ADAKH BULLETI



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In Conversation with Reach Ladakh

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary

Fortnightly Special

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Brief News

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4 booked for violating COVID-19 lockdown order in Leh

'Misuse' of vehicle pass signed by SDM, Kharu; DM Leh refuses to comment

Stanzin Dasal

Leh: Four people booked under Section 188 Indian Penal Code (IPC) for violating COVID-19 lockdown in Rumtse. The accused were arrested under FIR no. 43/2020 on April 5 at Kharu Police post and the vehicles were also seized.

Out of the four accused, three are residents of Leh and one from Thiksey village. Both the vehicles have an entry pass to Gya Meru signed by SDM Kharu. One of the entry pass states religious purpose whereas at Upshi check post they entered on the pretext of distributing sanitizers in

Jigmet Lundup, Village head of Gya said, "I was informed from the Upshi check post that two vehicles left to the village to distribute sanitizers. When they arrived, one of the faces among the four was familiar to all the villagers as he is a butcher and used to buy sheep and goats from the villagers earlier. I found suspicious and asked them about their purpose of visit. They said they were leaving towards 'Phu' to find sheep. I called up SDM to enquire about the same and found that the permission was given to them on the pretext of attending funeral rituals in Gya."

He alleged that the SDM Kharu was reluctant to come to the Rumtse and handle the situation initially.

Karma Sonam, Field Coordinator, Na-



ture Conservation Foundation said, "We suspect that they have entered the area intending to hunt but since there is no concrete evidence it was difficult to prove legally. We found a sack and two knives along with them which were very suspicious, so we informed the Police and SDM Kharu regarding the matter".

He said that when the whole region is fighting with the spread of COVID-19 few people with their irresponsible attitude tries to create more fear and panic among the people.

Amidst nationwide COVID-19 lockdown and having Section 144 imposed in the district, it seems many are still not taking the whole situation seriously. However, the case poses a question of whether SDM Kharu can issue a pass to residents of Leh to enter Gya village? How administration is taking up the whole case and what measures will be taken to check whether the passes issued are for genuine reasons?

When asked District Magistrate, Leh Sachin Kumar Vaishya on the case, he refuses to comment.

Despite the violation of locked down, the incident also suspected poaching intention but because of the absence of any proof or evidence, no case was registered to the wildlife department.

Sajid Sultan, Regional Wildlife Warden in a telephonic conversation with Reach Ladakh said, "Our team was present there when the four people were caught and they assessed the whole situation. They might have entered intending to hunt but since there is no guilty action to be proved we were not able to take cognizance legally".

"Since there is a chance of poaching during the locked down days we have kept a strict vigilant in and around the area which are vulnerable for hunting", he added.

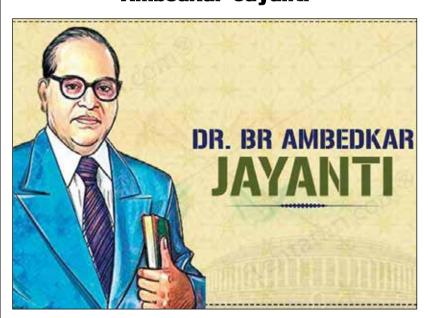
Meanwhile, on social media, an image

of a car with a carcass of Himalayan ibex is being widely circulated linking it with the case of locked-down violation. On April 7, Sarpanch Gya, Tsering Dawa and village head, Jigmet Lundup in a letter clarified the post fake and irrelevant to the case. They said that the viral post has no relation with the case and appeals to people not to believe and spread such misinformation.

What is Section 188 and what happens if anyone violates the lockdown order?

Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant.—Whoever, knowing that, by an order promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, he is directed to abstain from a certain act, or to take certain order with certain property in his possession or under his management, disobeys such direction, shall, if such disobedience causes or tends to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury, or risk of obstruction, annoyance or injury, to any person lawfully employed, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both; and if such disobedience causes or trends to cause danger to human life, health or safety, or causes or tends to cause a riot or affray, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Hill Council, Leh, greets people on **Ambedkar Jayanti**



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Leh: On the 129th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Gyal P. Wangyal on behalf of Deputy Chairman, ECs and Councillors of Hill Council, Leh has extended best wishes and greetings to the followers of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on April 14.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is known as the chief architect of the Indian constitution, jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who worked hard throughout his life to end social discrimination against weaker sections of the society.

"On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, let us take inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's great stature, struggle and values, and take a pledge to imbibe his teachings and ideas into our lives and contribute towards creating a prosperous India and Ladakh. Walking on the path of discipline and patience taught by Dr. Ambedkar is going to be a true tribute to Dr B.R Ambedkar on his birth anniversary during India's fight against COVID-19," said Wangyal.

CEC and ECs assembled at Council Secretariat Leh today to pay rich tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

IGP Ladakh inspects arrangements across Zojila Pass axis

Ensures movement of trucks and tankers carrying essential commodities for Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ladakh, S S Khandare inspected the measures for the replenishment of essential commodities to Ladakh through Zojila Pass during his visit to Gumri Drass on April 13.

SS Khandare took stock of the road conditions as well the necessary arrangements been put in place by the Civil and Police Administration across Zojila axis for smooth movement of trucks and tankers carrying essential commodities into UT Ladakh as per the protocols laid down by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.

IG, ITBP Deepam Seth and Joint Deputy Director IB Ashish Kumar Singh were

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC, Kargil; Dr Vinod Kumar, SSP Kargil and Asgar Ali, SDM Drass briefed the IGP Ladakh regarding necessary arrangements been put in place as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to COVID-19 laid down by the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.

SS Khandare also visited India Gate to check the avalanches prone zones and sinking areas across the Zojila stretch. He assured DC Kargil that issues related to the smooth movement of vehicles carrying essential commodities will be taken up with the Beacon authorities.

He also inspected screening facilities at Meenamarg for proper screening of drivers and additional staff of trucks and

He asked concerned officers to work in close coordination to ensure strict implementation of SOPs for smooth supply of essential commodities into Ladakh.

L-G Jaunches Ladakh Connect App for Ladakhis outside Ladakh

Also launches NAADI platform, and COVID-19 Info & Resource Applications

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Three applications including one for registering and providing help and support to Ladakhis staying outside Ladakh was launched by R.K. Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on April 9.

The app Ladakh Connect will be accessible on the url ladakh. connect.gov.in and will be accessible from any internet device.

Lt. Governor also launched NAADI (National Analytical Platform for Dealing with Intelligent Training, Tracking and Containment of COVID-19 Pandemic) application and a COVID-19 Information & Resource website for Ladakh accessible at covid.ladakh.gov.in.

Umang Narula, Advisor to LG; Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner/ Secretary Health; Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner/ Secretary IT, Ladakh and Sachin Kumar, DC/CEO, Hill Council, Leh were present on the occasion. The Director-General C-DAC attended through video conferencing from Pune.

Ladakh is the first Union Territory to launch the NAADI website along with its mobile app in the country. Lt. Governor conveyed his appreciation to the Direc-



tor-General, C-DAC and his team for the support extended to Lada-kh in making the mobile app to be used by the quarantined patients across the region. He expressed optimism over the usefulness of the App for Ladakh and the support of C-DAC in the future.

Hemant Darbari, Director-General, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing said that NAADI with its mobile apps, 112++ India app for citizens and nCoV Satark App for health agencies would be useful for Ladakh health agencies, administration, government towards proactive decision making and facilitate real-time tracing, tracking and containment of COVID-19.

Lt. Governor lauded the efforts of the IT Department, Ladakh for the initiative in making Ladakh Connect and Ladakh COVID-19 Information & Resource website.

He emphasized on Ladakhis

staying outside Ladakh for registration on Ladakh Connect and emphasized on the administration to ensure constant monitoring of their grievances and timely response. He exhorted to upload educational videos, distribution of essential commodities and other important official notifications issued for public information and welfare regarding COVID-19 on Ladakh COVID-19 Information & Resource website.

Saugat Biswas, Secretary IT gave a detail presentation about the Ladakh Connect and Ladakh COVID-19 Information & Resource website prepared by the Department of Information Technology, Ladakh. He apprised Lt. Governor that Ladakh Connect website is for Ladakhis residing outside Ladakh mainly students, patients, stranded passengers, pilgrims, officials and the App is available on the computer and mobile phones.

Ladakh shows solidarity in fight against COVID-19

L-G Mathur lights butter lamp at Raj Niwas



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: People across Ladakh lit butter lamps, candles, torches and mobile flashlights expressing their solidarity in the fight against COVID-19 on the call of Narender Modi, Prime Minister.

R.K. Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh had also appealed to the people to participate in the event. He thanked the people of the Union Territory of Ladakh for making this event a success and ex-

pressing their united resolve and unwavering confidence in the collective fight against COVID-19.

With the sound of the sirens blew at 9:00 pm by designated establishments such as Police Stations, SDRF offices and other offices in the twin districts, people turned off the lights of their homes and stepped out at their doors, balconies and terraces with traditional butter lamps, candles, torches and mobile flashlights, all the time abiding with the norms of social distancing.

The event was observed across the towns and villages of Ladakh. Locals were also chanting healing mantras while lighting butter lamps. The monks living in the monasteries also lighted butter lamps to dispel the darkness spread by novel Coronavirus.

Candles and butter lamps were also lit up at important historical places in and around Leh town such as Leh Palace, Shanti Stupa and Leh Bazar. The gates of the dedicated COVID-19 hospitals were also lit up as symbolic solidarity with the COVID-19 patients.

LBA, LGA raise the issue of stranded patients, pilgrims



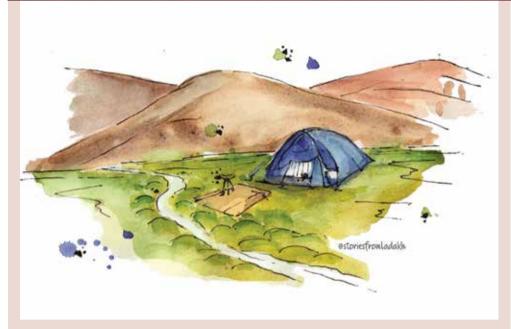
Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Presidents of Ladakh Buddhist Association and All Ladakh Gonpa Association raised the issue of stranded patients and pilgrims outside Ladakh during a meeting with Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur on April 13 at Raj Niwas.

Highlighting the issue faced by stranded patients and pilgrims outside Ladakh, they urged Lieutenant Governor for their early evacuation as per guidelines of Government of India. Also, they appreciated the launch of Ladakh Connect website to facilitate Ladakhis staying outside to be in direct touch with the Administration.

They further thanked UT Administration, Hill Council, Health and Police Department for their efforts in mitigating the threat of COVID-19 in the region. Full support in educating people about the pandemic and help in providing other requirements in the future was also assured.

Stories from Ladakh



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

Ido not believe in magic but every moment that we were in Ladakh, we felt some kind of magic unfolding around us.

My friends and I reached Leh late at night. Our bodies felt broken from the long bus ride. It was raining and there was no one in sight. Instinctively, we were scared for ourselves and our belongings.

We were walking in search of a hotel when someone came up to us and said, "you came for the Kalachakra? Come, I will take you to the camping ground. You can get free accommodation there." We were on a low budget trip, so we went with him. When we got to the camping ground, the first thing they did was give us tea. We kept wondering why they had not asked for our names or ids. Why had that guy given us a ride? This was all so new to us.

When we woke up the next morning, we saw more than a thousand tents surrounding us. There were people from across Ladakh, foreigners, journalists and Buddhist enthusiasts. For a couple of days, we shuttled between the Kalachakra and our tent. We were meeting interesting people and learning their stories. There was no way of locking our tent, so we were leaving some of our stuff with a friend we had made at the German Bakery.

After a few days, we stopped worrying about our material things because every day we would return to our tent and realize that no one had touched our things again. We started leaving everything in the tent. Our bags. Our GoPro.

One night, our tent flew off because of the wind. We were wondering what to do when a police uncle sitting near the registration tent offered to host us at his home. We asked him if he was sure and he said, "That's what Kalachakra is about. It's my duty." He took us to his spare house where he was hosting some German journalists. The kitchen was stocked with groceries and the bathroom with amenities like soap and shampoo. We realized that we had been in Ladakh for several days and no one had charged us any money till now. We had only spent money on the food we ate at the Leh market.

Once we moved to the police uncle's house, we started to travel around Ladakh.

(to be continued)

Storyteller: Jinesh Bagadia, Mumbai

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

CEC, Kargil, Commissioner/Secretary, Ladakh, discuss several issues of Kargil district

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Hill Council, Kargil and Rigzin Samphel Commissioner Secretary Ladakh discussed several issues of Kargil District on April 4.

Feroz Ahmad raised several issues including the early opening of Zojila Pass for the supply of essential commodities and petroleum products, shortage of essential commodities in Kargil markets as well as smaller shops in far-flung areas, stocking of essential commodities in the wake of the upcoming holy month of Ramzan and other related issues.

Feroz Khan further said that that the present supply of essential commodities through the IAF cargo planes is not adequate to suffice to the requirements of the



people and underlined the need to enhance the quantity of essential commodities procured.

Other issues included the preparation of a roadmap for the evacuation of left out pilgrims from Iran stranded at Srinagar and Jammu, preparation of a roadmap for already evacuated

pilgrims whose quarantine period is getting completed, early setting up of COVID-19 hospital with proper facilities.

Commissioner Secretary assured that the issues would be taken up with the UT Administration so that decisions are taken at the earliest.

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COVID-19: 786-bed quarantine, isolation facilities created at 21 locations in Kargil

25 medical teams working 24X7



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In its efforts to contain the spread of the deadly virus in Kargil district, District Administration Kargil has taken some preventive measures.

A series of preventive measures including the establishment of entry points for the necessary screening of travellers entering the district from Leh and Srinagar side and steps for establishment of quarantine and isolation facilities have been taken as per the SOPs and guidelines issued from the Central Government and the UT Administration from time to time.

As of now, four check-points with a trained medical staff comprising of doctors and paramedics have been established at Khangral, Sanjak and Garkone and Meenamarg to carry out the necessary screening of the pilgrims returning from Iran as well as the local people and non-locals coming from Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi and other parts of the country entering the district

from Leh side.

Meanwhile, a 130-bedded capacity quarantine centre and a 26 bedded isolation centre has been set at Government Polytechnic College and GNM Nursing School Kurbathang to carry out the timely quarantine and surveillance of the suspected cases.

Apart from these two locations steps for establishment of additional quarantine centres have been taken in all Medical Blocks of the district and other private locations like hotels and resorts.

There are presently 21 quarantine locations with a capacity of 786 beds. Presently, there are 137 inmates in these quarantine facilities, all stable and asymptomatic and 8 patients are in the isolation ward.

Out of these, 2 are positive cases who are stable and recovering well. Furthermore, 457 individuals are under home surveillance, all of whom stable and asymptomatic.

Meanwhile, 57 patients have completed their quarantine period. Out of the 177 samples collected for the test of COVID-19, 2 have tested positive and 163 have tested negative, while as the reports of 10 samples are still awaited.

The number of total domestic travellers screened so far stands at 5166.

Moreover, in view of the opening of the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, a 50 bedded quarantine center at Tourist Dak Bungalow Drass and a full-fledged screening post at Meenamarg which will remain functional 24x7.

To ensure round the clock provision of all medicare and other related facilities, 25 medical teams comprising of well-trained doctors and paramedical staff have been deployed at the 21 designated quarantine locations, isolation ward at GNM Nursing School Kurbathang as well as the entry points at Khangral, Sanjak, Garkone and Meenamarg.

COVID-19: DM puts Achinathang Yokma village under containment

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Magistrate Leh Sachin Kumar Vaishya issued an order regarding containment of Achinathang Yokma village on April 3.

The order reads as:

- 1. Due to reporting of contact of corona case in Achinathang Yokma village, a containment zone comprising of whole Achinathang Yokma village is hereby notified.
- 2. The objective of this cluster containment is to stop transmission, morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19. Further, for active surveillance, the whole of containment zone shall be divided into sectors for the ASHA, Anganwadi workers and ANMs who will be performing active house to house surveillance daily in the containment zone from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The trigger will be for IDSP identifying a cluster of influenza like illness or saviour acute respiratory symptom.
- 3. For supplies of essential/non-essential commodities with-

in the containment zone, a committee of following officers is hereby constituted.

Tehsildar, Khaltse (8493083944) as Chairman, Block Medical Officer, Khaltse (9419371300) and Incharge Police Post, Khaltse (9419842012) as Members.

- 4. The committee shall coordinate with the office of the District Magistrate for any requirements/ emergencies of the containment zone. The helpline number for the control room established at DC office is 01982-257416.
- 5. Further, a Buffer Zone comprising of Achinathang Gongma is also hereby notified. The surveillance activities to be followed in the buffer zone are as follows:

Review of ILI/SARI cases reported in the last 14 days by the District Health officials to identify any missed case of COVID-19 in the community.

Enhanced passive surveillance for ILI and SARI cases in the buffer zone through the existing Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme.

In case of any identified case of ILI/SARI, a sample should be collected and sent to the designated laboratories for testing COVID-19.

All health facilities in the buffer zone will be listed as a part of the mapping exercise. All such facilities both in Government and private sector (including clinics) shall report clinically suspect cases of COVID-19 on a real-time basis (including "Nil" reports) to the control room at the district level. Measures such as personal hygiene, hand hygiene, social distancing to be enhanced through enhanced IEC activities in the buffer zone.

- 6. All the work places (both government & private) within the containment zone shall remain closed till further orders.
- 7. All the officers who have been assigned duties in SOP laid vide order no. DCL/PS/COVID-19/OO/2020 dated 05.03.2020 shall keep themselves prepared in advance.

CEC inspects quarantine centres in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Quarantine centers established at Ratna Hotel Chushot Yokma, Radha Swami Satsang Beas Chushot Yokma and Hotel Zion at Skalzangling were inspected on April 8.

Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC along with Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman and Mumtaz Hussain, Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs inspected the centers. They enquired about the wellbeing and facilities being provided to the people quaran-



tined in these facilities from concerned nodal officers and doctors on duty.

At Ratna Hotel Chushot Yokma, where 9 cured patients of COVID-19 are kept in quarantine, CEC Wangyal highly appreciated the good will gesture of both Buddhist and Muslim youths of Chushot Yokma village who are providing food to the cured patients and other staff deployed at the quarantine facility. CEC also inspected PHC Chushot.

CEC Wangyal hands over sanitizers to CMO, Leh, and CRO, Tibetan Settlement



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a step towards combating COVID-19 in Leh district, Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC, in presence of Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman and Executive Councillors handed over 1000 bottles of sanitizers in CEC Relief Fund

to Dr. Motup Dorje, Chief Medical Officer, Leh at Council Secretariat on April 8.

The sanitizers were purchased out of the fund donated by Young Drukpa Association, Nubra. Wangyal instructed CMO, Leh to distribute sanitizers to BMOs as per the requirements of the medical centers in the district.

Similarly, CEC also handed over sanitizers to Tsetan Wangchuk, CRO, Sonamling Tibetan Settlement at Council Secretariat meant for Men-Tse-Khang of Tibetan community.

Meanwhile, CEC also convened a meeting to review measures being taken to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Leh. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman, ECs, Dr. Zahida Bano, ADC Leh and CMO, Leh.

Motup Dorje, CMO, Leh briefed CEC about all the measure being taken by district administration Leh and medical department, Leh in the district.

Free LPG cylinder refills to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Government of India announces free LPG cylinder refills for all the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for the next three months from April 1 to June 30, 2020.

In line with the above announcement, under Pradhan mantra Garib KalyanYojana Oil marketing companies in Leh started distributing free refills from April 4. Indian Oil Indane distributor M/s Druk gas service distributed the first refill in Leh.

Eight crores Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries will be benefiting free 14.2 kg LPG cylinders all over India



Full RSP of the refill cost for April 20 will be transferred in the linked bank account of Ujjwala beneficiaries in advance to purchase the free LPG cylinders. The transfer of RSP to all the PMUY beneficiaries has been started all over India by all the oil marketing companies. A PMUY customer is entitled to one cylinder per month. The beneficiary can book the next refill only after 15 days of receipt of the last refill. The booking of a refill must be done through IVRS or registered mobile number.

Oil marketing companies requested PMUY customers in Leh to book the cylinder after verifying the credit of RSP amount in their bank account. In case of any issues, the beneficiary can contact respective LPG distributor for help.

Predators kill 133 livestock in 3 days

Lynx kills 42 sheep and goats, wolf 50 pashmina goat kids, while a snow leopard 39 sheep/goats in Changthang

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHANGTHANG: A total of 42 sheep and goats including 29 pashmina goats and 13 sheep was attacked and killed by a Lynx (Ee) during the intervening night of March 30 in Kherapullu, Kargyam.

The Lynx entered the livestock shed owned by Padma Tsering S/o Rinchen Dorjay.

Another case was also reported from Yourgo on March 30 when a wolf attacked 52 pashmina goat kids of Lobzang Dadul S/o Late Motup Dorjay. Only two kids managed to survive.



Konchok Stanzin, EC Wildlife directed Wildlife Warden Leh to assess the livestock loss of goat rearers of both Kargyam and Yourgo villages and ensure timely compensation.

Wildlife team caught the Lynx which will be released back into

the wild after few days.

On March 28, a snow leopard killed 39 sheep/goats and two cows of Stanzin Namgyal S/o Morup Tashi R/o Ronjuk Khardong.

Konchok Stanzin also directed Wildlife Warden Leh to compensate the farmer.

Sandup reviews stocking and distribution of supplies procured via road



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To ensure fair distribution of essential commodities being transported via Srinagar–Leh road, Tsering Sandup, Deputy Chairman, Hill Council Leh convened a meeting in presence of Phuntsog Stanzin, EC, Agriculture and Cooperative on April 13.

The meeting was attended by Sherap Gyalson, AD FCS&CA department, Leh; Gh. Sultan Tak, Deputy Registrar Cooperative, Leh and Phunchok Wangyal, President Merchant Association Leh at Council Secretariat.

Deputy Registrar Cooperative, Leh and President Merchant Association Leh informed that five trucks are on way to Leh via Zojila pass loaded with essential supplies like Taza Milk, condensed milk and butter which will meet the demand of Leh district for next one month.

Deputy Chairman directed Merchant Association Leh to ensure availability of goods in and around Leh and other accessible areas through wholesalers. Also, he directed the Cooperative Department, Leh, to ensure supply of goods through the department for remaining areas which could not be covered by wholesalers.

Regarding the procurement of essential commodities in 15 trucks on April 17 for Leh via road, Sandup directed Merchant Association, Leh and Cooperative Department, Leh to make a survey of the market and bring goods which are scarce at present.

Regarding fixing of rates for vegetables and other commodities, Sandup said that a meeting in this regard will be convened soon.

Phunchok Wangyal informed that keeping in mind the ongoing lockdown and pandemic situation, the essential supplies are being provided to consumers on no profit no loss through Merchant Association Leh.

CEC reviews preparedness of PHC Nyoma in fight against COVID-19 and supply of essential commodities in Changthang

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: In a meeting held today on April 13, Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh in presence of Konchok Stanzin, EC, Education reviewed health services and preparedness of PHC Nyoma in fight against COVID-19 pandemic at Nyoma.

While enquiring about the health facilities and other measures being taken at Nyoma in fight against COVID 19, SDM Nyoma and BMO Nyoma informed CEC about the quarantine and isolated wards established in PHC Nyoma and preparedness of frontline health workers in entire Changthang region to deal with COVID-19.

Jigmet Raftan, SDM Nyoma briefed about the distribution of essential services and commodities including vegetables and supply of LPG in last few days in far-off villages of Changthang in coordination with people representatives. He also briefed about the distribution of free ration to the BPL ration card holders under PMGKAY in Changthang and distribution of mid-day meal and ICDS dry rations to the children.

While inspecting quarantine and isolated wards of PHC Nyoma, Wangyal and Konchok appreciated the preparedness of the health department. Nyoma and thanked front line health worker

on behalf of Hill Council, Leh and appealed the general public to obey the advisory of district administration Leh in fight against COVID-19.

Gyurmet Dorjey, Councillor Korzok; Thupstan Wangchuk, Councillor Nyoma; BDC Chairman of Rupshoo and Rong also raised their demands and assured to extend full cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Choskit, BMO Nyoma, SHO Nyoma and AEE Nyoma.

SDM Zanskar hands over PPEs, medical supplies to BMO, directs Handloom Department for preparation of face masks

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sonam Dorjay, SDM Zanskar on April 10 handed over Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), sanitizers, spray machines and other medical supplies to the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Zanskar.

PPEs and other necessary medical supplies were dispatched to Zanskar by the Director Health Services UT Ladakh and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kargil through MI-17 helicopters of Indian Air Force (IAF).

The PPEs and other medical supplies include 900 surgical masks, 860 N-95 masks, 700 examination gloves, 350 shoe covers, 53 PPEs, 20 digital thermometers, 75 dispo gowns, hand sanitizers and other related items.

Sonam Dorjay also visited Handloom Department Zanskar and

found sufficient stock of cotton clothes in the departmental store. He directed the concerned department to prepare face masks for distribution among the public as wearing of masks has now been made mandatory by the UT Administration Ladakh.

Meanwhile, SDM also started the distribution of free ration to the AAY/PHH card-holders of Zanskar under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

Hill Council, Leh, sanctions ₹20 lakh to Asoka Mission

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Leh: Hill Council, Leh on March 1 decided to sanction an amount of ₹ 20 lacs from the account of Hill Council, Leh Dhana Petrol Pump as a contribution in favour of Asoka Mission as financial assistance.

The donation is for the poor patients of Ladakh, looked after by Asoka Mission at Delhi where most of the patients are getting treatment from different hospital.

'Dana Petrol Pump' was established in 2015 at Tyare-rong by Hill Council, Leh with an MoU with HPCL. This pump is one of the unique pumps of its kind in India as the profit generated from this pump used for giving financial help to the needy and poor patients of Leh district seeking treatment from outside Ladakh.

Asoka Mission lead by Ven.

Lama Lobzang besides helping needy and poor patients of Ladakh at Delhi helped to get proper and timely treatment.

Also, they are providing commendable health services to the poor and needy people of Ladakh by organising medical camps of specialist doctors from AIIMS and other reputed medical institutes of the nation in SNM Hospital, Leh and Kargil Hospital from decades.

Commissioner/Secretary, Health, takes stock of COVID-19 preventive measures in Sankoo containment zone



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner/ Secretary (Health) Ladakh during his visit to Sankoo Containment Zone on April 4 took stock of the measures being taken by the Administration to contain the transmission and morbidity due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Secretary convened a meeting with the concerned officers including Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani, SDM Zanskar; Dr Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, Chief Medical Officer

Kargil; Dr Munawar Hussain Wazir, Block Medical Officer Sankoo; Sajjad Hussain, Tehsildar Sankoo and Muhammad Sultan Wazir, Incharge Police Post Sankoo and inquired about the overall scenario in the Containment Zone along with the Buffer Zones.

Concerned officers informed the Commissioner Secretary that all required SOPs restrictions are in vogue with full strictness to ensure prevention of COVID-19 in Sankoo.

Commissioner Secretary was informed that

as a part of active surveillance ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers and ANMs are doing active house to house surveillance on daily basis to identify persons with acute respiratory symptoms and influenza-like illness in the zone.

Moreover, door to door supply of essential commodities including ration, LPG cylinders, medicines and fresh vegetables are being ensured within the Containment Zone by the team of officers already constituted.

The officers further informed the Commissioner Secretary that as a preemptive measure a 50 bedded and a 20 bedded quarantine facility have been set up at Sankoo and Tai Suru with all required facilities.

Commissioner Secretary stressed officers to further intensify surveillance measures so as to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner Secretary also visited Community Health Center (CHC) Sankoo and took stock of medicare facilities to patients. He instructed the doctors and paramedics to work with dedication to ensure the provision of satisfactory healthcare facilities to people in the area.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Don't dilly-dally in taking decisions



The ways of taking a decision varies from person to person. That is because each one of us has a different degree of ability to convince ourselves of the urgent need to take a decision and be done with that as fast as possible.

That is to say, everybody has the ability to decide but not everybody has the power of conviction. Therefore, without conviction, one can't

take a difficult decision, and keeps on dilly-dallying. The result: Loss of many a good opportunity.

Decision making is as important as aspiring for good things in life; and both are closely and necessarily related; one can't go without the other. When you aspire for something good in life, you need to take decisions, sometimes drastic ones. Similarly, there can't have anything to decide about when you have no aspirations and goals for fulfilment.

Whenever we are required to take a stand on a hard choice, we tend to wait, or ignore or even try to forget it. That is wrong because, as American author Jose N Harris says: "Waiting hurts, forgetting hurts. But not knowing which decision to take can sometimes be the most painful." For that kind of situation, one has to look within, or even consult friends. After all, there is nothing which can't have a solution. If you are left puzzled for a decision, you may have lost, temporarily, your power to sift the good from the bad. Nothing to worry about as that is normal and happens with all of us.

So, British theologian and author, C S Lewis, says, in such cases, "crying is alright... But you have to stop sooner or later, and then you still have to decide what to do."

It is here that you have to put together all your 'resources', including your 'hearty feelings', and find out a way to make a right choice out of a difficult situation. Convince yourself that you maybe, like the sky, temporarily clouded, but you know that clarity returns in no time.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

SKUAST issues agro advisory for farmers of Ladakh region

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic; farmers are advised to adopt the following measures at the individual as well as farm level:

- •While in the field maintain a distance of 1.5 to 2 meters from each other.
- •The seedlings nursery should be kept covered till the germination takes place. Go for light irrigation if germination has taken place.
- •As the sowing season is going on; while going to market for purchase of different inputs or selling of produce, do make use of masks and hand sanitizer at every 20 minutes of interval.
- •Grafting and Plantation for orchards or other trees can be carried out. For plantation the pits should be dug 2 feet deep and should be applied sufficient amount of manure.
- •Livestock should be kept in hygienic conditions and given nutritious feed and fodder.
- •There is no proof that the disease is linked to poultry. So any type of distress sale of poultry birds or its products should be avoided.
- •Plan for the sowing of next crops by arranging for necessary inputs.
- •Farmers producing vermi compost should

take care of the worms. With the temperature increasing worms should be given proper feeding (dried leaves, straw, more than 20 days old animal dung, saw dust, chopped kitchen waste etc).

- •Farmers' can post their queries at Whatsapp group 'Zyngbadpa' the contact no. for which is 7780988812. All their queries will be properly addressed to.
- •Farmers' can also call the toll free no. 1800-180-1551 of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India for getting agricultural related information.

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, IAS, District Magistrate, Kargil

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Brief us about the different measures taken by the District administration, Kargil to cope up with the COVID-19 pandemic in the district.

As soon as we got the first case of COVID-19, Section 144 under Cr.PC has been imposed on March 17, 2020, in the entire Kargil district, banning gathering of more than 5 people. Kargil was one of the first districts to do so as a precautionary measure. Subsequently, using powers vested under me in Section 34 of the Disaster Management Act 2005, I had ordered the closure of all modes of transportation, gathering/rallies, offices (except dealing with essential services) etc.

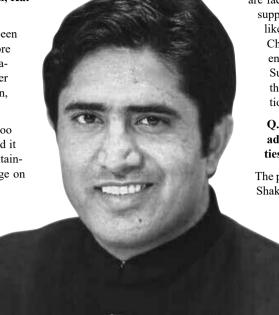
The first positive case in Kargil was reported on March 16 evening from Sankoo area. Next morning immediately we notified the area as a Containment Zone and it still continues to be so. Similarly, Khangral to Sanjak was also notified as Containment Zone as soon COVID-19 positive patient was reported from Sanjak village on April 1.

We have established Quarantine Centres with 1.116 beds capacity in different parts of the district which will be sufficient for now to accommodate the Iran returnees who are yet to reach back Kargil. There is a provision of temporary Isolation Hospital with 50 bed capacity for COVID-19 positive patients. Also, a 400 bed in Army area is also kept ready to use as and when required.

Q. How well equipped is the Kargil healthcare sector to tackle the whole situation.

At present, we have got only a limited number of positive or suspected patients comparing to which our existing health infrastructure, doctors, paramedics and other staffs are sufficient to deal with. But if there is an outbreak of the disease on a huge scale, the existing infrastructure and manpower may fall short. Keeping this in mind, a 50-Ventilator bedded hospital is being established in the new hospital building (under construction) at Kurbathang. Since the hospital is being established from the scratch, equipment like Ventilators, Monitors, ICU Beds, Portable X-ray Machine etc. are being requisitioned and procured. The hospital will be functional within 10 days' time.

In addition to this, a supplementary pool of manpower (about 800 persons) is kept ready in Kargil from different sectors like Red Cross Volunteers, NYK Volunteers, NCC, un-employed Junior Nurses and Pharmacists, Volunteers of IKMT and ISK, Officials and Teachers trained by Health Department, Kargil to handle basic health care activities regarding COVID-19.



Message to the readers

Humble request to all the people of Kargil, please stay at home and be safe. My thoughts are with everyone affected by the coronavirus pandemic. We all stand resolute with you and working to get through this difficult time. Cooperate administration and together we can eradicate COVID-19 from Ladakh very soon before everyone else in other parts of the Country and the World.

Q. There is a lot of concern related to shortages of essential commodities in the district. How District Administration, Kargil is ensuring the needs.

As all of us know that because of roads and air transport closure, we

are facing a shortage of some essential commodities. However, the most essential supplies like medicines and medical equipment, vegetables and some other items like sugar, milk, dal etc. are being airlifted through Air Force from Jammu and Chandigarh. These essential commodities are being sent and distributed in the entire district turn by turn. We have distributed rice and atta through Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department in advance for April and May in the entire district. Once the road opens for essential commodities, the distribution and supply of goods will become smooth and normal.

Q. Tell us about the containment and buffer zone of Kargil district. How administration is ensuring the supply of essential/non-essential commodities in the containment zone as well as in the Buffer zones.

The positive cases have been reported from two regions of the district, Sankoo and Shakar-Chiktan (Sanjak) and both these areas have been notified as Containment Zones since March 17 and April 2 respectively. In both, the zones team

headed by the respective SDMs are in constant touch with the Nodal Officer for essential supplies. Special vehicles for both the containment zones have been designated for daily supply of medicines, vegetables, rations and other essential supplies.

The surrounding villages of both the Containment Zones have been notified as Buffer Zones in order to make sure that movement in the Containment Zones and outside them are completely restricted. Arrangements for essential supplies in the Buffer Zones have also been done on similar pattern with the Containment Zones.

Q. Amidst the national lockdown, what are the different measures taken for the welfare of migrant labours?

Till date, free ration including 10 kg Rice, 5 Kg Atta, 2 kg Dal, 1 kg Salt, 1 kg Cooking Oil, half kg Milk powder and two pieces of soap have been distributed among 1,271 migrant labours.

There is no need of shelter homes for them as of now as all of them are staying in rented rooms. Shelter shall be provided as and when required. Among the migrant labourers, there are many women also but all of them a part of families living in different parts of the district. Therefore, separate shelters for women are not required and no gender-based violence has been reported in the district till date. Apart from food, water and sanitation facilities are also being pro-

...Continues on Page 6

Fortnight Highlights



All Ladakh Tour Operators Association (ALTOA) in collaboration with Peoples Action Group for Inclusive Rights (PAGIR) stitches masks for the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh.



Distribution of ration to the ration card holders of Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY), BPL and Priority Households (PHH) in Khaltse, Skindyang and Tia village under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).



Screening of drivers and supporting staff of oil tankers before reaching Kargil. Oil tankers of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) crossed Zojila amidst strict observance of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and conditions issued by the UT Administration.



Rigzin Samphel, Commissioner Secretary, Health, UT Ladakh along with Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC, Kargil taking stock of the mask production for free distribution at a local workshop in Kargil.



 ${\it Migrant\ labours\ in\ Leh\ district\ waiting\ for\ their\ share\ of\ free\ ration\ provided\ by\ District\ administration,\ Leh.}$

First CII, Ladakh Council meeting held









Reach Ladakh Correspondent

Leh: The first meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Ladakh Council was held on April 10.

Nawang Thinles, Chairman, CII Ladakh Council highlighted various difficulties faced by businesses during the nationwide lockdown caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, be it in the Tourism sector, Infrastructure & Construction, Supply chain & Logistics and others.

He appreciated the UT administration for tackling the pandemic.

Nawang Thinles laid out the plans for the year ahead including capacity building program for Engineers & Civil Contractors planned for May ending, if the situation permits, painting competition for schools in June to celebrate CII@125 years, roundtable dis-

cussion on Agri-Food Processing planned for July.

Further planning such as workshops on TDS/GST in August, awareness session on Export & Import is planned with Directorate General of Foreign Trade and Business to Business festival is planned outside Ladakh for winters.

Mohd. Aneyes highlighted the issues faced by the tourism industry. He emphasized on the short season Ladakhi have for business and said it would be difficult to repay the loans now. He suggested to take-up a CII delegation to the government for a bailout package, especially for tourism & hotel industry, since the majority of Ladakhis depend on it.

Jigmet Angchuk said that the current situation of lockdown due to Covid-19 had put a big dent on the economy of Ladakh. He said that even though the situation may be controlled in a month or so, it will still take more than 1-1.5 months to collect resources for doing business.

He stressed on various packages being announced by the central ministries like GST refund and other measures but said some special package needs to be announced for Ladakh. All other members also expressed their concern.

Surinder Pal Singh assured the members that some representation to the Central Ministries would be taken-up in the coming days and Ladak h will find special mention in it. He assured the members that CII foundation was working to extend any helping hand possible.

CEC, DC Kargil take stock of COVID-19 mitigation measures in Drass

Inspect snow clearance operations at Zojila Pass, listen to peoples' issues



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Hill Council, Kargil and Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC, Kargil took stock of the Administration and Health Department preparedness measure in mitigating COVID-19 in Drass on April 10.

They inspected the healthcare and other necessary facilities at the screening point and quarantine centre at Meenamarg and quarantine centre established at Tourist Facilitation Center (TFC) Drass.

Concerned officers informed that in addition to the 28 bedded quarantine facilities set up at

TFC Drass and Meenamarg, one more 35 bedded quarantine centre has been established at Trauma Center Sub District Hospital,

CEC and DC lauded the efforts of the SDM Drass and other officers who established the required facilities in a short span of time. They asked officers to be in the state of complete preparedness to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Drass Sub Division.

They also inspected snow clearance operations at Pathri near Zojila Pass. Concerned officers for snow clearance operations informed that the clearance of snow triggered by fresh snowfall

is in operation in full swing from both sides. Around 100-meter stretch is yet to be cleared, and the snow clearance is expected to be completed by tomorrow.

Meanwhile, a number of people including the BDC members of Drass met the CEC and DC Kargil and projected their issues and demands which mainly included augmentation of ration and water facilities.

CEC and DC assured people that all their genuine demands would be fulfilled in a phased manner. In case of certain demands like augmentation of water supply officers concerned were given on spot directions for resolution.

They urged people to follow the lockdown, social distancing and other COVID-19 preventive measures in letter and spirit so as to contain the spread of the deadly virus. They assured the availability of ration and essential commodities from time to time during the lockdown so that they do not face any inconvenience.

L-G meets EC (Minority) & President, Anjuman-e-Imamiya



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R.K. Mathur was called upon by Mumtaz Hussain, Executive Councilor (Minority), Hill Council, Leh along with President Anjuman-e-Imamiya at Raj Niwas on April 14. The delegation submitted a memorandum seeking early evacuation of Iran returned pilgrims who have completed their mandatory quarantine period in different places in India. They also requested the early evacuation of students, patients and old aged persons from Ladakh stuck

in different parts of the country due to the imposition of nationwide lockdown.

Further request was made to the Lt. Governor to evacuate them on priority considering the rising temperature, food and health-related issues faced by them.

Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, appoints nodal officers in other parts of country

Assures redressal of grievances faced by students and others stranded outside Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas designated officers and officials for redressal of the grievances of the students and residents residing outside Ladakh UT on April 12.

The aim is to ensure the safety and welfare of the students and residents of Ladakh in various parts of the country amid COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown.

Nodal Officers and Officials for Delhi and other states include Kaneez Fatima, KAS (9873039462), Sumera Shafi, KAS (9818593105) and Deputy SP Ghulam Haider, In Charge Security Liaison Officer at New Delhi (7006688046).

Likewise, Urgain Nurboo, Assistant Engineer, PHE (600550398) and Amjad Khan, Auditor, Cooperative Department Leh (9797643415) are Nodal Officers and Officials designated for Chandigarh.

Muhammad Yusuf, Physical Education Master, Department of Youth Services and Sports Kargil (9469928361) and Dawa Tsering, MPW, Rural Development Department Nyoma, Leh (9469541633) have been designated as Nodal Officers/ Officials for Jammu.

In Kashmir, Tariq Hussain, AEE Procurement Division Kargil (97979034661) has been designated as Nodal Officer.

The order reads that the designated Nodal Officers/Officials shall coordinate with the Government authorities of Jammu, Kashmir, Chandigarh, New Delhi and other states who will keep close coordination with the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh for effective and swift redressal of grievances.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'LADAKH CHESS ASSOCIATION' with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Gyal P Wangyal	CEC, LEH	President
2	Suresh Kumar (Leh)	Coach	Secretary General
3	Stanzin Choldan (Leh)	Businessman	Treasurer
4	Tsewang Gyatso (Leh)	Social Worker	Vice President
5	Lobzang Pladan (Leh)	Businessman	Vice President
6	Stanzin Namgail (Leh)	Businessman	Executive member
7	Kunzes Angmo (Leh)	Social Worker	Executive member

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to the Registrar of Societies Director Industries & Commerce UT Ladakh within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

'LADAKH CHESS ASSOCIATION' Leh UT Ladakh

Baseer ul Haq Choudhary

...Continued from page 5

vided to all the migrant workers including women and children. Separate wards/rooms have been reserved for women in all the Quarantine Centres established in the district with women doctors and paramedics.

Trained professionals under the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) and doctors have been making frequent visits to the migrant workers' homes to provide counselling and other medical aids with special focus on the women and children. Community Group leaders in all parts of the district are also making a visit to the homes of migrant workers to extend all possible help required by them.

Volunteers of Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust (IKMT), Islamia School, Kargil (ISK), District Red Cross Society, Kargil, NYK, Kargil and NCC have

also been engaged to extend all possible help to the migrant workers in all parts of the district.

Q. Brief us about the action to be taken if anyone is found violating COVID-19 lockdown and spreading false messages and post on social media.

Very strict and severe actions are being taken against anyone found violating the COVID-19 lockdown orders and guidelines. We have already lodged many FIRs and have cancelled route permits of about 10 vehicles who are found violating the orders. As far as the false message and social media are concerned, on March 9, I issued an order warning all admins of social media groups not to spread messages/news and to immediately enable message uploading status to 'only admin can send messages'. Also, many FIRs lodged in this regard and investigation is going on. In future also strict action will be taken against anyone violating the lockdown orders and guidelines whosoever it may be.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'LADAKH KABADI ASSOCIATION' with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Tsewang Gyatso (Leh)	Social worker & Businessman	President
2	Amit Kumar (Leh)	Coach	Secretary General
3	Stanzin Choldan (Leh)	Businessman	Treasurer
4	Lobzang Pladan (Leh)	Social Worker	Vice President
5	Stanzin Namgail	Businessman	Vice President
6	Padma Yangdol (Leh)	PTI	Executive member
7	Tundup Namgail (Leh)	Social Worker	Executive member

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to the Registrar of Societies Director Industries & Commerce UT Ladakh within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

President 'LADAKH KABADI ASSOCIATION' Leh UT Ladakh









District Administration Leh

@DC_Leh_Official

24X7 Control room - 01982-257416,

www.leh.nic.in



District Administration Leh Union Territory of Ladakh

VEGETABLES ON WHEEL

Call For Orders 6005518426 9419219529

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To fight the COVID -19 out break we are working with minimum staff, so help us to help you and avoid unnecessary calls and messages.

Twitter: @ DC_Leh_Official, Facebook: District Administration Leh 24X7 Control Room: 01982-257416, www.leh.nic.in

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