

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Fortnightly Special

COVID-19: Lesson learned and way forward

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## Brief News

### Mahabodhi felicitates COVID-19 frontline warriors

CHOGLAMSAR: Mahabodhi International Meditation centre felicitated COVID-19 frontline warriors on July 14 at Choglamsar.

IGP, Ladakh Satish Khandare was the chief guest.

Venerable Sanghasena, Founder, MIMC expressed gratitude to all the frontline warriors including, the Medical department, police, media fraternity, NGO's and many others who worked for Ladakh tirelessly. He said that COVID-19 situation in Ladakh is not so serious like in other parts of the world and the credit goes to the efforts of corona warriors to control the spread of virus.

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Courtesy Tsetan Angmo



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## REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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## Ladakh celebrates 85<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Offering prayer for His Holiness good health and long life.

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Congratulating and praying for His Holiness Dalai Lama's good health and long life on his 85th birthday, Ladakh Buddhist Association, All Ladakh Gonpa Association, and Sonamling Tibetan Settlement jointly organised a symbolic celebration on July 6 at Jivetsal.

P T Kunzang, President, LBA said that due to COVID-19 pandemic, this year His Holiness birthday is being celebrated with a small gathering. On behalf of the people of Ladakh he wished and prayed for Dalai Lama's long life and hoped for his visit to Ladakh next year.

Chief Representative Officer, Tsetan Wangchuk talked about His Holiness Dalai Lama's message to his followers on his 85th birth anniversary. His Holiness asked his followers to recite 'Om Mani Padme hung' mantra 1000 times.

Tsetan Wangchuk further reiterated four commitments of Dalai Lama which in-

clude oneness of humanity, preservation of Tibetan Culture and environment, promotion of religious harmony, and revival of Ancient India knowledge. He urged everyone to create awareness about the four commitments of His Holiness and also practice it in our daily life.

The representative of Gonpa Association, Presidents of LBA women, and youth wing also spoke on the occasion.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Jetsun Jampel Ngawang Lobsang Yeshe Tenzin Gyatso was born on July 6, 1935 in the small village of Taktser, in the province of Amdo. He is believed to be manifestations of Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig, the Bodhisattva of Compassion. In 1959, following the brutal suppression of the Tibetan national uprising in Lhasa by Chinese troops, His Holiness was forced to escape into exile. Since then he has been living in Dharamsala. In 1989, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet.

## Aksai Chin integral part of Ladakh: Ram Madhav



Ram Madhav addressing the BJP, Ladakh party members.

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Bharatiya Janata Party, Leh celebrated His Holiness Dalai Lama and Late Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's birth anniversary at party office on July 6.

Ram Madhav, BJP, National General Secretary congratulated His Holiness on his 85th birth anniversary and wished for the long life. He said that His Holiness is not just a spiritual leader of the Tibetan community but an epitome of peace and compassion.

He also paid tribute to the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the predecessor of BJP on his 119th birth anniversary. He said that Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the first leader who inspired and sacrificed his life for India's unity and integrity.

He reiterated the struggle of Dr. Prasad to develop Jammu and Kashmir and make India one. He said that he was the leader who inspired the abrogation of Article 370.

Talking about one nation, he said that all the land which has been occupied by the neighbouring countries will be brought back and the BJP government is striving hard to achieve the aim. He talked about India's claim to Aksai chin as its own which has been illegally occupied by China.

"Chinese have been intruding in our land for years and nomads residing in border areas are losing their grazing lands. Modi Government has changed its strategy to safeguard the land and we will not lose any more lands but instead put our all effort to get back all the lands we lost", he added.

Ram Madhav said that India does not want war but will defend its land.

Talking about the recent visit of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to Ladakh, Ram Madhav said that amidst growing tension in the border area, Narendra Modi's visit has motivated the soldiers

...Continues on Page 3



**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, LEH**  
"CONGRATULATION"  
NO BOTCH!

**Class 12<sup>th</sup> Board Examination AISSCE results for the session 2019-20 was declared yesterday. Students of D.P.S,Leh brought laurels for the school by showing fabulous results in the C.B.S.E. board exams.**

**Toppers from various streams are as under:**

 <b>Minza Ilahi - 81.8%</b> Science Stream	 <b>Insha Rashid - 84.6%</b> Humanities	 <b>Skarma Gyalsen - 80.4%</b> Commerce
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**The Management, Principal and the Staff - Members of Delhi Public School,Leh congratulate students for successfully qualifying class -12<sup>th</sup> board examination .**

**P.V.C Mr. T.P. Singh also congratulated the students and worthy parents and appreciated the efforts made by the Teaching Faculty.**

## Ram Madhav meets representatives of Ladakh



Bharatiya Janata Party, National General Secretary, Ram Madhav after the meeting at Hotel Grand Dragon, Leh.

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Bharatiya Janata Party, National General Secretary, Ram Madhav convened a closed-door meeting with the members of Hill Council, Leh, representatives of Block Development Councils, Mandal presidents, and District Executives during his two day visit to Ladakh on July 5 and 6.

Discussion on various issues including Hill Council empowerment, developmental activities carried out in Ladakh after UT status, party activities, and to review the coordination of UT administration and Hill Council was carried out.

Members of Hill Council, Leh

demanding empowerment and strengthening of Hill Council which has achieved the autonomous status after lots of struggle and sacrifice.

Councilors of Hill Council, Leh raised the issue faced because of the lack of coordination between the Hill Council and UT administration. After the grant of UT status, a gap in the relation between Hill Council and UT administration led to the protest of Hill Council members in front of Raj Niwas on May 4 over the lack of comprehensive roadmap by the UT administration for the evacuation of stranded people outside Ladakh and evacuation of patient and old age people by air. Earlier, an audio clip of BJP local leaders

accusing UT administration headed by Lt. Governor R K Mathur for taking decisions without taking Hill Council into confidence also got viral. Members of Hill Council, Leh demanded empowerment and strengthening of Hill Council which has achieved the autonomous status after lots of struggle and sacrifice.

As per the sources, discussion was also held to convince Chering Dorjay Lakruk, Former BJP Ladakh, President back in the party who resigned from his political position and party membership in May. The resignation letter of Chering Dorjay accused UT administration of rendering the autonomous Hill Council of both Leh and Kargil ineffective. Also, the allegation was made on UT administration insensitivity and callous attitude to evacuate stranded passengers, pilgrims, and students of Ladakh in different other states amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairmen of the Block Development Council requested Ram Madhav to get their office established soon to carry out their work efficiently and effectively. Also, they asked for the funds of BDC to be sanctioned.

## L-G Mathur launches Mental Health OPD, Telephonic Medical consultation

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Mental Health OPD and Telephonic Medical Consultation in both the district hospitals of Leh and Kargil were launched digitally by R K Mathur, Lieutenant Governor on July 13 at Raj Niwas.

Dr. Padma Angmo, Psychiatrist informed about the growing number of mental health issues in Ladakh including depression, drug addiction, and suicides.

R K Mathur expressed his hope that the mental health facilities in hospitals will provide help and support to the people who have mental health issues. He stressed on the need to strengthen the psychiatry role in district hospitals and to have de-addiction centres in Leh and Kargil.

Also, he enquired about the availability of COVID-19 testing capacity in Ladakh keeping



During the launch of Mental Health OPD and Telephonic Medical Consultation in Ladakh.

in view the need for tourism.

Dr. Phuntsog Angchuk, Director Health informed about the services to be provided in the mental health OPD that include general psychiatry, psychotherapy, behavioural therapy, child guidance clinic, and de-addiction. The OPD days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

He said that the telephonic medical consultation OPD will be available at SNM Hospital,

Leh from Tuesday to Saturday, and at District Hospital, Kargil from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People can avail the telephonic consultation OPD services in Leh on 01982-256907 and 01985-233255 for Kargil district hospital.

Dr. Angchuk informed R K Mathur about the procurement of one additional COVID-19 testing machine (RT – PCR) and an automatic RNA Extractor for Ladakh with the help of ICMR.

## 11 arrested in connection with bitumen scam in Leh



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Two junior engineers of GREF, a crusher plant owner, and 8 truck drivers were arrested in connection with the bitumen scam in Leh on the intervening night of July 6 and 7. 480 barrels of bitumen worth ₹36,30,663

was seized.

A case FIR No.179/2020 under section 409,411,109,120-B of IPC was registered at Police Station Leh.

The incident came into light on the intervening night of July 6

and 7 when the patrolling party of Police Station, Leh headed by ASI, Rigzin Paljor noticed some suspicious movement of 8 trucks to a crusher plant. When police raided the location, it was found that all the trucks loaded with Bitumen were being unloaded at the crusher plant. Each truck was carrying 60 barrels, making a total of 480 bitumen barrels. On further inquiry of the tax invoice vouchers produced by the drivers, it was found that the 60 barrels of bitumen belonged to GREF and were meant to be unloaded somewhere else.

All the accused are under police remand and the case is in the investigation process.



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

Dance means everything to me. I feel like I am the best version of myself when I am dancing. I feel like I am in a different world. I have always liked being on stage. The first time was at a small event in my mother's village. My sister and I even wore matching dresses while performing. Back then I had no idea that I would open the first dance academy of Ladakh.

I started taking professional dance classes in Delhi in 11th standard. After a month, the teacher encouraged me to try more dance forms. I started to learn which forms belong to me and what kind of emotions I build when I move this way or dance that way. I learnt that ballet has the deepest techniques and auditioned for the Imperial Fernando Ballet Company, the best ballet school in India. I was one among the 17 selected people and got full scholarship.

By this time, I was already pursuing mechanical and automotive engineering. I used to get up at 4 or 5 in the morning to study, go to college for attendance and by noon, head to the dance studio. I would return at night and study some more. In my final year, I dropped dancing and enrolled in engineering coaching. I studied the whole year and was placed at General Motors. That year taught me that I am not an engineer. I did not take the job and continued dancing with the ballet company.

My parents didn't know anything about me pursuing dance. They thought I was preparing for further studies. In Ladakh, if you are going to be someone, you have to be an engineer or a doctor. That's what we were fed since childhood. If we weren't, maybe we would realize our passion sooner. About a year after my graduation I knew I had to say something, so I told my mom. She thought that I was only dancing till I was in Delhi and accepted what I wanted to do.

Around that time, I had injured my ribcage and was in a big dilemma. I thought that if my body doesn't support me, how I will be able to dance throughout my life. In June 2017, I returned to Ladakh and told my parents that I wanted to open a dance academy. I felt that without it, there would be no generation gap between me and those that follow. They would also have to go outside Ladakh to learn that we can do something different. I wanted to give them a platform.

I asked my parents to give me a year and if it didn't work, I could lean back on my degree. Once they realized that I had a plan, my father started looking for a space to rent for the dance studio. When I started the admissions at the end of 2017, I had seven students. Two of them were my cousins. I never used to count how many students came. I was full of positivity and energy. I would mop, sweep, teach and clean. I was everything. This winter, I had 700 students.

I feel I have learnt everything from dancing, especially discipline. It's the most important thing I needed. I got it from dance and it got me here.

Storyteller: Richen Angmo, Takmachik

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## Rajiv Pandey joins as new SSP of Leh

Hill Council, District police bids farewell to Sargun Shukla; appreciates her service



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Rajiv Pandey, a 2010 batch IPS officer, took charge as the new senior superintendent of police (SSP) of Leh on July 7. He replaced SSP Sargun Shukla.

An introductory meeting was also held by Rajiv Pandey in presence of Sargun Shukla at

Conference Hall, DPO. All the Gazetted Officers, SHOs, In-charge Police Posts, and Section Incharges of the District Police were present.

Meanwhile, Hill Council, Leh also gave a warm farewell to Sargun Shukla, SSP on her transfer from Leh, Ladakh. A simple

function was held at Council Secretariat on July 7.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh thanked Sargun Shukla for her cooperation and support to LAHDC, Leh, and citizens of Leh during her tenure. He wished her all the best for her new posting and career.

Also, Hill Council, Leh welcomed the new SSP, Rajiv Pandey IPS (JK-2010). They hope the new SSP will give his best in maintaining law and order in Leh district in close coordination with LAHDC, Leh, and civil society.

Rajiv Omprakash Pandey served as SP Rural Jammu, Incharge SSP Jammu, SSP Poonch and SSP Udhampur earlier.

## L-G Mathur launches Mission Organic Development Initiative, Ladakh Greenhouse Project



During the launch of Mission Organic Development Initiative of Ladakh and Ladakh Greenhouse Project.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur discussed roles and functioning of both the Hill Councils, Leh and Kargil with the CEC's Gyal P. Wangyal and Feroz Ahmed Khan on July 4.

Lieutenant Governor emphasized on enhancing the abilities of both the Hill Council to fully utilize their budget and deliver greater benefits to the people of Ladakh.

He also launched the Mission Organic Development Initiative (M.O.D.I) of Ladakh and Ladakh Greenhouse Project aiming to steer Ladakh on a sustainable path.

Initiated by Hill Council, Leh in 2019, Mission Organic Development Initiative is a Special Development Project budgeted at ₹ 500 crore to introduce organ-

ic farming into the mainstream agricultural production system. The project is proposed to be implemented in three phases in different blocks of Leh and Kargil districts.

In the first phase, 66 villages of Leh and Kargil districts will be converted into organic villages by the end of the financial year 2020, while 85 villages will achieve certification by 2023. The final phase of M.O.D.I will include the conversion of 90 villages as organic by 2025.

R K Mathur said, "By converting Ladakh into an organic state, we will be able to achieve Prime Minister Modi's vision of a Carbon Neutral Ladakh." He said that establishing a proper supply chain and infrastructure to process and market the product is of utmost importance.

Other than transforming agriculture in Ladakh into a sustainable occupation, M.O.D.I will enable farmers to realize 30% to 40% of additional income by leveraging the demand of the organic market.

Ladakh Greenhouse Project was also launched to improve vegetable availability in Ladakh through deep winter greenhouse farming. A result of six years of research and development, the greenhouse using polycarbonate as the covering material, has been developed by the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR). In comparison to traditional greenhouses, the polycarbonate greenhouse is found to be warmer, requires lower maintenance, can withstand snow load, and has a shelf life of 20 – 25 years. Most importantly, these greenhouses can be cultivated round the year.

Lauding the initiative, R K Mathur stated that all households must be able to benefit from these greenhouses and suggested construction in village clusters to support the value chain and derive commercial advantage.

The project has been allotted a budget of ₹ 76.44 crore and is targeting the installation of 1676 greenhouses over two years in Leh and Kargil districts. Hill Council, Leh, and Kargil will select beneficiaries for implementation for both the projects.

## Hill Council, Kargil, delegation calls on L-G Mathur

Discuss functioning of Hill Councils, relation with UT Administration

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Delegation of Hill Council, Kargil led by Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC met functionaries of UT administration and Hill Council, Leh during a three-day visit to Leh from July 4 to 7.

The delegation discussed various key issues with Hill Council, Leh, including roles and responsibilities of the Hill Council in the present setup. Need to clearly define the jurisdiction of all the public institutions in the context of the LAHDC Act was stressed upon.

Need of framing Domicile Law and putting on hold any recruitment till such a law is enacted, incorporation of the LAHDC Act 1997 in the setup of PFMS so as to enable the LAHDCs to realize their true purpose, delegation of financial powers to subordinates of the LG and issues arising out of it, enhancement of exercising of financial powers by the LAHDCs, relaxation in the tendering process given the short working season, formulation of business rules, transfers and postings of employees, complete revocation of SRO 202, regularization of Rehbar-e-Khel Teachers, recruitments of the local youth in J&K Bank, special reservation in professional colleges of the UT J&K and the rest of the country,

intervention needed for resolution of issues related to Ladakh supplies, mass promotion of students from Class I to Class IX, release of funds to meet reimbursement cost of transportation charges of students, patients and residents evacuated from the rest of the country and other issues were discussed.

A joint delegation of Hill Council, Leh and Kargil called upon Lieutenant Governor, R. K Mathur. Advisor to LG Umang Narula;

Commissioner/Secretary, Rigzin Samphel; Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas besides other senior officers were also present.

R K Mathur assured Hill Council's that the demand highlighted shall be given due consideration.

Feroz Ahmed Khan also submitted a separate memorandum to the LG Ladakh enlisting some specific issues pertaining to Kargil district. He urged the LG to implement the SRO 120 in letter and spirit thereby effecting the rotation of the office of the Divisional Commissioner in Kargil at the earliest. He further requested to expedite the setup of the Administrative Headquarters of UT Ladakh at Kargil.

Also, the establishment of COVID-19 lab in Kargil, trans-

fer of employees of Kargil presently working outside the district as well as outside the UT Ladakh, the stationing of Directors at their respective headquarters, payment of work done liabilities of works executed on the 200 Bedded Hospital at Kurbathang and various works executed under Languishing Projects, completion of feasibility study of the Kargil Airport for the landing of Boeing sized aircraft and evacuation of the Kurbathang Plateau were also highlighted.

R K Mathur directed the Advisor to address the issues raised by the CEC on a priority basis.

Advisor, Umang Narula informed that some doctors of District Hospital Kargil have been nominated for training at a special COVID Training Facility at Chandigarh and establishment of a separate COVID-19 lab at Kargil is also in the pipeline.

Regarding the implementation of SRO 120, he informed that Additional Commissioner as envisaged in the SRO 120 has been sought from UT J&K for the purpose of operation of the office of the Divisional Commissioner at Kargil. Also, UT Administration Ladakh is in the process of setting up offices of the UT Administration in Kargil and the same shall be expedited

## Hill Council, Leh welcomes Secretary, Ravinder Kumar; discuss major projects

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Hill Council, Leh led by Gyal P Wangyal, CEC welcomed Secretary, Ravinder Kumar, and discussed departments under his portfolio on July 13.

Expressing great hope on Ravinder Kumar, Gyal P Wangyal said that his administrative experience including his service as SDM Nubra in the year 2014-15 would immensely benefit Ladakh.

He briefed Secretary Kumar about the functioning and role of Hill Council, Leh in the overall development of Leh district. Also, he highlighted the need of solving stray dog menace in Leh district on priority, early completion of Ice Hockey Rink at Leh, promotion of sports like Archery, Marathon, Athletics, Ice-Hockey, and Boxing.

Phuntsog Stanzin, EC Agriculture stressed early completion of Cold Storage and Milk Pasteurization plants at Leh to benefit farmers in the coming months and provision for allotment of Cow units under the Mission Organic Development Initiative scheme.

Gyal P Wangyal highlighted the scope and potential of Solar,



Gyal P Wangyal, CEC along with Executive Councillors welcoming Secretary, Ravinder Kumar at Council Secretariat.

Hydel, and geothermal energy in Leh district. He directed Secretary Kumar to focus on mega solar energy projects starting with 50 MW Solar Power Plants at Leh and laying of transmission lines in Dha-Hanu valley to make the best use of 18 MW Hydel power generation from Dha and Hanu Hydel projects which are at the last stage of its commissioning.

Ravinder Kumar assured to give his best in achieving the maximum and quality results, focusing on major pending and new projects.

He said that to solve stray dog menace which is becoming a major problem and threat for humans as well as domestic and

wildlife animals in Leh will be taken seriously by involving the community in a campaign mode in the coming days.

He said that Ladakh not only has huge potential to become self-reliant in power generation but can emerge as a supplier of clean energy to other states in the future. He further added that harnessing solar, hydel, and geothermal energy in Ladakh would be a prime focus.

Regarding technical education and skill development in Leh, Secretary Kumar said that he is trying to expand the campus of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI Leh) to conduct skill training to unemployed youths of Ladakh at large scale.

## Advisor Umang Narula visits Durbuk Sub-Division



Umang Narula reviewing the functioning of various departments at Durbuk Sub-division.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor, Umang Narula reviewed the functioning of various departments at Durbuk Sub-division on July 11.

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Durbuk, Rigzin Spalgon; Executive Engineer, R&B, Ghulam Nabi; Executive Engineer, I&FC, Tashi Tundup; Executive Engineer, PHE, Sonam Wangchuk, Tehsildar, Durbuk, Abdul Rahim; BDO Durbuk, Dr. Arif and other officers of the Sub-Division.

Rigzin Spalgon briefed Umang Narula about various developmental activities and overall functioning of the Departments

at the Sub-divisional level. Umang Narula asked the officers to judiciously utilize the remaining period of the working season to execute the works on time.

Discussion on the measures to augment the sources of livelihood of the population dependent on livestock rearing was held. Umang Narula asked Irrigation & Flood Control Department to explore new methods of irrigation such as drip irrigation to increase the pasture land.

The Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department informed about Pashmina production in the area and the market linkages being facilitated by the department to

the producers. Umang Narula instructed the department to guide the livestock dependant population in diversifying their produce by value addition. He advised the department to explore and promote cheese and butter production.

The Agriculture and Cooperative Department was asked to encourage organic manure among the farmers and make it available to the farmers, to achieve the objectives of the Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) of Ladakh. The department was asked to conduct special drives to ensure 100% coverage of eligible beneficiaries under the beneficiary oriented schemes.

Tashi Namgyal, Councillor, Tangtse; Sarpanch Tangtse, and Sarpanch Durbuk met the Advisor and apprised him of various issues pertaining to the area. Sarpanch Man-Pangong and Lamberdar Phobrang discussed their grievances with the Advisor.

Umang Narula assured that all necessary steps will be taken to redress their grievances.

## Aksai Chin integral part of Ladakh: Ram Madhav

...Continued from page 1

who are guarding the territory. The visit has spread across the message that Prime Minister of India is standing along with the soldiers to guard the land.

He also assured to strengthen and empower Hill Council and infrastructure development of border areas.

Along with wishing His Holiness Dalai Lama on his birthday, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh also commemorated Dr. Shyama Prasad

Mukherjee.

Reiterating the slogan of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, "Ek desh mein do vidhaan, do nishaan, do pradhanaan nahin chalega" he said, "Abrogation of Article 370 fulfilled the dream of leader and today Ladakh is connected full-fledged with the nation and is on the road to development."

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Haji Anayat Ali, District President's of Leh and Kargil also spoke on the occasion.

# COVID-19: Lesson learned and way forward



**Dr. Yangchen Dolma**

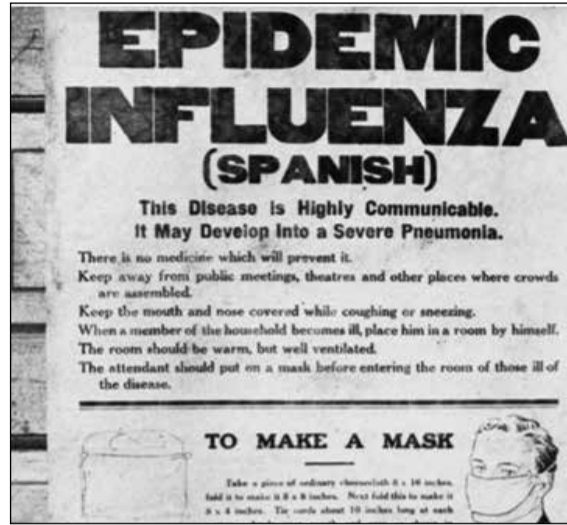
World Health Organization (WHO) identified a new type of 2019 novel coronavirus (mutant strain) in early January 2020 and was named COVID-19 officially on February 10. As the virus spreads rapidly around the world, WHO declared the novel coronavirus outbreak Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On March 11, COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. The mortality rate caused by COVID-19 is on the rise with no vaccine available to date.

The novel coronavirus is categorized under an emerging and re-emerging infectious disease. Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious diseases are newly identified, previously unknown infections or those spreading to new geographical areas causing public health problems either nationally or internationally. History has witnessed many emerging and re-emerging diseases like Spanish flu in 1918, H1N1 flu in 2009, SARS in 2003, and MERS CoV in 2012.

India reported the first case of coronavirus on January 30, 2020. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a travel advisory for international travelers entering the country to self-quarantine for 14 days. Travel visas were cancelled until April 15, 2020, and state administrations were asked to invoke the Epidemic Disease Act. On 24 March 2020, Prime Minister ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days which got extended up to June with conditional re-

laxation. The lockdown period brought fruitful results in India as compared to the global figures in recovery rate, flattening of the epidemic curve, time for preparedness of setting up makeshift dedicated COVID-19 hospital, and procurement of logistics. Keeping in view the decreased prevalence of COVID-19 in proportion to the total population of India and long term detrimental impact on the Indian economy, Government announced lockdown relaxations in phased manner except for containment zones. On June 8, India stepped out after 74 days.

To prevent the community spread and to contain the virus, states issued their guidelines in line with the national guidelines. To mount the response for containing the spread of the virus in India, ₹15,000 crore has been approved by the cabinet on 22 April 2020. The main objective of COVID-19 Emergency Response and health system preparedness package is to slow down and limit the spread of coronavirus infection in India. It aims in developing diagnostics and COVID-19 dedicated treatment facilities, centralized procurement of essential medical equipment and drugs, setting up laboratories and bolster surveillance activities, pandemic research, engage communities, and conduct risk communication activities. The project will be implemented in three phases from January 2020 to March 2024. Phase - 1 from January 2020 to June 2020, phase - 2 from July 2020 to March 2021, Phase - 3 from April 2021 to March 2024. Facilities such as COVID care centre, dedicated COVID health centre, COVID hospital with ICU facility have been set up. On July 5, the



Social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wearing masks, and lockdown measures to prevent community transmission is not a new concept.

world's largest COVID care facility with 10,000 beds was inaugurated.

Keeping all the facts of COVID-19, the world has learned that there are two ways to control the spread that is either by vaccination and herd immunity. Herd immunity is the indirect protection of a small portion of the population when most of the population is immune to an infectious disease. For COVID-19, we need 80% of the population to be immune to have herd protection with RO or naught value between 5 to 6 which determines the contagiousness of the infectious disease.

Vaccine development may take 12-18 months to launch as it involves a series of population-based clinical trials for efficacy to see if the vaccine works in ideal conditions and to test the effectiveness in real-world conditions and post-market-

ing surveillance. Besides this, planning for the identification of priority groups and information about epidemiology (study about population) is needed. As of date, at least 7 Indian companies are developing COVID-19 vaccines. As per the World Health Organization, 13 human trials are underway and more than 120 others are in the initial stage of development.

To conclude there is a need to address issues other than mortality, like widespread loss of access to health care, long term health complications that can follow COVID-19 infection, disruption to economic and social activity, psychosocial component, and social discrimination. Stringent and effective measures by testing, contact tracing, and isolation can reduce community transmission to a large extent. Also, it is necessary to un-

derstand the disease mechanism, attributable factors, health problems, emergence, and re-emergence to respond in a proportionate and timely manner. This will help in detecting, preventing, and combating future pandemics.

COVID-19 pandemic has taught the world that we need to invest our resources to cope with these emerging and re-emerging diseases by building up a robust public health infrastructure. No matter how much the world progresses, it has taught the lesson that 'Prevention is better than cure'.

*The writer is an Assistant Professor and Head Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Kathua, Jammu.*

*You can send your comments at yangchendolma12@gmail.com*

## District Magistrate, Leh further relaxes COVID-19 lockdown

*Allows restaurants/dhabas to open with 50% seating and Public Transport resumption with 25% seating capacity*

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority issued an order regarding Unlock 2.0 – opening of restaurants/ dhabas & resumption of public transport on July 13 and came into force from July 14.

The order reads as, "In continuation to this office order No. DCL/PS/COVID-19/OO/2020 Dated 12.06.2020 followed by order No. 701 Dated 02.07.2020, & order No. 708 Dated 07.07.2020, and in exercise of power conferred upon me under Section-34 of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Section-144 of CrPC, 1973, I, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, IAS, Chairman, DDMA/District Magistrate, Leh hereby order that:

All Restaurants/Dhabas and other hospitality services within district Leh shall be permitted to operate with 50% seating capacity as per the SOP. Also, public transport (Buses/Mazda Buses) shall be allowed to ply with 25% seating capacity as per the SOP.

However, the SOPs/Guidelines laid down by the MHA/MoHFW & UT Administration of Ladakh from time to time in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 shall be followed in letter & spirit.

### SOP for opening of Restaurants/Dhabas and other protocol services are:

1. Seating arrangement in the restaurant to be made in such a way that adequate social distancing is maintained.
2. Disposable menus are advised to be used.
3. Instead of cloth napkins, use of good quality disposable paper napkins to be encouraged.
4. Contactless mode of ordering and digital mode of payment (using e-wallets) to be encouraged.
5. Buffet service should also follow social distancing norms among guests.
6. Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitizer dispenser) and thermal screening provisions.
7. Only asymptomatic staff and patrons shall be allowed.
8. All staff and patrons to be allowed entry only if using face cover/masks. The face cover/masks have to be worn at all times inside the restaurant.
9. Posters/standees/AV media on preventive measures about COVID-19 to be displayed prominently.
10. Adequate manpower shall be deployed by restaurant management for ensuring social

distancing norms.

11. Specific markings may be made with sufficient distance to manage the queue and ensure social distancing in the premises.

12. Maintaining physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet, when queuing up for entry and inside the restaurant as far as feasible.

### SOP for Public Transport (Buses & Mazda Buses)

Plying of Public transport shall be permitted with the following conditions:

1. Buses shall ply with only 25% of the seating capacity.
2. Social distancing among passengers shall be ensured.
3. Municipal Committee, Leh shall mark circles at the Bus stops.
4. All the bus owners shall ensure availability of hand sanitizer in the buses.
5. Effective and frequent Sanitization of the buses including the handles, knob, buttons and frequently touched surfaces shall be ensured.
6. Passenger shall be made to sit in the buses as per social distancing norms.

## EC, Mumtaz Hussain inspects fish farm units in Nubra

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NUBRA: Executive Councillor, Mumtaz Hussain visited private fish rearing units on July 11 in Nubra valley.

It was found that the farmers of Hunder, Bogdang, Gradi, Turtuk, Tykshi, and Thang villages are raising fish and the production is increasing day by day.

Fisheries Department, Leh for the first time

succeeded in breeding and producing around 5000 Trout Fish seeds indigenously.

Mumtaz Hussain lauded the efforts of the technical staff of the department for the initiative. He said that earlier, Trout fish seeds were procured from Kashmir but in the coming days, the department of Fisheries Leh will produce the Trout fish seeds indigenously in Leh itself. He said that this will help in meeting the seed requirements of Leh district.



EC Mumtaz at the fish farm unit in Nubra.

## SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

### Caught in the idea of an idea



At times, writers struggle to get an idea to write about. True, they say that ideas are in the air, but how to sense them, 'capture' them and get them into a 'relatable shape' in our minds is not that easy.

To begin with, let us have a precise idea of what an idea is. A very simple way is to define an idea as a kind of thought or concept that can

be put into practice. But when you want to get into a more elaborate kind of definition, then one may say that an idea is a plan, or an image formed in one's mind after some effort, and as a result of a quest for something not easily accessible to one's mind.

Well, some of you might find it quite difficult to make any sense of, and some others may even find fault with it. Not an issue to get into a long 'yes-no' debate. When one gets into a philosophical narration, such things do happen invariably. In fact, such things are the very essence of a philosophical narrative.

Coming back to the idea of ideas and writers, one might say that ideas are the 'most delicious food' for thought for any writer. The first step to write is to have an idea that is good and 'saleable'. And the 'saleability' is the prime objective of any writer. After all, food for thought can be 'digested' only after one earns one's 'food for the stomach'!

Don't we say that in essence the pen is stronger than the sword? The pen as such has no strength and meaning; it acquires its strength when ideas flow through it. That is why philosophers throughout the ages have asserted that ideas, and ideas alone, can change the world. Remember Victor Hugo who had given a brilliant idea on idea: "There is one thing stronger than all the armies of the world; and that is an idea whose time has come."

Isn't that what we have to keep in mind, all the timer?

*Courtesy: WongWorld*

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

## Hill Council, Leh distributes 830 kanal land to 98 families of Stakna village



Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh along with MP, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal during the land distribution.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

STAKNA: 830 kanal rSrongspey Rantak land was allotted among 98 families of Stakna village on July 7.

Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh; MP, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and Councillor Martselang, Stanzin Chosphe, Goba, Sarpanch, and members of land distribution committee Stakna were present.

Gyal P Wangyal expressed happiness over land allotment in favour of Stakna village and

termed the day a historic one for the village. The land allotment was one of the oldest demands of the village.

He applauded the efforts of MP Ladakh and Councillor Martselang, Stanzin Chosphe for vigorously following the land distribution case for many years. Also, he appreciated the dedicated efforts of revenue staff headed by Tehsildar Leh, Sonam Gurmet and Naib Tehsildar Chushot, Mustaq Ahmad, and land distribution committee Stakna.

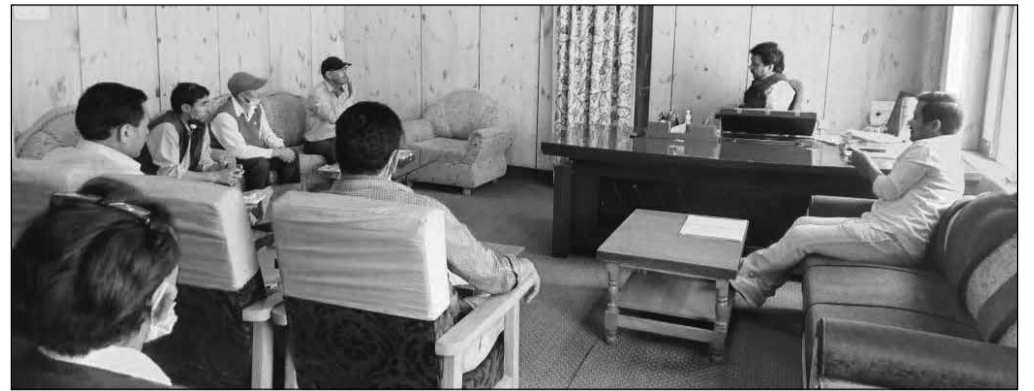
Also, he urged upon the people

to make the fullest use of the allotted land by converting it into a green patch in the shortest possible time. He assured all possible support from Hill Council Leh in providing irrigation and other required facilities.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal thanked 5th LAHDC, Leh led by CEC, Gyal P Wangyal for fulfilling this long-pending demand. He said that such a remarkable decision by Hill Council Leh initiated by area Councillors and land distribution committee Stakna village will be cherished and remembered by the coming generations of Stakna village. He urged upon the villages to make the best use of the allotted land and said that projects like MODI will also prove beneficial for such land.

Highlighting some major achievements of Stakna village including completion of the bridge over Indus river connecting Stakna village, he said that about ₹ 1 crore is proposed under SDP for providing drinking water facilities to the village.

## Meeting held to implement Mission Organic Development Initiative in Kargil district



Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Hill Council, Kargil convening a meeting with the officials on the implementation of Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) and Deep Winter Green House Farming schemes.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A review meeting on the implementation of Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) and Deep Winter Green House Farming schemes was convened by Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Hill Council, Kargil on July 8.

The schemes were launched for Ladakh UT by Lieutenant Governor, R.K Mathur.

Necessary measures and steps to be taken for implementation of the schemes in Kargil district were discussed.

Feroz Ahmed Khan underlined the importance of the schemes for enhancement of farmers' economy in the district. He directed the officers concerned to publicize the schemes through

print, electronic, and social media for information of the farmers before finalizing the list of the beneficiaries. Also, he asked the officers to conduct target specific seminars and awareness programs to sensitize the farmers and to ensure that they are informed about the schemes well in time.

EC Agriculture Muhammad Ali Chandan proposed that before the implementation of the above schemes in the district, a meeting with the Councilors of the LAHDC Kargil may be conducted to solicit their views and suggestions for successful implementation at ground level.

Feroz Ahmed Khan said that a meeting in this regard would be convened shortly. Also, Hill Council Kargil in consultation

with Hill Council, Leh will send a proposal to execute all the civil works through a dedicated agency having due experience of construction of Deep Winter Green Houses to ensure uniformity of design and longevity of the project.

Concerned officers were asked to gear up their field functionaries for successful implementation of the schemes at ground level without any hindrance by keeping close liaison with farmers in all blocks of the district.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Kargil, Kacho Muhammad Ali Khan; Chief Horticulture Officer, Kargil, Muhammad Zafar; District Horticulture Officer, Kargil, Ali Raza besides other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## National Research Institute for Sowa-Rigpa, Leh organizes free medical camp



Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur flagging off the Sowa Rigpa free medical camp from Raj Niwas.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: National Research Institute for Sowa-Rigpa Leh initiated a free medical camp under the Trib-

al Health Care Program of CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India on July 6.

The medical camp was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur from Raj Niwas. Starting from Lingshed the medical camp will cover villages of Skyumpath, Yulchung, Nyerag, Photoksar, Hanupatha, Hinju, Ursi, and Phenjila. The team of doctors will also sensitize people about COVID-19. A brochure on COVID 19 preventive measures in Ladakhi language will be distributed.

Applauding the initiative, L-G Mathur expressed his confidence that this would yield benefits for the people of Ladakh.

Under this project, a full-time Sowa-Rigpa Health care clinic will be set up in, Padum, Zanskar.

## Advisor Umang Narula visits Durbuk Sub-Division



Umang Narula reviewing the functioning of various departments at Durbuk Sub-division.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor, Umang Narula reviewed the functioning of various departments at Durbuk Sub-division on July 11.

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Durbuk, Rigzin Spalgon; Executive Engineer, R&B, Ghulam Nabi; Executive Engineer, I&FC, Tashi Tundup; Executive Engineer, PHE, Sonam Wangchuk, Tehsildar, Durbuk, Abdul Rahim; BDO Durbuk, Dr. Arif and other officers of the Sub-Division.

Rigzin Spalgon briefed Umang Narula about various developmental activities and overall functioning of the Departments

at the Sub-divisional level. Umang Narula asked the officers to judiciously utilize the remaining period of the working season to execute the works on time.

Discussion on the measures to augment the sources of livelihood of the population dependent on livestock rearing was held. Umang Narula asked Irrigation & Flood Control Department to explore new methods of irrigation such as drip irrigation to increase the pasture land.

The Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department informed about Pashmina production in the area and the market linkages being facilitated by the department to

the producers. Umang Narula instructed the department to guide the livestock dependant population in diversifying their produce by value addition. He advised the department to explore and promote cheese and butter production.

The Agriculture and Cooperative Department was asked to encourage organic manure among the farmers and make it available to the farmers, to achieve the objectives of the Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) of Ladakh. The department was asked to conduct special drives to ensure 100% coverage of eligible beneficiaries under the beneficiary oriented schemes.

Tashi Namgyal, Councillor, Tangtse; Sarpanch Tangtse, and Sarpanch Durbuk met the Advisor and apprised him of various issues pertaining to the area. Sarpanch Man-Pangong and Lambardar Phobrang discussed their grievances with the Advisor.

Umang Narula assured that all necessary steps will be taken to redress their grievances.

## L-G Mathur discusses implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Ladakh



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur discussed implementation and progress of Jal Jeevan Mission in Ladakh with Union Minister Jal Shakti GOI, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on July 10. The meeting was held via video conferencing.

Jal Jeevan Mission, envisioned by the Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in 2019, aims at providing portable water in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality to all households.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that even though Ladakh's terrain is challenging, the aim of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by March 2022 must be achieved.

Considering Ladakh's harsh cli-

matic condition, R K Mathur affirmed that the UT Administration is in the process of procuring appropriate technologies and expertise to execute Jal Jeevan Mission.

Photo Caption: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur meets Union Minister, Jal Shakti GOI, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat via video conferencing.

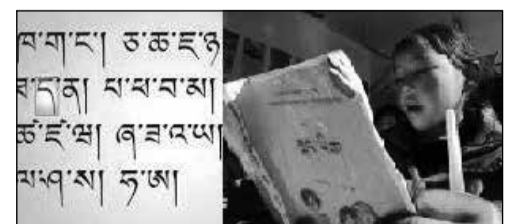
## EC, Education demands creation of Bhoti, Arabic teacher posts in Ladakh

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Executive Councillor for Education, Konchok Stanzin requested Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur to introduce Bhoti subject in JNV and KV schools of Leh district.

He said that Bhoti is a rich language with all the ingredients in literature and other fields; such as Medicine, Architecture, Astrology, Music, Arts, Dance, Drama, Yoga, Philosophy, Tantric, Grammar, etc.

He further requested L-G Mathur to create the Bhoti teacher posts in Ladakh at the earliest possible so



that the unique language which is the identity of Ladakhi people could get its due recognition and scope in the near future. Also, he requested for the creation of Arabic teachers in Ladakh.

## CEC, Kargil reviews implementation of projects under KREDA



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A review meeting on the implementation status of various projects by the Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) under the Capex Budget 2020-2021 was convened by Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Hill Council, Kargil on July 13.

Kacho Ahmed Khan, Project Director, KREDA informed about the work proposed to be executed

during the current fiscal for which the Hill Council, Kargil has allocated ₹ 2 crore in favour of the agency under the Capex Budget 2020-2021.

The schemes proposed includes the establishment of SPV Water Lifting Pumps/SPV Lights for water scarcity villages at a cost of ₹ 60 lakh, high tech greenhouses at a cost of ₹ 25 lakh, face-lifting of KREDA Office at a cost of ₹ 30 lakh besides the establishment

of Energy Centre in the district, Operation and maintenance of Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) Units (SPVs), Recurring Care Cost of Small Hydro Projects (SHPs) at a cost of ₹ 5 lakh each.

Several other issues regarding the function of KREDA like the supply of power from Sangrah and Chillung SHPs to the Power Grid, signing of Power Purchase Agreement with PDD J&K for revenue generation by charging of power tariff for around 10 MW power generated from the hydro projects of KREDA, maintenance of projects, salaries of engineering and office staff associated with the project besides other issues came up for thorough discussion during the meeting.

## EC, Konchok Stanzin visits Durbuk and Nyoma subdivisions

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHANGTHANG: Executive Councillor, Animal and sheep husbandry Konchok Stanzin conducted a six-day extensive tour of Durbuk and Nyoma Sub Division.

He visited Durbuk, Relay, Pun-Pun, Burma, Khherapulu, Satoo, Chibra, Irth, Chilam, Pholonglay, Shachukul, Tharuk, Tangtse, Muklab, Phobrang, Spangmik, Maan, Merak, Khaktet, Chushul, Tsaga, Kuyul, Dungi, Muth, Nider, Nyoma, Rongo, Bukshado, Khaldo, Chumur, Tagazong, Korzok, Sumdho, Angkung, Rina and Zara villages.

Councillor Nyoma, Thupstan Wangchuk; Councillor Tangtse, Tashi Namgyal, DSHO, Leh, and other concerned officers were also present.



EC Konchok Stanzin along with Councillor Tangtse, Tashi Namgyal during his visit to Changthang region.

During his visit, incentives under Pashmina Wool Development Scheme (PWDS) (portable nomadic tents, snow boots, and solar LED lights and looms to the beneficiaries who are dependent on livestock were distributed. It was informed that the population of Sheep/Goat in Durbuk subdivision increased by 8 % increase while in the Nyoma subdivision it is increased by 6.5%.

To boost the income of nomads by introducing new value addition methods in Changthang area, Konchok Stanzin assured people that in the coming day's Hill Council will facilitate nomads with shredding, cheese, and curd-making machines.

He also assured to address all the issues and demands of the people in the coming days.

## Delegation of FCS&CA employees, Kargil meets EC, Mubarak Shah

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Delegation of the employees of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Kargil discussed various issues with Executive Councillor, FCS&CA, Mubarak Shah Naqvi on July 13.

The delegation sought the intervention of the EC for the general transfer of the Store Keepers and Assistant Store Keepers of the department based on seniority as per past practice. They said that these employees have already completed 3 year's tenure at their



respective places of posting.

They also highlighted improper functioning of Point of Sale (POS) machines at more than 170 sale centres in the district due to inadequate internet connectivity.

nectivity.

Mubarak Shah Naqvi assured the delegation that all their genuine concerns would be addressed at the earliest. He said that steps will also be taken to address the issues about the transfer of employees within 15 days. He further assured to take up the issues with the Director FCS&CA Ladakh and other concerned officers at the UT level.

The employees were urged to work with added zeal and dedication for the betterment of the people of the district.

## Administration of UT, Ladakh launches the 'Ladakh Food Security Scheme'

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh Food Security Scheme was launched by UT administration on July 2. With the launch of this scheme, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Food Entitlement Scheme (MMSFES) of the erstwhile State of J&K is discontinued.

The scheme will benefit 6101AAY families of Ladakh in addition to 43,916 PHH &

NPHH families, which were already covered under the MMSFES.

Under this scheme, beneficiaries of AAY will be provided 5kg of food grains per soul over and above the NFSA entitled scale of 35 kg per family, subject to the maximum of 50 kg (NFSA+LFSS) per family and PHH & NPHH beneficiary having a family size of 1 soul to 9 souls

shall be provided 5kg of food grains per soul over and above NFSA scale subject to the maximum of 50 kg (NFSA+LFSS) per family.

The food grains to all the categories of beneficiaries covered under the Ladakh Food Security Scheme shall be provided at the same sale rate as provided to PHH & NPHH under the erstwhile J&K State MMSFES.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rigzin Wangdus S/o Stanzin Tondup R/o Tiger Nubra Leh, Ladakh has lost my contractor card bearing number "B-725". Now I want to apply for the duplicate card, objection if any c may be report to the District Superintending Engineer PWD circle within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

An Application has been received from Late Stanzin Wangtak S/o Tsering Tashi R/o Basgo, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle No. JK10A-0193 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of lost documents.

Now, it is therefore notified for general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tundup Dorjey S/o Tsering Sonam R/o Choglamsar, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my Driving License bearing Number JK-1020010005900 and I'm applying for Duplicate Driving license.

Objection, if any may be conveyed to Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh Ladakh within 10 days from the date of publication.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Stanzin Jigmed Namgyal S/o Raja Jigmed Wangchuk R/o Stok, Leh UT Ladakh Proprietor M/S Royal Orchard applying for registration with the Assistant Controller Legal Meteorology Department, Leh.

Any objection in this regards may file their report in writing within seven days from date of publication of this notice.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Thinley Angchok S/o Tsering Dorjey R/o Nubra, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my Driving License bearing Number JK-1020120002344 and I'm applying for Duplicate Driving license.

Objection, if any may be conveyed to Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh Ladakh within 10 days from the date of publication.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### In the Court of Principal District Judge, Leh (UT Ladakh)

In the case of:  
Nawang Tsering  
(Appellants (s))

V/s

Present: R.S. Jasrotia  
Eshey Namgail &Ors  
(Respondents(s))

In the matter of:

Appeal against the Judgement and decree passed by the learned Sub Judge, Leh on 25/5/2019 aside in case no.-4/civil and setting aside the same.

### PROCLAMATION NOTICE TO:

Sonam Angchuk, S/o Late Tsering Dorjey. R/o Saboo, Leh  
(Respondent No. 6)

Whereas, the appellant Nawang Tsering has filed the above titled appeal before this Court on 6/7/2019.

Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation the respondent No.6 (Named above)is hereby, informed/directed to appear before this court at Leh on 30/3/ 2020 at 10.00AM.

Thereafter, no any objection or claim will be entertained on his/ their behalf.

Issued this the 3rd day of March, 2020 under the seal and signature of this court.

Principal District Judge  
Leh, Ladakh



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