental and physical development. We need to make it sure that our journey of life is not associated with any negative atmosphere that stands to derail us. And we must also remind ourselves of the proverb that a dirty fish spoils the whole pond; meaning thereby it creates a bad atmosphere for others too.

If we sit in a meditative state and look within for a few minutes about the real meaning and purpose of our existence, we would get a clear picture of our course. And many of us may have to do that time and again only to remind ourselves of a higher purpose of life. Those who have realised this 'purpose' already are the ones who will remain happy with a meaningful life. There are so many such people among us. All that we need to do is to follow them, and, if possible, associate yourself with them.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Inspector, Tasleema Parveen, SHO, Women Police Station, Leh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Brief us about the women police station, Leh and how it has helped in ensuring the safety and security of women?

The women police station in Leh started from December 12, 2018, to make women feel secure while approaching the police, ensuring safety and security. At present, a total of 10 women police personnel are stationed which is open round the clock. Along with strict dealing of criminal offences such as crime against women we also help to strengthen family relationships by giving counselling option and redressing the family disputes through mediation. In cases where all efforts fail, cases are registered under different sections.

Women police station has given new hope to many women who feel reluctant or hesitant to approach police with their issues. We also have a help desk facility, where a women police personnel with casual clothes, patiently hears the complaint like a mother or sister, thus making a woman feel comfortable. This is because there are still many women specially from far off villages who do not feel comfortable in describing their woes to police. We have come across women coming freely and being vocal about the problems. Every case is dealt in a very friendly manner with a will to offer all sorts of solutions. No case is disclosed or discussed outside the police station maintaining strict privacy.

Q. Strengthening family relation is one of the main objectives of the women police station along with good policing. Brief us about it?

During the inaugural of the women police station by Director General of Police (DGP), Dilbag Singh during the erstwhile state of J&K, he asked all-women police personnel to work towards strengthening family relations and keep the ethos of the united family intact besides working for the safety and security of women. So, when a woman visits a police station with complaints related to domestic violence, quarrels, harassment, we provide counselling and help families to resolve their issues amicably. Couples or family are summoned and counselled to lead a life instead of breaking up. Filing a police complaint will always be an option if felt necessary but, many problems are solved better through conversations, and moral support. Counselling is very much effective because it helps people to get out of mental pressure, getting a divorce and many other consequences.

Q. What kind of cases are mostly reported?

In 2019, we have registered a total number of 11 FIR. The crime rate



in Ladakh is comparatively less than in other parts of the country but most of the common cases reported are extramarital affairs and domestic issues. Also, nowadays we come across many problems caused between two people because of live-in relationship, and misuse of smart phones and social media.

It's not that only women are victims, men are equally harassed. We have come across men who are innocents but are framed by the woman.

Q. Are women of Ladakh open in registering complaints? Do we need more awareness?

In and around Leh periphery, women are mostly educated and they are open in registering complaints to the police but that doesn't mean all women are same. Many are still there who take all the injustice and chose not to speak because of the conservative shy nature, fear of what others will think and what will happen. Ladakh being a close-knit society, everyone knows each other, and this is one drawback which makes many to step back. There is a need for more awareness among the women about their rights, legal help and to rise above against all odds. We need to break the stereotype thinking of the society such as women are weak and they are born to take all the pain. In 2019, SSP, Leh Sargun Shukla visited far-flung rural areas and encouraged many women to speak out if things go wrong. Such encouragement and awareness are needed.

In some cases, the woman also misuses the rights by framing a man in false cases, threatening to complain against him if he fails to live up with her terms and condition. Such incidents are rare but it is there.

Q. How important is it to build a cordial relation between the police force and the public? What mechanism is carried out to make the system more effective?

Relationship between people and the police force is very cordial and every day trust between both of them is developing. Police department initiates various activities under civic action programme such as, public meeting once in a week in which public and police communicate with each other and discusses issues, conducts Bharat darshan tour, singing competition, career counselling, ice skate coaching camp for children and many other different activities. All these initiative builds the relationship between the police force and public stronger.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ Women police station is open 24x7, ready at your service all the time. Feel free to come forward with your woes we are here to listen and support at the most vulnerable time. ”

Fortnight Highlights



Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh, presenting certificates to the participants of month long skill development training organised by State Bank of India's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Leh.



Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur inaugurating the first ever exhibition themed, 'Enchanting Ladakh' at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.



Athlete Jigmet Dolma receiving mementoes from Sachin Tendulkar after winning bronze medal with a timing of 03:03:10s in the fifth edition of the IDBI Federal Life Insurance, New Delhi marathon.



District Legal Services Authority celebrated "World Day of social justice" themed "Closing the inequalities gap to achieve Social Justice" in Leh.



Lieutenant Governor Ladakh, R K Mathur along with Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Ladakh and Tsetan Wangchuk, Chief Representative Officer, Sonamling Tibetan Settlement during the Tibetan Losar celebration.

MP chairs BSNL meeting, inspects, NIELIT, JNV and KV schools



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A review meeting with the officials of BSNL Leh regarding the present communication scenario of BSNL network in Ladakh was convened by Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member Parliament Ladakh on February 25.

Several issues were discussed including 3G to 4G up-gradation, installation of new mobile tower in both rural and urban areas and employees related issues.

Later, MP Ladakh inspected NIELIT Center and interacted with the student. He enquired from the Deputy Director NIELIT Phuchok Toldan about the project like Tourist Permit Portal, set up of Bio-Medical Lab in collaboration with CSIR Chandigarh and PGI Chandigarh and also enquired about the digital intervention in Handicrafts and Handloom. Deputy Director informed that Tourist Permit Portal will be completed in March.

During his visit to JNV School, JTN inspected the boys hostels and enquired about the issues of students. Later, MP directed the Principal and hostel warden to maintain the cleanliness of the campus and the dining hall and instructed to provide healthy and nutritious food to the students.

He also visited Kendriya Vidyalaya school, where MP Ladakh enquired about the basic facility like drinking water, co-curricular activities, medical check-up and other issues. Several issues were also discussed regarding the construction of hostels, central heating system, school bus and other issues with the principal of the school.

First Union Territory Level Bankers Committee meeting held in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: First Union Territory Level Bankers Committee (UTLBC) meeting of Bankers of Ladakh for the quarter end was held under the chairmanship of Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Umang Narula on February 14.

Umang Narula enquired about the present banking scenario of Ladakh and also reviewed the previous quarter performances of all the banks serving in the region. He stressed on the need to open more bank branches in the rural areas.

A detail report on performances under key areas relating to deposits, advances, P/S advances, agriculture advances, assistance under government sponsored schemes, KCC, NRLM, KVIB, KVIC, DIC, SC/ST, Handicraft, Handloom, Mudra loan, disbursements under Stand up India scheme, were presented by the banks and concern officers.

Advisor Narula also emphasized on the need to find out the reasons for shortcomings in achieving targets on part of Banks and government departments. He urged to look for viable solutions rather than getting in counter ar-



guments. He strongly pointed out lack of information dissemination and lack of awareness generation among masses about various schemes under banking services.

The banks and concerned departments were directed to ensure clear communication about banking benefits at grass root level.

Umang Narula directed Director Agriculture to share data on P M Kissan beneficiaries with banks to cover them under KCC by February 24 as per Government instructions. He also directed to establish new offices of NABARD and KVIC in Leh.

Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary also recommended the banks to organise financial

literacy camps, loan melas and awareness camps at block levels to improve credit flow. Also to aware people about the centre sponsored schemes. He further directed the banks to submit their detail programme schedule with date and venue.

Later, Director SBI RSETI Tsering Wangmo also shared the status/progress of RSETI.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh; Binod Kumar Mishra, General Manager SBI; Parvendar Bharti, Regional Manager, SBI; Tsering Morup, Convener UTLBC Leh; Chetan Paljor, President J&K bank; Janak Raj Angural, Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank and officers of line department and managers of different banks were also present

New website of Tourism Deptt., Hill Council, Leh, launched

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first website of Tourism Department, Hill Council, Leh was launched by Gyal P. Wangyal, Chairman/CEC, Hill Council, Leh at Council Secretariat on February 15.

The website (<https://ladakhtourism2020.wixsite.com>) was indigenously designed by young volunteers of Ladakh Arts and Media Organization.

Launching the website, Gyal P Wangyal congratulated Deputy Chairman Sandup, Tourism Department, Leh and team of LAMO for coming up with this comprehensive website which was needed for Ladakh and for its tourism promotion.

"Our identity got strength after we got UT status and now tourism can play a big role in propagating our unique identity across the world", said Wangyal. He added that now tourists from around the globe can access information about Ladakh's unique culture, history, traditions with its varied landscape and will project Ladakh one of the most popular tourist destinations



in the world.

Wangyal appreciated the local team of youths headed by Project Director LAMO Tashi Morup for developing this website with almost all ingredients needed to highlight and hoped that the website will evolve with more vital information and ideas in near future.

Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman said that present Hill Council was trying hard to develop tourism website for Leh since two years but due to bifurcation of J&K State the launching was delayed as the website was redesigned in context with UT structure again. He said that the purpose of this website is not only for the promotion of tourism but

to make the world know about the sustainable and eco-friendly tourism policy of Ladakh. He said that almost all the sectors of tourism was touched in the website and is developed at a very low-cost. Sandup also mentioned about the need for a tourism promotion cell to promote Ladakh's tourism through different medium including social media.

Tashi Morup, Project Director LAMO said that this website is designed keeping in mind to promote sustainable and eco-friendly tourism of Ladakh and is a mobile-friendly website so that tourists could easily access information and has feedback option and also linked with social media apps.

Ladakh's journey from Wazarat to Union Territory

...Continued from page 5

While in the Kashmir valley, the separatists carried out violent activities, in Ladakh, the demand for UT status got momentum. In the General Elections of the year 2004, Thupstan Chewang contested under the banner of Ladakh Union Territory Front, a newly-formed political party. Interestingly, in the year 2014, he again contested the Lok Sabha election, but this time on the ticket of the Bhartiya Janata Party with the same demand of U T status. He remained member of Parliament for more than four years, and then got disillusioned with the functioning of the Bhartiya Janta Party and its government. He resigned from Parliament as well as from the party in protest that the Government led by the BJP was not serious enough on the Ladakhis' demand. That put the BJP, the Centre and State leadership in an awkward position.

The issue of UT status to Ladakh was very much on the agenda of the BJP manifesto. In a significant political as well as administrative development, on February 8th, 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Satya Pal Malik, granted the Divisional Status to the Ladakh region, separating it from the Kashmir Division. This historic decision of the governor turned out to be the first step toward implementation of the BJP agenda. In April, 2019,

the general elections for the 18th Lok Sabha was held and in May 2019, the results were declared. The BJP returned to power with a thumping majority and gained a position to implement the party manifesto. Interestingly, Ladakhis did not have to wait for long. On August 5th, 2019, the Government of India revoked the special status/ autonomy of the J&K State granted under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, and declared Ladakh as a Union Territory, completely separating it from the administrative bullying of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Government.

Now the time has come to rejoice but with more responsibility for the small population of Ladakh which is barely 2.5 lacs. No doubt, the Centre will liberally pour in funds to the region and it will do great progress outwardly, but Ladakh needs the development of its centuries-old cultural values for which it is well-known all over the world. And I feel that the top-most priority for the development of the region is teaching and promotion of the indigenous language and culture. The administrators of the Union Territory of Ladakh must make Ladakhi language a compulsory subject at least till the 5th standard in every school, following the education pattern of its neighbouring UT of Chandigarh, where Punjabi language is taught compulsorily in schools.

Army Red beat ITBP by 6-5 goals, wins 9th National Ice Hockey Championship

Army Blue team wins Bronze medal



Players of Ladakh Scout Regiment after winning 9th National Ice Hockey championship

NEW DELHI: Army Red team represented by players of Ladakh Scout Regiment won 9th Na-

tional Ice Hockey Championship beating ITBP team by 6-5 goals on February 21.

The championship was organ-

ized by Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) from February 16 till 21 at Ambience mall, New Delhi. A total of 12 teams representing Maharashtra, Haryana, Ladakh UT, Chandigarh UT, ITBP and the Army participated.

The final match that was played between Army Red and ITBP teams enthralled the spectators with their high quality display of technical skill and game control.

Meanwhile, Army Blue team also won the Bronze Medal.



GeM
Government
e Marketplace

JK SECURITY

Innovating for smarter & safer Ladakh.
We deal & provide service in: CCTV, Biometrics, Fire Extinguisher, Intercom, Automatic School Bell.

We are also on GeM

Office location: Taru Namgyal Complex, Petrol pump, Leh.

Contact: 9419304234, 9622968086,
E-mail: jkcommunicationleh@gmail.com,
www.facebook.com/jksecurity24.








CITY CAR CARE

DENTING, COMPUTERIZED PAINTING, REPAIRING, & CAR WASHING ETC.



Choose us for best car service and we shall not disappoint you...!!!

ADDRESS: AGLING ROAD, NEAR FORCE SERVICE
LEH-LADAKH

Contact No: 9419888666, 9596652270,
9419198810, and 9906982222



འོ་ཕྱར་ལི་ཅུ་འེས་གེ་བ།
OVERLAND ESCAPE

Adventure With Care for Nature...

AIRFARE AT THE BEST PRICE!

We offer the best possible payable airfare covering both domestic and international destinations.

Hurry! Limited seats, grab the best, book now!

Leh to Delhi

March ₹ 1,900



Delhi to Leh

April: ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 7,500



For booking contact:
Overland Escape
Fort Road Office: Raku Complex, Fort Road, Leh Ladakh, 194101 INDIA
Phone Number: 01982-255881 / 257858, 8491947052
Main Market office: Khar Complex, Main Market. Leh Ladakh
Phone Number: 01982-251132, 8491947053



TRAIN TICKETS AVAILABLE

Members:



Recognised by:





LADAKH **OXYGEN**
PLANT

BREATH EASILY
while in
LADAKH
with
OXYGO CYLINDERS

We are distributor of :

UTTAM LUXFERS BRAND
OXYGO CYLINDERS FOR THE
REGION OF LADAKH,
LUXFER WORLD'S BEST
LIGHT WEIGHT
OXYGEN CYLINDERS.

Plant at :
PHYANG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
Leh-Ladakh-194101,
J&K (India)

Head Office :
Pologround, Leh-Ladakh, (J&K)
Mobile : 9906991393, 9419178162
Phone : 01982 252 498

Branch Office :
Old Road, Opp Hotel Shangrila Ladakh,
Leh-Ladakh (J&K)
Mob. : +91-7051030308

Manufacturer & Suppliers of :
MEDICAL GRADE OXYGEN
INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRESSURE
OXYGEN & NITROGEN GAS

WE PROVIDE DIFFERENT
CAPACITY OF LIGHT WEIGHT
OXYGEN ALUMINUM CYLINDERS
ON RENT BASIS FOR THE TOURIST
PRONE TO HIGH ALTITUDE.

NABL TEST CERTIFICATE NO. :
C1/0000050806

DRUG LICENSE
JK02/1516

REGD. NO.
DICLEH/295