

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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October 1-15, 2020

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## Brief News

### 6th LAHDC, Leh election: Model Code of Conduct comes into effect

LEH: Election Authority for Elections to the 6th LAHDC/ District Magistrate, Leh Sachin Kumar Vaishya issued an order regarding enforcement of Model Code of Conduct on September 19.

The order reads as; whereas consequent upon the said notification, the Election Authority for the 6th LAHDC, Leh, do hereby enforce the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) immediately; and, therefore, it is now mandatory for all political parties as well as for the independent candidates to follow the MCC in letter and spirit till the election process is over.

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## Leh protests against BJP's Ashok Kaul remarks on call to boycott Hill Council polls

Apex Body of People's Movement for Sixth Schedule seeks apology from Kaul



Students and youths of Leh district protesting against Ashok Kaul.

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Leh remained shut down for half-day to protest against the remarks made by the senior BJP leader Ashok Kaul on the Apex body decision of boycotting 6th LAHDC, Leh election on September 24.

The Apex body of Peoples movement for the sixth schedule for Ladakh unanimously resolved to boycott the ensuing 6th LAHDC, Leh election on September 22. They said that the election will be boycotted till such time the constitutional safeguard under the sixth schedule on the lines of the Bodo Territorial council is not extended to UT Ladakh and its people.

The resolution to boycott the election was also signed by the BJP district President, Nawang Samstan.

The BJP General Secretary, J&K unit,

Ashok Kaul termed the apex body resolution "bakwas". In an interview with The Print he said, "This resolution means nothing. Yeh Sab Bakwas hai. We are going to Leh soon to talk to our people and we will fix everything."

However, Ashok Kaul claimed that his statement was exaggerated and printed in a wrong manner.

"I have worked with all the leaders of Ladakh and respect the aspiration and demands of people. I always supported the demands of Ladakh and will continue to do so. Saddened to see the statement being presented in a wrong manner and I express my regret", he added.

The Print journalist, Azaan Javaid said that there was no misinterpretation and stand by his story 100 percent.

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## Apex body calls off election boycott after Home Minister's assurance on safeguards for Ladakh

BJP, Congress and AAP release candidates list for the 6th LAHDC, Leh, elections



Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Krishan Reddy along with Arun Singh, BJP National Secretary and members of the Apex body during a joint press conference at Grand Dragon hotel, Leh.

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: A union territory status without legislature has left the region vulnerable making people demand including Ladakh under the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution.

After a yearlong celebration for getting UT status, people from Leh are going through constant fear of losing their identity, land, job, environment, and culture.

However, mixed responses are also there regarding the needed safeguard as a certain section of the Kargil district demands restoration of statehood, Article 370, and 35A.

Regarding Kargil's demand and support for the sixth schedule for Ladakh, Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP said, "If J&K is granted statehood in the coming days then we are also firm that Ladakh should also be granted statehood equally or UT with the legislature. The need for

Constitutional safeguard under the Sixth schedule is very important and I don't think so common people of Kargil are not in favour of it."

"Kargil is also part of Ladakh and we understand that their support for the cause of future Ladakh is equally important", he added.

Sajjad Hussain, 2019 Lok Sabha election contestant said, "From the very first day we were never in favour of bifurcation only, neither we supported UT demand. Today people from Leh are demanding the safeguard same as bestowed in Article 370 earlier. We demand the restoration of statehood, Article 370, 35 A".

"Before demanding anything from the region, consent of people from both the district is important", he added.

Amidst chaos and confusion, the decision of the Apex body of Peoples movement for the sixth schedule for Ladakh

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Courtesy Tsean 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.

You can contact at 9858394403 or email at [editor@reachladakh.com](mailto:editor@reachladakh.com).

All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone numbers.

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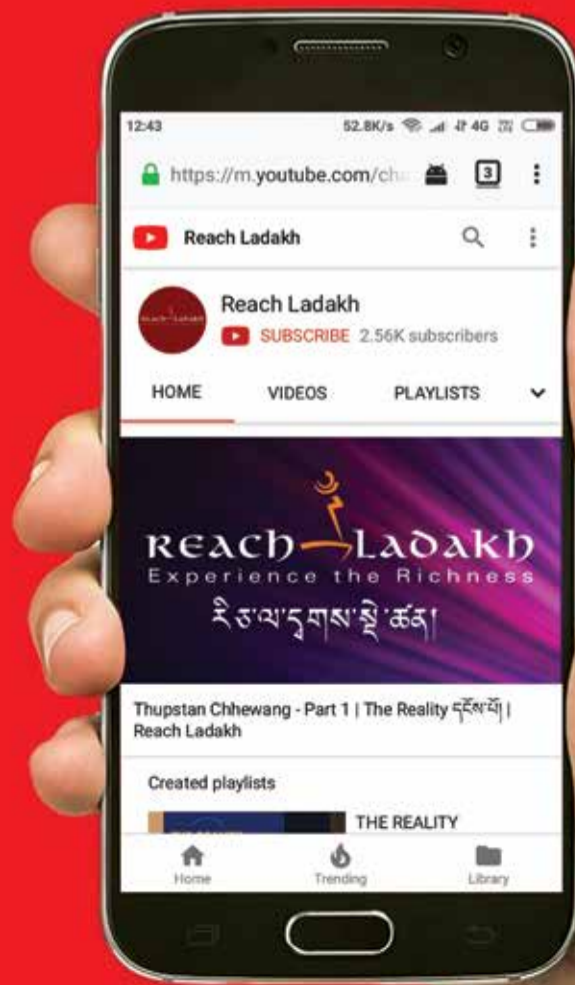


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## World Tourism Day: L-G Mathur flags off cleanliness drive in Leh



Participants of cleanliness drive cleaning the stream at Karzoo, Leh.

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: A cleanliness drive on World Tourism day was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur on September 27 from Karzoo, Leh.

The cleanliness campaign was carried out in different areas of Leh town.

Commissioner/ Secretary Tourism, Rigzin Samphel; Director Tourism, Kunzes Angmo, officers/officials of the Tourism Department, Rural Development Department, Municipal Committee, and members of various

organisations including ALTOA, ALGHA, LMGA, participating Mohallas, and other volunteers were present on the occasion.

Radha Krishna Mathur appreciated the Ladakh Tourism Department, Rural Development Department, MC, Leh and Kargil, and other bodies for their initiative to celebrate the World Tourism Day with a cleanliness drive.

Asserting the close dependence of tourism and cleanliness, he said that Ladakh needs to continue with the cleanliness drive regularly and create a clean atmosphere for tourists as well for

the local citizens. He exhorted to carry such cleanliness drives beyond the urban locality and to motivate the rural population to ensure cleanliness and hygiene at all levels.

Various items for the cleanliness drive to the representatives of different participating Mohallas were distributed.

Kunzes Dolma, Director Tourism said that the cleaning campaign is also a step towards making people aware of the importance of cleanliness to promote tourism. She urged people to keep the environment clean.

## Ladakh Football Association formed to provide opportunity for young players

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Ladakh Football association established 20 football training centers and a total of 24 football clubs are registered with the association.

This was shared during the first press conference convened by the Ladakh Football Association on September 26 at Hotel Abdus.

Tashi Gyalton, President Ladakh Football Association said that the Ladakh Football Association is formed after the declaration of Union Territory status to provide resources and opportunities for young talented players of Ladakh.

He said, "Earlier, young budding players from Ladakh were neglected and not given equal opportunity in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, but now we have our own identity and can promote sports at all levels."

"We have a good number of young talented players and the positive point is that the players from Ladakh have good stamina. We are very hopeful in the coming days we will be able to



Members of Ladakh Football Association during the first press conference at Hotel Abdus.

groom and form a one or two team of best players to participate at different levels", he informed.

Ladakh Football Association aims to elevate and promote sports in Ladakh for social equality, empowerment, and inclusiveness. The association has so far established 20 training centers in both Leh and Kargil district facilitating football training to all age groups and genders. The training is imparted in remote areas of Ladakh and aims to reach 113 villages of Leh district within 18 months and 130 villages of Kargil district in 2 years.

Tsewang Dorjey, Vice President, LFA said that the association was

established by the members who are connected with the game and are playing also.

"The association aims to provide a platform to many youths who are interested in playing the game at all levels", he added.

Tsering Angmo, General Secretary, LFA informed that the registration of the Ladakh Football Association is under process and it will soon be affiliated with the All India Football Association.

Coaches Tsering Dorjay and Jigmet Palmo(Tani); a representative from Kargil, Sonam Spalbar also shared their experiences, scope, and potential in sports, plans, and future of Ladakh Football Association.

## L-G Mathur meets G K Reddy, discuss developmental activities in Ladakh



G Krishna Reddy, Minister of State, Home, Govt of India and R K Mathur, Lieutenant Governor at Raj Niwas.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: G Krishna Reddy, Minister of State, Home, Govt of India met and discussed important developmental works particularly the setting up of

MSME units in Ladakh with R K Mathur, Lieutenant Governor on September 29 at Raj Niwas.

Potential areas in Ladakh including food processing, handloom, handicrafts, Pashmina, etc. and providing services to the Army were discussed.

Minister of State also reviewed the status of Government initiatives on higher education including Ladakh University, Central University, Medical and Engineering college, Institute of Hotel Management, Institute of Sowa Rigpa, etc. Action being taken on creating new infrastructure and adequately equipping the institutes with educational tools and materials was emphasised.

Other important infrastructural development such as construction of Zojila tunnel, regular civilian flight services to Kargil, internal roads and communication improvement and the power sector, especially, the setting up of solar power plants harnessing the natural solar energy available in Ladakh were also discussed.

## Delegation of Apex body of Peoples Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh meets L-G Mathur



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: His Eminence Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche, Former Rajya Sabha Member, Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP, and

Chering Dorjay Lakrook, Former Minister met Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur regarding the Sixth schedule demand on September 23 at Raj Niwas.

The delegation presented a copy of the memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor and Prime Minister, Narendra Modi demanding inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule and their decision to boycott the 6th LAHDC, Leh election.

They assured to peacefully follow all democratic as well as Covid-19 norms in their activities.

R K Mathur stated that the demand has been addressed to him for the first time and assured to refer it to the Government of India.

## Kargil delegation meets L-G Mathur, discusses several issues

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation from Kargil raised several issues with Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur on September 29 at Raj Niwas.

The delegation comprised Sheikh Nazir Mehdi, President Jamiat-ul-Ulama, Isna Asharia, Kargil, Captain Mohd Hussain and Sajjad Kargili.

The delegation raised the issue of road connectivity especially during winter months and requested the LG for expediting the construction work of the Zoji-la tunnel. They also highlighted the need of civil air con-



nectivity in Kargil and general issues of development of Kargil by the UT Administration.

R K Mathur assured to address these issues.

## Apex body calls off election boycott after Home Minister's assurance to grant safeguard

...Continued from Page 1

to boycott the upcoming 6th LAHDC, Leh election brought a wind of change. Apex body demands constitutional safeguards under the sixth schedule on the lines of Bodo Territorial council for UT Ladakh and its people. Following the boycott call, Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP, His Eminence Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche, Former Member Rajya Sabha, and Chering Dorjay, Former Minister met Home Minister, Amit Shah in Delhi. Amit Shah assured to hold talks with all stakeholders of Ladakh regarding Constitutional safeguards within 15 days of completion of the ensuing LAHDC elections.

On September 28, Minister of State for Home Affairs G Krishan Reddy along with BJP National Secretary and members of the Apex body convened a joint press conference in Leh.

Regarding the demand for the sixth schedule for

Ladakh, Minister of State for Home Affairs G Krishan Reddy said that the Union government is positive about the needs and demands of the people of the region. He said that the Home Minister Amit Shah was assured to provide a constitutional safeguard for the protection of culture, language, and ethnicity of Ladakh along with other developmental activities.

He informed that the government led by PM Modi is firm about addressing all needed demands of the people of the newly formed UT. Also, he assured that the government will not decide for the region without people's consent.

The words of assurance by the Home Minister Amit Shah have given a ray of hope in the fulfillment of the demands of Ladakh but at the same time opened the gate for commencing the Hill Council election. Political parties announced their candidates from different constituencies

## L-G Mathur focuses on exploring geothermal potentials in Ladakh



During the international webinar titled "Geothermal Energy Technologies: Exploring prospects and the way forward in Ladakh".

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur attended the international webinar titled "Geothermal Energy Technologies; Exploring prospects and the way forward in Ladakh" on September 22.

The event was an initiative of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor thanked CII, Iceland GeoSurvey (ISOR), and ONGC for their efforts towards a Geothermal project in

Ladakh and highlighted the significance of Puga valley as one of the major Geothermal sites in India.

R K Mathur informed that Ladakh has a potential of almost 30,000 MW of non-conventional energy which is generated primarily by Solar and Wind energies; followed by Hydel and Geothermal energies. He stressed on the reliability and 24 hours availability of geothermal energy against other sources. He stated that aspects such as estimated production, cost, and the

time frame of the project need to be looked at.

Looking at Ladakh's perennial problem pertaining to vegetable/agriculture production in the plains of Puga valley, Mathur suggested exploring possibilities of cultivation by means of constructing greenhouses for use of heat energy produced by Geothermal energy. Considering Ladakh's Tourism industry and highlighting the usage of the available energy on a commercial scale, he also suggested the development of a tourism complex offering medicinal baths and treatments through Sowa Rigpa practices.

Ravinder Kumar, Secretary Power, UT Ladakh; Nawang Thinless, Chairman CII Ladakh; Dr. Sanjeev S. Katti, Director-General ONGC Energy Centre; Bjamri Richter, Director-General Iceland GeoSurvey (ISOR) and Stanzin Chospel, Vice Chairman CII Ladakh attended the webinar.

## Advisor Narula emphasises on promotion of Sea buckthorn in Ladakh

Apex committee to be constituted for development and promotion of Sea buckthorn industry



Advisor to LG Ladakh, Umang Narula convening a meeting regarding production and value addition of Sea Buckthorn.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting regarding production and value addition of Sea Buckthorn was convened by Advisor to LG Ladakh, Umang Narula on September 24 in Leh.

Commissioner/Secretary Agriculture, Horticulture Department Ladakh, Secretary Industries & Commerce Department Ladakh, Secretary Cooperatives Department Ladakh, Deputy Commissioner, Leh/Kargil, Director, Industries & Commerce Ladakh, Director Horticulture Ladakh, Director DIHAR, and district level officers of Industries, horticulture & Cooperatives, department were present in the meeting.

Secretary, Industries & Commerce Ladakh, Saugat Biswas gave a detailed presentation regarding Seabuckthorn: Value & Financial Analysis and Methods to improve its harvesting.

Nearly 600 MT of Sea Buckthorn is being harvested in Ladakh, which is around only 5% of the total produce available in Ladakh. The requirement of modern techniques to harvest the sea buckthorn was discussed in the meeting.

Director DIHAR was assigned the work to carry out a realistic data survey to update the actual

availability of sea buckthorn in Ladakh, based upon which the future interventions and plans will be formulated.

Advisor Narula stressed the Industries & Commerce Department to hold a conclave on sea buckthorn, where various companies may be invited. He stressed the department to explore possibilities of selling the harvest through the e-market.

With the aim of increasing the harvesting of sea buckthorn by way of the introduction of modern techniques, Advisor Narula urged Director DIHAR to submit a report regarding various machinery equipment and tools used around the globe for the harvesting of sea buckthorn. Based upon its study, DIHAR shall suggest the UT Administration the best Machinery Equipments & tools for the harvesting of sea buckthorn.

Narula also stressed the need for an Incentive Policy by way of which the latest machinery, tools and equipment may be distributed to the potential farmers at subsidized rates. Horticulture Department was asked to work upon the proposal in consultation with the Industries & Commerce Department.

It was informed that a project

namely, "Centre of Excellence for Sea Buckthorn & temperate Fruits (like Apricot)" at Horticulture Departmental Farm Nimmo, Leh is under execution. The Advisor directed the Horticulture department to complete the project within the prescribed timeline of the project. It was directed that the plantation of sea

buckthorn in the COE project should be completed by March 2021 for the creation of a model sea buckthorn Orchard and Nursery.

With the aim to attract the entrepreneurs to Sea Buckthorn Industry, he directed the Horticulture department to prepare model orchards in the existing plantation areas by selecting patches of optimum size in different locations of Ladakh in consultation with DIHAR. Such orchards may be developed by creating necessary pathways etc.

He further directed the Horticulture department to prepare a report which shall include the cost analysis for the development of such model Orchards.

A UT level apex committee will be constituted under the Industries & Commerce department to ensure synergetic decisions for the promotion and development of sea buckthorn industry.

## Meeting held on earthquake preparedness in Ladakh

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Following a series of mild to moderate intensity earthquakes felt in the Ladakh region, Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, Saugat Biswas reviewed the preparedness and mitigation measures on September 29.

Saugat Biswas stressed on the requirements of readiness by all relevant departments of the UT Administration and also the Army, Air Force, paramilitary, and the BRO.

District Magistrate/Chairman DDMA Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, and District Magistrate/Chairman DDMA Kargil, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary informed about the existing machinery and manpower deployment for meeting a situation of emergency.

Officers of the Police, Army, BRO, HIMANK, VIJAYAK, Air Force, 8 Mountain Div, UTDRE, Health, Power, Food, R&B, PWD, and BSNL appraised their stage of readiness for facing a disaster. Various coordination issues were also addressed during the meeting.

DIG Ladakh Police, B.S. Tuti briefed about the preparedness of Ladakh Police, Civil Defense, and Home Guards. He also gave his inputs regarding vulnerability mapping, use of GIS, and other contemporary means of search and rescue.

Saugat Biswas directed both the



DCs for an immediate review of the existing disaster preparedness plans in their district and recheck the readiness of inventory at each of the deployment location. Emergency centers/ Incident Command Centers will also be operationalized by the District Magistrates immediately. To have uninterrupted communication during any eventuality it was decided that every Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Tehsildars be provided with satellite phones.

Divisional Commissioner directed the modernization of disaster mitigation processes. He asked the concerned officers to procure winter rescue vests, modern communication devices, lights, machinery & equipment immediately to professionalise disaster management. Community halls or shelter homes, and food availability along with other basic facilities was discussed.

Discussion on associated disasters such as landslides, avalanches, flash floods, and a fire was also held. Directions were issued for the mapping of vulnerable

sites, deployment plans, evacuation processes, and sharing of information for ease of rapid access to places for prompt action, in case of any eventuality.

Saugat Biswas also sought preparedness on the medical and health sector. Director Health, Dr. Phunchok Angchuk said that the medical team is ready with the available equipment and additional medicines. He stressed early assessment of required inventories and ensuring decentralized deployment of ambulances and equip them with basic health facilities including heating systems.

Discussion on the training of volunteers was also made where SP UTDRF Kameshwar Puri was directed to involve Sarpanches and Lambardars at the grass-root level to mobilize volunteers for training purposes which would prove highly useful during any disaster situation.

District Magistrates will commence an extensive publicity drive to make people aware of the safety measures to be followed in case of an earthquake.

## Leh protest against BJP's Ashok Kaul remarks on call to boycott Hill Council polls

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Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP said, "The statement of Ashok Kaul has hurt the sentiments of all the people of Ladakh and he must take his word back and apologize to the people of Ladakh."

Condemning the remarks, students and youths of Leh district took out a protest rally, seeking an apology from Ashok Kaul.

Jigmet Paljor, student leader said the rally is organised in a very peaceful manner following all the

measures and SOP's of COVID-19.

"We strongly condemn the irresponsible statement of Ashok Kaul made with an intention to break the unity of Ladakh. He should apologize for it", he added.

Konchok Eshey Stak, President, LBA Youth wing said, "Decision for Ladakh will be made only by the local people and its leaders. No one from outside should interfere in our internal matters. Ashok Kaul has hurt the sentiments of the people and he should apologize for his irresponsible statement."

## 6<sup>th</sup> Hill Council, Leh, election dates rescheduled



Date from which nominations can be made	21.09.2020
(ii) Last date for making nominations	03.10.2020
(iii) Date for scrutiny of the nominations	05.10.2020
(iv) Last date for the withdrawal of nominations	07.10.2020
(V) Poll date, If necessary, be taken	22.10.2020
(vi) Date of counting	26.10.2020
(vii) Date to complete election	30.10.2020
The polling hours shall be between 8:00A M to 4:00 PM	

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary Election Department Union Territory of Ladakh, Saugat Biswas issued notification regarding the reschedule of upcoming 6th Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh on September 28.

The notification reads as, the last date for making nomination and other dates, in supersession of dates notified vide S.O. 28 dated 18th September 2020, shall be extended as follows:

The Election Authority shall issue orders and take action, as may be necessary and incidental to give effect to the aforesaid directions, for ensuring the smooth conduct of election. The Returning Officer and the Assistant Returning Officer shall, subject to the directions of the Election Authority, issue such orders and take such actions, as may be necessary and incidental to give effect to the aforesaid directions, including issuing corrigendum to the Notice of Election, i.e., Form 1, as regards date of nomination and other dates as may have been mentioned in Form 1, for ensuring the smooth conduct of election.

# Sixth schedule: Only constitutional safeguard for Ladakh



By Jigmet Paljor, Chief coordinator LEAF

On August 5, 2019, a long-standing demand of the People of Ladakh was satisfied when the Government of India proclaimed Ladakh a Union Territory (without legislature). Ladakh welcomed the decision of the central Govt, but concern and disarray likewise immersed the territory concerning safeguards towards Land, Jobs, Culture, Environment, and Economy.

Before the UT Ladakh declaration and soon after that, the demand for inclusion of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Leh and Kargil in the 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution was one of the key aspirations and with the formation of the Apex Body of People's Movement for 6th Schedule supported by all Political parties, religious organizations, Students Bodies, and different Social Groups, the demand for the declaration of Tribal Status for Ladakh under 6th Schedule intensified.

### Brief History of the 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

The provision of the Sixth Schedule which was designed by the Constitution makers was aimed at the creation of an enlightened and developed tribal society while preserving their culture, customs, and traditional way of life. Undoubtedly their aim was genuine.

The origin of the sixth schedule can be traced back to the policy of exclusion of the British Government during the colonial period. The British had their commercial interest mainly in tea in the North East. To secure their commercial interest in the area, the British decided to keep the area isolated from the rest of the country. The physical isolation of the area helped them in their task. Inner Line Regulation 1873, Govt. of India Act 1919, and giving the hill areas status of excluded and partially excluded area completed the task of isolating the hill people from the plains people. Under the Govt. of India Act, 1935, the hill areas of Assam were decided into two categories- excluded and partially excluded areas and remained detached from the provincial Govt thus further isolating the area.

After Independence, there were demands for regional autonomy and better status within the constitutional framework from the tribes of the hill areas of Assam. An advisory committee on the Fundamental Rights of Minorities in the Tribal areas was constituted in May 1946 by the Constituent Assembly of India. On the request of the Constituted Assembly, the Advisory Committee set up a sub-committee on the Northeast Frontier (Assam) Tribal and Excluded Areas Sub-Com-



On December 12, 2019 students leading a protest demanding six schedule for Ladakh.

mittee under the chairmanship of Assam Premier, Gopinath Bordoloi. The Sub Committee observed the fear of the hill people of exploitation made them welcome provision like Inner Line Regulation as introduced by the British Government. The Subcommittee considered the distinct customs and traditions of the hill people. Considering various factors like the hill people's fear of exploitation by the plain people, the sub-committee recommended the incorporation of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution providing a special arrangement for the administration of the hill people of the area.

These areas got special administrative machinery in the form of the Sixth Schedule which provided for District and Regional Councils. These institutions integrate these areas with the modern system of administration while preserving the traditional autonomy and local self-governing institutes of the tribal people. At present, there are 10 Autonomous District Councils under the 6th Schedule in 4 of the North-Eastern States of India i.e., Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura.

### Why Tribal Status for Ladakh?

Ladakh is predominantly constituted by 95% of the tribal population with a population size of mere 3laks inhabitants. It hosts one of the unique and rare social, cultural, and linguistic heritage, with limited means of livelihood, extremely fragile environment, economic back-

wardness, and sentinels of the Indo China and Pakistan Borders.

The provisions of the 6th schedule under Article 244 of our constitution will guarantee the tribal population of Ladakh on the path of swift infrastructure development while preserving its self-governance, land rights, unique culture, customs, and traditional way of life.

The Apex body has called the inclusion of Ladakh under the 6th Schedule on the lines of Bodoland Territorial Council, Assam which is the most empowered Autonomous Council out of all. BTC has legislative powers on land 40 subjects such as social welfare, Education, Tourism, etc. It also has executive powers and Judiciary powers to some extent. It has 75% reservations for the tribal communities in the Bodoland Territorial Council members. It also has powers to make laws on allotment, occupation or use of Land and social customs, etc.

To dispel the prevailing apprehensions and anxieties, the aspirations and the concerns of the people of Ladakh needs to be accommodated in the New UT setup as soon as possible. Only such constitutional safeguards would achieve the real purpose of our becoming a Union territory.

The writer is a Chief Coordinator of the Ladakh Students' Environmental Action Forum (LEAF). You can send your views and comment at [j.paljor@gmail.com](mailto:j.paljor@gmail.com).

Department of Revenue, Disaster Management  
Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction  
Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh

## IN EVENT OF AN EARTHQUAKE DO'S & DON'TS

### BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

Know the house layout, electric and water shut off locations

Plan & prepare for emergency relief

Follow local safe building codes

Know where can you get help from

Do not keep flower pots on the parapet

### DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

Don't panic  
Keep calm

Do not light candles or matches

Open spaces are the safest

Free all pets and animals

If in a moving vehicle, stop and wait inside

- If you are indoors, take cover under a desk, table, bed or doorways and against inside walls and staircase.
- Stay away from glass doors, glass panes, windows or outside doors.
- Do not rush to go out of the building, to avoid the stampede.

- For mountainous region like Ladakh don't go near slopes/cliffs, be alert for avalanches, falling rocks or debris
- Avoid crossing bridges

### AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

Provide help to others

Keep stock of water, food and first-aid

Turn on radio or TV to get the latest information

Attend the injured

Do not operate electric switches or appliances

- Be prepared for after shocks as these may strike.
- Close the valve of kitchen gas stove
- Check water pipes, electric lines and fittings.

### FOR ANY ASSISTANCE :

DDMA LEH- 01982 252010  
UTDRF - 01982- 251169  
DDMA KARGIL- 01985 232263  
PCR- 01985 233959

Advisory 1  
Issued in Public Interest by Ladakh Disaster Management Authority

# SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

## The dynamical truth of morality

When we speak of morality, we have to think twice or even more before we try to say something about it. That is because the concept of morality is different from time to time, place to place and even from person to person. If we go by the dictionary meaning of morality, it is the degree of human character or behaviour in terms of goodness, badness or even right or wrong. In other words, it refers to the moral principles like virtues and non-virtues.

Morality as such indicates positivity, and the 'parts' of virtuous elements in it are acquired over a time through various means, mainly through our association with other human beings. This 'element' of morality-dynamics is referred to by Charles Darwin in these words: "Morality is made possible by our social instincts, our natural disposition to act for the benefit of others."

But this kind of morality was missing when we first came into existence. As we started moving slowly, over millions of years, towards the path of intelligence and reason, we, as human beings, started living for each other. And that gave rise to the beginning of morality, though not fully 'grown' as in today's concept of morality.

This angle is reflected by German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's works of the progression on the path to what we call 'civilisation'. As we moved on, we developed the herd-instinct in a manner that people started living in groups with a sense of belongingness to each other, as well as to become what came to be known as "social animals."

Gandhi-ji had said: "Morality is the basis of all things, and truth is the substance of all morality. And the same thing was said by America's third President, Thomas Jefferson, but with a degree difference: "Truth is certainly a branch of morality, and a very important one for mankind." Any more addition would be of little consequence!

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

## Leh district gears up for 6<sup>th</sup> LAHDC elections

First training programme for Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers convened



6<sup>th</sup> LAHDC, Leh election: Sachin Kumar convening the first training program for the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The 6<sup>th</sup> General Election of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh will be held in October.

Training for the Returning Officers (ROs), Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) was convened on September 19 at DC office conference hall under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner/ Chief Election Officer, Leh Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

A total of 65 ROs & AROs of Leh, Nyoma, Khaltse, Durbuk and Kharu Tehsils attended the training programme.

Sachin Kumar stated that due to the current COVID-19 situation across the country, the election will be held following the guidelines issued by the Election

Commission of India (ECI) followed by SOP/guidelines laid by the MHA.

He further stressed upon the responsibility of every individual to uphold the credibility of the election commission of India with due respect to the Indian election process known across the world for its transparency.

The Nomination process will start from September 21.

Sachin Kumar informed that person with disability (PWD) and a person whose age is more than 65 years have optional services to take part in the election through Postal ballot. Also, person at quarantine, home isolation, facility isolation and the employees that are placed at COVID hospital and Facility Centre will take part in the elec-

tion with postal ballot.

He said that self conduct of each polling staff would be important in completing the entire election process.

All the deployed employees were instructed to reach their designated constituency as per the given time frame. Also, he asked them to take the training program seriously saying that even a small mistake of an individual can spoil the entire election process of the constituency.

Earlier, Nodal Officers for Manpower and Training, Dr. Stanzin Rabgais and Dr. Tundup Namgial imparted training regarding Nomination process, Roles and Responsibility of ROs and AROs through presentation and meticulously highlighted the duties of ROs and AROs.

## First batch of 21 officials completes ICT training

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first batch of the officials of UT Ladakh completed ICT Training for the middle and junior level officials on September 25 in Leh.

The training was conducted by the IT Department Ladakh in collaboration with the NIELIT Leh.

The training was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur on 21 September.

Mathur asserted that the best way to take Ladakh on the path of development is by ensuring high-quality government officials and human resource rich citizens by means of advance training.

He said that the five day IT training to the government officials is the first step towards achieving this target.

He further informed that steps have already been taken towards making the LG Office a complete e-office. The aim of UT Administration of Ladakh is to make every government official IT trained within a target of one year and to introduce e-offices in government and panchayats in coming years that will ensure work efficiency and transparency.

Emphasize was made on the role of National Informatics Centre (NIC) in ensuring the security of



Ravinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary, UT Ladakh distributing ICT training completion certificates to the participants.

network, data backing, a mechanism for responsible usage of internet in offices and building administrator ability. Also, L-G exhorted on making maximum government services online and activating CSC services at all Gram Panchayat levels to take Ladakh towards e-Ladakh.

Advisor Umang Narula in his speech stressed on the need to include a module on electronic security while dealing with official files and documents and to substantially add the use of advanced software with the target to improve work efficiency in offices.

A total of 21 participants across different departments of UT Ladakh participated in the first batch. The training was imparted by Mudasir Satar (NIELIT – Srinagar).

Training on Information and Communications Technology and the modules such as using GUI Operating System tools, Microsoft Office suite, Social Media Applications, Google Suite, File Management System, Internet applications, and various other open-source applications were imparted.

Ravinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary, UT Ladakh emphasized the importance of being digitally literate in this digital era. He said that all the office work and file processing that is being done manually will soon be replaced digitally through e-office.

In the end, certificates were distributed to all the participants.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of the ICT Training will be conducted at NIELIT, Leh from September 28 till October 3.

## Fortnight Highlights



Volunteers of Chushul and Merak villages supplying local products, essential commodities, and water to the Indian Army deployed at LAC.



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju with Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur during the foundation stone laying ceremony of various sports facilities in Leh.



A spectacular attestation parade at Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, Leh. A total of 131 well-trained recruits took the oath to serve the nation.



Former MP Thupstan Chhewang, His Eminence, Thiksay Rinpoche, Former Minister Chering Dorjay Lakrook & other public representatives of Union Territory of Ladakh met Home Minister Amit Shah at New Delhi.



Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports being screened at Leh Airport.

## National Animal Disease Control Programme launched in Leh



Administrative Secretary Union Territory of Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar during the launch of the National Animal Disease Control Programme at district veterinary hospital, Skara.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administrative Secretary Union Territory of Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar flagged off the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) on September 28 at the district veterinary hospital, Skara.

Director of Animal/Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries, Dr. Mohd Raza, Disease Investigation Officer, Dr. Stanzin Rabgias, and staff of the Animal husbandry

department were present.

NADCP aimed to eradicate "foot and mouth disease" (FMD) and Brucellosis by 2030. The programme was launched by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi on September 11, 2019.

Director of Animal Husbandry UT-Ladakh launched the first phase of the programme in Leh, in which 84,201 cattle would be vaccinated. In the second phase, 5.57 lakh cattle/sheep/goats/yaks would be vaccinated.

Under this program all the livestock vaccinated will be tagged with a UID number, unique to each livestock. The UIDs will be uploaded on the Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH) portal of the GoI for monitoring of the animals for future medical interventions.

Later, Administrative Secretary also inspected each section of the district Veterinary Hospital, Skara.

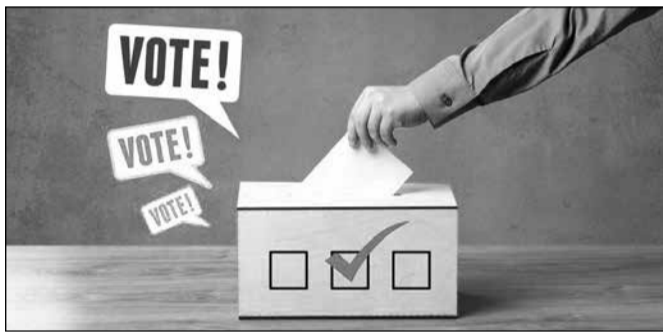
## Covid-19 patients, elderly, people with disabilities can vote through postal ballot

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Keeping in view the Covid-19 situation, Deputy Commissioner/ Chief Election Officer, Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya issued notification regarding postal ballot services to the senior citizens, persons with disability, doctors, paramedical staff, officers employed in dedicated Covid Hospital/Covid Care Centers and individuals under home and Institutional quarantine on September 19.

The notification states as:

1. Those Senior citizens and Persons with Disability who wants to cast vote through Postal Ballot can download application form (13A) from Leh.nic.in or they can collect it from respective Returning Officer (ROs)/Assis-



tant Returning Officers (AROs) office and submit the filled form between 21 to 25th September (10 am to 4:30 pm).

2. Those individuals who are under home/institutional quarantine during 10th – 15th October can cast votes through postal ballot service. The application form and postal ballot shall be provided by the Surveillance team or

designated poll officer.

3. Person tested positive and home isolated can cast votes through postal ballot services.

4. Essential services teams viz Doctors, Paramedical staff deployed at dedicated COVID Hospital or COVID Care Centres and others shall also get postal ballot services.

## National Nutrition Month concludes in Leh

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Closing ceremony of National Nutrition Month's (Rashtriya Poshan Maah) was organized at DC office Conference hall under the aegis of the Rural Development department Leh on September 30.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, DC, Leh expressed his gratitude for successful completion of the month long Poshan Maah programme.

District Program Officer highlighted the importance of having nutritious food for the good health of young children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women. He added that all had to come forward and work towards improving the state of health of women and children.

He thanked the team for working in coop-

eration and working with Education, Health and Public Engineering departments, among others, in holding awareness programmes for emphasising the virtues of nutrition.

He further added that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of the events were organised through online, that consisted of online speech competition to spread awareness regarding nutrition in both junior and senior sections.

It was informed that nearly 1150 videos have been sent by the participants during the month long Poshan Maah programme. ICICI bank sponsored the mother of the newly healthy born baby on the basis of normal Institutional deliveries and normal baby weight.

## Market inspection team conducts checking; penalises 27 traders

Recovers ₹ 11700 fine imposed on erring traders



Administration team conducting market checking in Kargil.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The market surveillance team conducted an intensive market inspection in Kargil town and adjoining areas to check the quality and prices of essential commodities on September 25.

A total of 27 business establishments were penalized for violation of the provisions of the Food

Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and Essential Commodities Act. Also, a fine of ₹11,700 was imposed against the defaulters and stale edible items and vegetables were seized and destroyed.

The inspection team was led by Tehsildar Kargil, Muhammad Salim Wazir, and comprised of the members of the Enforcement

Wing of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Municipal Committee, Kargil.

The market inspection team also took stock of the hygienic conditions of food items available, charging rates, and other set standards. Shopkeepers and traders were asked to display the rate list at their establishments besides maintaining cleanliness.

Baseer ul Haq Chaudhary, District Magistrate Kargil appealed all traders to ensure proper adherence to the set standards and warned of stern action against the violators under rules.

Concerned officers were asked to carry out frequent inspections and conduct checking of the market to curb overcharging, black marketing, use of polythene, and sale of substandard food items.

## World Tourism Day celebrated in Kargil

Speakers highlight the importance of responsible tourism by way of proper cleanliness, hygiene

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

DRASS: An awareness cum cleanliness drive was organised on World Tourism Day themed, 'Building peace and Fostering Knowledge' on September 27 at Drass.

The day was organised by Tourism Department, Ladakh in collaboration with Hill Council, Kargil. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Drass, Asgar Ali was the chief guest. Assistant Director Tourism, Aga Syed Toha; SHO Drass, Manzoor Hussain, tourism experts besides students participated in the programme.

Highlighting the theme of World Tourism Day 2020, "Tourism and Rural Development", speak-



ers spoke about the unique role played by tourism in job creation in small towns and rural areas and its role in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

The concept of homestays and measures to promote winter tourism was also highlighted.

The participants stressed on the preservation of the historical monuments and heritage sites.

The cleanliness drive and a rally were taken out in Drass with the slogan to assert the importance of clean surroundings and proper hygiene for visiting tourists as well as the local population.

## Sonam Yaqub Batapa, first officer of Cultural Academy, Leh passes away

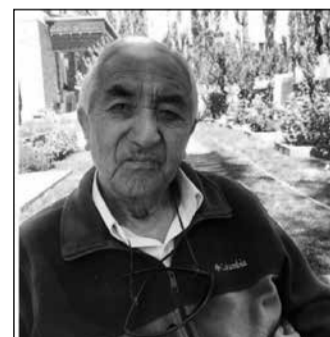
### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Sonam Yaqub, popularly known as Sonam Yaqub Batapa, first Cultural Officer of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Leh passed away on September 28 in Leh.

Ladakh Cultural Academy Leh condoled the sad demise of Late Sonam Yaqub and remembered his contribution.

His contribution to preserving and promoting Ladakhi Art, Culture and Language throughout his entire service till his retirement from the Academy services in the year 1992 is immense. He put in great efforts to introduce a research section in Leh Academy to research Ladakh as well as to bring out Publications in the Ladakhi language. Under his leadership, the first Ladakhi Publication under the title "Shesrig Melong" in the year 1976 and "Sheeraza Journals in Ladakhi" in the year 1979 was published.

Besides, he has contributed his



life in preserving & promoting Ladakhi folk songs and folklore. It was during his time that volumes of Ladakhi folk songs were published in book form for the first time in Ladakhi language. Today, due to his visionary leadership, Academy Leh following his footsteps has been continuously bringing out bi-monthly sheeraza journals besides publishing various books in Ladakhi. He has also worked for the revival and promotion of Ladakhi theatre and performing arts of Ladakh by creating a separate theatre wing in the

Leh office with a post of drama instructor. He has represented Ladakh in various National and International festivals and cultural events showcasing the rich and diverse culture of Ladakh to the world stature.

Recalling Late Sonam Yaqub Batapa, Mipham Otsal, Director, Ladakh Theatre Organisation said that Ladakh will always remember his valuable services & contribution to the promotion of Art, Culture & Languages of Ladakh.

He further said that besides being a good Administrator, Writer, Sonam Yaqub Batapa was a good human being. He recalled his punctuality and dedication towards his works.

Former Editor Ladakhi, Ven Tsering Chosphele also spoke on the occasion and recalled his life punctuality towards his duty. He said that he has given an immense contribution to uplift the field of Literature, Music, and Art of Ladakh.

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