

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Brief News

Leh to have milestone signages in Bhoti language

LEH: Hill Council, Leh decided to use Bhoti language on all the government and private milestones and signage.

CEC LAHDC, Leh Advocate Tashi Gyalsen directed Chief Engineer, Project HIMANK, Ladakh, Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak, Ladakh, District Superintending Engineer, PWD Leh and Assistant Commissioner Development Leh to use Bhoti language as an additional medium of communication on milestone, signage(s) in addition to the existing languages within the jurisdiction of Leh district.

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Gatherings to blame for surge in Covid-19 cases

Healthcare system under major stress as hospital faces oxygen & manpower crisis

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: As the COVID-19 cases and fatalities are on the rise in Leh district, the state of affairs seems to be grim. Since the start of the outbreak, a total number of 5409 positive cases were confirmed, and 49 death cases were reported in Leh district (Data till November 14).

Health institutions are struggling to cope with the surge in new cases of COVID-19. With the onset of winter, more gathering and function are becoming a matter of concern as the district witnessed a sudden spike in the COVID cases in the past few days.

Many of the patients have become so ill that they need to be treated in the hospital. Both the SNM and Mahabodhi hospital is in dire need of more healthcare workers, cleaning staff, and other facilities.

Oxygen crisis

COVID positive patient and attendants at SNM hospital are complaining about the lack of oxygen supply. On November 6, Executive Engineer Mechanical Division wrote a letter (no. MDL/TS/681-84) to Medical Superintendent (MS), SNM Hospital, Leh. The letter mentioned that oxygen plant capacity is only 500/LPM (Litres Per Minute) and consumption of the hospital is currently more than 800 LPM which is resulting in the dropping of the pressure. Currently, the plant is running 20hrs/day and the remaining 4 hrs the supply is done through Jumbo (7000Ltsx30 Nos in 4 hours) cylinders inline and shutting the plants for a cool down.

Executive Engineer Mechanical Division advised Medical Superintendent to restrict the consumption of oxygen to its capacity by providing oxygen cylinder to the extra ventilators currently in use and filling of B-type cylinder needs to be done from outside (currently filling 1200x25=30,000 litres/day) so that full 500 LPM can be made available to the hospital inline.



Tashi Gyalsen, CEC, LAHDC, Leh while interacting with the medical staff during his visit to SNM hospital.

A COVID positive patient admitted at SNM hospital complained about the oxygen crisis. He said, "The present situation is critical and the everyday number of patients is increasing. Oxygen supply is a must to all the admitted patients but due to the rising cases, the requirement of oxygen exceeds the capacity of the plant. Cylinder is there but it is not sufficient also very inconvenient as it has to get it replaced several times."

"I fear it is going to be worse if the problem is not sorted at the earliest", he added.

Dr. Tsering Morup, Senior consultant Anesthetist/Intensivist said that the existing oxygen plant is established as per the hospital requirement which is more than enough normally. But in the present situation is completely different because of the pandemic. The oxygen requirement is increased manifold because of the number of COVID cases and to meet the demand the cylinders are refilled from the private oxygen plants and also have a plan to establish a mega plant at SNM hospital in

the coming days.

The administration is procuring 30,000 litres extra capacity oxygen cylinders. The refilling of the cylinders will be done by the private oxygen supplier at Phyang and Chuchot.

Tashi Gyalsen, CEC, LAHDC, Leh directed CMO, Leh and Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital, Leh to place an order for procurement of 10 High-Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) machines immediately.

Some patients bought the High-Flow Nasal Cannula machines at their expense.

Need for healthcare workers

Frontline warriors, including the doctors and healthcare workers, are working excruciatingly hard for the welfare of the patients in this pandemic situation. But due to the increasing cases every day, the sole district hospital,

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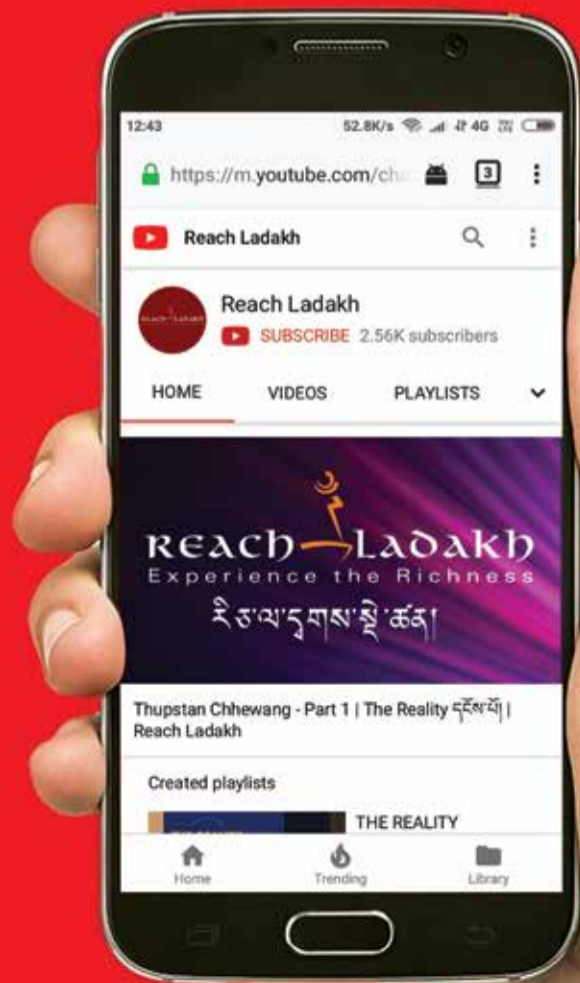


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L-G meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari



Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur with Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur discussed developmental projects of Ladakh with Union Minister for Road

Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari on November 10.

R K Mathur thanked the Minister for the sanction and launch of the work on the Zojila tunnel. Nitin

Gadkari assured that the project shall be completed in a few years. Other issues of road connectivity including national highways and internal roads in Ladakh's need for additional tunnels, assistance to local MSMEs were also discussed at length.

L G Mathur further asked Nitin Gadkari to help in exploring the economic potential of Pashmina produced in Ladakh. He stressed the need to support the promotion of pashmina as a means of rural livelihood and a good revenue-generating avenue for youth.

Culture Academy, Leh, organises singing competition



Students during the singing competition organised by Cultural Academy, Leh.

Konchok Norboo

LEH: A singing competition themed 'sNyanyang- Voice of Ladakh' was organised by Cultural Academy Leh, in association with Wachter Film production, Leh on November 12 at Lotsava Auditorium, Culture Academy.

Students from all over Ladakh participated in the programme who were imparted five days of training by, Padmashree award-ee Murup Namgyal; Director, Ladakh Theatre Organisation, Mipham Otsal, Rinchen Wachter, and other experts.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Sonam Angchok, Programme Head, DDK, Leh congratulated the students and guided them

with the importance of art and culture. He said that Ladakh has a rich tradition, culture, and folks but today the early music practices are fading. Such programs know what is at stake and are spreading their unique culture and to guard it.

He further added that huge success could be achieved with music as the reality shows are its evidence and boosted the students to take part in such talent show and not to get their morale down by mere academic failures.

Murup Namgyal encouraged the young aspirants and praised their enthusiasm, talent and interests in Ladakhi folk. He said that the five days training is not minutely enough to know ev-

erything, rather take every day of your life as training and gain from any source available as he does so.

Murup also admired the folk instrument players claiming it to be the backbone of any festival or occasion.

Mipham Otsal focused on having an identity, knowing respective cultures, traditions, and nurturing it and further guarding it. He said, "Folk song 'Junglu' cannot be compared to any form of songs and any expert would fail to adapt to its style, yet the students could do it as well as learn other styles too, that's the bar Ladakhi folk has set so high and everyone must be proud and enthusiast about learning it".

Gatherings to blame for surge in Covid-19 cases

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SNM is short of medical staff. Nurses are working 9 to 10 hours per day without any leave or break. The threat of them catching the disease and infecting their own families also looms large over them, due to which the nurses work on 15 days shift basis in the COVID ward. They are shifted to isolation after 15 days of duty and relieved back home after getting tested. The story does not just end with this, health institutions are running with the help of NRHM employees who are working with a meager salary day and night. Many are working in the health department for the past 15 years and are waiting to get regularised. Some are hired during the COVID-19 pandemic and are serving the people with a salary of ₹ 15,000 per month.

"We are working as much as all other staff are doing and despite this our salary which is just 15000 per month is still pending from few months. We can't raise much voice because we fear that we will get fired", an NRHM employee said.

An admitted patient in the hospital said, "The healthcare workers are overloaded with work and are also facing lots of issues. I have seen myself nurses getting fainted due to overwork."

Due to the manpower crisis, there are few attendants of COVID patients who are helping the hos-

pital staff. Commissioner/Secretary, Health, Rigzin Samphel informed that 100 nurses each for Leh and Kargil will be outsourced to meet the crisis.

Lack of facilities

Questions are also being raised about arrangements made for COVID patients at Mahabodhi COVID dedicated and SNM hospital.

Along with shortages of healthcare workers, lack of proper heating facility at Mahabodhi hospital, common washrooms is also a concern. Common washrooms for the patient and attendant are increasing the risk of virus spread. There are patients at SNM hospital who are admitted to the hospital for the past month and are still waiting to get a negative report.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh directed concerned officers to ensure basic facilities like the heating system, running water, and other facilities in the Mahabodhi hospital.

On one hand, administration issues guidelines and SOP's contain the spread of the virus but on the other hand there is no restriction, check and balance in a public gathering. An increasing number of private and public gatherings hosted by the administration, different organisation, and families are also one factor in surging COVID cases. The question is who has to blame?

On 17th Parinirvana day, rich tributes paid to 19th Gyalras Bakula Rinpoche

Konchok Norboo

LEH: A prayer meeting was held to observe the 17th Parinirvana day of 19th Gyalras Bakula Rinpoche on November 4 at Hotel Grand Dragon.

The program was organised by Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Memorial Society and Pethub Gal-dan Targaisling Monastery.

CEC, Tashi Gyalson; MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgail; Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk, Ladakh Gonpa Association, President, Ven. Shadup Chamba and many other dignitaries were present.

Speaking on the occasion Bakula Rinpoche's Former Secretary, Sonam Wangchuk gave a brief account of the extraordinary achievements of the Rinpoche from being a monk to becoming India's ambassador in Mongolia to achieving Padma Bhushan. He stated that despite being a Congress party associate he never faced political biases and was thus favoured by all irrespective of the change in govt which is evident from his 10 years-long tenure as Minority Commission member between the era of Indira Gandhi(UPA) and Moraji Desai(NDA).

He informed they had formed a Bakula Rinpoche's Memorial Committee Society for promoting oneness and betterment of



the region irrespective of any religion. The committee had solemnly passed a few resolutions i.e 1) to send a proposal to the centre to felicitate late Rinpoche with Padma Vibhushan. 2) To mark this day as a public holiday 3) to accumulate Rinpoche's contribution in the region's school texts. 4) to erect his 12 ft. statue and amphitheater at Shradhanjali park near the airport.

The committee urged both the CEC and MP to look into the matter.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal took the stage to share the modern architect of Ladakh's tremendous benefaction to the people of Ladakh in awe. He said, unlike today's political scenario Rinpoche never had biases and sole party beneficial intentions, his objective was genuine concerning the whole community. He wished the principles of the 19th Bakula Rinpoche to be maintained for peace and prosperity of the UT

and to keep it as the baseline of every polity's ideology.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh said that the Rinpoche dream of attaining a separate identity as a Union Territory is fulfilled today and the whole Ladakh is in huge debt to the Rinpoche for showing us the way.

He said, "Now that we have accomplished our long-term goal it's the responsibility of each citizen to sincerely contribute in the establishment of the foundation of the UT".

Tashi advised the mass to have patience with the administration and anticipate a very flourishing future and not to put any hindrance on the same. He said that all of this is possible if we follow the disciplines of the late Rinpoche.

Tashi appreciated the resolutions of the Memorial Committee Society and assured it will be of utmost priority and will do everything in his potentiality.

Tributes paid to Sonam Wangyal on his 22nd death anniversary



Former CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Gyal P Wangyal paying tribute to the Late Sonam Wangyal.

Konchok Norboo

LEH: On the 22nd death anniversary of Former Minister, Late Sonam Wangyal, rich tribute was paid at his Memorial stupa on November 10.

A book 'Remembering the Life of Sonam Wangyal' was also released. The commemoration day was organised by Aba Sonam Wangyal Memorial Society.

Recalling Late Sonam Wangyal contribution to society, PT Kunzang, Convenor, Aba Sonam Wangyal Memorial Society said, "During the era when education hadn't touched Ladakh, and the region was going through the plight, young Sonam strived to bring education here to enlighten the people and to free them from the abuse of money lend-

ers and biased government officials". He said that Late Sonam Wangyal earned his name with his efforts and became the public's voice. He became Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's personal assistant and later emerged as the political leader and minister, benefiting the public as much he could.

"On behalf of the society and Ladakh we have recommended the UT administration to recognize Late Sonam Wangyal with Kabir Award", he informed.

Advocate, Thinles Angmo on behalf of the Wangyal family and the Society thanked the dignitaries and everyone for their warm presence. She as a daughter gave a brief on the Late Wangyal. She said that among

all the morals he gave, he always emphasized on telling that how menial a job is one should put their maximum effort in doing it, one should never shy or be afraid of practicing its rights against unfairness and his opinion particularly on education, stressing more on girls.

Later, on behalf of the Aba Sonam Wangyal Memorial Society face masks and foot operative sanitizers were donated to the staff and students of E.J.M college. A book on Late Sonam Wangyal was presented for the college library.

Late Sonam Wangyal was no less than a hero to Ladakh who taught us that with compassion, dedication, and persistence anything could be achieved. His journey began from a youth ready to sacrifice for his country during the Pakistan invasion to becoming one of the most dynamic ministers of the region. He was a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly as a minister for a total of twenty years, especially remembered for becoming the voice against the social and economic injustice in Ladakh. Sonam abolished the system of forced labor to an end, freeing the common people of Ladakh from the exploitation of the then government and the burden of debt and high interest that had kept the locals close to starvation.

Justice Ali Mohd Magray visits District Court, Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Executive Chairman, UT State Legal Services Authority, (UTLSA) Ladakh Justice Ali Mohd. Magray, Senior Judge of the Common High Court of UTs of J&K and Ladakh visited District Court Leh on November 6.

He inaugurated the Retainer/Panel Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) meet, and training program. The program was jointly organized by UTLSA and District Legal Services Authorities of Ladakh at District Court Complex, Leh.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Ali Mohd Magrey highlighted the objective behind the enactment of Legal Services Authority Act 1997 and said that PLV's play an important role in the society for creating legal awareness in respect of constitutional rights in the State, being a link between the legal services institutions and general masses.

He further stated that legal service authority provides free and competent legal services to the weaker section of the society to ensure their opportunity for securing justice are not deprived to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. He directed to organize Lok Adalats to secure the operation of the Legal system, promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity.

He further aware that District Legal Service Authorities (DLSA) have been constituted in each District and Tehsil Legal Services Committee at Tehsil Level to provide Legal Service to members of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, a victim of trafficking in human being or beggar Woman or Child, mentally ill or otherwise disabled person, a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake/or

industrial disaster. He said it is the paramount duty of PLV's to safeguard the right to education of women so as to ensure that every child irrespective of gender in the villages are identified and persuaded to go to schools all are included in the list of beneficiaries.

Advocate Mohd Shafi Lassu, President Bar Association Leh highlighted the concerns regarding the difficulties faced by the advocates.

Justice Ali Mohd asked the advocates of the Bar Leh to work hard and compete with the best of the lawyers of the country to achieve the epitome of the profession with the aim to appear before the highest court of the state as well as before the Supreme Court. He also took up the important grievances of the advocates on the spot and assured the bar members that all the rest of the grievances shall be taken up at the earliest.

Advocated Sonam Paljor, Vice president of the Bar Leh said that the visit of the Justice to the district Court Leh has been a source of inspiration for all the young advocates and thanked him for visiting Ladakh for the inauguration of the Union territory of Ladakh Legal Services Authority.

MP reviews work progress of Leh Airport Project worth ₹ 480 crore



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal convening the review meeting with the members of Airport Authority of India and Executive Agencies.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal convened a review meeting with the members of Airport Authority of India and Executive Agencies on November 5 regarding the under construction Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (KBR), Airport Leh.

DGM Airport Authority of India (AAI) Sanjay Thakur; Director Airport Authority Leh, Sonam Norbu; Project Director EIL, T.R Sharma; Project Manager, Shapoorji Pallonji and Co, Pvt Ltd, Yogesh Shukla attended the meeting.

DGM AAI Sanjay Thakur informed that the project has a total cost of ₹ 480.00 crores out of which 323.19 crores for composite works. The newly constructed Airport has the features of 18,985 Sqm of the terminal building, 3,340 Sqm of Utility building, 1.6 million passenger capacity/800 peak hours passengers, 3 numbers of passenger boarding bridges, and also included 13 passenger lifts and 2 goods lifts.

He further explains the other fa-

cilities of the Airport like surface car parking, central cooling, and heating system, and solar grid power system.

Sanjay Thakur informed that 26% of physical work has been completed and nearly ₹ 65 Crore has been spent to date out of the total project cost. He also added that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and short working seasons the duration of completion will extend till December 2022 earlier completion date was framed as September 2021.

Regarding the electricity connection for the new terminal building, the Airport Authority of India has already sanctioned deposit work of ₹4.81 Cr and the MoU has been signed with Chief engineer PDD, UT administration but it is pending due to the clause of Operation & maintenance of Substation equipment at PDD substation. DGM requested MP Ladakh for his intervention in this matter.

A detailed discussion also took place regarding interior design, night flight operation, and expansion of the area.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal stated that the project completion period was September 2021 but due to the Covid-19 pandemic the duration of completion will extend till December 2022. He appreciated Shapoorji Pallonji and Co, Pvt Ltd, and its team for the quality and authenticity of the project.

He directed the representative of GoI, Airport Authority, and Shapoorji Pallonji teams for effort without compromise in quality and authenticity in the future and also directed for the completion of the project in a given time frame. He further added that the newly 6 bays project has the capacity of handling 20-25 Airlines per day.

MP Ladakh also visited and inspected the under-construction Utility building and other sites of the under-construction Airport with the teams. He also took stock of the facilities being provided to the passengers in the existing airport and requested the concerned authorities to improve and upgrade the required facilities like running water, public utilities, and heating systems.

Jio starts mobile services in Changthang

Installs its first mobile tower in Tangste sub-division

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

TANGTSE: For the first time, Jio mobile tower began its 4G mobile services in Tangtse village of Changthang region. EC, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee inaugurated the mobile tower on November 8.

Tashi Namgyal congratulated the people of Tangtse area and thanked Construction Head, Jio Ladakh, Sandeep Kotwal, and Basharat for their effort in the installation of this mobile tower.

He said that the service will improve the digital connectivity of this remote subdivision with the rest of the world and will benefit



EC, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee during the inauguration of Jio mobile services in Tangtse.

everyone especially the students who suffered a lot due to the non-availability of internet facilities for online studies.

Also, he hoped that Jio will expand its towers in other deserving remote blocks and villages of Changthang region in the com-

ing months and assured all possible assistance and support from Hill Council Leh.

Nambardars of Durbuk, Shachukul, Tharook, Sarpanch Durbuk, and other public representatives were present on the occasion.

Municipal Committee, Leh, organises waste segregation drive

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Promoting the virtue of kindness, Municipal Committee, Leh celebrated World Kindness Day by organising a day-long segregation drive at Solid Waste Management plant, Skampari on November 13.

Director Urban Local Bodies, Zahida Bano, Officer/officials of Municipal Committee, and all staff/sweeper joined the day-long segregation drive.

Zahida Bano informed that the much-awaited solar power run 30 tons per day (TPD) Solid Waste Management Plant of Leh starts by collecting and treating solid wastes. She said that the most difficult procedure during the segregation bear by the worker is to separate the wet and dry waste and nearly all time is being used up in this process. Thus, appealed to the public to



Segregating the waste at Solid waste Management plant, Skampari.

produce minimum garbage and to segregate the waste at the initial stage i.e. at home which may help during the final segregation.

The administration will be starting a movement themed "Clean Leh: our right, our waste & our responsibility" and "Segregation & Minimize Your Waste, we are at your doorstep" by Municipal Committee Leh in the coming days.

Informing about a separate garbage vehicle to be facilitated,

Zahida requested people to use separate bins allocated for dry and wet garbage, plastic and glasses, etc. She further informed the general public, not to throw garbage along the roadside and public places, CCTV camera has been installed at various public places and stated that strict action and heavy penalty will be imposed against the persons who violate the rules laid by MC Leh and also advised to become a responsible citizen.

JKBOSE reduced syllabus for 10th, 12th by 40%

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A preparatory meeting to conduct the annual examination of high school and intermediate in UT Ladakh was convened by Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department UT Ladakh, Ajeet Kumar Sahu on November 10 at UT Secretariat.

Datesheet of class 10th and 12th annual examination in the Union Territory of Ladakh and J&K is finalized.

Deputy Commissioner Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Baseer Ul-Haq Choudhary; JKBOSE Chairperson, Veena Pandita; Director School Education, Mumtaz Ali and representatives of JKBOSE Leh and Kargil branch attended the meeting through video conference.

Keeping in view the harsh winter season in the region, Ajeet Kumar Sahu directed the DCs of both Leh and Kargil to complete inspection of all exams centers to provide satisfactory facilities of heating, electricity, drinking water, toilet facility and to also



During the preparatory meeting to conduct the annual examination of high school and intermediate in UT Ladakh convened by Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department UT Ladakh, Ajeet Kumar Sahu.

make arrangement for sanitization during the exams. He further directed to conduct training to the staff regarding the handling of material as per Covid SoP.

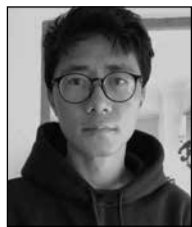
Keeping in view the maintenance of sensitivity and security, he directed the respective DCs to engage concerned Tehsildars / Naib Tehsildars and concerned Officer/officials for carrying confidential materials to the respective exam centers.

Chairperson JKBOSE informed that the high school and intermediate exams will be conducted in offline mode with all the COVID-19 safety measures and social distancing norms. She informed in the meeting that all

candidates will be allowed in the examination except for the COVID-19 symptomatic patients. She further informed that every exam center has separate rooms especially for asymptomatic patients and candidates who are under quarantine.

It is also informed in the meeting that JKBOSE has reduced the syllabus for 10th and 12th by 40% due to the Coronavirus pandemic which has resulted in closing the schools. She further informed that a separate exam shall be conducted in the month of March 2021, for those candidates who are not able to sit in the examination due to positive cases.

Defined borders, undefined dreams



By Konchok Norboo

Are you a patriot? An innocent young blood, Stanzin could jump into an impromptu statement of an extent to die for his beloved nation. But why would he?

Humans first evolved in Africa approximately 2.5 million years which is a rather short period of time considering the formation of earth some 4.5 billion years ago. Our species was nothing but an insignificant animal in the middle of the food chain minding its own business just like any other living beings but everything changed 70,000 years ago. Out of all the species which could possibly thrive, the exponent progress of the species, Sapiens (us) became paramount. The nature had witnessed not one but various human species, fanatics can argue but this what the geologists and archaeologists claim with evidence. But sadly, the credit due for the other human species's absence comes in our account theoretically. Our tendency to be hostile to every alien matter has prevailed in our genes with the cognitive revolution (the appearance of new way of thinking and communicating, between 70,000 and 30,000 years ago, constitutes the Cognitive Revolution) which prosperously wiped out thousands of species and brought up the planet today itself to a terrible condition in a matter of just few thousand years. Basically we went from the middle of the food chain to the master of the planet.

As Yuval Noah Harari says, Man is a myth making animal, it has enormous power. What separates us from every other organism is our creation of myth and uniting to follow it. This is how religion, money, nation or any political ideology gets its things done. None of them existed when the Sapiens were foraging in Africa some millions year ago, it wasn't an objective reality, rather we constructed it with our imaginations, hence became an imagined reality. One can never convince a Chimpanzee to give you a banana by promising him thousands of bananas after he dies, neither they'll accept some paper notes for the fruit, only we can believe in such fictions. As long as humans believe in the same story, norms, laws, human rights, or economics, it enables the strangers to cooperate efficiently which is why only we control the world and not Chimpanzees. Every invention you see around is not a product of individual brilliance but of collective cooperation, for example, a peasant in some thirteenth century wanted to know how the human race originated, he assumed that Christian tradition held the definitive answer, irrespective of facts. All he had to

do was ask the priest. But we know everything changed within the last five hundred years of the scientific revolution, how we worshiped the conventional creator to becoming one.

See, the difficulty doesn't lie in telling stories but how to convince people to believe the same fictional story, as in to make people believe in one god and not in a different god, also you can create money but it succeeds as long as we believe in the monetary value. The banks didn't exist relative to Big Bang. Osama hated everything about the Americans except for the American dollars; he probably hated their fictional beliefs but not their fictional currency.

The imagined realities with time developed various fictional entities like nation, churches, business cooperation. They became gradually the most powerful forces in the world to the extent that the very survival of animals, rivers and forests depends on them. They determine the fate of the ecosystem. The Mass cooperation has its boon and bane shared equally. Most of the catastrophic conflicts were not for territory or food; they were about groups with two very different stories and could not agree on one that both could accept. Capitalism and communism war, for example. How come after the two World Wars Europe became one of the most peaceful place ever in the history of human kind, what made the difference? The European managed to come up with a new story and identity which the most Europeans accepted and became happy with. They believed in peace. Today the world is more peaceful than ever with less number deaths over wars than accidents comparing to the known history.

A country is run by the people not by the land. Like I said, a nation could be established only if the people be content with the story of the entity. We disregarded the belief the Britishers tried to enforce on us for almost two centuries, considering various invasions in the past, we united only against this particular empire. Why so? Their story was entirely not digestible by the natives and eventually followed by conflicts, we built up our new imagined reality of the most populous democracy in the world, India, held by its profound constitution. It has since been some decades of the establishment of this nation yet in the contemporary scenario we often come across the term how nationalist are you precisely in these couple of years.

The story of India is perhaps one of the most beautiful one in which we in our full potential can practice our right to dissent and create any story as long as it doesn't initiate violence to crumble the system. For

example, Stanzin can be patriotic criticizing its own Prime Minister. His nationalist credibility won't be threatened at all. This is how we differentiate our nationality from Nazism or Maoism. So what could have led to the discourse of nationalism to the heights of slogans of condemning the citizens of the nation to neighboring countries for mere criticism?

In our democratic country how do we really define the term Nationalism or Patriotism? How do we make our reality of nationalism different from Fascism or Jingoism? Now, would Stanzin's answer still be the same after acknowledging the circumstances which led to a nation or would he stick to his stand? Or would it change if he is not given an option to not be a nationalist. Like how some Member of Parliament leaves us with an option to be patriotic only if we never dissent with the PM? Honestly we never know. There is no particular definition for the term, but the popular discourse is that to keep the nations interest above anything else.

What if Stanzin is not a nationalist? Would that make him anti national or would he become more accepting of the other cultures, religions and life styles. What if in his imagined reality he considers himself a Jonathan Livingston Sea Gull, to whom the borders and fences mean nothing. To whom there are no barriers, no region, no caste, no races, no language. To whom freedom is his bread and butter. But since he's no bird he needs to have the passport and adhaars and respect the borders and fences to fit in the criteria of nationality, does it make him nationalist enough now? Or he further needs to present his life as well. Nation-states too are the human creation like any entity for the convenience of the administration. People do need to create borders. There is no issue. It's fine. But should that make Stanzin hate or scorn on the other side of the fence? No/yes.

This is the new story we can develop of accepting, to live as Stanzin's bird with bright transparent wings, flying above all sort of fences, fences of nations, religions, languages, culture and races. Let's grow on those wings and fly. We may look as anti conventional psychedelically transcending the barriers in the alien spaces, but only a sapiens with a heart can see those wings.

The writer is an English honours graduate from Delhi University. The views of the article belong to the writer. You can send your views and comment at konchoknorboo@gmail.com.

MP & CEC, Leh, discuss border issues with Defence Minister



Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh convening meeting with MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen and Executive Councillor, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee at South Block, New Delhi.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh convened a high-level meeting with Gen. Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staffs and other defence officers in presence of BJP State President & MP, Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen and Executive Councillor, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee at South Block, New Delhi on November 12.

MP Ladakh and CEC, Leh put forth important issues and demands including ongoing border issues in eastern Ladakh. They also demanded the establishment of a separate Command in Ladakh, extension of Battalion in Ladakh Scout Regiment and opening of Women Battalion in Ladakh Scout, opening of Sainik/Airforce/Military School in Leh, Ladakh, functional of Advance Landing Ground of Chushul, Mudh, and Fukchey, construction of alternative Military

Airport in Padum Zaskar and Wakha Thang, early completion of construction of Nimoo-Padum-Darcha Road which needs to speed up for a strategic reason and also Wanla, Lingshed to Padum road to be made blacktopped at the earliest as this road is best to provide alternative road connectivity during emergency and provision to keep this road open during winter.

They also stressed on early construction of Chushul-Dungti-Demjok-Fukchey Road, construction of Multipurpose Tunnels at Khardongla, Changla, Namkila, Zingral-Tharuk and Photola in Ladakh, deployment of Soldiers of the Ladakh Scout Regiment on Indo China Border given the Jawans of Ladakh Scouts being a son of soils and familiar with the terrain, construction of Bunkar for civilian living along border, permission/NOC from MoD for Installation/operationalisation of Mobile Tower already sanctioned in

Border areas of Ladakh, formal permission/order for tourists visiting Siachen base, use of Mobile (BSNL) towers under army authority by civilian living along the border without any restriction/interruption.

The delegation also demanded the release of land under Army occupation in Leh town and its periphery, especially village pasture land and State land meant for a public purpose. They further assured Defense Minister that LAHDC, Leh will provide alternative land at a suitable location for Army. They said that the civilian land under Army's occupation at border villages needs to either vacate or paid compensation/rent as resentment is brewing among the public due to the loss of their source of livelihood.

Release of three acres of land from Airforce control at Thoise Nubra to make UDAN scheme implementable, operationalisation of Thoise airport under UDAN, easing out of restriction

along the border for native locals to take their livestock for grazing on traditional pasture land, increase in the tonnage volume on army aircraft during winter month to provide vegetables and other essential items to provide better and nutritious food to people especially during the COVID pandemic, relaxation and increase in the vintage value of Truck, Buses, and Taxis from current vintage restriction so that livelihood of people involved in this trade are taken care of (Mostly Ex. Men are involved this trade through Cooperative Societies) and many other issues were raised.

Relaxation in guidelines for procurement of Milk, Vegetable and Hay from local vendors of Ladakh to encourage Vocal for Local slogan with Mission Atma-nirbar Bharat, local labours at Siachen Glacier may be provided with better facilities, Army ordinance in Ladakh should give preference to local while hiring manpower, an extension of Northern Grid to Changthang region (and approval of the Rs.135 Cr worth DPR submitted by ITBP to MHA get access of Northern Grid to Changthang region), sanction of USOF tower for Border villages and other villages, deployment of a separate battalion of SSB in Ladakh for various security reasons and other demands and issues were also raised during the meeting and requested for early approval and recommendation from Army and MHA.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Writing is its own reward!



The other day I had a chance to advise on the importance of writing. What came to my mind first was this: Speak less, write more. After all, what you speak may or may not be remembered for long, but what you write, good or bad, is there for everyone to see or read whenever and any time.

I must have written on this topic many times, but I don't remember what I wrote. I have developed the habit of 'going ahead' and not looking back in such cases!

Writing, it is true, may not get you good 'moolah'. But some people do get big money by writing, but a majority of writers keep on crying for the 'pittance' they are given for their creative output. And, it is also true that some people write only for the sheer joy of writing. That is where I am always quick to come out with the proverbial quote: Writing is its own reward!

Writing of any kind has to have a constructive message and your arguments should revolve around that. That means writing has to be meaningful so that the readers get to add to their knowledge and they should feel fulfilled after reading your write-up or book.

But the most important point about writing is that until your read, you can't write. That means reading paves the way for a person to be a writer. And a lot of reading over a period of many years makes one a good writer. That is why Scottish author, Robert Louis Stevenson, had said this: "I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in." More or less, the same kind of remark was made by a former Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Stephen King, too: "If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write."

So, in short, that gives one the art of writing, or at least some idea for an idea to write on!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

First meeting of Publicity Committee of Tourism Department held virtually

Intensify publicity for quality and sustainable tourism promotion, says Commissioner/Secretary Tourism



First meeting of the Publicity Committee of Tourism Department, UT Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first meeting of the Publicity Committee of Tourism Department, UT Ladakh was held virtually under the chairmanship of Commissioner/Secretary Tourism, UT Ladakh, Rigzin Samphel on November 10.

Deputy Commissioner Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Baseerul-Haq Chaudhary; Director Finance UT Ladakh, Tahir Husain; Chief Executive Officers, Tourism Leh Sonam Chosjor and Kargil, Tsering Motup, Assistant Director Tourism, Leh and Kargil and Tourist Officer

Zanskar were present in the virtual meeting.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations on the promotion and publicity of UT Ladakh Tourism was held.

Rigzin Samphel instructed that the publicity of UT Ladakh needs to be intensified for promoting quality and sustainable tourism to the region. It was also impressed upon the stakeholders for a detailed study of the events that require detailed and concentrated publicity for the overall promotion of the event or festival.

After in-depth discussions held

on the agendas furnished by the AD Tourism of Leh and Kargil it was unanimously decided that the Ladakh Festival will be celebrated at the UT level in both the districts of Leh and Kargil with a conscious effort to decentralize it from cities to villages of both the districts. Also, the Ladakh Winter Conclave and Ladakh Literature Festivals will be celebrated at the Director level.

Considering the silver-jubilee celebration of the Ladakh Singge Khababs/ Sindhu Festival next year, the direction was given for elaborate arrangements for its publicity and grand celebration.

It was also directed to conduct detail and genuine study of the places that need special attention for the celebration of the Losar festival in both the districts. The unanimous decision was made for promotion and publicity of 'apricot blossom' in both the districts in the lines with the cherry blossom of Japan.

AD Tourism Leh &Kargil, Jigmet Namgyal, and Agha Toha gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the calendar of events and festivals scheduled for the coming year in their respective districts. Thrust was given on the promotion of adventure tourism in Ladakh.

MP inaugurates 4 Jio mobile towers in Zanskar



Member Parliament Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal during the inauguration of four new Jio mobile towers at Pibiting, Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Four new Jio mobile towers under Universal Service Obligation Funds (USOF) was inaugurated at Zanskar by Member Parliament Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal on November 10 at Pibiting.

The mobile tower was installed at Pibiting, Padum, Akshow, and Abran areas.

Councillor Cha, Stanzin Lakpa; Nominated Councillor, Stanzin Chosgyal; Head Jio Kashmir and Ladakh, Shehzan Hameed; Area Development Officer/SDM Zanskar, Sonam Dorjay; Construction Head, Jio, Sandeep Kotwal; Sales Head, Jio Ladakh, Basharat Sufi; sub-divisional officers, prominent citizens, and local people were present on the occasion.

MP Ladakh while congratulating the people of Zanskar for the functioning of 4 Jio Reliance towers out of 12 sanctioned towers for the Sub Division said that rest of the towers will be installed and made functional in the next few months.

He expressed gratitude to the Government of India for according to priority to the remotest and most backward areas of Ladakh like Zanskar to be digitalized in a very short span of time. He also thanked the Minister for Telecommunication Ravi Shankar Prasad for sanctioning 54 towers for Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency under USOF while giving a positive consideration to the demand projected by MP Ladakh in Parliament during the last winter session.

He also hailed and congratulated

the team of Jio Kashmir and Ladakh for their tireless efforts in the successful installation and functioning of these mobile towers.

He further informed that one State Bank of India branch has also been sanctioned for Zanskar Sub Division which will start operationalizing during the next season.

Councillor Cha extended a warm welcome to the MP Ladakh for visiting Zanskar in such harsh climate and expressed his gratitude to him for dedicating the towers for the general public.

He also urged the Jio team to operate the towers without any disturbance so that the public can get the benefit of the digital network in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

Fortnight Highlights



A Purgi play titled 'Rongkhang- depicting the results of goodness and sins in the afterlife' was showcased during the concluding day of the 15 days, long Play Production Oriented Theatre workshop at Language Centre, Kargil.



A five day long Bonona-Mega Harvest Festival or 'Chhopo Srubla' concluded at Garkone, Lchangrah.



Traffic Police Ladakh launches e-challan for traffic violators. Challenged nine vehicles under different MV Act violations during the launch of the e-challan system in Leh.



Paying rich tribute to the Architect of Modern Ladakh, 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche on his 17th Parinirvana Day, Tashi Gyalson, CEC, Hill Council, Leh inaugurated the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Legends Memorial Gallery at Council Secretariat.



CEC, Hill Council, Leh Tashi Gyalson convenes an introductory meeting with all the director-level senior officers of UT Ladakh and HODs of Leh district at DC office, Conference Hall.

Jio launches mobile services in Suru Valley



During the inauguration of five Jio 4G mobile towers sanctioned under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in Suru valley.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Five Jio 4G mobile towers sanctioned under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in Suru valley was inaugurated by the Feroz Ahmed Khan, CEC, Kargil on November 13.

The towers have been set up at Umba, Sangrah, Gyaling, Parkachik, and Rangdum villages to provide better services to residents in the remote parts of the district.

Feroz Ahmed Khan congratulated the people of Suru valley for getting better access to mobile connectivity through the operation of these 4G towers. He said that more towers are in the pipeline which would be operating in the coming days. He further said that the installation of the 4G towers would boost educational activities and will also help students with their studies in the current pandemic situation.

He thanked the Union Minister for Telecommunication, Ravi Shankar Prasad, and MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal for sanctioning 23 towers for Kargil district. Also, he hailed the efforts of Jio State Head Shehzan Hamid; Sales Manager Ladakh, Basharat Sofi; TSM Kargil Manzoor Ahmed; Sales Distributor, Jio Kargil, Muhammad Amin Zothpa besides the technical team of Jio for expediting the works on the installation of the towers.

CEC Kargil assured the locals that the LAHDC, Kargil is committed to connecting all the regions of the district digitally and said that all possible cooperation would be extended by the LAHDC, Kargil to the telecom companies to expedite land allocation for installation of mobile towers, taking up of the issues of NOC with the concerned authorities for installation of towers in border areas besides other required support.

IOC inaugurates first petrol pumps at Stara, Zaskar



During the inauguration of First petrol pump at Stara on National Highway 301 Kargil-Padum Road.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: First petrol pump at Stara on National Highway 301 Kargil-Padum Road was inaugurated by Director Marketing, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC),

Gurmeet Singh in presence of EC Zaskar Affairs, Er Phunsog Tashi on November 3.

The petrol pump has a storage capacity of 40,000 litre diesel and 20,000 litre petrol. With

the opening of this petrol pump, the problem of the people of the Zaskar region will be redressed.

Executive Director, IOC, Sujoy Choudhary; General Manager, IOC, Amarendar Kumar; SDM Zaskar Sonam Dorjay besides sub-divisional officers and locals were present on the occasion.

EC Zaskar Affairs expressed his gratitude to the IOC for the opening of two petrol pumps in the Zaskar area.

Gurmeet Singh assured that in the future the company will keep adequate stock of fuel on these pumps so as to ensure satisfactory availability of petrol and diesel to the local population.

Tourism Department, Kargil, organises basic photography workshop

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Three days basic photography workshop was inaugurated by Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, DC Kargil on November 11 at Tourist Reception Center.

The workshop has been organised by the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Photography and Art for Cause.

More than 40 trainees are participating in the workshop during which the mentor's Indian Film Maker at 63rd Cannes Film Festival, 2010 Irshal Ishu and Youngest Photographer- North East India, 2016 Lobsang Nima will impart basic training about various aspects of photography like Knowing the Camera (DSLR), Types of Photography, Rules of Composition, Mobile Photogra-



phy, Traditional fashion Shoot, and Editing.

While appreciating the initiative of the Tourism Department UT Ladakh in organizing the workshop, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary expressed optimism that it would introduce the participants to the various aspects of professional photography and further guide them towards pursuing photographic techniques at a later stage.

He said that the workshop would also help in tourism and cultural promotion in the district and urged the participants to pursue the training programme with utmost passion and sincerity.

The training programme is being run in two batches with Batch-I for school students (8th-12th Grade) in the morning session and Batch-II Youth/College Students in the evening session.

NOTICE



I Tsering Namgial S/o Tsewang Dorjee & Sonam Norzin R/o Umla, Leh Ladakh lost my class 10th pass certificate duly issued by Central Board of Secondary Education through Mahabodhi Residential School, Choglamsar under Roll no. 2283315 with Registration No. C115/ 24022/0002 and Session Annual 2015.

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.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

JAMMU & KASHMIR AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

Department of Health & Medical Education

Public Health Building, Behind Bone & Joint Hospital, Srinagar

Mail: jksacs@gmail.com Web: www.jksacs.org
TeleFax: 0191-2471579

ADVERTISEMENT FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM NGOs/ CBOs FOR EMPANELMENT

No. JKACS/PORC/20/9638

Dated: 13/11/2020

The Government of India has received a Credit (Credit4299IN) from the International Development Association (IDA) and a grant from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK in various currencies towards the cost of the Fourth National HIV/AIDS Control Project and it is intended that a part of the proceeds of this credit/grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for consultancy is issued. The project is an intervention with a goal of reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS cases in the country. The components of the project are prevention, care and support and treatment, programme management and strategic information management with one of its subcomponents being targeted interventions for high risk groups, as well as utilizing civil society organizations for providing access of vulnerable populations to various HIV/AIDS interventions. The EOLs are invited from interested civil society organizations of UT Ladakh for empanelling themselves to implement HIV/AIDS targeted interventions projects with highly vulnerable population groups of Trucker & Migrant Labourer at following districts. (NGOs who have already applied against this office advertisement No. JKACS/ PORC /20 /504 Dated: 07/07/2020 need not to apply)

S.NO	HRG Population	District/place
1.	Trucker	Leh
2.	Migrant Labourer	Leh

The (CBOs/NGOs that are registered under societies act / trusts /NITI Ayog and active in community work are eligible to apply. Specified application form (Empanelment data form) is available at office of the Project Director on any working day from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Letters of interest on prescribed format accompany with materials/documents seeking empanelment should be submitted within 10 days from the date of publication of this advertisement to the following address. (Empanelment format is also available on our official website given below)

Project Director

Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society
Public Health Building,
Behind Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla, Sgr.
e-mail: jksacs@gmail.com
website: www.jksacs.org

OR

Project Director

Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society
1st Floor, Seerat Complex, Sec 14, Nank Nagar,
Jammu. e-mail:jksacs@gmail.com
website: www.jksacs.org

Sd/-

Asstt. Director (Procurement)

NOTICE

Dorjay Namgail S/o Tsewang Namgail R/o Leh has applied for vanity Bid no. LA-02-111 for his newly purchased car.

Vehicle type: Venue 1.2 KAPPA
Chassis No. : MALFC81BLLM133457
Engine No. : G4LALM681102

If anyone wants to bid for the aforesaid Bid No. he /she shall apply in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer within a period of 7 days of the publication of this notice newspaper, after which no claim shall be entertained and said Bid no. will be given to the said application on first come first serve basis.

No. ARTO/L/142-43

TENDER NOTICE

Defence Estates Office, Leh Circle GH Road Skara, Leh Ladak

Defence Estates Office, LEH Circle Leh invites sealed quotations from registered travel agencies/firms for supply of one seven-seater vehicle for the period of 04 months (December 2020 to March 2021) at fixed monthly rates (including a driver, diesel and time to time servicing /repair of the vehicle) for field work of defence land.

Tender document and other information regarding the subject may be obtained from the Admin section of the office on any working day between 9.00 am to 5.30 pm till 23.11. 2020. The cost of tender document is ₹ 500/-. The bids accompanied by all requisite documents shall reach this office by 26.11.2020(1700hrs)

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Green Chilly	01 Kg	Rs 200	Rs 160
Ginger	01 Kg	Rs 200	Rs 160
Garlic	01 Kg	Rs 200	Rs 180
Loki	01 Kg	Rs 60	Rs 50
Bhindi	01 Kg	Rs 70	Rs 60
Beans	01 Kg	Rs 70	Rs 60
Cucumber / Khera	01 Kg	Rs 60	Rs 50
Cauliflower	01 Kg	Rs 60	Rs 50
Cabbage	01 Kg	Rs 40	Rs 35
Brinjal	01 Kg	Rs 60	Rs 50
Karela	01 Kg	Rs 80	Rs 70
Lemon	01 Kg	Rs 200	Rs 160
Shimla Mirch	01 Kg	Rs 70	Rs 60
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