

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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In Conversation with

Advocate Tashi Gyalsen

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Fortnightly Special

Fortnight Highlights

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Brief News

Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar visits Pashmina Dehairing plant

LEH: Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar visited Pashmina Dehairing plant at Industrial Estate Leh on November 28.

General Secretary of All Changthang Pashmina Grower Cooperative Society highlighted various issues like transfer of land and machineries to avail the bank credit facility and the low demand of Pashmina fiber during the COVID pandemic situation.

The secretary conveyed that the transfer of land and machineries is under process besides procurement of new plant. He directed the Director animal/sheep husbandry UT Ladakh to expedite the tendering process.

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Curtain raiser event of 6th India International Science Festival held in Leh



New elected Councillors of 6th LAHDC, Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur inaugurated the curtain raiser of the 6th India International Science Festival-2020 at Defence Institute of High Altitude Research, Leh on November 28.

R K Mathur briefed about the importance and relevance of celebrating this festival and asked all the stakeholders to promote and make science and technology reach every remote location.

He further emphasized the relevance of science and technology in the context of the Ladakh region. Being a high altitude cold and arid region of India, the utility of Science and Technology in Ladakh is even more relevant and imminent for the population to sustain and adapt to the prevailing harsh environmental condition.

C Phuntsog, Vice-Chancellor, Ladakh University briefed about the importance of taking science out of university cam-

pus so that livelihood of the population is made more healthier, economical and sustainable.

The event witnessed a fruitful brainstorming among the participants representing diverse areas like administration, policy, education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and local students.

Dr. OP Chaurasia, Director, DIHAR spoke about the importance of utilizing science and technology to make a better and sustainable world. He specifically mentioned the development and dissemination of appropriate technologies related to agriculture in high altitude regions like Ladakh, through which farmers are able to grow more with sustainable resource management.

India International Science Festival launched in 2015 is a celebration to promote Science and Technology and demonstrate how science should lead In-

...Continues on Page 2

CEC, Leh assures to resolve 'unrecognized' certificate issue of CIBS



During a meeting to find a solution for the non-recognition of certificate issue of CIBS, Choglamsar convened by CEC, Hill Council Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen at Council Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting to find a solution for the non-recognition of certificate issue of CIBS, Choglamsar was convened by CEC, Hill Council Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen on November 23 at Council Secretariat.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Director CIBS, Prof. Konchok Wangdu; Deputy Secretary Higher Education UT Ladakh, Nasir Mehmood Khan and student representatives of Students Welfare Committee, CIBS Choglamsar attended the meeting.

Tashi Gyalsen said that LAHDC, Leh is fully aware of the issues of students and assured that no student will suffer at any cost due to non-recognition of the certificate. He said that LAHDC, Leh will leave no stone unturned to resolve all the issues of CIBS Choglamsar at the earliest possible time.

He appealed to students to keep academic institutions like CIBS Choglamsar

away from politics.

After a detailed discussion on all the issues with clarification from concerned authorities, CEC directed Director CIBS Prof. Konchok Wangdu and Deputy Secretary Higher Education UT Ladakh, Nasir Mehmood Khan to come up with a clear roadmap in resolving the issue by 27th Nov at Council and assured students that their problems will be solved at the earliest possible time.

They discussed Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanathan (RSKS), New Delhi, under which certificates/degrees awarded by the Sansthan are equivalent to the modern certificates/degrees awarded by other universities, Board and Bodies in India. Deputy Secretary Higher Education was asked to study and inquire about the provision of retrospective effect in getting a degree for pass out students of CIBS in line with RSKS.

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Kargil celebrates 71st Constitution Day



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: The 71st anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India (Constitution Day/Samvidhan Divas, 2020) was celebrated at Council Secretariat LAHDC, Kargil.

Acting Chairman and CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Mubarak Shah Naqvi said that the preamble of the Indian Constitution declares India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic and aims to secure justice, liberty, equality to all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation.

While highlighting the contribution of the architect of the Constitution of India, Bharat Ratna, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar who was also the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, stressed the need to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India and ideals and institutions included in the

Constitution.

The Preamble reading ceremonies were organized at the council Secretariat, LAHDC, Kargil, Deputy Commissioner Office Kargil, and all the Government offices/ institutions and other establishments in the district.

The speakers on the occasion while throwing light on the salient features of the Constitution termed the Constitution as "a living machinery and vehicle of life" and a "holy book" stressed the need to renew our commitment to uphold and practice the principles and values enshrined in our Constitution.

As a part of the celebrations, Government Degree College organized a webinar on the theme Relevance and Importance of Constitution Day. Speakers from Delhi University and the University of Ladakh briefed about the different aspects of the Constitution.

Hill Council, Leh celebrates 71st Constitution day



The Council members and staff of Council Secretariat while reading the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Promoting the constitution value among the citizen, Hill Council, Leh and UT Secretariat celebrated Constitution Day also known as "Samvidhan Divas" on November 26.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalsen said that the aim of celebrating this day is to make the citizens aware of the constitution of India and its rights and benefits.

He highlighted the contribution of Father of the Constitution of India, Bharat Ratna, Dr. B.R Ambedkar who was the chairman of the Indian Constitution Drafting Committee, and also about the Constitution of India which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949.

He said that the Constitution of India gives rights to every citizen of India irrespective of race, place of birth, religion, caste, creed, or gender and emphasized

adhering to one's fundamental duties equally as seeking fundamental rights.

The Council members and staff of Council Secretariat took pledge by reciting the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Executive Councillor for Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; Executive Councillor for Minority and Forest, Ghulam Mehdi; Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphe; Councillors and staffs of Council Secretariat were present. At UT secretariat the pledge was administered by Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Ajeet Kumar Sahu.

Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula; Commissioner Secretary, Rigzian Sampheal; Secretary/Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, Saugat Biswas; Adm. Secretary Department of Law & Justice, Preet Pal Singh and Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar were present.



Correction and clarification

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

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Orientation course on CCDF, Capex Budget held in Leh



Newly elected councilors of 6th LAHDC, Leh attending the orientation course on Councillor Constituency Development Fund (CCDF) and District Capex Budget 2020-21.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: An orientation course on Councillor Constituency Development Fund (CCDF) and District Capex Budget 2020-21 to the newly elected Councilors of 6th LAHDC, Leh was held on November 26 at DC office Conference hall.

Chief Planning Officer, Leh, Tsewang Gyaltsen briefed about the Planning, its important components and objectives, funding sources to UT Ladakh including Sector Plans through Directors, Special Development Package, District Capex Budget, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

He also elaborated on the categorization of the budget under Revenue Budget and Capital budget with three major head including Motor Vehicle, Machinery Equipment, and Major works.

The councilors were also made aware of the Approved Outlay 2020-21, a proposed outlay of 2020-21 with comparison to the previous year's approved outlay and proposed outlay.

ACD, Sonam Norboo, and CPO, Leh also gave a presentation about the Councillor Constituency Development Fund under three heads including Major works, Machinery equipment, and vehicles and new guidelines prepared after the formation of UT in CCDF Revised Guidelines of Councillor Constituency.

CEC, Leh convenes meeting with representatives of Tibetan settlement

Discusses issues of Tibetan communities living in Leh district



During the meeting with all the 21 Tibetan settlement representatives of Leh district convened by CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting with all the 21 Tibetan settlement representatives of Leh district was convened by CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson on November 25 at DC office conference hall.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Additional Dy. Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Chosjor, Director TCV, representatives from Men-Tsee-Khang, PHC Tibetan Settlement Choglamsar and Tibetan Refugee Service Cooperative Society Choglamsar headed by Chief Representative Officer, Sonamling Tibetan Settlement Tsetan Wangchuk were present.

Expressing high respect for Tibetans settled in Leh, CEC assured to provide all kinds of facilities at par with Ladakhis without any harassment or unjust.

He said, "Earlier in the erstwhile J&K govt. we used to get very meager funds, now after Ladakh becoming UT we are empowered financially which will also help a lot to fulfill the demands and issues of Tibetan living in Ladakh."

Taking serious note about the issue of land allotted to Tibetan refugees in Leh being sold to local people by Tibetans in past and possibility of such practice in future too, CEC appealed Tibetan people to refrain from such practice in future. He stressed on

identification and demarcation of land under their occupation at their own level. Also, he appealed Tibetans to expend their welfare programmers for their community by exploring more means and ideas.

MP Ladakh said that Tibetans and Ladakhis share a great affinity of culture and religion and thus live in a congenial relationship in Ladakh since their settlement here.

Remembering concerted efforts of former CEC Late Dr. Sonam Dawa Lonpo in addressing the issues of Tibetan people in 2015-16, MP JTN hoped that present 6th LAHDC, Leh under the leadership of CEC Gyalson will try their best to resolve the genuine demands and issues of Tibetan settled in Leh. He also assured his full support and help to the Tibetan at GoI level.

He further appealed Tibetan people to give true and proper data during the upcoming 2021 Census of India so that they could also get the benefits of all centrally sponsored welfare schemes of GoI in future.

Dy. Chairman, Tsering Angchuk also responded to the demands including BPL ration cards, subsidized ration and LPG for TCV hostel and old age home. He assured to look into the matter at the earliest.

Additional Dy. Commissioner, Leh, Sonam Chosjor requested Tibetans to identify a land under

their position for setting up of a Solid Resource Management Centre 'Project Tsang-Da' which will be established by administration at first and later handed over to the community.

CRO Tibetan Settlement highlighted the demands and issues of Tibetan people settled in Ladakh including problem of migration of nomads from Changthang, benefits of ₹ 129.50 crore Changthang package to the Tibetan nomads living in Changthang region, land lease agreement settlement, allotment of land for Tibetan families who are living in rented accommodation and construction of home for them, Solar Water Heater for 375 Tibetan families of Changthang region, fencing for agriculture land cultivated by Tibetan in Changthang, equal opportunities for Tibetan Nurses in UT Ladakh etc.

Representatives from all the 21 Tibetan settlement of Leh, Director TCV, representatives from PHC Tibetan Settlement Choglamsar and Tibetan Refugee Service Cooperative Society Choglamsar also raised their basic demands and issues like issuance of ration cards, electricity problems like low voltage problem and transformer issues, drinking water, internal roads, toilet, land issues, streetlight, stray dog issue, recruitment of Tibetan labours in Army, telecommunication problem for Tibetan living in Changthang, fodder for livestock of Tibetan nomads etc.

L-G Mathur reviews COVID-19 situation in Ladakh

Stresses on intensifying RT-PCR tests and finalizing recruitment of nurses

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R.K Mathur reviewed the COVID situation in Ladakh, plan of action, and developing a strategy for distribution of COVID vaccine on November 25.

The review meeting was convened after the Prime Minister's meeting with CMs and LG's to review the status and preparedness of COVID-19 response and management. The government of India has invited suggestions from all states to ensure "smooth, systematic and sustained vaccination.

L-G Mathur directed the concerned department to roll out strategies at the earliest.

He stressed increasing the number of COVID beds, sufficient oxygen availability, strict adherence to SOPs, especially in Govt. offices and official functions, control on social gatherings, contact tracing, establishment and weekly review of containment zones, and most importantly, intensifying the rate of testing.

Reiterating PM Modi's state-



ment, Mathur directed the Deputy Commissioners of both the districts to intensify educating the public and implying stringent measures for SOP defaulters and also seek the help of civil society leaders, religious leaders, etc. in these efforts.

Appreciating the effort of the medical department in handling the COVID situation even though short on staff, LG Mathur instructed Divisional Commissioner/ Secretary, IT Department to finalize the recruitment of health workers at the earliest to

ease the work load.

Commissioner Secretary, Health, Rigzin Samphel informed about the expected delivery and installation of an additional oxygen concentrator which will further supplement the oxygen supply.

Stating that all corners of Ladakh must be approachable during the winter months, LG Mathur directed the concerned department to conduct trial landing of helicopters as well as ensure adequate satellite phones in the remotest of villages.

SpiceJet starts dedicated cargo services in Ladakh



During the launch of dedicated air cargo service of SpiceJet to Ladakh

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: SpiceJet started its dedicated air cargo service to Ladakh, thus improving the supply of all types of goods including fruits

and vegetables in the winter.

The freighter Spice Express, Boeing 737-700 carrying 13-ton goods landed successfully at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Air-

port, Leh on November 26.

While talking to the media, MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal expressed gratitude to the SpiceJet and Government of India for starting the cargo service to Ladakh which is very crucial in winter months when the National Highway is closed. He said that with this all the necessary goods including fruits and vegetables will be transported and people will be highly benefited from it.

Not just transporting the essential commodities, the freighter will provide a big boost to all the traders and local businesses, he added.

He further hopes that in the coming days all other airlines will also start its cargo services in Ladakh.

Curtain raiser event of 6th India International Science Festival held in Leh

...Continued from Page 1

dia towards a developed nation within a short span of time. The aim is to engage the public with science and celebrate the joy of science and shows the ways how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics provide us with solutions to improve our lives. This unique platform of India International Science Festival intends to create an innovative knowledge society to inspire curiosity and make learning more rewarding for the young while

motivating the public to engage with and celebrate the joy of science.

The IISF is the sixth of the serious, organised continuously since 2015-2019. Every year, IISF has witnessed diversity in its programmes in terms of the number of events, participants, etc. Today, IISF has become a much-awaited annual event that celebrates the achievement of Science, Technology, and Innovation and demonstrates how science can be the fulcrum of the country's progress.

CEC, Leh assures to resolve 'unrecognized' certificate issue of CIBS

...Continued from Page 1

The other solution to resolve the certificate issue is re-affiliation of CIBS with Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi (UP) again was also discussed. With the re-affiliation all pass out students could be given a retrospective effect in getting their degree in one go. CEC directed Director CIBS Prof. Konchok Wangdu to explore this possibility

assuring all possible help and support from Hill Council Leh.

Other demands of CIBS like the appointment of Vice-Chancellor and Controller of Examination for CIBS Choglamsar (Deemed to be University) and other issues were discussed at length in the meeting. Tashi Gyalson assured that Hill Council will follow all the demands strongly with concerned ministry GoI constantly.

NTPC to launch Hydrogen fuel cell-based bus project in Leh



During the presentation of Hydrogen fuel cell-based bus/vehicle for passenger transportation in Leh by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) briefed about the launch of a pilot project on Hydrogen fuel cell-based bus/vehicle for passenger transportation in Leh to the Hill Council, Leh on November 27.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalsen welcomed the pilot project on Hydrogen fuel cell-based bus/ vehicle project in Leh. He said that the Hill Council

Leh is very keen to switch towards clean and renewable energy in line with PM Modi's efforts to make Ladakh a carbon-neutral region. He assured to extend all possible assistance in implementing the project successfully but requested the NTPC team to give one more presentation on the proposed project with scientific proof and data, keeping in mind the fragile ecosystem of Ladakh.

He further added that the Hill

Council is also keen to integrate clean energy-based future projects for transportation in Leh town. He stressed upon NTPC to come up with a futuristic and sustainable project for Leh so that their investment won't go in vain and assured that Council will provide suitable land for setting up of a Hydrogen Plant in Leh.

Advisor to LAHDC, Leh on Renewable energy, Kunzes Dolma made a query about the impact of hydrogen fuel emission to the ozone layer, the cost-benefit ratio of project, security and risk factor of the compressed hydrogen when stored and used in Leh, etc.

Animesh Manna DGM/NTPC and Lawrence Debbarma, Manager NTPC RE gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about the proposed Hydrogen fuel cell-based bus/vehicle project in Leh.

Ladakh ranks 3rd among all Union Territories in implementing scheme for street vendors

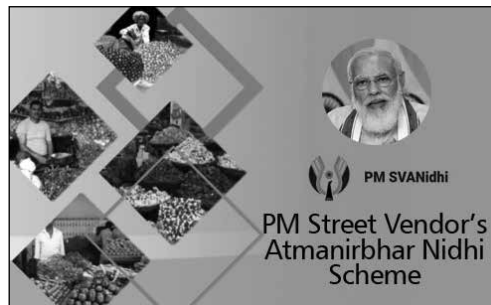
Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Ladakh ranked third among all the Union Territories for implementing PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi) Yojana, a scheme to support street vendors adversely affected due to COVID-19.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ranked Ladakh during a review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 25. The meeting was attended by The Advisor Umang Narula; Commissioner-Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Ladakh, Ajeet Kumar Sahu; Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas, and Administrative Secretary Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar.

The PMSVANidhi Scheme was launched on 1 June 2020, as a component of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat to support the street vendors due to the adverse effect of COVID-19. The scheme aims to facilitate collateral-free working capital loans up to ₹ 10,000 of one year tenure; incentivize regular repayment through interest subsidy @ 7% per annum and reward digital transactions by cashback up to ₹1200 per year. The scheme targets to cover 50 lakh street vendors in the whole country by March 2022.

Ladakh administration and Hill Councils made a



special effort to provide the benefit of the scheme to all the Street Vendors of Leh and Kargil cities. All the eligible street vendors have been provided SVANidhi cards by achieving a 100% target. A lot of street vendors have now used their cards for drawing loans up to ₹10,000 as capital support to their small businesses.

Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur appreciated the team of the Housing and Urban Development department for making exceptional progress and asked them to provide all support to the Street vendors for running their businesses smoothly.

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, who himself has been a forerunner in spreading awareness of the scheme has also conveyed his appreciation to the administration.

Commissioner Secretary meets CSIR team, discusses agro potential in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting on exploring medicinal and aromatic plant potential in Ladakh was convened by Commissioner/Secretary, Agriculture, Ladakh, Rigzin Sampheal with the team of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) on November 25.

The team of CSIR headed by Director Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu, Dr. D. Srinivasa Reddy is on a three-day visit to Ladakh in connection with the different initiatives. CSIR aspires to initiate in various areas of agriculture, horticulture, medicine, and other related fields.

Rigzin Sampheal welcomed the concept of the team and talked about diverse medicinal and aromatic possibilities hidden in the wilderness of Ladakh. He informed the team of research-



During a meeting on exploring medicinal and aromatic plant potential in Ladakh convened by Commissioner/Secretary, Agriculture, Ladakh, Rigzin Sampheal with the team of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

ers to deliberate on the areas that would help in generating income for the grass-root farmers.

He also added that despite the short summer season with harsh cold winters, nature has gifted Ladakh with some rare plants that can be useful in many fields. Careful and detailed research would help in yielding desired results, he added.

The meeting also deliberated in

detail upon various aspects of green-houses and seabuckthorn among others.

The team of CSIR includes Head Business Development & Project Monitoring & Evaluation, Er. Abdul Rahim; Head Engineering, Dr. Zabeer Ahmad, and Sr. Scientist Agrotechnology & Genetic Resources, Dr. Shahid Rasool. A progressive farmer of Chuchot, Zubir Ahmed was also present in the meeting.

Advisor Umang Narula stresses early establishment of Child Care Institutions in Ladakh



During the first meeting of the Child Protection Society (CPS) governing body convened by Umang Narula, Advisor to LG Ladakh also the Chairperson, Governing Body Child Protection Society, UT Ladakh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: First meeting of the Child Protection Society (CPS) governing body was convened by Umang Narula, Advisor to LG Ladakh also the Chairperson, Governing Body Child Protection Society, UT Ladakh on November 27.

Umang Narula reviewed the current status of existing Child Care Institutions viz Balashrams and Nari-Niketan of both Leh and Kargil districts and implementation of Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

He directed both the Deputy Commissioners for early allotment of land for the establishment of Child Care Institutions, and to provide rented or government buildings as immediate accommodation to set up these institutions on an urgent basis.

To spread information about the availability of such institutions to the needy section of the society, the direction was given to make the village level committees under CPS. Both the DCs were asked to organise a sensitization program through awareness camps and other means at the grass-root level.

To ensure the wellbeing of the inmates of the existing institutions, staying with families due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Chairperson stressed physical visits by the concerned authorities once or twice a month and regular checks via phone.

He further urged that every person must protect every child and must render proper care to this vulnerable populace as they demand equal rights for care and respect from society as a whole.

Director Social Welfare Depart-

ment (Mission Director ICPS) Mohd Mumtaz Ali briefed about the existing scenario of the Child Care Institutions. Various components including issues concerning setting up of UT level and district level support units and physical and financial progress of the scheme were discussed in detail.

Commissioner/Secretary Social Welfare, Ajeet Kumar Sahu; Commissioner/Secretary Finance/ Health & Medical Education, Rigzin Sampheal; Secretary Planning and Developing & Monitoring Department, Saugat Biswas; Secretary, Labour and Employment Department Ravinder Kumar; Secretary Law, PP Singh and Deputy Inspector General of Police, BS Tuti DC, Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, and DC Kargil, Baseerul-Haq Chaudhary attended the meeting.

Month-long training on water testing kit concludes in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Month-long training on Field Testing Kits for Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC) / Pani Samiti and user group, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) organised by Public Health Department, Ladakh concluded on November 28.

The training was imparted on VWSC / Pani Samiti and User group of Agling, Tibetan Refugees Camp, MES colony, Dambuchan, Tashi Sanamling, and

Spituk colony. They showed how 8 basic water quality parameters viz. pH, Fluoride, iron, nitrate, phosphate, hardness, turbidity, etc. can be tested.

Assistant Engineering PHE, Urgain Norboo informed that under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Committee imparted training on field testing kits for 102 Village Water & Sanitation Committee consists of nearly 5-6 members in each VWSC and covering all 16 Block of Leh district.

He further stated that the objective of the month-long training program is to provide a safe potable water supply to every home.

He also added that VWSC/ Paani Samiti and user groups are trained to test the water using kits, which will help in ensuring the potability of water. Also, it will help the water supplied in villages to be tested locally. The idea is to put in place a reliable and trustworthy arrangement of potable supply.

MP Ladakh reviews COVID-19 preparedness in Kargil



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Member Parliament, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal reviewed the COVID-19 preparedness in Kargil during a meeting with the concerned officers on November 20 at Tourist Facilitation Centre, Kargil.

Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Baseer ul Haq Choudhary, Chief Medical Officer Kargil Dr. Munawar Hussain Wazir besides other concerned officers attended the meeting.

DC, Kargil briefed about the status of COVID-19 preparedness in terms of logistics, manpower, and other necessary facilities to deal with the pandemic.

It was informed that there are at present 100 oxygen beds with central heating facilities at the Dedicated COVID-19 Hospital and Under Construction 300

Bedded Hospital at Kurbathang which can be upgraded to 150 beds in case of need. Adding to that 30 ICU beds, 230 Mega Oxygen Cylinders, 100 B-type Oxygen Cylinders, 30 ICU ventilators, and 2 Transport Ventilators are also kept in complete readiness.

Regarding the laboratory facilities at the COVID-19 Laboratory Kargil, 1 Bio-Rad Machine, 1 Qia Symphony Automatic RNA Extractor, 1 BSL 2 Cabinet and 1 True Naat Machine are also available while in the case of Non-COVID laboratory facilities 1 CBC machine, 1 Sr Electrolyte Machine, 1 Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyser, 1 Urine Analyser besides 1 Elisa Machine is also available.

A facility of 30 COVID-19 beds has been established in all the 7 medical blocks while the special

provision of 1 Advanced Critical Care Ambulance, 100 mega cylinders, and 3 ICU ventilators has been set up at CHC Zanskar. Necessary measures for provision of central heating facilities are also being put in place, testing in case of some health facilities is underway which are expected to be made operational by the end of this month.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal expressed his satisfaction with the overall arrangements and urged concerned officers and doctors to work with continued zeal and enthusiasm to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. He also appreciated the commendable services rendered by the District Administration Kargil particularly the Health Department for effective handling of the COVID-19 situation and also lauded the untiring efforts of all Corona Warriors.

Capex Budget 2020-21: Hill Council, Leh reviews achievement of each department



Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson convening review meeting of the Capex Budget 2020-21.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson convened a review meeting of the Capex Budget 2020-21 with all the heads of the departments on November 27 at DC office Conference Hall.

Tashi Gyalson reviewed the achievement of each department and enquired about the current outlay status of proposed budget 2020-21 in machine & equipment, construction, and ongoing work and new work. He also reviewed the tendering status of those departments whose work processes are in the tendering stage.

He stressed maximum utilization of funds starting with timely completion of paper works and floating of tenders keeping in view of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Discussion on the procedure of e-tendering, low participation in tendering, and other issues was carried out. ACD, Rural Development Department was asked to organize a week-long awareness drive regarding the registration of contractor certificates at the concerned BDO office.

Keeping in view of low expenditure in every department, Chairman/CEC Hill Council, Leh directed heads of the concerned

department to complete their tendering procedure, 100% expenditure in machinery & equipment and financial booked for physical work and also to complete their estimate and DPR in next 15 days.

Deputy Chairman LAHDC, Leh, Tsering Angchok; EC Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphel; EC, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgail Yakzee; EC Minorities, Ghulam Medhi; DC/CEO LAHDC, Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Chief Planning Officer Leh, Tsewang Gyalson and Heads of the department attended the meeting.

MP, CEC discusses various issues related to army with GoC 14 Corps



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson and Lt Gen PGK Menon, GoC 14 Corps.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, and CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson discussed various issues and demands with Lt Gen PGK Menon, GoC 14 Corps on November 24.

MP and CEC highlighted the exemplary cordial relationship between the Indian Armed Forces and the civil population since independence and the support of Ladakhi people to the Armed Forces in situations of war and peace. Briefing about the transition phase of UT Ladakh, they said that the role of the Army in the progress of Ladakh has always remained crucial and will remain vital.

They stressed further strengthening and consolidating the existing cordial relation and cooperation between civil and army in Ladakh.

Important demands and issues concerned with national security and welfare of Ladakhi people were discussed and deliberated at length in the meeting. They

highlighted the establishment of a separate Command in Ladakh, an extension of Battalion in Ladakh Scout Regiment and opening of Women Battalion in Ladakh Scout, the 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 Zanskar and Wakha Thang.

MP and CEC stressed on early completion of Nimoo-Padum-Darcha Road keeping in mind the strategic importance of this road for Ladakh and its people throughout the year. They also raised the issues of cooperative societies and transporters of Ladakh including the supply of local produce to the army, 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 is taken care of.

Issues of local labourers engaged with the army in Ladakh including local labours at Siachen Glacier including better facilities

like health, clothing, ration and handsome wages, preference to local while hiring manpower by army keeping in mind the endurance of local people at high altitude and sanctioning of USOF tower for Border villages and other villages which are yet to be covered under mobile network were discussed during the meeting.

MP and CEC also stressed on the 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 the son of soils and familiar with the terrain, construction of Bunker for Civilian living along the border to protect their Lives in an emergency, permission/NOC from MoD for Installation/operationalization 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.

Also, they 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 and assured the Defense Minister that LAHDC, Leh will provide alternative land at a suit-

able location for Army. Civilian land under the Army's occupation at border villages need to either vacate or pay compensation/rent as resentment is brewing among the public due to loss of their source of livelihood.

Release of three acres of land from Air Force control at Thoise Nubra to make the UDAN scheme implementable, easing out of restriction along 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 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, scaling up of Operation Sadbhavna, an extension of Northern Grid to Changthang region and approval of ₹135 Cr worth DPR submitted by ITBP to MHA get access of Northern Grid to Changthang region were also raised strongly during the meeting.

Lt Gen PGK Menon GoC 14 Corps assured MP and CEC that the army will extend all possible steps in further strengthening the existing cordial relation and cooperation between civil and army in Ladakh. He further assured that the army will exercise on all the issues and demands and come up with a report at the earliest.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The joy of birthday celebration



Birthdays are celebrated in order to express one's thanks and be grateful that you have crossed one more year on the journey of life. It is also celebrated to greet one more year that you are being blessed with, to fulfil your objectives of life.

That was the case with me too when I celebrated my birthday recently, and was showered with love and good wishes by hundreds of friends and relatives. The fact that you could get one more year to be with your near and dear ones to enjoy life together, in the best spirit of give and take, gives one an immense pleasure and hope for the future. Nothing looks more promising than the 'sight' of a sunnier life.

True, some of us feel that birthdays cut your life short by one year, and hence there is no point in celebrating it. There may be a point, but one can't but call it a negative approach towards life. The real point is that life is for celebration in all circumstances. Therefore, not celebrating life just because you are older by a year makes no sense because a negative approach will make the course of life all the more difficult.

So, the way to go is to celebrate and be optimistic all the way. As one has to 'go' anyway, it is better to go dancing and singing. That is why author Amit Kalantri says: "A birth-date is a reminder to celebrate the life as well as to update it." That means that one's birthday comes with a twin objective: To celebrate it and to remind one how to go about the coming months so that one can fulfill one's mission of life.

And then who can discount this by American author Ned Vizzini: "Deep down I believe my year was a special year: it produced me." That shows the importance of your birthday. You are here to enjoy the beauty of life just because this beautiful day gave you a life to enjoy and make it meaningful.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Advocate Tashi Gyalson, Chairman/CEC, LAHDC, Leh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. First of all, congratulations on getting a majority in the recent Hill Council polls. What is 6th LAHDC's short and long term plan?

In today's time, we still have many villages which are deprived of proper road connectivity, electricity, and safe drinking water facility. Thus, our prime focus is to ensure basic needs to every people living far and near along with different other developmental activities. Urban migration is becoming one of the major concerns because people from the rural areas are migrating towards town for better facilities and livelihood options; this has put huge pressure on the resources of Leh town. To curb this, people living in far-flung rural areas need to be provided with all the needed facilities and infrastructure.

Keeping the fragile ecosystem in mind, there is a need for plans and measures to protect the environment along with different developmental activities. A concrete plan and measures are needed for a clean and safe environment. We have to work towards sustainable development.

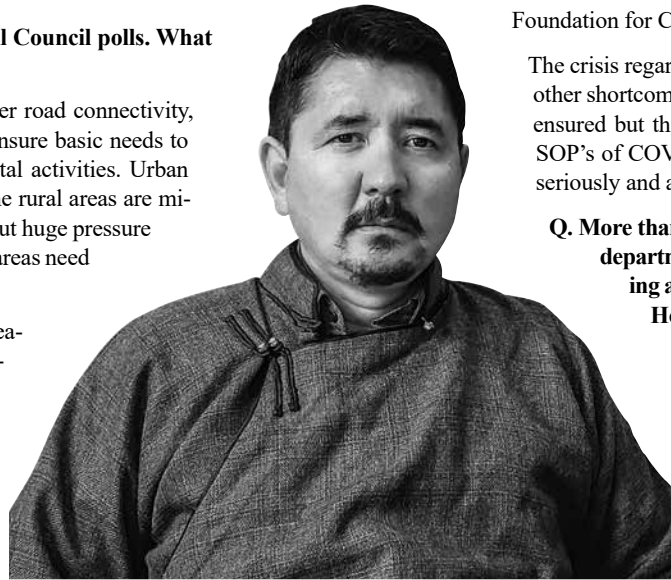
Q. After UT status, the inclusion of Ladakh under the sixth schedule is the biggest concern and demand of the people. Will the Hill Council call a special session to pass the resolution for the sixth schedule? How firm the council is for the demand?

The need for the safeguard after UT formation is felt and for which 5th LAHDC, Leh has passed a three-point resolution regarding it. The demand for the inclusion of Ladakh under the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution has been raised by the Apex body formed by the veteran leaders of Ladakh including His Eminence Thiksey Khanpo Rinpoche, Former MP Thupstan Chhewang, and Former Minister Chering Dorjay Lakruk. The movement has been supported by all and also have been assured by the Home Minister Amit Shah for the discussion and give Ladakh what is best for the region. When the assurances are made at such a high level, I feel it doesn't make any sense to poke at the same issues again and again. We need to have some patience and trust.

If in case Ladakh doesn't get the safeguard, Hill Council will raise the voice and work on it but for the time being, we have to wait for the meeting to be held between the Apex body and Home Minister. More confusion and chaos will be created if interfered with at all levels.

Q. State of the affair seems to be grim as COVID-19 cases and fatalities are on the rise in the Leh district. What measures and step Hill Council is taking to ensure the safety of the people?

COVID-19 pandemic has confronted the world with an unprecedented



Foundation for COVID patients.

The crisis regarding infrastructural facilities, manpower has been taken care of and various other shortcomings are being addressed. All the preparation and needed facilities are being ensured but the responsibility lies upon each one of us to follow all the guidelines and SOP's of COVID-19 and keep oneself and others safe. We all should take the pandemic seriously and act responsibly.

Q. More than 5,000 posts, including 1,000 gazetted posts, are lying vacant in different departments of UT Ladakh. Apprehensions among Ladakhi youths are increasing as the administration has so far not issued any notifications related to jobs. How Hill Council is going to tackle the unemployment issue.

The absence of domicile law is one reason because of which the job notification has not been issued so far. A domicile law has been announced for J&K, based on which the job notification has been issued. Youths of Ladakh are indeed suffering and years are getting wasted. We tried to find a solution, a middle way, but the voices have been raised that Ladakh is not going to accept the domicile rather demanded safeguard. In this confusion, the job notification has not been issued.

We have raised the issue with Lieutenant Governor and going to meet him once again regarding the same and propose to issue a temporary certificate to apply for the jobs so that unemployed youths can apply. Also, 99 posts are vacant in the district which will be notified soon.

Q. There was some kind of differences between the Hill Council and UT administration; the reason being people feel the Council is being undermined. How will you ensure to maintain the dignity of the Hill council?

The differences between the Hill Council and UT administration relation are not something which is being created purposely. Ladakh is a newly carved Union Territory and with this many changes have been brought which created much confusion. Adding to that pandemic situation has created more chaos and confusion. In this entire unprecedented situation, it made people feel that Hill Council is undermined. There is a need for an amendment in the LAHDC Act which has been put forward to the government of India to make the Hill Council more strengthened and empowered.

So far the UT administration and Hill Council are working in coordination for the betterment of people. The sanctity of Hill council will be maintained and we will not let it down.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“As the festive season sets in, I would like to appeal to all the people of Ladakh to celebrate the festival with your families and avoid all the gatherings. Follow all the SOP's guidelines and precautionary measures. Let's keep ourselves and others safe from COVID-19.”

situation. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the healthcare workers are doing an extraordinary job. In Leh, the situation is alarming and as the harsh winter sets in, we have to make sure of various facilities such as heating, winter stocking, and many others.

I visited SNM hospital and Mahabodhi COVID dedicated hospital and took stock of all the facilities. Issues such as oxygen supply and manpower in the hospital were some of the rising concerns which have been taken care of. Installation of the transformer at Mahabodhi hospital has also been initiated. Similarly, we are also preparing the Ladakh Heart

Fortnight Highlights



Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar reviewed the work progress of Synthetic Track of International level, AstroTurf Football and Open Stadium, Spituk, Leh.



Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre organised Deepawali Celebration Kits Distribution Function at the Cultural Hall, MIMC Campus, Leh.



A day-long Skill Initiation Programme in the areas of "Mushroom Cultivation and Self Reliance" was organised by the Regional Research Station of ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute and Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology in Kukshow.



A skill development programme on Packaging for craftsman/artisan was organised by the Indian Institute of Packaging, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.



A review meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was convened by MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal in Kargil.

DLSA Kargil observes Communal Harmony Campaign Week



District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kargil while observing Communal Harmony Campaign Week.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kargil observed Communal Harmony Campaign Week from November 19-25.

The campaign week is under the

chairmanship Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kargil, Riyaz-ul-Haq Mirza.

Chairman, TLSC Sankoo, Wangial Tsering highlighted the importance of the week and emphasized abid-

ing fundamental duties as enumerated in the Constitution.

Advocate Ghulam Murtaza stressed the importance of the National Flag and our endeavour for national integration and working for the greater good of the nation.

Advocate Kacho Manzoor Ali Khan emphasized unity amongst people of the country even after being from different cultures, religions, etc.

The programme was concluded with an appeal to the participants to observe the week as National Communal Harmony Week wholeheartedly and spread awareness of the same amongst the masses.

Rzongi-Kor, the Mysterious Cave of Sharchey set to become tourist hotspot



Team Rzongi-Kor from Kargil with Commissioner/Secretary Tourism, Rigzin Samphel in Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Team Rzongi-Kor from Kargil met Commissioner/Secretary Tourism, Rigzin Samphel and screened the documentary film "Rzongi-Kor, the Mysterious Cave of Sharchey" on November 24.

The recently explored cave in Sharchey village, Kargil is probably the largest and second

highest cave in Ladakh. Situated at an altitude of 3024 meter, its length is around 6-8 KM and the dimensions of its 1st chamber are 100x50x100 ft and the other chamber is 174x30x80 ft.

The film is directed by Zakir Hussain Jafri and produced by Village Reel Entertainment in collaboration with D'Hima-

layan Architect & Designer and sponsored by the Tourism department, LAHDC, Kargil, UT Ladakh.

The team discussed the immense scope of this cave in tourism and its prospects. They also showed their interest in exploring more caves of Ladakh in the future.

Commissioner Secretary applauded the team's effort in exploring an unknown cave and their hard work in making a documentary film on the same. He encouraged the team to explore more such places and to bring them into the public domain.

He assured to help and assist the team in bringing the cave on the map of Ladakh tourism.

CSIR & Sun Pharma to augment COVID-19 testing in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of scientists, headed by Dr. D. Srinivasa Reddy, Director, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu discussed the launch of S&T initiatives CSIR envisages in Ladakh with the UT administration on November 27.

Dr. D.S.Reddy briefed about the activities being carried out by IIIM related to the COVID testing facilities at Leh and Kargil to Commissioner/Secretary Health, Rigzin Samphel.

He further informed that four RT-PCR machines, two biosafety cabinets are being procured and would be delivered shortly to augment the COVID testing. The newly developed CSIR technology 'FELUDA' will also be explored for COVID testing in the future.

Dr. Reddy informed that Sun Pharma is supporting this activity partially as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Rigzin Samphel appreciated the efforts of CSIR and Sun Pharma and instructed Director Health Services to nominate one officer from the health



Commissioner/Secretary Health, Rigzin Samphel convening the meeting with Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu.

department as nodal officer to coordinate with the authorities of CSIR-IIIM for providing logistic support.

Director Health Services, Ladakh, Dr. Phuntsog Anghuk; Chief Medical Officer, Leh, Dr. Motup Dorjay; Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital Leh, Dr. Nurzin Angmo and other officers from the UT-Ladakh were present in the meeting.

Teachers can bring fundamental changes in the education sector, says L-G Mathur



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A 6 days "Integrated Multidisciplinary Professional Advancement for Teacher" (IMPACT) training programme for the teachers of Ladakh concluded on November 20.

In the valedictory address, Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur asserted that health, education, and infrastructure are the three fundamentals for any state or UT to prosper economically. He said that as far as education is concerned, there is a clear understanding of future requirements and needs of students and parents of Ladakh and the UT Administration is committed to delivering it. He informed that in the last one year, UT Administration has initiated steps to improve the school infrastructure, the launch of a career portal and student helpline, conducting teacher's training, etc.

Mathur said that teachers' training is an important aspect of school education and stressed the need for teachers to be academically good with the right

pedagogy, ability, and attitude to deliver the best of education to students. He asserted that teachers can bring fundamental changes in the education sector.

He also pointed out the serious concerns raised by parents and political leaders on the dropping rate of enrolment, internet connectivity, and education standards in government schools that has been one of the reasons for rural-urban migration.

Citing the new education policy, the Lt Governor stressed the need to provide education to the children in their family, social, economic, and natural environment to ensure better learning and innovative aptitude. He said that the UT Administration will make all efforts to streamline the education system in Ladakh.

He thanked Director, NCERT, and his team for their support in initiating the IMPACT training for teachers in UT Ladakh. Also, he hopes to continue with the future modules of this training program and for active participation in programs under NISHTA.

A K Sahu, Commissioner Secretary gave a brief of the education sector of Ladakh. ₹871.00 crores budget has been allocated to the education sector for Ladakh during the current year which is a multifold increase over previous years allocations. He informed that more of such training programs are in the pipeline.

Director, NCERT Sridhar Shrivastav; HOD, Teacher Education, NCERT, Prof. Ranjana Arora; Director School Education, Ladakh Mumtaz Ali; Principal of DIET Leh and Kargil and trainee teachers attended the function.

World Toilet Day: Conference on Innovative Urban Sanitation for Ladakh held in Leh

LG Mathur inaugurates WASH facility for sanitation workers and white paper on grey water

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: On World Toilet Day, a daylong conference on Innovative Urban Sanitation for Ladakh organised by Housing and Urban Development Department was held on November 19 in Leh.

Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur inaugurated the WASH facility for Sanitation Workers and unveiled the White Paper on Grey Water.

R K Mathur said that since Ladakh has become a Union Territory various environmental issues and the need for its impact assessment have come up time and again for serious consideration. He said, "Today's conference is the acknowledgment of these issues and an effort on part of the UT Administration to look for solutions in this regard."

It was informed that under Jal Shakti Mission, UT administration is targeting to provide running water supply 24x7 to every household, schools, offices, Anganwadi centres by 2022. Mathur said that with the correct intention, technological expertise, and funding, sustainability is an achievable goal with least tampering with nature.



Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur while inaugurating the WASH facility for Sanitation Workers and the unveiling of the White Paper on Grey Water.

The Lt. Governor stressed on the need to initiate a large number of pilot projects to chalk out the most feasible solutions for faecal sludge management, greywater treatment, toilet technologies, and maximum utilization of local resources including all kinds of organic waste for organic manure, etc. He urged both the Hill Councils to actively get involved in this process and lead the implementation of various projects. Also, he stressed the need to adopt different technologies, specific action plans, clear targets, and set time frames to ensure clean water and sanitation for all which is envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goal 6. He exhorted on the need for everyone to come together in-

cluding residents, schools, army, tourists, sanitation workers, and government to achieve the targeted goals towards environmental protection and sustainable development for Ladakh.

CEC, LAHDC, Leh Tashi Gyaltson; CEC LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan; Commissioner Secretary, A K Sahu; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Ladakh, Zahida Bano; Councilors, District Officers, officials of BORDA and LEDeG were present on the occasion. Regional Director, BORDA South Asia Stanzin Tsephel and expert speakers from different parts of India and Malaysia also attended the conference through video conferencing.

KVK SKUAST-Leh conducts training on seed and soil treatment



Dr. Vikas Gupta, Scientist (Plant Protection) KVK-Leh/Principal Investigator, DST-SEED imparting the training to the participants.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Around 20 field functionaries participated in the training programme on 'Demonstration on seed and soil treatment with fungicides and bio-fungicides' and 'Integrated Disease Management' held on November 24.

The training programme was organised by Kri-shi Vigyan Kendra, SKUAST-K Leh under DST-SEED (ITI) Project. Dr. F D Sheikh, Head, KVK, Leh supervised the training.

Seed-borne and soil borne diseases caused severe damage to the crop in the last few years in the Ladakh region.

Dr. Vikas Gupta, Scientist (Plant Protection) KVK-Leh/ Principal Investigator, DST-SEED (ITI) apprised the agriculture officers about the integrated management of pests. He said that sanitation of the orchards is the easiest, economical, and most effective way to avoid the pests problem by providing an environment that discourages pests.

Practical demonstration of seed treatment and soil treatment with fungicide and bio-fungicide was also imparted to the officers of the department.

Dr. Vikas briefed about the seed treatment and soil treatment with fungicides and bio-fungicides, biological control of pests, and integrated pest management.

Dr. Stanzin Dorjey and Rigzin Dolkar, Project staff, DST-SEED, KVK Leh were also present on the occasion.

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