

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

VOL. 8 ISSUE 6 PAGES 8

April 1-15, 2020



In Conversation with Reach Ladakh

Rigzin Samphel

5

In Focus

Dambu: A serious threat to Ladakh's fragile ecological region

4



facebook

Find us on FACEBOOK: Reach Ladakh



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.

No positive COVID-19 case in ten days, says Commissioner/Secretary Health



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The cases of coronavirus have come down to 10 in UT Ladakh and no positive cases have been reported over the last ten days said, Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner/Secretary Health on March 29.

To accommodate fresh cases arrangements have been made at Mahabodhi Karuna Charitable Hospital in Leh and GNM School in Kargil in UT Ladakh.

Talking about the equipment, Rigzin Samphel said, "100 ventilators- 50 each for Leh and Kargil districts is expected to arrive soon."

With the increase in the number of positive cases in Srinagar, UT Administration of Ladakh appeals to those who had travelled from Srinagar to Ladakh on March 18, 19 to stay under home quarantine by staying away from everyone including their family for 14 days.

Besides, District Administrations of Leh and Kargil has identified migrant labourers stranded in Ladakh and were given free ration yesterday on March 29, to 5000 labourers in Leh district and 350 in Kargil district. A mechanism has been formulated for a continuous supply of free ration to such labourers during the period of lock-down.

He further added that Dr. Nordan Odzer is working in Nubra valley as a volunteer on the appeal of the UT Administration, and he hopes that other retired medical doctors of the districts would also consider their appeal.

Talking about the pilgrims and students studying out of Ladakh, he said that the students' welfare is among the top priorities of the UT Administration. Rigzin Samphel informed that they can contact Sumera Shafi, Resident Commissioner Ladakh in Delhi who is appointed as the Nodal Officer.

LG Mathur addresses people of Ladakh to combat COVID-19



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In an address to the people of Union Territory of Ladakh on March 28, R.K. Mathur, Lieutenant Governor has expressed his gratitude to the people of Ladakh for their cooperation with UT Administration in their fight against COVID-19.

LG appreciated their sincere adherence to the guidelines issued because of the novel coronavirus outbreak and in observing the Lockdown to contain its spread in the region.

He said that dedicated teams of health professionals in Ladakh are working day and night to combat the novel coronavirus, making the best use of medical facilities in Leh and Kargil districts.

He also mentioned about the tireless efforts put in by government functionaries and police personnel performing their duties

in ensuring complete lockdown and also ensuring the availability of essential commodities to the people during this time.

He said that the UT Ladakh is also taking measures to help the migrant labourers by providing them free food and other basic amenities.

LG has lauded the invaluable support given by all the religious organisations and the voluntary support extended by individuals and civil society organisations like the Merchant Association, ALTOA, Hotel Association and others in this time of crises.

He appealed the people of Ladakh to stay cautious and continue their patience and support during the Lockdown period of 21 days in the country.

LG expressed his hope that united Ladakh can combat the pandemic of COVID-19 novel coronavirus.



Reach Ladakh's show 'The Reality' will be releasing soon.

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 Dorje

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



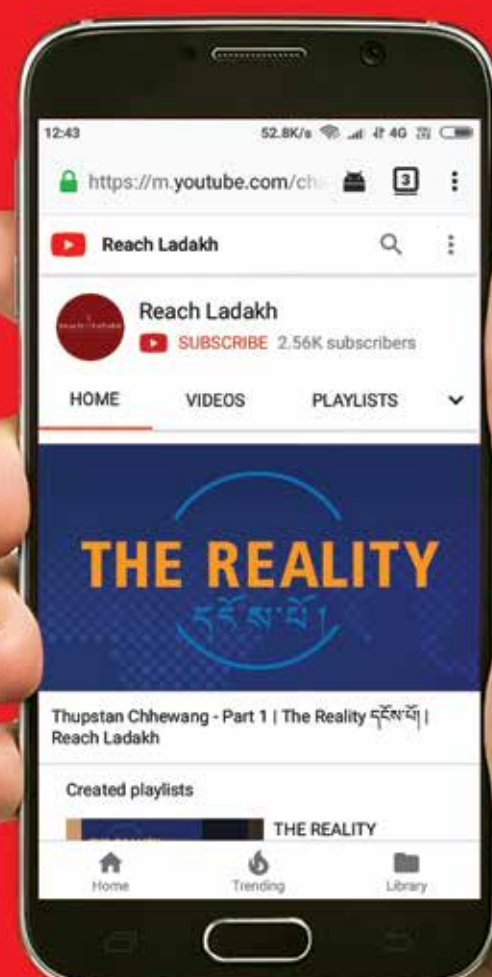
Facebook: Reach Ladakh



Instagram: reachladakh99



Twitter: ReachLadakhBulletin



Meeting held to mitigate dog menace in Leh

Shelter with a capacity for 5000 dogs to be set up at Bombgarh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To mitigate dog menace and draw solutions concerning stray animals in the region, Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner/Secretary Animal & Sheep Husbandry UT Ladakh chaired a meeting on March 24.

Samphel gave directions to the Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, acting as the Nodal agency, for providing food to the stray animals by way of facilitating the procurement of food items from the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department.

Municipal Committee (MC) Leh in collaboration with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Animals (SPCA) Leh will facilitate the distribution of food

to the stray dogs and animals at different points. This decision was drawn as a short-term plan keeping the non-availability of foods due to closure of hotels and restaurants in the global pandemic of COVID-19 situation.

As per the long-term plan, a shelter with a capacity for 5000 dogs will be constructed at the allotted land at bombgarh. Rigzin Samphel further gave directions to begin the work of construction in April.

In a follow up meeting on March 26, SPCA team updated Comm. /Sec that they will provide food to the stray animals of Leh town and adjoining areas for one month. They said that charity and voluntary services by good Samaritans is making them convenient to render such service.

Dr. Mohd Raza, Director Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, Director Agriculture Department, Chief Agriculture Officer Leh, Chief Horticulture Officer Leh, SE PWD, Wildlife Warden, General Secretary and members of SPCA Leh were also present.

Samphel discussed construction requisites required for shelter for animals with Director Animal & Sheep Husbandry.

In the follow up meeting, Dr Stanzin Rabgias, Disease Investigating Officer Animal Husbandry Leh; Sherab Gyaltsen, Assistant Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Leh, Phuntsog Wangyal, General Sec. SPCA and member (SPCA) Leh Diskit were also present.

District administration, Leh, to label houses of persons under quarantine



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a move to inculcate the importance of containment period more seriously, District Administration of UT Ladakh on March 27 has taken a step by sticking 'home quarantined' stickers at doors of the house owners who are required to stay under home quarantine.

Amidst all concern regarding essential commodities during

the lock-down period, District Administration Leh, under the supervision of Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Leh facilitated door-to-door delivery of essential commodities, medicines and distribution of ration among labours / daily wagers across the district.

District Administration Leh with the support of Merchant Association Leh have started a joint effort of 'home delivery' service at

various parts of Leh such as main market, Chubi/Katpa, Gonpa/Gangles, Skalzangling, Skampari, Phey, Housing Colony, Shey, New Bus-stand, Choglamsar- Zampa, Choglamsar-Zanank Maney, and Cooperative Stores by circulating the contact numbers of dedicated shopkeeper/s in Leh today.

The effort will be made to cover the other left out areas in the coming days.

In the wake of shortage of some essential commodities, the UT Administration is making its effort to arrange them at the earliest and appeals for cooperation from the general public.

District Administration of UT Ladakh appeals citizens not to panic and render their support in the endeavour to eradicate COVID-19 pandemic.

Free ration distributed among non-local labourers at Chuchot Gongma and Shamma



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a step towards assisting the general public amidst the difficult time of pandemic of Coronavirus and lock-down, the Administration of UT Ladakh on March 27, distributed free ration among the non-local labourers at Chuchot Gongma and Chuchot Shamma.

A unit of 400 kgs of rice was distributed by Tsering Tundup, Senior Storekeeper in the presence of Mirza Mehdi, Naib-Sarpanch at Chuchot Gongma. While a unit of 350 kgs of rice was distributed in the presence of Manzoor Hussain, nambradar at Chuchot Shamma.



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

I used to have a very different perspective on life. I was studying science and thought that biology and botany were everything. I worked hard and memorized my books, but it was done without understanding. At SECMOL, however, I was exposed to fields of work that I had not known existed. After some time there, I felt comfortable giving my input on decisions regarding my village. If there was something to do, I had the confidence to take the lead. Before, I would not have thought about doing all this.

After finishing my time at SECMOL, I returned to my village. Conversations with the adults and children there made me realize that they were still stuck in the same mindset that I had before. I felt that it was important for me to share the ideas I was exposed to, and my friends and I would often discuss the importance of introducing the youth of our village to further possibilities. That is why we decided to form the Youth Association of Gya Meru.

Along with other activities, we organize winter camps for the youth of our village. We invite experts in areas ranging from Buddhist philosophy to organic farming, and the kids have the opportunity to interact with them. Members of the youth association teach at these camps as well. I educate the youth about wildlife and the plants in the region. Other activities require the children to speak with the elders of the village, use their creativity to construct something useful from the waste, debate, play games and practice public speaking.

We are invited to participate in discussions related to education in our village and contribute ideas towards the strengthening of the government school in Gya. The villagers trust us. Last year, a friend had donated ice hockey equipment to us, but we did not have jerseys. So, we started a crowd funding campaign on our village's WhatsApp group and met our goal within two days. So many people contributed, because of which we were able to form our village's first women's ice hockey team this year.

Working on projects related to the youth of my village gives me satisfaction. A lot of satisfaction. But more than that, it motivates me because I am socially engaged with children and members of the youth association. In a year or two, we will leave and give this platform to the upcoming youth. Slowly, I hope there will be a change. The youth of the village is already getting involved with community activities. They are always ready to participate, we just need to give them a call.

Storyteller: Rigzen Mingyur, Gya

Do you have a story that you would like to share with us? Write to us at: hello@nyiska.com
For more stories, follow us on Instagram @storiesfromladakh

Janta curfew observed; traditional Ladakhi music played lauding front-line workers



Musicians playing traditional Ladakhi music at different places in Leh to express gratitude to the front-line people, employees and organizations for their tremendous contribution

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Roads and streets of the Leh district wore a deserted look and hardly any vehicles were seen on the road on March 22, as the Prime Minister had made an appeal for 'Janta curfew' due to

COVID-19.

Moses Kunzang, Additional District Development Commissioner Leh stated that entire district observed 'Janta curfew' by staying indoors.

"At 5 pm, in addition to clapping, siren and bell, traditional Ladakhi music was played at different places to express gratitude to the front-line people, employees and organizations for their tremendous contribution during this hour of emergency", he added.

He further said, "On behalf of the district administration, I extend appreciation to all the people for their cooperation."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for the 'Janata curfew' from 7 am to 9 pm on March 22, appealing no citizen, barring those in essential services, should get out of their houses. PM Modi had asserted that it will be our test to show India's readiness to take on the coronavirus challenge.

Kargil observes Janata Curfew, thousands stay indoors

Tireless duty by frontline workers hailed



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Thousands of people in Kargil confined themselves indoors while showing their serious participation in the social distancing exercise to help contain the spread of COVID-19. The 14 hour Janata Curfew called by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which started at 7:00 am on March 22.

All markets and establishments remained closed across the district while as roads and streets wore a deserted look.

Later, at 5:00 pm patients at

District Hospital Kargil, Isolation Center at Polytechnic College, Quarantine Center at GNM Nursing School and other health centres across the district as well as common people stood up and clapped for the doctors, paramedical staff and all other frontline workers, volunteers, individuals and organizations while expressing deep gratitude for their tireless efforts in the fight against Coronavirus.

Meanwhile, Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, Hill Council, Kargil and Baseer ul Haq Choudhary,

Deputy Commissioner, Kargil extended their gratitude to the people for their cooperation in the successful conduct of the Janata Curfew across the district.

The CEC and DC said that by restricting themselves at homes people have done a noble job to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

They also appealed people that this exercise should not be limited to one day only, rather they should continue to maintain social distancing in the coming days as well, which they stated would be very crucial to contain the transmission of the virus.

CEC and DC also hailed the untiring efforts of the Health Department and Police including doctors and the paramedical staff, officers and officers of other essentials services, volunteers as well as all other agencies and individuals who are rendering round the clock services in the fight against COVID-19.

District Administration, Leh, to provide free ration to 8000 migrant labourers, daily wagers

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To ensure supply of basic food items to the migrant labourers and daily wagers, District Administration, Leh has decided to provide free ration to them during the lock-down period.

District Administration Leh has identified about 8000 laborers and daily wagers across the district, who are stranded in various parts of Leh district due to sudden lock-down.

"They will be provided with basic ration supply viz rice, dal, and cooking oil, free of cost. No one should sleep empty stomach", added Sachin Kumar District Magistrate.

A committee has been formed under the supervision of Moses Kunzang, Additional District Development Commission-



er, Leh, to formulate a proper mechanism so that this facility could reach directly to the genuine people.

Accordingly, the locations of these labourers have been mapped and the Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been directed to act as Nodal Officers for their respective Sub-divisions to ensure free & fair distribution of ration.

To begin with, around 5000 labourers & daily wagers of Tehsil Leh are being provided with free ration as per scale of Rice - 2.5 KG/person; Dal - 1 KG/person and Cooking Oil - 0.5 Ltr/person.

LPG cylinders were also delivered to households across the district while as house to house delivery of ration to the labourers in many villages were also distributed in Leh district.

Police help pregnant woman reach home from Hospital amid lockdown



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: At a time when the country is facing the coronavirus scare and complete lockdown, the cops in Leh are doing a wonderful job.

In one such case, on March 27, police received a distress call on one of the numbers circulated on various platforms by District

Police, Leh, and the Police Post, Housing Colony, was informed immediately. The woman was discharged from SNM Hospital and had no mode of transport and attendant.

Going a step ahead in assisting the lady, a police team headed by SI Tsewang Stanzin, Incharge

Police Post, Housing Colony, along with a female cop, rushed to the spot and offered help. They dropped the woman at her home in the police vehicle.

The parents of the woman, on behalf of her family and community, thanked the police personnel for their timely help.

COVID-19: District Administration distributes ration among households in Sankoo Containment Zone

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: To facilitate the provision of essential commodities to people at their doorstep amidst the COVID-19, District Administration Kargil on March distributed rice and atta among different households in Sankoo Containment Zone.

Sajjad Hussain, Tehsildar Sankoo, said that a total 106 quintals of rice and 106 quintals of atta was distributed among 424 households of Thang Sankoo, Yokmagrong Thang, Mangrong Thang, Balti Baho, Banyalsa, Chechesna, Thama Yokmagrong, Nangma Gongma, Nangma, Kaosar, Nakpochu, Narambi, Lamphet and Dumbur hamlets in the Containment Zone.

The ration was issued on the scale of 25 quintals rice and 25 quintals atta per household.



Dr. Norden Odzer volunteers his service to combat COVID-19 in Nubra

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr Norden Odzer has volunteered to provide his service to the health department of Nubra sub-division to fight against COVID-19 pandemic on March 25.

Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman, Hill Council, Leh requested him and agreed to volunteer. Sandup welcomed Dr. Odzer to the department of Health Nubra valley.

Sandup expressed his heartfelt



gratitude to Dr. Norden Otzer for his volunteer service to combat ongoing health crisis worldwide and hoped that such gesture towards humankind will inspire many other private, retired doc-

tors and health workers from Ladakh and across the nation to join with frontline health professionals and workers to deal with COVID 19 pandemic together as a team.

Dr. Norden Odzer is also actively associated with Healthy Ladakh Movement, anti-tobacco movement and in raising awareness, screening for cervical cancer in Ladakh. For his commendable initiatives towards community health, Dr. Odzer was awarded with Indian best doctor recently.

Prez Kovind interacts with Guvs and Lt. Guvs to review COVID-19 situation

L-G Mathur attends video conference from Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In view of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Ram Nath Kovind, President convened a meeting with all the Governors, Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of all States and Union Territories through video conferencing today on March 27.

Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President conducted the video conference that brought out suggestions and best practices initiated by states to fight the menace of COVID-19. R.K. Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, attended the video conference from Leh.

President urged the Governors,

LGs and Administrators to mobilize Indian Red Cross Society, religious and other voluntary organisations to complement the Union and State governments in the effort to fight COVID-19 and other challenges arising from the prevailing lockdown situation in the country.

15 Councillors, Leh, allocate ₹ 28 lacs from CCDF to combat COVID-19

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In its efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, 15 Councillors of Hill Council, Leh on March 28 decided to allocate funds of ₹ 28 lacs out of their Councillors's Constituency Development Fund.

Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC; Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman; Phuntsog Stanzin, Executive

Councillor for Agriculture; Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councillor for Education; Mumtaz Hussain, Executive Councillor for Minority and Thupstan Angchuk, Councillor Nyoma have decided to allocate ₹ 2.5 lacs each out of their CCDF.

Likewise, Tsering Nurbu, Councillor Basgo; Tsering Murup, Councillor Temisgam; Stanzin Chosphe, Councillor

Martselang; Sayeda Bano, Nominated Councillor; Tsering Angchuk Councillor Diskit; Sonam Dorje, Councillor Lingshed and Gurmet Dorje, Councillor Korzok have allocated ₹ 2 Lacs each from their CCDF.

Similarly, Gen Lobzang Nyan-tak, Councillor Upper Leh and Sonam Chosphe, Nominated Councillor has allocated ₹1 lacs each from their CCDF.

MC, Leh, signs partnership agreement with IUC to help Leh in developing urban 'Action Plan'

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Ishey Namgyal, President, Municipal Committee, Leh signed the partnership agreement with the European Union International Urban Cooperation (IUC) India program on March 23.

By signing this agreement, Municipal Committee, Leh will further engage with the partner Cities of Farkadona/Trikala/Meteora and 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



Dr. Ishey Namgyal, President, Municipal Committee, Leh signing the partnership agreement in Leh.

is part of the ongoing EU-IUC program where a total of 24 EU 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.

For Over 50 years the EU and India have worked together to reduce poverty, prevent disasters, expand trade, and promote joint research in energy, health, agriculture and many other fields of mutual interest.

IN FOCUS

Dambu : A serious threat to Ladakh’s fragile ecological region

In Ladakh, livestock rearing is a major activity for livelihood, contributing significantly to its economy. But its staple food crops suffer greatly with weed pressure as under-subsistence agricultural system (with very low land holding ranging from 0.5-1.4 ha per household averagely) in which weeding is not a priority but total crop+weedy biomass add to livestock feeding in a region with stark, treeless and barren, with rocky slopes with no water.

Weeds drastically reduce the staple crop yields. In addition, weeds are commonly considered a threat to biodiversity, yet interactions between native and exotic species in grasslands are poorly understood. On the other hand, expansion and intensification of land use in recent decades is resulting in major changes in biodiversity, especially when invasive weedy species dominate the landforms and summarizing into the cultivated areas in a changing climate. In addition, the invasive weedy species possesses climatic resilience and pose a major threat to native biodiversity. In the cold arid region, major invasive weed-*Phragmites australis* of poaceae family comprises the most common perennial, rhizomatous, stoloniferous and tall (2.0–3.0 m) grass, distributed in whole of Ladakh region along the Indus belt. It is locally known as Dambu and has profusely seed-production potential and spreads fast.

During a survey carried out, it was recorded that it thrives well in soils having higher pH, salinity, fertility and textures, and attains high productivity even around seabuckthorn community. It is a transitional species of two closely attached ecosystems such as aquatic and terrestrial and commonly occurs in marshy wetlands adjoining to Indus belt. It is a well-known environmentally resilient species in a changing climate. In short-seasons like that of Ladakh, it sprouts efficiently from the last week of June and attains adjustments to the variations in temperature, soil nutrients and available oxygen (wetlands). It has a high transpiration rate with rhizomes buried deep in the soil up to 2-5 feet; help protect against frost and fire. High transpiration rate growing under flood-like conditions display an adaptive feature, protecting it from waterlogging.

In a changing climatic condition, it has intermediate plant growth habit of C3–C4 photosynthetic intermediate ecotypes evolve in dry land



Dambu problem in wheat at Chushot in a ratio of 70 (Dambu):30 (wheat)

and C3–C4 intermediate ecotype in saline environment have also been reported as it also can be seen in a Spituk wetland of Leh where it is surviving under a high salinity condition, not allowing any other crops. This weedy grass is a palatable green forage and quite suitable as an alternative fodder for lambs growing with some minor additives that keep protein and energy on the demanded requirements. Farmers are worried but used to it for utilizing it as fodder for winter security. In addition, the removal of toxic heavy metals from the aquatic environment is one of the priorities of the environmentalist all over the world. It has high metal removal potential and fast growth, accumulating metal in above and below-ground biomass.

Dambu has recently being utilised for mitigating water pollution. It has been the most preferred research plant for pollution mitigation. Efforts have been made to carry out the study on land use and land cover by this invasive species of Leh district, showing an area of 1883.58 ha area which covers very potential and prime agricultural land of Leh region. This study would reveal that in these recent decades, land use continues to intensify in formerly occupied areas and expand into what were formerly natural habitats and this weed may make



Dambu in seabuckthorn stand. No-dambu in Alfalfa (Aul) stand

its inroads to the utilizable lands of villages like Chushot, Palam, Choglamsar, Stakna, Phey and Spituk, and affect their biodiversity to a significant extent.

In a cold arid region like Ladakh, where tourism is another livelihood option, we require a strict quarantine system to maintain the Himalayan ecosystem and its biodiversity.

You can send your comments at: omsai.msr@gmail.com

M.S. Raghuvanshi¹, Anurag Saxena², Dipanker Saha³, Enoch Spalbar⁴, Ngawang Dorjay⁵ Vikas Gupta⁶ and Anil Kumar⁷

¹ ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur-440033 (Maharashtra)

^{2,3,4,5} Regional Research Station, ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Leh-Ladakh

⁶ Krishi Vigyan Kendra, HMAARI, SKUAST-K, Leh-Ladakh

⁷ HMAARI, SKUAST-K, Leh-Ladakh.

Saugat Biswas issues advisory regarding movement of vehicles from Zojila

Trucks/tankers carrying essential commodities to be allowed to cross Zojila pass from 29th March



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The movements of trucks/tankers carrying essential commodities to be allowed to cross Zojila pass from March 29, along with protocol to be followed during the transaction of the vehicles. Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner/ Secretary Transport UT Ladakh, issued an advisory on March 29.

Following protocol will be followed during the transition of the vehicles into Ladakh:-

1. Only one driver and a helper will be allowed with each of the loaded trucks/tankers. Any driver or staff found showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be turned around with or without his vehicle from Meena marg COVID-19 check post.

2. Medical camp with screening facilities will be established at Meena-Marg by the District Administration Kargil for the screening of each driver and supporting staff thoroughly. Besides, the registration of drivers and helpers indicating their permanent address, contact number, origin and destination shall be recorded by the Incharge, Police Post Mee-

na-Marg.

3. The trucks carrying food and vegetable items for Kargil district will be escorted in double escort system from Meena-Marg, to be organised by the IGP, Ladakh and will terminate at Khree Sultan Chow Stadium Bemathang distribution depot where the trucks will be offloaded. The Trucks carrying food grains of FCI will terminate at FCI Central Godown, Kargil. The escorts will be on guard and the vehicles will not be allowed to stop anywhere en-route to Kargil.

4. Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kargil will provide the required labour force for offloading the trucks at Khree Sultan Chow Stadium Bemathang, out of the registered labour force available. The empty trucks after offloading will park at, Bemathang Kargil under Police guard.

5. Vehicles coming to Leh will be allowed to move in a convoy and will be escorted under a double escort system to be organised by the IGP, Ladakh. The convoy will not stop anywhere other than at the designated camps en-route to Leh. The camps will have facilities of

public convenience and light refreshment only.

6. These designated camps will be established by the respective District Administrations at Meena-Marg, Wakha and Likir.

7. On entry of the convoy in Leh town, they may break-up and move towards different locations in smaller convoys. IGP, Ladakh will facilitate separate police escorts for these smaller convoys which will stay with the vehicles till their departure from Leh.

8. On arrival at Leh, the trucks carrying food items will terminate at Choglamsar distribution depot where the trucks will be offloaded. The trucks carrying vegetables will also be offloaded at Choglamsar. The Trucks and Tankers carrying food grains of FCI and POL will terminate at FCI Central Godown, Leh and IOCL/ HPCL Depots respectively.

9. Police escorts will ensure strictly that the drivers and helpers will not interact with the local inhabitants both in Kargil and Leh, including labourers at any point including the point of offloading.

10. Assistant Labour Commissioner, Leh will provide the required labour force for offloading the trucks at Choglamsar, out of the registered labour force available. The empty trucks after offloading will park at Bomb Guard, Leh under Police guard.

11. The same protocol will be followed at the time of departure of the trucks/tankers from Kargil and Leh and the empty trucks will depart in a convoy escorted by the Police.

12. The Police escorts will see off the convoy at zero point at the Zojila pass.

13. The Ganderbal District Administration shall ensure the smooth passage of all vehicles at Sonamarg keeping this SOP in consideration.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Soft is always stronger than hard!



Just as love is more powerful than hatred, and goodness is stronger than evil, we do say that truth triumphs over untruth. What I am trying to drive at is that it is always the positivity that gets the upper hand in the long run.

In this regard, German author Hermann Hesse writes in his book, Siddhartha: “Soft is stronger than hard, water stronger than rocks, love stronger than force.” Do we find it very hard to digest even when it is quite true? Most of us know and understand this kind of realities of life that shape or reshape our courses. And yet, there is always a temptation to try the uglier side of the reality, thereby spoiling the chances of getting on to our mission-target.

We face daily so many situations and turns, and at times we are trapped in a debilitating dilemma. Those of us who look at the brighter side of the picture before us do manage to outdo the temptation to go with the devil. And the unfortunate ones are left out badly trapped in the vicious circle of misery and pain.

All that one needs to be triumphant is to look within with sincerity and a sense of purpose. If that is done, we would be always in a position to see the brighter side and take the right course.

That is why Monica Carolina, the gaming super-star, says: “I think it will be OK. I have found my own force. When I don’t know where to turn, it will direct me back on course.” That is the ‘force’ that comes forth when you look within. Sincerity pays, and one always gets a chance to undo the wrong done because of any reason that is not wilful.

We also have Greek tragedian Sophocles, in Antigone, saying: “All men make mistakes but a good man yields when he knows that his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only crime is pride.” That is the lesson one has to learn and keep in mind, always.

The punch line: Never ever there is a possibility that one can’t do a thing with a strong willpower.

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

In Conversation with

Rigzin Samphel, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Health, UT Ladakh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. With the spread of coronavirus pandemic in the Ladakh region, brief us about different strategies or measures taken by the UT administration to cope up with COVID-19.

Ladakh reported the first positive case of COVID19 on March 7, which is a turning point for each one of us. The situation is an unprecedented challenge for the medical department and the whole society. As soon we received two positive reports from Chuchot Gongma we took a quick decision and sealed the village under containment policy. We learned as we went along and in fact, the whole world was learning.

Taking a cue from different other parts of the world, various practices, implication and mistakes we faced the situation in the initial days. At present, systems are in place and the only challenging part is it to break the chain, stopping further spread of the virus.

In Ladakh, till now we have 13 positive cases (Data till March 26) out of which the first two positive cases reported have a travel history to Iran. Rest all are relatives and family members who got infected through them. We know the source of the virus which helped us to take further course of action and hopefully, we will be able to contain the virus. We have ensured all the necessary facilities to keep the patients in both the Leh and Kargil districts. Also, samples of the suspected patients are sent for test daily to Delhi.

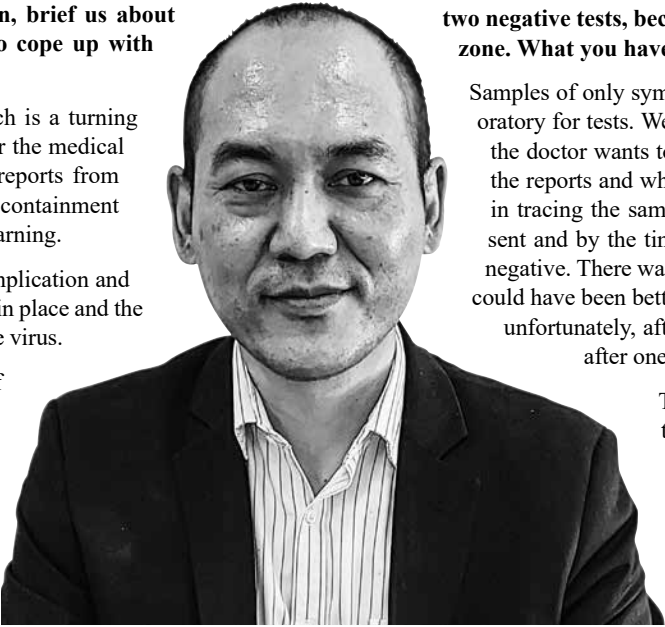
One important thing we have noticed in most of the countries is that the people are getting infected by sharing the same washrooms. To avoid this we will be providing individual rooms with attached bathrooms. Positive patients who get cured and test negative will be immediately shifted to the hotels which we have recognized to ensure all safety precautions until the second and last test results.

In the initial days, there were few issues and challenges such as lack of Personal Protection Equipments, N-95 masks, kits for sending the samples, etc, which are all streamlined.

Community involvement is very important to contain the virus. We appreciate the Hotel associations, NGO's and all others who have helped the administration in this time of need.

Q. At present health department send samples to Delhi which takes a day or two to receive the report. How important is it to have a BSL3 laboratory in Ladakh? Is it feasible?

Absence of a laboratory is a challenge because the medical department has to collect and send the samples to get it tested in Delhi. The matter



two negative tests, because of which concern is raised among the people in the containment zone. What you have to say about it?

Samples of only symptomatic direct, high-risk contacts of confirmed cases are sent to the laboratory for tests. We had an issue of a patient who was tested negative initially but somehow the doctor wants to reconfirm it and sent his sample again. But there was a delay in getting the reports and when confirmed the laboratory we found out that there was some confusion in tracing the samples. Because the second sample was late, the third sample was already sent and by the time results of the third sample were received, second sample test showed negative. There was no reason to keep the patient in hospital so he was discharged. But, yes it could have been better if the patient is kept until the report of the third sample is received. But unfortunately, after discharging him, the result of the third sample tested positive. Ideally, after one test result, the patient is kept or discharged.

This raises the concern among the people but like I have said it before, to avoid such issues, we will ensure one room with attached bathroom to ensure all safety precaution.

Q. How administration is keeping watch on the growing rumours and fake news on various social media platforms?

Yes, the issue is there and to make public aware of the right information we have come up with a myth-buster series, in which Dr. Norzin from the health department aware people about the right information regarding COVID 19. The daily press conference is another initiative to keep the people updated. Also, the District Magistrate has issued orders which fix responsibility on admins of social networking sites and individuals forwarding sensitive information. In case of violation, action will be taken as per law. Few FIR's have been also registered against some of the defaulters for sharing irresponsible posts and voice messages.

Q. What are the various challenges faced and how administration overcoming it?

Shortages of the medical staff at SNM Hospital are an issue and to reduce the workload we have appealed all the retired doctors of the region to volunteer 3 hours of a day at the hospital. The biggest challenge so far I feel is the menace of stray dogs. To mitigate dog menace, we convened a meeting on March 24 and came up with certain short and long term plans, such as providing food to the stray animals at different points. Also, a shelter with a capacity for 5000 dogs will be constructed at the allotted land at the bomb guard from April.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“One mistake can shatter the whole system so we all have to take the whole situation very seriously. Together we can fight against the COVID-19.”

has already been taken up with the government and MP Ladakh has been constantly following up on the demand. Recently, a Real-Time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) machine for Ladakh has been sanctioned and soon the COVID-19 testing lab will be established. We need a microbiologist to carry out the test for which we have already assigned a pathologist who will be sent for training in microbiology from Indian Council for Medical Research. By the time the laboratory is set up, the region will have a microbiologist also.

Q. We have seen a case in which a patient tested positive after

Fortnight Highlights



Sonam Dorjay, SDM Zaskar along with SHO Police Station Zaskar and Zonal and Sectoral Magistrates appointed for COVID-19 checking stock availability of essential commodities in Stongday.



Mohd Kumail, a 9 years old boy from (G M Pore),Kargil donated ₹ 3000 from his eidy collection to combat Covid-19.



Door to door awareness programme on COVID -19 and free amchi medicine distribution done by Zaskar Rescue Team, Tungri, at Stoth region of Zaskar. Aims to educate about the symptoms, preventive measures and misconceptions about COVID -19.



Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Animals (SPCA) Leh team providing food to the stray animals of Leh town and adjoining areas.



The usually busy and bustling Leh market wore a deserted look as Ladakh went into total lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Executive Councillor, Mumtaz Hussain, raises issue of stranded pilgrims with officials



Executive Councillor, Mumtaz Hussain with Iranian Ambassador to India, Gholamreza Ansari.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

MERU: Mumtaz Hussain, EC, Minority Affairs, Hill Council, Leh discussed the issues faced by the stranded pilgrims in Iran with Mukhtar Abass Naqvi, Union Minister of Minority Affairs on March 18.

Mumtaz Hussain said that the stranded pilgrims of UT Ladakh in Iran are facing immense difficulties due to not having quarantine facility for Covid-19 positive cases. He urged the Minister

to intervene in the matter.

Mukhtar Abass Naqvi assured that the ministry will take appropriate action on priority.

Later, Mumtaz Hussain also met MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and appreciated him for raising the issue in the Parliament and convincing the Govt of India to take immediate action for the evacuation of pilgrims stranded in Iran.

He also met Iranian Ambassador to India, Gholamreza Ansari and urged for providing quarantine and other medical facilities to the stranded pilgrims in Iran.

The Iranian Ambassador also assured to take up the matter immediately with the Iranian government.

Evacuation of 253 Ladakhi pilgrims from Iran: CEC, Kargil, expresses gratitude

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 253 stranded Ladakhi pilgrims were evacuated from Iran to India on March 25. They reached Delhi this morning and are now quarantined at Army Cantonment Area Jodhpur.

Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, Hill Council, Kargil has extended his gratitude to the Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar, Lieutenant Governor UT

Ladakh Radha Krishna Mathur and Member Parliament Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal for their untiring efforts for the evacuation of pilgrims.

Feroz Khan has also thanked the Iranian Government, the Iranian Ambassador to India Gaddam Dharmendra and Mahan Airways for facilitating the return of these pilgrims.

Meanwhile, CEC has urged the Government of India to ensure

the evacuation of the remaining pilgrims at the earliest possible besides also ensuring the provision of better facilities to them at the designated quarantine centres.

CEC has also appealed the Iranian Government to ensure satisfactory treatment of the pilgrims who were tested COVID-19 positive in Iran so that they can recover and return to their homeland soon.

District Administration provides free ration to migrant labours, daily wagers in Kargil

House to house delivery of several quintals of rice, atta, LPG cylinders across the district



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: District Administration, Kargil on March 29 distributed rice, atta, dal, cooking oil, milk powder, salt and soaps free of cost to migrant labours and daily wagers.

Administration distributed these items among 391 labours and daily wagers as per the scale of rice 10 kg, atta 5 kg, dal 2 kg, cooking oil 1 litre, milk powder ½ kg, salt 1 kg and soap 2 pieces per person.

The distribution was done on 10 locations in Kargil Town and adjoining areas including Titichumik, Baroo Colony, Bemathang, Kabadi Nallah, Lal Chowk, Thakskangrong, Changrah Bazar, Kako Shilikchey, Balti Bazar and Hussaini Park.

On the directions of the District Magistrate Kargil, the officers concerned have already completed mapping of the locations of the migrant labours to ensure free & fair distribution of ration

in Kargil town as well as rural areas in the coming days.

Meanwhile, as a part of the continuing steps of the District Administration to deliver ration commodities and other essentials at peoples' doorsteps across the district amid COVID-19 lockdown, 450 quintals of rice and 487 quintals of atta, 300 LPG cylinders and 2500 litres of Kerosene oil were provided to different households in different hamlets spread across 36 villages in 7 blocks of the district.

CEC inaugurates Meru Bridge constructed by BRO 111 RCC

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

MERU: A 60 feet Meru Bridge over Gya-Meru Nallah constructed by BRO 111 RCC as a welfare gesture to the village was inaugurated by Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh at Meru village on March 19.

Brig Arvinder Singh, Chief Engineer Project HIMANK, Col Abishek Khanna, CDR 753 BRTF, Maj. A.S Bhandari, OC 111 RCC and Tsering Paldan, Councillor Igoo were also present.

BRO 111 RCC undertook the task of building the Meru Bridge on Gya-Meru stream from February 17 this year following requests from the Hill Council, Leh to help the villagers and the bridge was opened to the farmers who have their houses and agricultural land across the stream.

Wangyal congratulated the people of Meru village for having this vital bridge launched by BRO which will help farmers to cultivate their land across the river properly as farmers were facing lots of challenges earlier. He said that this bridge was one of the old and pending demands of the village since 2010 and due to the shortage of funds Hill Council, Leh could not construct



Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC in presence of Brig Arvinder Singh, Chief Engineer Project HIMANK inaugurating Meru Bridge.

the bridge till date.

Wangyal on behalf of Hill Council, Leh and Meru village thanked Chief Engineer Project HIMANK Brig Arvinder Singh, BRO officers, soldiers and labours for constructing this bridge in record time and highly appreciated their goodwill gesture towards Meru village.

The villagers further demanded installation of mobile tower, up-gradation of medical sub-centre, construction of community hall etc.

Brig Arvinder Singh, Chief Engineer Project HIMANK said that the main objective of HIMANK in Ladakh is to connect the far-off villages with rest of the world

and assured that HIMANK will be always on the front in the welfare of the locals.

Tsering Paldan, Councillor Igoo and Nambard Meru also thanked BRO for constructing the bridge, which has brought much relief to farmers and requested BRO to construct two more culverts in the Gya-Meru valley to ease the life of villagers.

The doctor of BRO also educated people about the do's and don'ts related to COVID-19 advised them to follow basic protective measures so that they can keep themselves safe from the Novel Coronavirus. The villagers also presented a cultural programme on the occasion.

SDM, Drass, convenes meeting with religious heads, appeals to avoid religious gatherings



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Highlighting the precautionary measures of COVID-19, Asgar Ali, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Drass convened a meeting with the religious heads on March 18 at SDM Office, Drass.

He appealed all the religious heads to avoid religious gatherings in their respective mosques

and other religious places till the revocation of Section 144 CrPC.

Section 144 CrPC is imposed by the District Magistrate Kargil restricting the gathering/assembly of more than 5 people to contain the spread of Corona Virus in the interest of the health of the general public.

Religious heads assured the

SDM to extend their full cooperation to the administration in view of the prevailing situation. They also assured that they will aware the people to abstain from such gatherings by making public announcements from their respective mosques.

Asgar Ali extended his gratitude to all the religious heads for their cooperation to tackle the prevailing situation.

Preventive measures like washing hands frequently with soap and water, cover nose and mouth with a handkerchief or tissue while sneezing and coughing, avoiding eating or drinking cold stuff, gargle with warm and saltwater and to avoid participation in large gatherings was also highlighted during the meeting.



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.

JK SECURITY



CITY CAR CARE

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



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

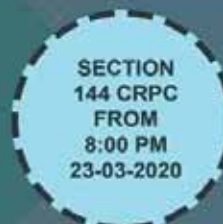
ADDRESS: AGLING ROAD, NEAR FORCE SERVICE
LEH-LADAKH

Contact No: 9419888666, 9596652270,
9419198810, and 9906982222



**District Administration Leh
Union Territory of Ladakh**

**YOUR ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE JUST A
WHATSAPP MESSAGE OR CALL AWAY**



To fight the COVID-19 outbreak our departments are also working with minimum staff, so help us to help you and avoid unnecessary calls & messages



For any grievances regarding essential services contact or whatsapp the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mr. Chosyang | (PDD Department) | - 9419438898 |
| 2. Mr. Ghulam nabi | (Labour Department) | - 9419178644 |
| 3. Mr. Sultan Tak | (Cooperatives Department) | - 9797266323 |
| 4. Mr. Wangyal | (Merchant Association) | - 9419177783 |
| 5. Mr. Sherab Gyalton | (FCS & CA Department) | - 9622984000 |
| 6. Mr. Bashir | (Chemist Shops) | - 9906990563 |
| 7. Mr. Dorjay Angchuk | (Banks & ATMS) J&K Bank) | - 9419181281 |
| 8. Mr. Tsering Morup | (Banks & ATMS) SBI Bank) | - 8491062563 |
| 9. Mr. Tsetan namgyal | (Telecommunications) BSNL | - 9419020566 |
| 10. Mr. Stanzin Thuwang | (Telecommunications) AIRTEL | - 9906049299 |
| 11. Mr. Stanzin | (Telecommunications) JIO | - 9469676744 |
| 12. Mr. Samrinder | (Transportation Department) | - 9596978888 |
| 13. Mr. Angchuk | (PHE Department) | - 9419178584 |
| 14. Mr. Razdan | (Municipal Committee) | - 9419286665 |
| 15. Dr. Stanzin Rabgais | (Veterinary Services) | - 9419178254 |
| 16. Mr. Stanzin Lekdan | (Health Department) | - 9419219607 |

Twitter - @DC_Leh_Official, facebook - District Administration Leh,
24X7 Control room - 01982-257416, www.leh.nic.in



**District Administration Leh
Union Territory of Ladakh**

**HOME DELIVERY
AT DOOR STEP
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

To fight the COVID-19 outbreak our General stores are also working with minimum staff, so help us to help you and avoid unnecessary call & messages

COOPERATIVE SHOPS

- 9419218064
Mr. Phunstog
9622157283
Mr. Gonbo

MAIN MARKET

Shokat Ali - 9419179501
Singay - 9906937775
Tarlok Chand - 6005535820

CHUBI / KATPA

Thinles Nurboo
9906261396

GONPA/GANGLAS

Konchok Thinles
6005518426

SKALZANGLING

Gigmot Gen Store - 9622373471
Chospa Gen store - 7051441387
Tarcho Whole Salar - 9419179055

SKAMPARI

Abdul Rashid Gen Store
9906990017

PHEY

Lobzang Gurmet
6005081826

HOUSING COLONY

Tsering Sangdub - 9419149789
Samstan - 9419179762
Nawang Thinles - 9484120838
Sonam Norphel - 9622967927

SHEY

Tundup Gonbo - 9419766159
Tashi Dorjey - 9622337172

NEW BUSTAND

Tsewang stobstan - 9622380555
Sharma Gen Store - 9622983091

CHOGLAMSAR - ZAMPA

Sangay Khabab - 9622972633
Yangchen Gen store - 9906010448
Spaldon Gen store - 9622973022
Zakir Gen Store - 8492829383
Urgen Gen store - 6005619552

CHOGLAMSAR - ZANAK MANEY

Phuchok spalrang - 9622153385
Stanba Jamyang - 9622980497
Sonam Palgon - 9622962085
Tsering Dorjay - 9469202331
NK Agarwal - 9797627950

**Courtesy District Administration Leh &
Merchant Association Leh**

President Merchant Association Leh
Mr. Wangyal +91 94191 77783
+919622968777

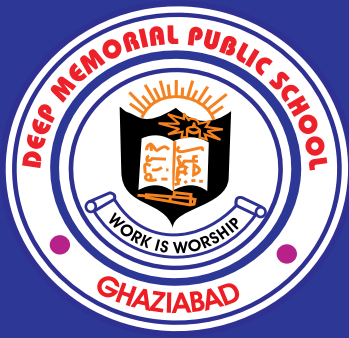


@DC_Leh_Official



District Administration Leh

24X7 Control room - 01982-257416,
www.leh.nic.in



Estd- 1988

DEEP MEMORIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ramprastha (Near ISBT, ANAND VIHAR, Delh,) Ghaziabad-201011

Ph.: 0120-4111343, 9911087378, 09873176443, 09643643519, deepmemorial1988@gmail.com

Click on <https://youtu.be/B8QIcQF2MgM>



Excellent Board Results Class Xth and XIIth 2019

DEEPARIAN'S PRIDE :

SUHANI JOSHI-99.4% (497/500)

ALL INDIA RANK - 3



Our Bright Students from Leh-Ladakh



STANZIN OTDAN - 88.6%
#9797499048



STANZIN PHUNTSOG - 84.4%
#9419218001



STANZIN K.WANGCHOK - 74.8%
#9906229666



MUZAMIL MASOOD-74%
#9419178606



RIGZIN NORBOO -70.6%
#9958855323



NUMAN RAUF - 63.2%
#9906990002

ADMISSION OPEN

Class IInd onwards

HOSTEL

For Boys only



Our unique features



A Day-cum-Residential, Co-Educational, English Medium, Senior Secondary School, Affiliated to CBSE-Delhi. Home like Hostel facilities from Class - IInd onwards for Boys. Stress on 'e' learning with specialized Software developed by Next Education. Students are getting selected in JEE (Main & Adv.), NEET, Hotel Management, NDA, NIFT & reputed colleges of Delhi University etc. Stress on overall personality development with right values. Facilities for Swimming, Volley-Ball, Basket-Ball, Table-Tennis, Gymnasium, Shooting, NCC, Tae-k-wondo etc. Membership of Interact Club, British Council Library, Delhi for Students & Staff. Scholarships for meritorious students.

ADMISSION FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE www.dmps.asia