

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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March 16-31, 2020



In Conversation with Reach Ladakh

Dr. Monisha Ahmed

5

Expert Talk

What does constitutional safeguard for Ladakh means?

4

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Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' Episode #9 will be releasing on April 4 (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.

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Editor: Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

Assistant Editor: Stanzin Dasal

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Ladakh reports three Coronavirus positive cases

Government advises people to avoid mass gatherings

Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

LEH: Coronavirus has not spared even Ladakh as three positive cases have been confirmed so far. Earlier, two persons who had returned after pilgrimage from Iran had tested positive in Leh, and are now undergoing treatment at SNM Hospital, Leh. And on March 12, another positive case was confirmed that makes a total of three cases in Leh, Ladakh.

As preventive measures, the UT Ladakh Administration has ordered closure of all primary schools, colleges and Ladakh University till March 31. The government has also strongly advised the people to avoid mass gatherings. In view of the prevailing situation, all the Inner line permit (ILPs) were withdrawn on March 14.

Strict screening is being carried out at all the entry points in both the districts of UT Ladakh which includes KBR Airport, Kurbathang, Airport Kargil and Thoise airport Nubra. Health personnel are keeping a strict vigil at these entry points in both the districts.

Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary says: "Earlier we were checking only the foreign-returned. Now we are conducting 100 percent screening at the airport where we are taking help from the army. A team of army doctors are also deployed at the airport. There are two sources where people are coming, one is in civil flights and another is army



Security personnel deployed at the contained village, Chushot Gongma

flights. In army flights, people from Kargil are coming in bulk. We have asked for busses from Kargil along with officials and police team and we are ensuring that they go back directly from the airport to Kargil."

Strategies: How Ladakh is coping up with COVID-19

Health Ministry sends a team of doctors to see preparedness for Coronavirus in Ladakh on March 6. The team comprises Dr. Jugal Kishore, Director/Professor & Head, Department of Community Medicine; Dr. Suneet Kaur, Assistant Director and Dr. Mahesh Waghmare, Deputy Director, National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi.

Dr. Jugal Kishore said, "We have come to see whether UT Ladakh is prepared or not. So, we have already seen the airport and also discussed the preparedness. Whatever support is required from the ministry, we are already committed."

Earlier, the UT Ladakh Administration was lacking in equipment like Personal Protective equipment (PPE), N95 masks and ventilators. But now they have received the equipment from the Health Ministry.

Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary, says: "We have written to the ministry about the shortage and we have received around 1000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gowns, 7000

N95 mask and also 17 ventilators from AIIMS. Earlier, we had kept two ventilators at SNM Hospital, Leh, specially for positive cases. We are sending half of them to Kargil." He says that they have also converted the TB ward of SNM Hospital Leh to accommodate positive cases.

Ladakh doesn't have a BSL 3 laboratory and they send the samples to Delhi which takes one to two days to receive the report. Though, the issue has been taken up, it will take time to establish it.

"It is very important to have such laboratory here in Ladakh. We have already taken up the issue with the government and they are planning to update the existing IDSP laboratory. As of now we are sending the samples to Delhi and we receive the reports within one or two days", informed Rigzin Samphel.

Challenges:

The most challenging part that UT Ladakh Administration is facing is that they have shortage of doctors. The main burden is on the Health and police departments.

"The most challenging part is that we have a shortage of doctors but despite this they are showing an exemplary performance. The credit goes to the district hospital Kargil and SNM Hospital Leh. The main stress is on Health Department

...Continues on Page 2

Anjuman Imamia, Leh, alleges medical negligence in Mohd Ali death case

It's a matter of investigation and we will take action if found any violation of medical protocol, says Commissioner Secretary



Members of Anjuman Imamia addressing the press conference at Press Club Leh office.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: In wake of the Coronavirus spread, Anjuman Imamia, Leh convened a press conference on March 12 at Press Club office, Leh.

Ashraf Ali Barcha, President, Anjuman Imamia, Leh alleged lack of proper medical attention to Mohammad Ali while in the hospital who suspected for Covid-19 died on March 7 due to Prostate problem.

He said, "On March 6, the deceased was first referred to the SNM hospital because of high fever and without investigating his past illness history the medical staff suspected him for Covid19. At 11 pm, the patient was shifted for quarantine at Ladakh Heart Foundation where he was kept till 3 am without proper facilities and care. Later, the health condition of the patient deteriorated and was shifted to SNM again whereas told by the son of the deceased no doctors attended him. The man died in the morning on March 7".

The sample test of the deceased came negative for coronavirus which was received from Delhi on March 9 evening. The man died of prostate problem.

Ashraf Ali alleged that the medical department fails to follow the medical protocol because the body of the dead man was handed over to his family members before the Coronavirus sample test report. Later, the department claimed back the body again which the family members refused to do so.

"Though the test was negative the doubt among the people as he was suspected case caused a lot of problem to the family members to perform his burial procedure", he added.

Disheartened with the situation he and his family went through, son of the deceased man, Mohammad Issa said, "No one was willing to touch the body and I buried my own father. I pray that no one else faces the same".

...Continues on Page 2

Dubious investment plan, 'Emollient coin' extorts nearly ₹70 crore in Leh

Alleged person Attiul Rehman Mir arrested on March 10



Dubbed investors during the protest against emollient at NDS ground.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Dubious investment plan named 'Emollient coin' reported to have cheated more than 1200 people of around ₹70 crore, by promising to double their investment in a period of time in Leh.

One local alleged to have been involved in misleading the investors by offering high returns within a stipulated time period. Lured by the easy money making option, people in large number invested without doing any prior research and were duped. As per the information of investors many have invested by taking loans, selling land and vehicles. People have invested ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 56 lakh, clueless about the promised returns.

The dubious investment plan, 'Emollient coin' offering high returns in short term was operated by an alleged local named Attiul Rehman Mir. On March 10, he was arrested and booked under FIR no.

16/2020, section 420 IPC. At present he is under police custody.

A group of people also met Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh regarding the matter on February 29. A committee lead by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Leh were formed to look into the matter.

One among the investor named Tsering Paldan said, "I was not aware of such scam and have invested around ₹ 3 lakh on a promise to get it double in three months time. The mobile application on which the whole system works has stopped working. It's my humble appeal to the administration to look into the matter and booked the person under law."

Along with people, it seems that the administration and police were also not proactive on such fraudulent investment schemes.

...Continues on Page 2

Ladakh reports three Coronavirus positive cases

...Continued from Page 1

and the police as we have deployed police at SNM hospital, Ladakh Heart Foundation and Chushot Gongma village.”

Talking about the challenges, he further says: "People need to understand the gravity of the situation and do not take it lightly. If there are any symptoms, do not hide it, which is very important. Immediately they have to report it to IDSP lab. One of the main challenges is that we have a lot of private clinics here and people are going there. So we are requesting them to report such cases to us. We need people's cooperation and advise to avoid social gatherings.”

Don't spread misinformation:

Regarding action on persons spreading rumours on social media, DC, Leh, says that an FIR against those who posted such content in the social media has already been registered and the district administration is strictly monitoring the group admins of all social media groups.

Stranded Pilgrims in Iran:

Every year, a lot of people from Ladakh go to Iran on pilgrimage. Some are still stranded and some are evacuated. The exact total number of pilgrims from Ladakh cannot be told as data is not available. So far, 102 pilgrims from Ladakh are evacuated in two batches from Iran.

Rigzin Samphel informs that in Leh district, Chushot is the village from where most of the people went to Iran followed by Thiksay. And in Kargil district, from Sankoo, a lot of people went to Iran. So they are specially focusing on those villages.

Talking about preventing the further spread of virus, he says: "We have given instructions to all the relatives of the Haj pilgrims not to receive them at the airport. We have identified all the relatives of the earlier two positive cases and tested them.”

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh has requested the stranded pilgrims in Iran to cooperate with the Embassy Authorities in Iran so that their early evacuation can be assured smoothly.

Chushot Gongma Village:

Chushot village has a population of 3,000 and is the longest village in Ladakh. This village comes under Leh district and is 13 km from Leh city. This village is divided into three villages: Yokma, Shamma and Gongma. All the three positive cases were from Chushot Gongma.

“We have formed a committee of three members consisting of the Tehsildar, BMO and Police In-charge of that area. Further, we have created four sectors. In each sector, there will be one Asha, one ANM and one Anganwadi worker who will check the health condition of the people there.

“Those who are in Home quarantine, everyday

ASHA, ANM AND Anganwadi workers visit them and compile the report and send it to Block Medical Officer. Then the BMO further report it to the incharge of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and Chief Medical Officer. For 28 days, nobody will be allowed to go in and out of the village.”

Administration providing essential commodities

District administration has deputed medical support in the village and is arranging for supply of essential commodities, LPG, banking support and other requirements of the villagers. Regarding availability of essential services and supply of day-to-day commodities, the DC, Leh, has assured to further improve all facilities like supply of essential commodities. He has also shared the helpline numbers regarding queries about COVID-19.

Coronavirus: Helpline established in both the District

LEH	KARGIL
District Administration Leh: 01982-257416	District Administration Kargil: 01982-232263
Health Department Ladakh: 01982-256462	

Besides, two nodal officers, Tsering Dawa and Manzoor Mohd have been appointed in Jammu to help the people of Ladakh residing there.

Facility for Quarantine:

S. No		Leh	Kargil	Total
1	Hospital Quarantine Beds	60	88	148
2	Hospital Isolation beds for symptomatic contacts	10	17	27
3	Isolation beds for positive cases	20	08	28

Data regarding COVID-19 in Ladakh till march 13, 2020:

S. No	Activities	Total till 13March
1	Total no. of Persons Screened	21828
2	Person returned from Iran	30 (Leh) 117 (Kargil)
3	Other foreigners	463
4	Person under home quarantine	178
5	Person completed Quarantine of 14 days	71
6	Quarantine in Health Facility	23
7	Isolation Symptomatic	01
8	Isolation Positive cases	03
9	Positive cases discharged	0

So far, UT Ladakh Administration has send 69 samples out of which three are positive and 30 are negative and the result of 36 samples are awaited.

Anjuman Imamia, Leh, alleges medical negligence in Mohd Ali death case

...Continued from Page 1

“I totally understand the protocol and the precautionary measures taken by the administration but it is my humble appeal that don't let others face the same situation I went through”, he added.

Ashraf Ali said that the case should have been dealt with utmost care and precautionary measure. The matter has been brought in to the notice of Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner Secretary and CEC, Hill Council, Leh. The official assured necessary action.

When asked about the allegation, Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner, UT Ladakh said, “It is a matter of investigation and we will definitely look into it. If

there is a violation of medical protocol action will be taken.”

Anjuman Imamia also expressed gratitude to Dr. Tashi Thinles and two nurses named Tsering Yangzom and Tsering Angmo for rendering their service by attending patients of Covid 19 in SNM Hospital, Leh.

He said that their service in such a crucial hour is an inspiration to every Ladakhi to stand for each other and fight against the disease.

Expressing gratitude for bringing the first batch of stranded Ladakhi pilgrims from Iran, he appealed UT administration to take up the issue with concern Ministry in bringing back the remaining passenger from Iran.

Dubious investment plan, 'Emollient coin' extorts nearly ₹70 crore in Leh

...Continued from Page 1

Deputy Commissioner, Leh said, “We are into the action and team of officers who are in the committee are finding all the detail and facts. At present we are taking every needed action along with the seizure of alleged person house.”

When asked about a prior action or intervention by the administration regarding the dubious plans or schemes, he said that the administration will only get to know if people comes and discuss it from the very beginning. He stressed on being more proactive, vigilant and well aware of such scams and frauds.



Stories from Ladakh



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

When I was in 8th grade, I saw beautiful ladies coming out of the radio station. I thought to myself, I want to work there. I do not know what was kindled within me but a year later, I walked into the radio station and asked them how I can contribute. They felt that I was suited for a morning spiritual show called Roshni. I researched, wrote the script, recorded the show, and helped with the editing. By working once a week, I earned Rs. 3,600 for the month. Very quickly I learned that I needed to take ownership of my dreams and that economic freedom, especially for women, is a game-changer.

When I moved to Jammu for the final two years of high school, I approached the local radio stations again. This time, I was a radio jockey for a western program. But after two years of studying in Jammu, I realized that I was a kid that craved competition. On a whim, I applied to colleges in Delhi. When I got into Miranda, I thought, great! Now I have to figure out the finances. A former teacher helped me. The rest I managed by teaching tuitions before and after college hours. The first year, I stayed in a dingy PG where the landlord also used my room as a storeroom. By the final year, I moved into the campus hostel.

In the summers, I would come back to Ladakh and work as a guide. I would also teach or do internships. Whatever they provided me with, whatever money I earned, I gathered and saved for the coming year. I think it was on March 8, women's day, when I learned that I got a full scholarship for the Ashoka Fellowship. It was the happiest day of my life. Upon finishing the fellowship, I got into Oxford. It was only half scholarship and I was not willing to take a loan for a degree that I was not sure would be able to pay me back. So, I started a Masters in Liberal Studies at Ashoka University.

Eventually, I was recruited as a Deputy Manager for their Economics and Finance Department. I was writing emails from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. When I was not doing that, I was watching YouTube videos. I saw the absurdity of sitting somewhere even when there was no work. I also did not like the general apathy and the mechanization of human labor. I think I was bitten by the rustic bug of Ladakh. I missed it, and so I came back.

Now, I juggle my life between teaching, training, and sensitizing. I am a tutor in mornings and the evenings. Then, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. I conduct training in soft skills and leadership for my organization- Ladakh Academy of Excellence. I also talk to young girls about menstruation and the menstrual cup. Initially, I was skeptical about the cup but as soon as I used it, I felt so good that I posted about it on Instagram! Did you know that one pad takes 400 years to decompose? Imagine that you die and are reborn three more times, and the used pad from the first birth is still lying there in the ground. Imagine that!

Storyteller: Namgyal Angmo, Mangyu

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L-G flags off subsidised helicopter service in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The operation of subsidised helicopter service from Shey-Smanla helipad was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor UT Ladakh Radha Krishna on March 7. A total of 12 passengers from both sides travelled on March 7.

The helicopter service will cater to passengers from far-flung areas of Ladakh as per the approved routes from Leh to Lingshed, Nyerchung, Neraks, Yulchung, Padum, Singey Lalok, Dibling, Drass, Nubra, Srinagar and back, Leh-Kargil, Kargil-Srinagar, Kargil-Padum

on subsidised rates. Besides, this service will be available for rescue as well as medical evacuation purposes also.

Lt. Governor Mathur gave directions to start with the building of hangar for maintenance, night-halt and parking. Steps should also be taken for underground storage for fuel. He also gave directions for building sound infrastructure at all the helipads.

Advisor to LG Ladakh Umang Narula, Secretary Ladakh Saugat Biswas, Deputy Commissioner Leh Sachin Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh Dr. Zahida Bano, Joint General Manager Er Wing Pawan Hans Satnam Singh, Pilot and co-pilot were also present.

25 BDC Chairpersons attended week-long training cum exposure tour to Hyderabad



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Block Development Chairpersons of Union Territory of Ladakh on March 3 interacted with Saugat Biswas, IAS, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Ladakh at Leh after attending a week-long training cum exposure tour at the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

The training was organised by the Department of Rural Development, Ladakh.

Saugat Biswas enquired about the experience and learning of the BDC Chairpersons during the weeklong tour. Each Chairperson shared their experience and understanding gathered during the weeklong tour.

Apart from the theory classes at NIRD, delivered by field experts and best practices shared by best performing Gram Panchayats, the participant also visited Ibrahimpur and got a firsthand experience of a cashless village, effective community participation, rainwater harvesting, wa-

ter conservation, empowerment of Panchayats, holding of Gram Sabhas, CCTV surveillance systems, effective schemes implementation methods and others.

Saugat Biswas added that in coming days the administration will provide General computer training to all the BDC chairpersons, which will help their use and access information of schemes and management of Panchayat funds and plan on the automatic systems. He further directed to constitute a resources/study group who lead to provide training to the Sarpanchs and Panches.

25 BDC Chairpersons including nine women chairpersons attended the training. Five chairpersons made their maiden trip outside the UT of Ladakh.

Zakir Hussain, District Panchayat Officer; Block Development Chairpersons of both Leh and Kargil district were present.

Labour department, Leh disburse financial assistance under various schemes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Labour Department Leh distributed cheques amounting ₹ 27, 75,284 to the beneficiaries under different Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board schemes on March 14.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh, Ghulam Nabi Tak, Assistant

Labour Commissioner, Leh, concerned officials and beneficiaries were present.

Ghulam Nabi introduced the detail of financial assistant disbursement for different schemes which included Higher Education Assistance for diploma and degree holder, Lower Education

Assistance and Chronic Disease Assistance.

He informed that ₹ 76, 45,748 have been disbursed for the year 2019-20 under different Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board schemes.

He urged people to come forward and avail the schemes.

CEC, DC take stock of Coronavirus preparedness in Kargil

Inspect entry points at Khangral, Sanjak, isolation and quarantine facilities at Kurbathang

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Kargil along with Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC, Kargil and Dr. Vinod Kumar, SSP, Kargil inspected the entry points set up at Khangral, Sanjak and other locations as well as the isolation and quarantine facilities at GNM Nursing School and Polytechnic College Kurbathang on March 11.

Taking on the spot appraisal of the screening process of incoming passengers at the entry points, Feroz Ahmed Khan instructed the concerned officials to ensure thorough and strict checking of all passengers including locals besides maintaining the highest level of alertness.

Concerned officers were further directed to strengthen required arrangements for screening at all entry points focusing on the forthcoming challenges with the start of the working season which sees a huge influx of non-locals in the district. Health Department was asked to educate people about basic safety precautions to be followed including proper hand wash and



Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Kargil along with Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC, Kargil taking stock of Coronavirus preparedness in Kargil.

personal hygiene.

Ghulam Mehdi, SDM Shakar Chiktan; Kacho Asgar Ali Khan, Tehsildar Chiktan; BMO Chiktan, In Charge Police Post Chiktan and other concerned officers were also present.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary directed SDM and Tehsildar to closely monitor the screening process at the designated centres in the area and update him about the same on a daily basis. He also instructed officers to arrange a temporary building for the screening team at Sanjak.

Later, both the CEC and DC inspected the isolation and quarantine facilities set up at GNM

Nursing School and Polytechnic College Kurbathang. Also, they checked the availability of required machinery in place for timely detection and surveillance of the epidemic.

While reviewing isolation and quarantine capacities for suspected cases, Feroz Ahmed Khan asked concerned officers to ensure an adequate number of beds in place at the isolation and quarantine center. Also, he asked them to ensure proper facilities of heating, food and other necessary requirements for the patients besides following the SOPs in handling patients, sanitization and disposing of bio-medical waste strictly.

Advisor Narula reviews implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna



Umang Narula, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor convening the review meeting of the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A review meeting of the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was convened by Umang Narula, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor on March 11 in Leh.

Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Leh, and Anil Koul, Director, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs were present.

Baseer Ul-Haq Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner Kargil attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Anil Koul informed that a total of 11,083 beneficiaries have been provided free LPG connection under Ujjwala Yojana in Ladakh. Also, 100% LPG penetration is achieved in both Leh and Kargil districts.

Issues related to the transfer of subsidy amount in the bank

account of beneficiaries under Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) were also discussed.

Umang Narula instructed Director Food Civil Supplies to identify the beneficiaries who are not getting the subsidy amount in their Bank accounts due to issues of Aadhaar seeding and linking of bank accounts with Aadhaar.

Deputy Commissioners were instructed to hold periodic meetings to address the issues related to the implementation of the scheme.

Later, Umang Narula reviewed winter stocking and transportation of food grains. He instructed to take all necessary steps for the next year well in advance and asked Divisional Commissioner Ladakh to examine alternatives available for the transportation of food grains to the distribution centres.



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EXPERT TALK

What does constitutional safeguard for Ladakh means?

By Stanzin Dasal



Tsering Namgyal, President, District Congress Committee, Leh: After the Union Territory status declaration without a legislature, Ladakh's biggest concern is the protection of land, job, fragile environment, culture, identity, and economic interest. The region needs an adequate constitutional safeguard to protect its unique culture and tribal identity without any coercion or exploitation. We already have Hill Councils each in Leh and Kargil district empowered to address the matters concerning the locals. The powers given to both the Hill councils are in line with the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, thus people demanded the sixth schedule for Ladakh because it envisages powers of the Autonomous District Councils within the area to make law, rules and regulate.

In the past few days, we have seen that there is a confusion among the people by talking about constitutional safeguards rather than talking directly about the sixth schedule. Both the fifth and sixth schedule is a provision in the Indian constitution which protects and secures the tribal interests. While asking constitutional safeguard we are seeking for the best-suited provision made under the constitution and the sixth schedule is best among all other as it has more autonomy compared to schedule 5. If included under schedule 6, the tribal population which constitutes 97% of the population will have powers to legislate on issues of local importance.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes after a detail deliberation recommended UT Ladakh to be included under schedule 6 with a contextual amendment. UT Consultative committee also submitted a copy of the memorandum to Home minister demanding the sixth schedule for Ladakh based on the reports submitted by different study groups who studied the sixth schedule in northeastern states. The memorandum copy was signed by both the Chief Executive Councillor of Leh and Kargil Hill Council and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh. Likewise, students also protested demanding the sixth schedule for

Ladakh. We all know what is best for us and there should not be any second thought or confusion among the people.

Nowadays we also hear about domicile certificates which proves that a person is a permanent resident of respective State or Union Territories and has all rights to use the utilities such as education, job etc. provided by that state or UT government.

This initiative is most welcoming if the certificates are issued to the actual residents or indigenous Ladakhi with proper verification. The certificates shouldn't be issued to any other people belonging from other states, residing in Ladakh for the past few years. All these need to verify and understand before jumping into a conclusion.

Ladakh is going through a very fragile state and it needs to be deal in a very serious and sensitive way. There shouldn't be exploitation in the names of development. Ladakh after a Union Territory status there is confusion and chaos among the departments, officials and hill council. The hierarchy and job profile are not yet defined which is creating confusion among the people. To get all things on track definitely, it will take time but it needs to be sorted at the earliest for more accountability and clarity.

Congress party is firm about the demand of the sixth schedule for Ladakh and has raised the issue at all levels. Along with other congress leaders, Member of Parliament, Ambika Soni demanded the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect Ladakh's resources and rich cultural identity in the Rajya Sabha.

Solutions:

- Inclusion of Ladakh should within Sixth schedule of the Indian constitution
- UT administration needs more clarity regarding the job of the officials.



Dorjay Angchuk, District President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Leh: After a month-long study and deliberation with the experts from the outside it came into conclusion that Ladakh needs a constitutional safeguard for land, job, environment, culture, and identity. The decision was taken by all the social, political, religious organisation. Over the time we have seen people talking and demanding about Article 371, Schedule 5, and Schedule 6, etc for Ladakh referring to all other state and union territories of the country which are included under different provisions. Both Leh and Kargil

district have Autonomous Hill Development Councils which has a certain power to address subjects of local interest. Smooth functioning and implementation of power bestowed depends on the people who run it. For the protection of various concerns in UT Ladakh, we are looking into every possibility such as empowering the existing Hill council by making some amendments. Under Schedule 6, Autonomous District Councils are created but Governor being the head of the respective districts there is a chance of power conflict. We can have all the safeguards regarding land, culture, environment and the economic interests of the people by empowering the Hill Council further rather than talking about Schedule 6 and Schedule 5. We are very hopeful to get the Hill Council more empowered so that all the concern subjects can be taken care of. Secondly, we also need strong unions to implement and regulate certain things for the benefit of the locals.

Many question BJP for not talking about Schedule 6 at present, despite having it mentioned in the election manifesto. I want to clarify that, election manifesto was prepared when Ladakh was part of the erstwhile J&K state and at that time protection of Ladakhi from a non-tribal population of Jammu and Kashmir was a must. To protect our own identity and interest demand of UT was foremost. Today before demanding anything we need to study in-depth about it, this is because many of us demand the same provision after interacting with the concerns and experts of that particular state. I was one of the participants of the study tour group organised by HIAL and went to Sikkim. After interacting with the concerns and experts of the state we clearly mentioned that section 371 was best. Likewise, all other groups expressed their opinion. What I feel is that we need to study in-depth about the feasibility of the same provision if implied in Ladakh.

Also, the introduction of domicile certificates for the actual Ladakhi will prove beneficial to ensure all the rights bestowed for the actual citizens. There is a need for a proper number of data and records of actual residents of Ladakh based on which we can give our representation or demand for needed safeguards.

We will work on what is best for Ladakh keeping in mind the needed safeguards.

Solutions:

- Further amendments in the Hill Council Act
- Introduction of domicile certificates to ensure all the rights bestowed for the actual citizen

District Legal Service Authority, Leh organises awareness on COVID-19



During the legal-cum medical awareness camp on "Coronavirus" at District Court Complex, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A legal-cum medical awareness camp on "Coronavirus" was organised by District Legal Service Authority Leh (DLSA) under the Chairmanship of Principal District & Ses-

sions Judge Leh, R.S Jasrotia on March 13 at District Court Complex.

R.S Jasrotia aware people about the COVID-19 and advised to take precaution as per advisories issued by the Government. He

further advised to keep soaps/hand washes at water drinking points and asked people to wash hands while entering in the court premises and maintain distance while interacting with ministerial staff.

Spalzes Angmo, Secretary DLSA Leh, gave detail introduction on COVID-19. Mohammad Shafi Lassu, President, District Bar Association Leh also made people aware about the precautions to be adopted. Tsering Phuntsog, Assistant Public Prosecutor advised the gathering to not to panic and believe on the fake messages which is being circulated through social media.

Ministerial Staff of Count of Principal District & Session Judge, Leh and its subordinate courts, advocates, APP, litigants and large number of people were present.

MP Ladakh raises status of pending transmission lines from Drass-Zanskar, Phyang-Nubra

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh raised the issue of pending Transmission Line from Drass to Zanskar and Leh to Nubra during the Zero Hours in Lok Sabha on March 12.

R K Singh, Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy informed that under Prime Minister Development Package for J&K, an outlay of ₹354.74 crore is approved under which 220/33 KV Grid Sub Stations at Diskit, Nubra (50MVA) and Padum, Zanskar 50 MVA, 220 KV S/C 307 km transmission lines on D/c Tower including, Kargil Padum 207 km and Phyang Disket 100km will be constructed. Also, one 220 Kv line bay each at 220/66 KV Phyang Substation and 220/66 KV Kargil Substation and 1X25 MVAR; 220/33KV bus Reactor at Padum along with 220 KV Bay has been sanctioned.

The minister said that the process of awarding the contract is under process and will be soon awarded as per norms. He further added that on request of the JK PDD, the route of Zanskar Transmission Line was changed from Kargil-Padum to Drass-Padum due to the right of way



issues resulting in a change in route alignment.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal requested early completion of the transmission projects of Zanskar and Nubra. He further demanded the inclusion of Durbuk subdivision in the transmission projects.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The 'Agree to disagree' challenge



Remember that God has given you only one mouth to speak but two ears to hear. That was philosopher Zeno of Citium, Cyprus, emphasising the need to listen more than giving a free loud-mouthing. Therefore, the need to hear and speak proportionately is of utmost importance. We are aware of the adage that an empty vessel makes much noise. That is to say, applied to human beings, the wise listens to others keenly and then gives an appropriate response.

One must also mark it that the adage does not mean that one must keep quiet and be listening all the time. All that it means is that one should not come to giving any response until one has heard others with interest and sincerity.

That is because everybody has a point of view, and one has all the rights to expound one's feelings. But one should never ever assume that others too should hold your point of view. If the worst comes, just say: Beg your pardon, I agree to disagree with you! That would be an act of sanity, indeed.

US author Roy T. Bennett had said: "Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty and integrity." He further said that the tragedy with us is that we don't listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don't listen with the intent to reply. We listen to get what is behind the words.

That means that one should never get foolish enough to motor-mouthing at others without really understanding what they really had to say. Poor listening leads to poor judgement and that, in turn, gets you into deep trouble.

American actor Will Rogers has these beautiful words: "Never miss a good chance to shut up." Only then one will be in a position to understand the issues well, and can act or react in a manner that will be appreciated by friends and foes alike. A good speaker is one who listens and observes keenly.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with

Dr. Monisha Ahmed, Executive Director, LAMO

Interviewed by Rinchen Angmo Chumikchan

Q. When and how did Ladakh Arts and Media Organization start? What was the main objective of setting up the LAMO Centre?

Soon after I completed my PhD, I wanted to do something in Ladakh that focused on and contributed to the arts, as that was my background. I was interested in working in the areas of arts education, with local art practices and contemporary practitioners in Ladakh. I had worked with INTACH in Mumbai earlier and was also interested in heritage.

When Ravina Aggarwal and I first set up LAMO we initially had no fixed space. It was a chance meeting with conservation architect John Harrison who introduced me to Dr Angchuk Munshi, the owner of the Munshi house. The Munshi house had been identified in the 1987 INTACH conservation plan for Leh as an important historic building; the plan had proposed its restoration as a museum. In addition to its educational, cultural and social objectives, LAMO wanted to identify a heritage building in Leh, conserve it, and establish an arts resource centre within its premises. In 2005 we started the restoration work of the Munshi house, a year into the restoration Stanzin Gyaltsen of the neighbouring Gyao House approached LAMO and we restored it also.

Together with John, LAMO drew up a plan for the use of the two houses, as a community arts and media centre. LAMO's brief was that it wanted a space from which it could conduct outreach programs, research and documentation projects, workshops, art residencies, performances and exhibitions that showcase Ladakh's material and visual culture, performing arts and literature. The restored buildings were accordingly designed to accommodate a library, offices, artists' studio, and spaces for exhibitions, performances and workshops. At the same time, the LAMO Centre would in itself be a historic example of Ladakhi material and visual culture. In 2018 we added a Sound Studio.

Apart from our on-going work, I'd like to believe that LAMO has also created a space in Leh for the cultivation of new ideas and imagination to flourish, open discussions to be held, exploration of contemporary art and media.

We were extremely honoured and delighted when in 2018, LAMO received the 'Award of Distinction' of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. In 2019 LAMO received the award of 'Project of Influence' at the Best in Heritage conference in



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“Today, we live in a world that is changing more than ever before, and at a rapid pace. And while some of that is a positive sign of Ladakh's prosperity and growth, it also comes with its challenges and problems. Culture will change because it is not merely rooted in tradition but is also open to innovation. You have to learn to embrace that change but at the same time acknowledge and protect your past for future generations, take pride in it and learn from it. Ladakh is truly an amazing place and I hope it endures.”

Dubrovnik, Croatia. The recognition was for both efforts to restore or conserve structures of heritage value and also demonstrate their appropriate contribution to the surrounding environment, as well as the local community's cultural and historical continuity.

Q. LAMO has restored two old houses of Munshi and Gyao in the old town area. Are you planning to expand this?

I'm not sure about that right now. Though I would love to see other heritage houses in Old Town and other parts of Ladakh, get restored and appropriately used, I know we can't do it all. We have a plan for another project in a historical house but that requires some thought to conceptualise and find funding. I like to take things slow and build on what we have. It has taken us 10 years to get to where we are right now, and to know our strengths and weaknesses. Right now, LAMO is blessed to have a great team, led on the ground by Tashi Morup. Our Projects Director and our Trustees and advisors have been very supportive. To everyone, I am extremely grateful.

Q. How do you fund your projects?

That's never an easy one! The restoration of the LAMO Centre was done out of personal funds, and some donations from private individuals. John Harrison was partly supported for his travel and stay in Leh by the INTACH UK Trust.

Since we opened, like most NGOs we have raised funds through submitting project proposals to various institutions, NGOs, foundations and government departments. In addition, we also try to raise funds using our resources at LAMO – so we charge a nominal entry ticket at the door (as a donation) and take visitors on a guided tour of the buildings; conduct heritage walks in Old Town; rent out our space to groups for talks, workshops, film and photo shoots, and have a small shop from where we sell a range of art works and books.

Q. When was your first visit to Ladakh and how did your journey to Ladakh begin?

I first came to Ladakh in 1987, I had just finished my undergrad degree in Mumbai and wanted to take a year off and go to the mountains. A friend gave me Andrew Harvey's 'A Journey to Ladakh' to

...Continues on Page 6

IN FOCUS

Covid-19 Pandemic: A scary, global threat



By Dr. Yangchen Dolma

The world today is facing a double risk of diseases with epidemiological transition and paradigm shift from communicable to non communicable diseases. But emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases have been always a challenge to mankind. The emerging and e-emerging infectious diseases are the newly identified and previously unknown infections or those spreading to new geographical areas which cause public health problems either nationally or internationally.

High population growth, unplanned urbanization, poor environmental sanitation, tourism and rapid travel, alteration in the microorganisms, antimicrobial resistance, insecticide resistance and weak public health system are the major attributable factors in the changing pattern of health and disease leading to the occurrence of these emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The majority of them have zoonotic (Transmitted between animals and people) origin from the wildlife, 43% being viral in origin. Investigations have shown SARS-CoV to be transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from camels to humans. MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) are types of Coronaviruses. Due to its crown shape, the name Corona has been given. The impact of these emerging diseases can be assessed in terms of morbidity (disease), mortality (death) and loss of productivity. Infectious disease contributes to approximately 30% of 1.4 billion DALY's (Disability Adjusted Life Years) every year. DALY is an indicator measuring disability.

In December 2019, a local outbreak of pneumonia



of initially unknown cause was detected in Wuhan (Hubei, China), and was quickly determined to be caused by a novel Coronavirus, namely severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak has since spread to every province of mainland China as well as 123 other countries and regions, with more than 1,32,567 confirmed cases, 4947 deaths globally and 74 cases in India as on March 13, 2020. In early January 2020, the World Health Organization identified a new type 2019 novel coronavirus (mutant strain) and was given official name as COVID-19 by WHO on 10th Feb 2020. On 30th Jan, due to its rapid spread to other parts of the world, WHO declared it as Global emergency of Public Health importance. On 11th march, WHO declared the outbreak as Pandemic.

The symptoms of the person infected with Coronavirus include running nose, dry cough, sore throat,

fever, difficulty in breathing and nausea, diarrhea and vomiting. It also causes middle ear infections in children. If it spreads to the lower respiratory tract (Windpipes and lungs), it can cause pneumonia, especially in the vulnerable age group of older people, children and person with weak immune system. However, these symptoms should be co-related with laboratory investigation. A person who fulfils the WHO case definition of confirmed cases irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms is defined as Index (Primary Case) of Coronavirus. The mode of transmission is through coughing and sneezing and through coming in direct contact with an infected person through skin to skin contact or contact with surfaces, soil or vegetation. Studies have shown that the virus retains its viability for over 5 days at temperatures of 22-25 degree Celsius and humidity of 40-50%. The biggest cohort study by Chinese CDC reported 81% cases as mild, 14%

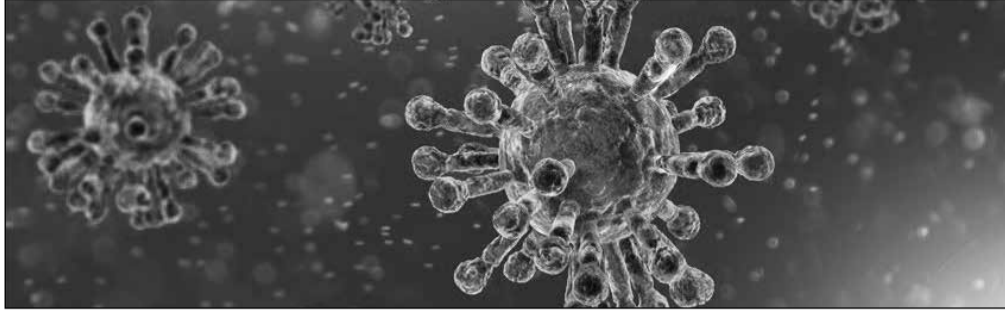
require hospitalization and only 5% require ventilator and critical care management. Deaths were reported around 1-2% mainly among the elderly population and those with co-morbidities like diabetes mellitus, hypertension and other diseases. Since, no vaccination is available now, prevention is the key.

WHO has released Interim Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control during health care where nCoV is suspected and use of masks in community and health care settings in the context of the novel Coronavirus outbreak. Also standardized household transmission investigation protocol for any country where 2019 nCoV infection has been reported and households that are exposed have been framed recently by WHO. Some tailoring can be done in local context based on the availability of resources, lab and clinical systems, capacity and cultural appropriateness. Also the CDC (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) clinical criteria for a COVID-19 person under investigation (PUI) have been developed based on what is known about MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV in Healthcare Settings.

Health care workers should follow standard precautions like hand and respiratory hygiene (cough etiquette), use of Hazpack Personal Protective equipment (PPE), prevention of needle stick injury, safe waste management, environmental cleaning and sterilization of patient care equipment and linen. The outbreak preparedness can be done by establishing sustainable infection prevention and control infrastructures like well-ventilated isolated rooms or isolation wards and toilets for cohort (group) patients with beds at least 1m apart as per WHO recommendation, availability of logistics like PPE, NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) Certified N 95 Respirators, NIOSH-approved PAPRS (Powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRS), EU (European Unit) standard FFP2 (Filtering Face piece Respirator) or equivalent and Vaccine Transport Medium (VTM), Cold chain maintenance through thermocol box, ice-box,

...Continues on Page 6

Covid-19 Pandemic: A scary, global threat



...Continued from page 5

hard – board box etc.

The arrangement has to be made for transport of samples in designated ambulance and samples to be collected, packed and transported to apex laboratory National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, Maharashtra or other 15 designated laboratory in India as per the standard operating procedure laid down by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Hands-on training can be given to health care workers regarding six steps of hand washing, WHO 5 moments for hand hygiene, cough etiquette, method of donning and doffing of PPE and biomedical waste management. Policies for early recognition of acute respiratory infection and treatment protocol can be framed in the local context. Health advisory through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material at health care setting, Awareness campaign at the community level and through mass media can be done to educate the general public. Screening of suspected cases can also be done at airports and national highways and managed as per the standard protocol. Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness. An optimally functioning epidemiological surveillance along with vector, Serological and Microbiological Surveillance will be able to detect outbreaks of infectious disease early. Rapid Response Team can prevent further spread of the disease in the community. With the present scenario of some positive cases detection in Ladakh, containment, active surveillance of cases, tracking identity, isolating and contact tracing, listing and mapping of both containment and buffer zones is the need of the hour.

Health advisory to the general public include hand hygiene and other IPC (Infection prevention and control) measure to prevent human to human transmission of 2019- n CoV. Individuals without respiratory symptoms should:

1. Avoid visiting crowded spaces.
2. Maintain a distance of at least 1 meter from any person with n CoV respiratory symptoms like coughing and sneezing.
3. Perform hand hygiene by using Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (Sanitizer) when not visibly soiled and soap and water when soiled.
4. During coughing and sneezing, cover the nose and mouth with flexed elbow or disposable tissue paper.
5. Refrain from touching mouth, nose and eyes.
6. Masks not mandatory to the healthy general public.

7. Avoid public gathering and travelling by public transport.

Also, individuals with respiratory symptoms and health care workers must wear recommended mask/respirator in accordance with protocol. Relatives and caregivers of individuals with suspected 2019 nCoV infection should:

1. Perform hand hygiene frequently using sanitizer and soap and water.
2. Keep a distance of 1 meter from the affected individual
3. Wear a mask in the room with the affected individual
4. Clean hands immediately after contact with respiratory secretions.
5. Improve ventilation in the living space.

To conclude, limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of a clinical illness associated with Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Epidemiologists at WHO and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are closely monitoring the disease since its outbreak and updation done when available. An online interactive dashboard, by WHO and Johns Hopkins University, have been developed to visualise and track reported cases of COVID-19 in real-time. The dashboard illustrates the location and number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries for all affected countries.

Research institutes and companies from many countries are making effort to combat the novel Coronavirus epidemic by pushing for the development of a vaccine, as well as more accurate tests for the virus. Till date, 20 countries including China, London and US are in the pipeline of developing the vaccine. So clearly, the battle has not been won! The only way is to prevent and control it. So, no need to get panic among the general population. The only thing we need to do is to maintain hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and avoid close contact with the symptomatic person. People are advised not to go by the rumors, avoid panic, myths and misconception and refer to reliable sources.

The information provided in this article is from sources like WHO and CDC and standard guidelines by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI.

Dr. Yangchen Dolma is an Assistant Professor, Epidemiologist and Public Health Scientist, at Govt Medical College, Kathua, Jammu. She can be reached at: yangchendolma12@gmail.com.

Aadhaar Sewa Kendra in Axis Bank, Leh, inaugurated

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Aadhaar Sewa Kendra (ASK) in Axis Bank, Leh Branch was inaugurated by Saugat Biswas, IAS, Secretary, Information Technology, Ladakh on March 3.

Vivek Bimbrahw, Group Head North Axis Bank; Kamal Gupta and Neeraj Jain, State Head Axis bank and Branch officials were also present on the occasion.



and convenient manner.

Saugat Biswas stressed the need to open an ASK in Axis bank branch of Kargil also. He also asked the Group head of Axis Bank to provide other banking facilities like educational loan, benefits under Start-up and

Stand up India schemes.

As told by the official source, the Aadhaar Services available at Aadhaar Sewa Kendra is open for all 6 days including weekends from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m and closed on every 2nd and 4th Saturdays including bank holidays.

Axis bank is the first private banks in Leh to set-up Aadhaar Sewa Kendra (ASK) on request of the Administration. The ASK will help people of Leh and its adjoining areas to avail Aadhaar enrolment and update related services in a hassle-free, secure

Dr. Monisha Ahmed

...Continued from page 5

read. Romantic as it was, I was fascinated [by the place]. The same friend and I then travelled to Leh together and ended up staying 6 months. During this time, I taught at the Moravian Mission School, and studied Buddhist Philosophy and Thangka painting at CIBS.

I then went on to study Anthropology at Oxford University and came back to Ladakh for my research, first for my masters and then PhD. I chose to study textiles, initially looking at nomadic textiles in Rupshu. This was much against my professor's wishes, a Tibet and Bhutan specialist, he said 'there were no textiles worth studying in Ladakh!' I guess I proved him wrong.

Q. Can you tell us about the books that you wrote on textiles?

The same professor who discouraged me from studying textiles in Ladakh recommended my PhD thesis to a publisher. That was my first book 'Living Fabric – Weaving among the Nomads of Ladakh Himalaya' which was awarded the 2003 R L Shep award of the Textile Society of America for the year's best book on ethnic textiles. Then Clare Harris and I worked on an edited volume 'Ladakh – Culture at the Crossroads'. My work on textiles here has also taken me to many places outside Ladakh – Kashmir was an obvious one, to study the trade in pashmina and shawl weaving. This led to a publication with Janet Rizvi 'Pashmina – the Kashmir shawl and Beyond'; the book has gone into its second edition and fourth reprint. There have been other journeys to Banaras (now Varanasi), Kalimpong, Dharamshala, Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal To research textiles.

I have also written many articles on various aspects of Ladakhi textiles from trade textiles togyaser (silk-brocade) and the interventions of the Moravian Missionaries. I've also looked at change on the Changthang and the politics of pashmina. I hope

to eventually do a book on Ladakhi textiles, I've been collecting material for many years now but have still to start writing. What fascinates me about textiles in Ladakh are the stories connected to the making of the fabric – right from the livestock to the finished products, what they communicate about society, culture, history and politico-economics in Ladakh.

Q. You have done a lot of research on textiles? What are the future prospects of Textiles in Ladakh?

I think it is a very exciting time for textiles and fashion in Ladakh. There is also a visible resurgence of pride in local dress. The last 10 years has seen several Ladakhi designers set up shop in Leh, working with both traditional designs and new patterns inspired by them. There are also NGOs working with fibres and women's groups, with an emphasis on livelihood enhancement. Gradually they are all creating a market, both in and outside the region. I think this market has a lot of potential to grow in many different ways, and to open up creative work opportunities for many younger Ladakhis.

At the same time, I think there has to be some focus on fibre development in the region, livestock management and the lives of the pastoralists. While pashmina is being given emphasis, wool should not be side-lined because Ladakh has a very long tradition of working with wool. Also, local wool has its advantages and replacing it with Merino is not always beneficial. Livestock numbers, especially on the Changthang, are being skewed in favour of the pashmina goat and we don't know as yet what the long-term ramifications of this will be. But we do have the example of wide-spread desertification taking place in western Tibet as pashmina goat numbers have increased there. Also, for pashmina to prosper there has to be some enhancement to the lives of the Changpas. When I go back to Changthang and sit in the tent with the family that I lived with, it is as if in 30 years nothing has changed!

PUBLIC NOTICE

An application has been received from Jigmet Tsewang S/o Late Phunchok Angchok R/o Changspa, Leh Ladakh, owner of vehicle no. JK 10A-6521 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

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