

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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In Conversation With

Sonam Gyalton

5

Fortnightly Special

Adopting new invention for sustainable farming system

4

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Brief News

Anjuman Sufiana Noorbakhshia demands Sixth Schedule for Ladakh

LEH: Anjuman Sufia Noorbakhshia extended support for the demand of the Sixth schedule for Ladakh during a press conference convened on September 13 in Leh.

The members appreciated the initiative taken by Thupstan Chhewang, former MP; Chering Dorjay, and Nawang Rigzin Jora, former Ministers for leading people under the guidance of Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche, Former Rajya Sabha MP.

Ghulam Mehdi, Youth Secretary, Anjuman Sufia Noorbakhshia said that UT without legislature has raised many concerns among the people of Ladakh. Amidst all rising insecurities, Ladakh does need a safeguard under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

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Leaders of different religions, political parties convene joint press conference

Sixth Schedule only Constitutional safeguard for Ladakh, says Thupstan Chhewang



During the joint press conference regarding sixth schedule demand at Thiksey

Stanzin Dasal

THIKSEY: A joint press conference headed by Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche demanding inclusion of Ladakh under Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution was held on September 9 at Thiksey.

All other leaders including, Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP; Nawang Rigzin Jora, Former Minister; Representatives from different political parties, religious heads, students attended the press conference.

Thiksey Rinpoche said that Ladakh with just Union Territory status is not enough to protect unique social, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and environmental identity. His Eminence stated that all political parties, religious organization and students unanimously decided to demand Sixth Schedule for Ladakh.

Reiterating the selfless nature and unity of the people to fight for Ladakh in the past years, Thiksey Rinpoche urged the people of Ladakh to rise above all differences and unitedly work once again for the safeguard after UT status.

Representatives participated in the joint press conference announced the appointment of a united panel to demand inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution as recommended by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, the establishment of an elected legislative assembly with a chief minister and a council of ministers; and till the creation of the assembly the sufficient empowerment of the LAHDCs of Kargil and Leh to ensure their supremacy over local matters of governance as the Bodoland Territorial Council.

...Continues on Page 3

Tibetan- Indian hero Nyima Tenzin's last rite performed in Leh

People of Tibet and Ladakh pay tributes to the officer who was killed in a landmine blast at LAC



BJP National General Secretary, Ram Madhav paying tribute to the Tibetan- India hero Nyima Tenzin.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHOGLAMSAR: The last rite of the Special Frontier Force, Company Leader, Late Nyima Tenzin was performed with full Military Honour on September 7 at Dewachan crematorium.

Dignitaries including BJP National General Secretary, Ram Madhav; CEC, Hill Council, Leh Gyal P Wangyal; MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Former MP, Thupstan Chhewang; CRO, Chetan Angchuk; LBA President, PT Kunzang, Political heads, and other prominent citizen and hundreds of Tibetan and Ladakhi people paid tribute to the SFF hero.

Tibetan- India hero Nyima Tenzin had 33 years of service in the Special Frontier Force. He was killed on the intervening night of 29 and 30 August in a landmine blast along the LAC. The officer was a resident of Camp No 1 Sonamling Tibetan settlement, Choglamsar, Leh Ladakh.

Ram Madhav hoped that Nyima Tenzin's sacrifice would bring peace along the LAC. He said there is tension along the LAC and efforts are on to maintain peace.

In a tweet, Madhav said, "Attended the funeral of SFF Coy Ldr Nyima Tenzin, a

...Continues on Page 3

Courtesy Tsetan Angmo



Correction and clarification

It is the policy of 'Reach Ladakh Bulletin' to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition, date, news item or the article.

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L- G Mathur meets Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, discuss minority issues



Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur with Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur met and discussed crucial developmental activities in Ladakh with Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs on September 11 at Raj Niwas.

R K Mathur informed the Min-

ister about various minority beneficiary oriented schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), etc., and central scholarship programmes, etc. are implemented in Ladakh. He said that last year 20,546 students were given the benefit of scholarship and this year it has been made open to all grade stu-

dents and professional degree courses to increase the number of targeted beneficiaries.

Mathur told that the administration is working on proposals for the implementation of various Minority Affairs schemes in Ladakh and running awareness programs to motivate the relevant agencies to implement these schemes at the earliest, targeting maximum beneficiary.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi agreed to send a team of senior officers to Ladakh to formulate new schemes and review the performance of ongoing schemes under Minority Affairs.

He said that under PMJVK funds will be provided for social and health infrastructure for minorities. Also, he stressed implementing minority schemes and scholarship schemes to benefit the maximum number of people in Ladakh.

Hill Council, Leh, passes resolution to demand constitutional safeguard for Ladakh

Opposition party alleges the resolution is confusing and lacks clarity on safeguard

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Hill Council, Leh moved a resolution to demand constitutional safeguards for Ladakh to protect the rights of its indigenous population on September 3.

The resolution was moved by Deputy Chairman Hill Council, Leh Tsering Sandup was seconded by Councilor Saspol, Tsering Wangdus followed by the support speech of Executive Councilor for Minority Mumtaz Hussain and Councilor Upper Leh Ven. Lobzang Nyantak.

However, opposition party opposed the resolution and walked out of the house in the middle of the session. Councilors of the Congress party alleged that the resolution is confusing and lacks clarity regarding needed constitutional safeguards for Ladakh. They demanded a constitutional safeguard for Ladakh under the Sixth schedule.

The resolution passed by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council, Leh reads as, "Keeping in view the aspiration of the people of Ladakh, Ladakh should be granted constitutional safeguards for the land, environment, employ-



Deputy Chairman Hill Council, Leh Tsering Sandup moving the resolution to demand constitutional safeguards for Ladakh.

ment, business and cultural resources either under 6th schedule or Article 371 or Domicile Act of the Constitution of India to protect the tribal rights of the indigenous people of Ladakh."

MP, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal as an ex officio member of Hill Council Leh welcomed every section of society, senior leaders, and individual of Ladakh for their concern regarding constitutional safeguard for UT Ladakh and thanked LAHDC, Leh for passing a resolution in the elected house.

Clarifying the allegation of not demanding the sixth schedule for Ladakh directly rather saying constitutional safeguard, JTN said that Selective law and safeguards of any state can't be replicated in UT Ladakh as La-

dakh has its unique demography, different socio-economic and climatic condition, geo-climatic factors, and border aspects. He expressed his concern over the revival of customary laws like polygamy and animal sacrifices in the civilized society of Ladakh again under the 6th Schedule.

He stressed on demanding what is best for Ladakh understanding all aspects rather than jumping on conclusion.

The resolution was also moved on the amendment of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act by giving complete control over subjects like ownership of transfer of land, employment, natural resources, environment, and culture of the indigenous people of Ladakh.

Tibetan- Indian hero Nyima Tenzin's last rite performed in Leh

... Continued from Page 1

Tibetan who laid down his life protecting our borders in Ladakh, and laid a wreath as a tribute."

Tibetan Youth Congress, President, Kunzang Dechen said that it is for the first time in the history of Tibetan settlement where Tibetan soldiers serving in special Frontiers Force received such honour from the Indian Government. He expressed his gratitude to the Indian Government.

LBA President PT Kunzang said that "We must pay rich tribute to the late officer who sacrificed his life for the cause of the nation. His sacrifice will further strengthen the bond of Tibetan and Ladakhi who are all living in harmony from a very long time".

He further added that the LBA submitted a copy of the letter to the Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh requesting some compensation and support to the family of the deceased as per provision.

Later in the evening, a candlelight march was organized by the LBA Youth Wing in collaboration with Tibetan Youth Congress.

Konchok Ishey Stak, President, LBA Youth wing said that the candlelight procession is to pay tribute to Late Nima Tenzin. The candle march was started at memorial park Skyatsags till Petrol Pump chowk.

Expressing solidarity the entire commercial establishment remained closed for one day in Leh.



Stories from Ladakh



By Richa Maheshwari & Athulya Pillai

When I was 10-12 years old, my parents had got me a brand-new bike. On that same evening, my friends and I took small tin cans and jerrycans full of kerosene, crossed an icy river, and lit up the mountains with lamps for Losar. By the time we were done, it was dark. I remember that my bicycle got badly trashed on the way back. When I got home, I slept it off, and by the morning; I was fine. I think I was braver back then. As you grow older, the fear of falling becomes more prominent.

When I went to study in Delhi, I completely forgot about my bike. The school I went to stress on education, but there was no music. No art. I didn't like it. I used to come back to Ladakh for vacations. Back then, my uncle had a rafting company. We would go rafting 3 or 4 times a day. After I got into college, I started working with my uncle during the summers and got hooked onto the adventure industry.

I rediscovered cycling after 2011 and now my whole life revolves around the cycle. So, 6-7 years back, my childhood friends and I wanted to do something together and founded Unexplored Ladakh. We started with modified tours around Ladakh. Then, a couple of years later, we invested in cycling and camping equipment. We didn't know anything about it. It was all trial and error. But slowly, we figured it out.

Initially, we were doing bike tours on the road, but it was too boring and too tiring. Other people were doing it too. Eventually, we went out and started exploring for ourselves. We would select a rideable mountain and come straight down. It was real fun, and we realized that trail riding is an option. That free riding is an option. Last two years, we have done the Markha Valley trek on the cycle. Last year, we organized a mountain biking festival. I think there is a big scope for the sport in Ladakh.

We have been exploring and documenting stuff from our own pocket and sharing it with agents and whoever else is interested. If the sport has to grow, it has to be shared. It has to inspire new riders. It's not like riders haven't been to Ladakh. The top riders have ridden here. But then, no local was involved. We are just trying to fill the gap. When we started, we were 2-3 riders in Ladakh and now we are 15. That's a big thing. I think that the younger generation will do extraordinary things.

Before we go on an exploratory tour, we study topography, the terrain, the soil. We take all the filming equipment, the riding gear. We look into food and logistics. We were in Skatlung, and the valley has huge potential for free riding. We spent 6 days there. When you are riding down, you are in the moment. You are just riding and there's nothing else. You can't lose focus. And then pushing the bike back up is a big part too. You get breathless and you start thinking about why you are doing this at all. But then you ride down again, and you get the answer.

Storyteller: Urygan Skaldan, Nimoo

Follow storiesfromladakh on Instagram for more such stories.

Leaders of different religions, political parties convene joint press conference

... Continued from Page 1

Thupstan Chhewang Former MP stressed on the importance of taking Kargil district into confidence and leading the movement unitedly.

"After uniting all people from Leh district we will talk to the people of Kargil also", he added.

The leaders stated, "Initially we had the impression that we were being remote-controlled from Srinagar. Now, we are increasingly being given a feeling that we continue to be remote-controlled albeit from New Delhi. We have time and again expressed our gratitude to the present Central Government headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, for fulfilling our long struggle of separating us from J&K and elevating us as a UT. We hope that the Central Government would understand our feelings and take measures to address them. What we have been looking for is self-respect through a

system of self-governance to preserve and perpetuate our rare heritage in the overall interest of our region and the country."

"For the first time, the Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh) had to stage a dharna to tell the bureaucratic rulers that he was an elected entity and needed to be heard and treated with respect. Nothing can be more regrettable", they added.

They rejected any suggestion for implementing a domicile law in Ladakh on the lines of the one introduced in the UT of J&K. They said that such a law shall amount to the dilution of the Ladakhi dignity. Also, they refused Article 371 or any other such provision.

Different associations, societies and village heads submitted a signed letter extending support for the demand of the Sixth schedule for Ladakh.

Hill Council, Leh, discusses major projects with Commissioner/ Secretary, GAD, A. K Sahu



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Hill Council, Leh accorded a warm welcome to Commissioner Secretary, GAD, A K Sahu (IAS), and discussed important departments under his portfolio on September 4 at Council Secretariat.

Gyal P Wangyal expressed great hope that his vast administrative experience including his commendable service as DC Leh from 2008 to 2010 would immensely benefit Ladakh.

He briefed Secretary Sahu about the ongoing developmental projects under Capex Budget and SDP and stressed for timely implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission under PHE and major projects under I&FC department in Leh district. Issues of the education dept, Leh were also discussed.

Commissioner Secretary, GAD, A K Sahu spoke about the various components of JJM, its objectives, and the plan of UT Administration in achieving the

targets of JJM by introducing innovative and new technology in the coming days. He assured that he will give his best to achieve maximum and quality results focusing on major new projects under his portfolio in Leh district.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Sandup; Executive Councillors, Phuntsog Stanzin, Konchok Stanzin and Mumtaz Hussain; Councillor Upper Leh Ven. Lobzang Nyantak was present in the meeting.

Kiren Rijju lays foundation stone of sporting facilities in Leh

Sports is a soft power to uphold national integration, says the minister

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NYOMA: Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Youth Affairs in presence of Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur laid the foundation stone of synthetic track and AstroTurf for football in Open Stadium, near Spituk and Gymnasium Hall at NDS, Stadium on September 14.

CEC, LAHDC, Leh Gyal P Wangyal, Executive Councilors, MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Commissioner Secretary, A K Sahu, Administrative Secretary YS&S Ravinder Kumar, Director, Ministry of Sports Vimal Anand, DC, Leh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, SSP, Leh Rajiv Pandey, other officials, and sports persons were present on the occasion.

Kiren Rijju expressed happiness over the fulfillment of his commitment and congratulated the people of Ladakh for the sports facilities being made available for them. He appreciated the great teamwork exhibited by UT Administration, Hill Council, local administration, and the people of Ladakh in getting these facilities with a targeted implementing time of 8-9 months.

He credited the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in giving a new identity to Ladakh in the form of UT status.

Talking about Fit India Movement initiated by PM Modi, he stressed the need to raise awareness in society on sports for fitness and developing a sports



Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Youth Affairs in presence of Lieutenant Governor; R K Mathur during the foundation stone laying ceremony of synthetic track and AstroTurf for football in Leh.

culture with interstate sports exchange programmes.

Kiren Rijju announced relaxation to Ladakh and the establishment of region-wise Khelo India Centers. He asserted that sport is a soft power to uphold national integration and the union government is committed to promoting world-class sports infrastructure in Ladakh. Also, he informed that as demanded by the representatives of UT Ladakh, Ice hockey will soon be recognized by the National Sports Federation and separate funds will be allocated to promote the game to an international standard.

He further added that talented youths in different sports can be selected for training at the national level and said that Ladakh has the potential to become the sporting a powerhouse of India.

Lieutenant Governor thanked Rijju for keeping his commitment and fulfilling the requests

made. He said that these sports facilities will be of great benefit to society and stressed on making it operational at the earliest. He praised the society for maintaining good health and producing national and international winners in different sports. He said that there is a huge potential in Ladakhi sportspersons to participate in the winter Olympics and earn laurels for India.

R K Mathur informed that under Special Development Package with assistance from Sports Ministry, Ice Hockey facilities with mini stadiums will be provided at district, sub-division, and block level in Ladakh. He urged the Minister to earmark a calendar for high altitude training to national sportspersons in Ladakh that would inter alia help the Ladakhi sportspersons to improve their sporting standards.

Later, sports kits under Khelo India were also presented to the sportspersons.

CEC Wangyal inaugurates Nubra Development Authority office



Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council Leh with Commissioner Secretary, Rigzin Samphel at Council Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DISKIT: Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh inaugurated the Nubra Development Authority on September 8 at TIC Diskit, Nubra.

Meanwhile, a mobile ambulance van of the Animal Husbandry Dept, aimed at providing door to door veterinary service in the Nubra region was flagged off. Also, the Solar Dryer/space heating building at Diskit which will be integrated with the Mission Organic Development Initiative of Ladakh (MODI) being implemented in Leh district was inaugurated.

Gyal P Wangyal said that nature has bestowed Nubra- valley with immense tourism potential and the need of the hour is to explore this potential to the optimum. Hill Council, Leh has initiated a number of tourism-related projects in the Nubra valley but due to lack of funds, these projects were left incomplete. But now in the new setup of UT Ladakh, there will be no shortage of funds and with the functionality of Nubra Development Authority all pending projects in Nubra would get focused attention, he said.

He directed CEO Nubra Devel-

opment Authority, Sonam Norboo to ensure the functioning of the Nubra Development Authority office at the earliest so that people of Nubra could be benefited from the tourism industry in the coming years.

Lauding the focused and special attention of GoI led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in UT Ladakh, CEC Wangyal said that several mega projects are under execution with massive funding in the Nubra region including a power transmission line to connect Nubra valley with the northern grid via Phyang, Shatse Taknak Bridge over Shayok river, various agro-based projects under MODI, drinking water projects under JJM, etc. He also informed about the 24 MW Trisha-Thoise Multipurpose Hydel Project on Nubra river designed under the initiative of LAHDC, Leh, and said that this prestigious project is currently submitted with centre govt. and hoped for its speedy approval.

Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Phuntsog Stanzin highlighted the key components Mission Organic Development Initiative of Ladakh initiated by the LAHDC, Leh. He said that a massive fund of ₹ 500 crore was

sanctioned under Special Development Package 2020-21 for the Mission Organic Development Initiative of Ladakh out of which ₹ 250 crore is allocated for Leh district and appealed farmers of Nubra to be proactive in implementing the MODI scheme in the coming months and years.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Sandup congratulating the people of the Nubra region for this historic development expressed happiness over the fulfillment of the Nubra Development Authority. He expressed his gratitude to Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, R. K. Mathur, Advisor Umang Narula, MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, and Commissioner Secretary Ladakh, Rigzin Samphel for sanctioning Nubra Development Authority for the Nubra region.

SDM Nubra, Sonam Norboo also the Chief Executive Officer, Nubra Development Authority highlighted the huge tourism potential of Nubra valley. He said that the creation of a new development authority will bring into the limelight some of the most scenic places and unexplored tourism potentials of the Nubra region.

CEC Wangyal chairs governing body meeting of LREDA



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: An annual governing body meeting of LREDA was held under the chairmanship Gyal P. Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh on September 11 at Council Secretariat.

Other governing body members including Deputy Chairman, Tsering Sandup, Executive Councillors, Deputy Commissioner Leh Sachin Kumar; SE PDD Leh Tsewang Paljor; Executive Engineer PDD Leh, Tundup Spalzung, engineers and staff of LREDA headed by Project Director LREDA Dr. Tsewang Thinlas were present.

After threadbare discussion on all the agendas, it was decided to charge a ₹ 200 per month

flat rate tariff to the households getting power supply from Solar Power Plants in Leh district until the Power Purchase Agreement between LREDA and PDD could be signed. The decision was taken to generate some revenue for LREDA to meet the salaries of their operators and Chowkidars looking after the Solar Power Plants in different villages.

Sachin Kumar directed LREDA and PDD Leh to submit a Power Purchase Agreement proposal in coordination with KREDA and PDD Kargil to Jammu & Kashmir State Electricity Regulatory Commission within a week.

Project Director, LREDA was also directed for filing of a petition for approval of tariff for the newly commissioned Chamshen

Hydel Project and other new Solar Power Plants commissioned in Leh district through LREDA.

To use of the funds available with LREDA amounting to about ₹ 50 lakh for maintenance of SPPs, office expenses and to pay the salaries and arrears of technical and other staff working in LREDA since 2010, Project Director LREDA was asked to engage a Chartered Accountant to clear doubts regarding the expenditure of LREDA funds.

It was decided to convene a governing body meeting of LREDA quarterly instead of annually to ensure speedy redressal of the issues of LREDA and making self-sustainable in the future.

Adopting new invention for sustainable farming system

By Dr. M.S. Raghuvanshi, Stanzin Landol and Jigmat Stanzin

India's cold arid region spread over 80,000 square kilometers and nearly 90 per cent of the people live in remotely located valley based rural areas which are either connected via very difficult route or have no road connectivity. Agriculture along with livestock rearing supports the village economy by engaging up to more than 50 per cent of the working force as cultivators, agricultural labourers and livestock breeders (LAHDC-L, 2008). Looking to this, the FAO (2008) classifies agriculture in Ladakh among the possible "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems" (GIAHS), defined as "remarkable land use systems and landscapes which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development", Pellicciardi reported (2014).

A unique agriculture which is different from other parts of rural areas of India, also observed in the lap of Himalayas where people utilizes melt water from Glacier water, terrace farming, producing and preserving the soil fertility through mutual cooperation. Soil suffers acute shortage of moisture but agriculture is still done traditionally as major livelihood option with very small land holdings ranging from 05 to 1.4 hectares. Although the productivity is low and market is small, the community is still satisfied. Traditional ways help them preserve food items including dried green leaves for harsh winters during which the temperature dips to -300C.

Changes that can be adopted:

- Policy makers and Government to create community infrastructures at block level- this includes protected bigger size polyhouses to support every village of small population, ranging from 20 to 1000 households.

- Water harvesting ponds above villages
- Exploring glacier points to create and serve as reservoirs
- Reduce row spacing in staple crops and vegetables to improve the production
- High density plantations
- Use of wind brakes to protect crops from high wind velocity
- Invention of Terrace seed drills to reduce drudgery especially where farm women equally participate in cultivating the crops
- Weaving tools to make Ladakhi people self-reliant
- Government to set community seed banks at block levels for combating climate change
- Converting water mills (Rantak) to windmills by utilizing higher wind velocity



Promoting Floriculture: Flower farm in Thiksey Leh Ladakh

- Barley has originated from Ladakh region and its cultivation is declining. To encourage cultivators to grow barley of National importance, Tagging Chhang as Ladakh Beer would be the best idea to encourage farmers and to boost the economy of Leh-Ladakh region.
- Augmentation of Renewable energy resources for Ladakh to support people from remote villages and army on the borders; greenhouse and polyhouse policies for Ladakh
- Restricting foreign planting material to Ladakh to maintain Ladakhi Himalayan flora. The plant material may become invasive weed and convert like Jankser (*Cirsium arvense*) in Changthang pastoral system. Ladakh needs moral support to grow within in its own
- Promoting products from Ladakh in metro-cities to boost market
- Introducing innovated vegetable cellars, and stores
- Nutritional security
- Traditional ways to save crops from new pests and diseases
- Government of India should promote Ladakh as heritage of its own to maintain its own fruits and its culture as FAO (2008) has nominated Ladakh under Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) to maintain its heritage.
- No hybrid seed import, rather regional research stations and other adjoining research bodies must evolve new cold arid varietal schemes
- Saving the traditional livestock breed as they are more resilient to diseases and changing climate
- Small interventions can bring sustainability in Ladakh
- Providing manures from Changthang to other Ladakhi villages at least every three years
- Augmentation of existing technologies like trench farming, polyhouse, renovation of terraces etc.
- Save pastures from degradation using bio-fencing



Team of CAZRI interacting with self help group in Umla village about Promoting Roasted barley.

- Inventions of small scale based machineries to support terrace cultivation, sewing machines to support village women etc.
- Setting up of small scale industries
- Reduce waste by converting ripen apricot into soaps, wine, chocolates which would make Ladakh more popular for these products
- Department should publish pictorial management practices and literature to help poor farming community especially remote and deepened valley villages who are more resilient under the climate change
- Create gardens to attract people and tourists like Sikkim
- Waste management
- Awareness among the people

Way forward

Farming requires hard work and is one reason why people are deviating from heritage-based native farming to tourism sector. Farmers grow more alfalfa as compared to staple crops -barley and wheat. They need to be encouraged to grow staple crops. As observed, people are stopping to cultivate these crops because of modernization and culture is under threat. Government need to emphasize and save culture of Ladakh by discouraging Public Distribution System. Income from tourism might be good but not sustainable in Ladakh which is prone to disasters. Thus, promoting agriculture sector is important for sustainability.

The writer Dr. M.S. Raghuvanshi works in ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur while Stanzin Landol and Jigmat Stanzin works in Research Station, ICAR -Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Leh-Ladakh. You can send your views and comment at atomsai.msr@gmail.com.

Advisor Narula reviews functioning of renewable energy agencies LREDA, KREDA



Advisor Umang Narula reviewing the functioning and governing structure of Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA) & KREDA.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Umang Narula reviewed the functioning and governing structure of Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA) & KREDA on September 11 at Conference Hall UT Secretariat.

Project Director, LREDA informed that with Ladakh becoming a UT the expected muta-

tion in the governing structure may hamper the existing work system and functionality of the agency. He also apprised about the issues like post-sanction and creation, the authority of financial power, the release of pending salaries of the contractual employees, etc.

Responding to the issues, Advisor Narula directed the Agency to prepare a parallel Pow-

er Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the PDD Department to generate more revenue with the objective to meet the future outflow of the Agency. He further directed to take up the tariff concerns with the regulators as per the Electricity Act.

Issues of liabilities, pending salaries, discontinuation of funding by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), and staff shortages to run the project were also raised during the meeting by DC Kargil.

Commissioner Secretary, Rigzin Samphel; Secretary PDD, Ravinder Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Chief Engineer, PDD Leh, G. A. Mir; Project Director LREDA, Dr. Tsewang Thinles; SE, PDD Tsewang Paljor were present in the meeting. While, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary and Project Director Kargil attended the meeting through video conference.

L-G Mathur attends National Education Policy 2020 conference

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R.K. Mathur attended a video conference themed "Role of National Education Policy 2020 in transforming Higher Education," organized by the Ministry of Education, GOI on September 7.

The discussion, amongst Governors, Lt. Governors, and Education Ministers of all states was chaired by the President, Ram Nath Kovind. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the gathering. Dr. Krishna Swamy Kasturi Rangan, head of the National Education Policy Draft-

ing Committee was present. Ramesh Pokhriyal, Union Minister of Education helmed the deliberations.

R K Mathur said that the National Education Policy in the context of Ladakh has come at a very vital time as Ladakh is in the process of establishing a new higher education structure.

Highlighting Ladakh's aspirations to preserve its identity, LG Mathur suggested planning and development on the basis of Ladakh's culture and natural resources - apricot, pashmina, sea buckthorn, buckwheat available

here. He said that each of these can be preserved and promoted and also developed as an economic activity through teachings in Higher Education Institutions being set-up in Ladakh and further inculcate these in the Higher Education Structure.

Mathur stated that Ladakh requires international students/faculty and collaboration with top international/national universities and institutions.

Sighting an instance of Mountain Studies, he said that a lot of enrollment can be anticipated for which collaboration with in-

stitutes from across the globe is suggested.

Stressing on the concept of "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat", L-G said that the country needs to know much more about the trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh and therefore needs exposure amongst leading educational institutes. Therefore, he suggested Leh and Kargil as destinations under the scheme.

Mathur also highlighted the importance of inclusion of Bhoti, Urdu, and other languages of Ladakh in the Academy of Languages.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The many ways of worship!



Sometime ago, a dear friend visited my place for some 'gup-shup', to be followed by lunch. As we were in the midst of high-pitch talk, he happened to see a rosary on one of the tables nearby. All of a sudden, he diverted from the point of discussion and asked, though very hesitatingly: "Do you worship?"

I had no hesitation in telling him that I do, and that I meditate as well, with the discipline of a soldier!

American author Rick Warren says: "The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you worry. And you'll feel more patient and less pressured."

Actually, worship does not necessarily mean that you worship God. Take, for instance, those who do not believe in the existence of God and yet worship, and there are many of them, increasing rapidly by the day. What do you think they worship? For them, their God could be someone whom they know, or at least have seen them or heard of, and who are role models of our society in terms of their humanistic outlook and other qualities of head and heart.

Here, let me also define the very concept of 'worship'. It means that you admire someone, living or dead, whose principles attract you and they have made a big difference in your life for the better. And, moreover, worship, in this sense, means you are trying to understand and imbibe the values that person stands/stood for, and walk the journey of life the way he does/did.

In this connection, American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson had given a lovely sense of 'worship'. "The happiest man is he who learns from nature the lesson of worship". Here, the words 'lesson of worship from nature' means that nature is always cool, peaceful, patient and yet dynamic. That is exactly what we too need to be. We need to follow and worship nature, and be in sync with it. After all, mankind today is at a complete loss because of nature's fury over our foolhardiness.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Sonam Gyaltson, National Teacher Awardee

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Heartiest congratulation on receiving National Teacher Award. Share your experiences serving as a teacher and what was your first reaction on receiving such a coveted award?

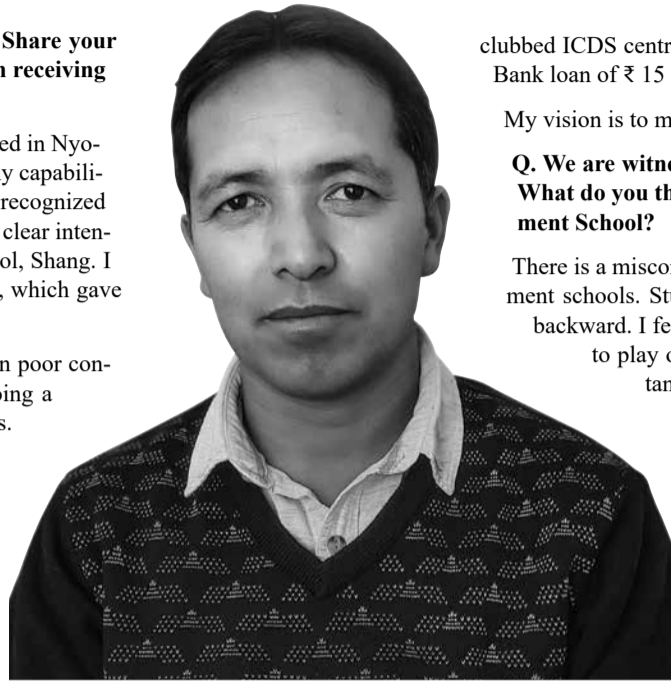
I joined the education department as a teacher in 2003 and was first posted in Nyoma Mudh. During my three years of service, I worked with the best of my capabilities, introducing some changes in the school which was appreciated and recognized at all levels. This made me move forward and work with dedication and clear intention. After Mudh, I got transferred to Sakti village, then to Middle school, Shang. I also worked as a Zonal Resource Person under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which gave me opportunities to take part in different trainings at all levels.

In 2016, I got posted in Middle school Taknak, Sakti. The school was in poor condition with only 4 to 5 students. I renovated the school and started doing a survey, seeking suggestions and ideas from different schools and teachers. With the help of colleagues, friends, and family, I worked on it and expected an increase in the enrollment of students. In the initial days, only a few turned up, reason being lack of confidence in government school among parents; they were reluctant to send their kids to a government school. I approached the parents of every child requested, and make them understand. It was important for me to gain their confidence, thus, enrolled my daughter in a government school and along with it, many others followed the same. This is how people started enrolling their children, and every year the number of students started increasing. Today we have 104 students in the school and had to stop the admission because of the limited resources and space.

The National Teacher and Zonal level best teacher award during the 71st Republic Day celebration is not just my achievement but every Ladakhi. It was an honour to receive the award and I am grateful to every person who helped and encouraged me throughout the years and recognized my work.

Q. You have adopted many innovative methods to transform Government schools. Brief us about that.

Making the school attractive with all needed facilities is as important as having academic excellence. The first and foremost thing was designing the classrooms with wall paintings, student creative work, learning aids etc. A well designed classrooms and environmental aspects can boost learning process so I worked on campus beautification



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“I request everyone to strengthen government schools and it's better to have one best school in every village than to have many with no qualities.”

to make the school environment welcoming, peaceful, and attractive. One interesting part is that we introduced a subject-based classroom in the school. The concept is that the respective subject teacher stays in the classroom and the student shifts. To make a difference, we changed the name of the school as Council Model School, changed the school uniforms, started exposure tours, movie screening, winter camps, free tuition, etc. And to handle and manage small children we

clubbed ICDS centre within the campus. To arrange a transport facility for students, I took a Bank loan of ₹ 15 lakh and bought a bus. The loan EMI is being deducted from my salary.

My vision is to make Government school infrastructure at par with the private school.

Q. We are witnessing that most of the Govt. schools in Leh District are being closed. What do you think are the reasons for it and what can be done to retain the Government School?

There is a misconception among the public that private schools are far better than government schools. Students studying in government schools are considered incompetent and backward. I feel that to retain government school it is very important for each one of us to play our part. If the government schools are run by the villagers itself, importance and value will come naturally. There is a need to enroll every child in a government school no matter which background and class they come from. Along with it the department can implement and update different schemes and benefits.

Q. Amidst COVID-19 lockdown, online lessons have emerged as a solution to push ahead academic calendar. How successful it is in Ladakh?

Digital education in Ladakh is not that successful especially in far-flung areas where a network or telecommunication service is an issue. During this pandemic time, the online classes initiated by the department through Doordarshan and Radio are definitely of great help. The programs are reaching out to students staying in far off villages. Also, some teachers are visiting schools in rural areas and trying to reach students personally.

Taking about digital education, I would like to say that it is a must to monitor students while handing over smartphones to children for online classes because technology along with advantages has many disadvantages also.

Q. How do you view the education system in Ladakh?

We need government schools with the best of infrastructure and facilities, a building designed as per the climatic condition and topography of Ladakh. Ladakh being a Union Territory and with the introduction of the New Education policy, I feel that the education system of Ladakh will be carved as the best one. Also, there is an immense need for parents and communities to strengthen the whole system.

Saugat Biswas chairs revenue review meeting



Saugat Biswas chairing revenue review meeting in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A review meeting of the Revenue Department of Leh district was convened by Divisional Commissioner/ Secretary Revenue, Saugat Biswas on September 11.

The meeting deliberated on the current position of Jamabandi, Girdawari, dor-jamabandi, mutations, registration, encroachments, land acquisition cases, disposal of Revenue/Judicial cases, implementation of PSGA/RTI Act, and redressal of public grievances, settlement operation vis-à-vis Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and issues regarding the deposition of registration fee under stamp act among others.

Saugat Biswas directed completion of partially updated Jamabandis within two months.

To maintain up-to-date land records and early redress of issues and cases, the DCs and SDMs are required to submit their monthly reports and tour diaries to the Divisional Commissioner. Similar-

ly, at Tehsil and Niabat level, the Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars were directed to ensure maintenance of their tour diaries.

A committee comprising ACR, Tehsildar, and HQA Leh was formed during the meeting to examine the process for issuance of income and property certificates and streamlining of the same. Also, a committee comprising Tehsildar, Naib-Tehsildar and IT consultants was formed to examine the process for issue of certificates by the Revenue department which can be made on-line and to make their recommendation within ten days.

To streamline the process of issuance of Death & Birth certificates, a UT level committee comprising the ADCs of both the districts, SP Kargil, CMO Leh, EO Municipal Committee was also to be set up by the Revenue Department immediately.

Biswas directed SDM Khatse and Likir to submit a report of total available State Land in their respective Sub-divisions in the

next meeting. Other SDMs were also given similar directions.

Tehsildar Leh informed that towards the process of digitization of revenue records of Leh district, more than 5 lakh pages have been scanned so far.

To discourage encroachment of lands in the district, the officers and the officials were asked to be vigilant and to ensure that there is no illegal allotment of land made without following due processes under revenue laws.

Taking cognizance of about 569 pending mutation cases, Biswas stressed on the completion of at least half of the cases before the next meeting scheduled after a month.

Deputy Commissioner Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Additional Deputy Commissioner Leh, Dr. Zahida Bano; Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Nubra, Nyoma, Likir, Kharu, Durbuk, and Khatse; Tehsildars, HQ Assistant, Mohd Sharif along with concerned Naib Tehsildars of 15 Niabats & Settlement NT were present during the meeting.

Advisor Umang Narula reviews preparedness for winter stocking

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A review meeting on the winter preparedness was convened by Advisor Umang Narula on September 5.

Secretaries of various departments Finance, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Health, Food & Civil Supplies, and Cooperatives; Divisional Commissioner Ladakh; Inspector General of Police; DCs of Leh & Kargil; and other departmental officers of the Union Territory were present in the meeting.

Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas appraised the steps taken by the Deputy Commissioners, various departments of the UT, FCI, IOCL & HPCL, and the Cooperative Societies for ensuring winter stocking. It was informed that the Food Corporation of India and Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs departments are well stocked with food grains until September 2021. During the second phase of the distribution of ration under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana 65% of beneficiaries have been covered and the remaining distribution of work is in progress.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) informed that special winter grade diesel will be available in their petrol pumps. Oil companies have ensured stocking to cater to demand during winter which will be regularly replenished till the time of road closure. Also, before the onset of winter, every effort will be made to set up petrol pumps at remote locations of the Union Territory,



Advisor Umang Narula reviewing the winter preparedness with officers at DC Office conference hall, Leh.

ry, the important ones being at Zanskar (Padum) and Nubra.

Advisor Narula impressed upon the IOCL to immediately enhance the capacity for storage of Air Traffic Fuel (ATF) in coordination with the Indian Air Force and the Deputy Commissioner Leh.

Utilizing the Special Development Package, FCS&CA department is in the process of installing kerosene tanks at 20 strategic locations for more efficient stocking and distribution of kerosene in far-off areas like Zanskar.

Sachin Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Leh appraised that the cold storage being constructed at Leh will become functional by the end of September and will be able to store 1000 metric tons of essential food supplies, milk, and meat products.

Saugat Biswas informed that the Merchant Associations of both the districts are preparing the commodity-wise inventory of supplies that they will procure for the winter before the closure of highways.

Umang Narula instructed the Divisional Commissioner and Secretary Cooperatives Ravinder Kumar to ensure that the winter stocking of food grains required beyond the

capacity of Merchant Associations to be procured timely by the Cooperative Societies and a distribution network be planned immediately. He also emphasised the importance of stocking fodder in both Leh and Kargil so that there is no shortage during the coming winter.

The Health Department appraised that the work orders for procurement of medicines are being issued and all medicines and supplies of medicines for the Health Department shall be procured timely by the mid of October.

The Advisor stressed on all-important Health facilities are equipped with oxygen plants and space heating systems timely.

He directed that the Power Development Department should create an inventory of critical spare parts which can be utilized for any breakdowns, ensure procurements of diesel for DG sets and get all transmission lines inspected by the Power Grid Corporation well in time with a view to ensure zero disruption of power connectivity during winters. He also emphasised on immediate construction of hangars for ensuring heli-services and arranging for air cargo services for air transportation of essential goods during the winters.

Commissioner/Secretary, Health, visits Tibetan Old Age Home, Choglamsar



Commissioner Secretary, Rigzin Samphel along with the Director Health Services and Chief Medical Officer at Tibetan Old Age Home, Choglamsar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

CHOGLAMSAR: A meeting regarding the status of COVID-19 in Tibetan settlement areas and old age home at Choglamsar was convened by Commissioner Secretary Health, Rigzin Samphel on Sep-

tember 11.

Director Health Services UT Ladakh, Chief Medical Officer, Leh, and Chief Representative Officer, Tibetan Settlement, Ladakh were present in the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary ordered the posting of a dedicated doctor and 5 nurses to the Tibetan Settlement, Choglamsar to assist the local doctors and staff present there. Also, he assured all possible help to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Representative Officer, Tibetan settlement, Ladakh expressed his gratitude to the UT Administration for the cooperation in handling the COVID-19 crisis in the Tibetan settlement.

Commissioner Secretary also visited Tibetan Old Age Home along with the Director Health Services and Chief Medical Officer.

CEC, Kargil, takes stock of developmental work in power sector

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Kargil took stock of the developmental works carried out in the Power sector on September 7 at the Council Secretariat.

Concerned officers informed CEC about the status of various approved and ongoing works under Capex Budget, Special Development Package (SDP), and various centrally sponsored schemes like DDUGY, PMDP Urban and Rural, IPDS Urban, and RAPDRP-B.

It was informed that more than 100 works under different schemes have been tendered on which work is expected to be kick-started soon.

Regarding the establishment of receiving stations, Chief Engineer PDD Ladakh Ghulam Ahmad Mir informed that the receiving station at Laqthang Drass is nearing completion which will go a long way in ensuring satisfactory power supply to Drass area. While the establishment of substations at Baroo, Poyen, and other locations is also in the pipeline.

Under IPDS Urban and PMDP, out of the total target of 1264



Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Kargil convening the meeting of Power sector at Council Secretariat.

electric poles, 708 poles have been erected in Kargil town as on date while the whole process will be completed by the end of October 2020.

Execution of work on projects of public utility for repair and renovation of an existing street and high mast lights in Kargil town was also discussed. An amount of ₹5.50 crore and ₹20 lakh have been sanctioned under SDP and District Plan respectively for the project.

Regarding the ₹3.50 crore Public Utility Infrastructure project and ₹2.00 crore project for uncovered areas of Kargil Town, Feroz Ahmad instructed the officers of PDD and MC Kargil to ensure the preparation of DPRs and other paper works at the earliest so that work can be started soon. He

stressed the concerned officers to accelerate the pace of works and ensure their completion well before the present working season.

Issues concerning the laying of the motorable road for the establishment of 66 KV Grid Station at Kurbathang, realignment of electric lines from agricultural lands as proposed by Councillor Baroo Minjee, installation of transformers, and laying of transmission lines in different rural areas, as well as Kargil Town and many other related issues, were also discussed.

CEC assured the officers that issues related to winter stocking, spares, and the constitution of the purchase committee will be taken up with the UT administration in due course of time.

Two-day training programme on Employees Information System held in Kargil



Training programme on Employees Information System (EIS) component of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: A two-day training programme on the Employees Information System (EIS) component of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) was convened on September 10 in Kargil.

The training programme was organized by the Office of the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Principal Accounts Office (Accounts), Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI in collaboration with the Finance Department UT Ladakh.

Officers and officials of the Finance Department including the Deputy Director Finance,

Iftikhar Hussain; Accounts Officer to DC Kargil Ajaz Hussain, and Accounts Officer KDA Satyendra Kumar attended the training.

The training programmes were held amidst strict adherence to COVID-19 SOPs and guidelines.

Assistant Accounts Officers (AAOs) from the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, Principal Accounts Office (Accounts), Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI, Barnabas Tiru, and Mukesh Kumar was the resource person. He spoke about various aspects of the Employees Information System (EIS) integrated with the Public Financial Management

System (PFMS).

The resource persons through detailed PPT displayed procedure on the PFMS portal to the participants on uploading of employees' information on EIS, online processing of employees related emoluments like salary and other allowances, issues related to pension, GPF, and all other kinds of deductions made on EIS and other related aspects.

EC Rural Development and DC Kargil stressed the officers and officials to pursue the training sessions with utmost seriousness and keenness so they are in a position to acquire the required knowledge to operate the EIS system in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

During the training programme, Information System (EIS) integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for the Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and Dealing Assistants/Programme Divisions (PDs) of all departments of Kargil district in a phased manner will be imparted.

CEC flags off Drinking Water Quality Testing vehicles in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh launched Drinking Water Quality Testing vehicles under Jal Jeevan Mission on September 1 at Council Secretariat.

Superintending Engineer, PWD Leh Pardip Sharma, and Executive Engineer PHE Leh, Sonam Wangchok briefed that the drinking water quality testing will be carried out in all the blocks of Leh district aiming to provide clean and healthy drinking water in the district.

During the water quality testing, water samples will be collected



Gyal P Wangyal, CEC, Hill Council, Leh flagging off the Drinking Water Quality Testing vehicles at Council Secretariat.

from the water sources to delivery points at grass root level in all the villages. The mission will ensure the smooth operation of water supply, verification of the

safety of drinking water, investigation of disease outbreaks and validation process, and preventive measures in the entire district.

Balti poet Nassir Hussain Khemat passes away

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Balti poet Nassir Hussain Khemat passed away on September 10.

Paying rich tribute to the deceased soul and expressing immense grief on his demise, writers, poets, and intellectuals of Leh and Kargil said that the death of Nassir Hussain Khemat is a great loss to Balti language and literature.

They recalled his literary con-



tributions and stated that the deceased has rendered notable services as a poet for promotion

and preservation of the vernacular languages and literature and his contributions will be remembered in all times to come.

Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kargil and Leh, literary and cultural organizations as well as poets and writers of Balti, Shina Dardi, and Purgi languages expressed their sympathies with the bereaved family in this hour of grief and prayed for the departed soul.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Thinlass Norboo F/o Padma Ninchat R/o Mulbekh, Kargil Ladakh has claimed that his daughter's date of birth has been wrongly entered as 10-01-2015 in the school record of Government Primary School, Mulbekh, Kargil Ladakh while the actual date of birth of his daughter is 12-04-2014, and produced an application to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office of Principal Government Primary School, Mulbekh, Kargil Ladakh within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction in the date of birth of this effect will be made accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 9925715 rank L Nk Tsewang Rinchen Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56 APO Leh has claimed that his mother namely Sonam Dolma has been wrongly entered as Tsewang Dolma instead of actual and correct name which is Sonam Dolma in the Army record of 4th Ladakh Scouts Coy C/o 56 APO and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary Public Leh to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, 4th Ladakh Scouts C/o 56 APO within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Tsewang Namgail S/o Skarma Gialson & Sonam Angmo R/o Housing Colony, Leh UT Ladakh lost my class 10th Pass Certificate duly issued by Central Board of Secondary Education through Moravian Mission School Leh under Roll 2275003 with Registration No. C114/24015/0028 and Session Annual 2012-14. Now I have to apply for issuance of Duplicate Pass Certificate. Objection if any may be sent to the CBSE Regional Office, Sector 5 Panchkula-134109 (Haryana) within 7 days from date of publication of this notice.



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