

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

VOL. 8 ISSUE 23 PAGES 8

December 16-31, 2020



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Brief News

Legal Metrology Department, Leh, conducts market checking

LEH: Legal Metrology Department, Leh registered 20 cases of Legal Metrology Act and Rule violation on December 11. A total fine of ₹ 30,000 was imposed against the defaulters.

The enforcement team of Legal Metrology Department Leh conducted market checking at Choglamsar, Skalzangling, Skara and Kharu under the supervision of Assistant Controller. The team checked various commercial establishments which include general stores, vegetable shops, chicken and baker shops etc.

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Courtesy Tsetan Angmo



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You can contact at 9858394403 or email at editor@reachladakh.com.

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REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorje

Editor: Stanzin Dasal

Intern: Konchok Nurboo

Sales & Marketing: Tsering Morup

Layout: Raul Chhokkun

Published at:

Reach Ladakh, Skara Yokma, Airport Road, near Councillor Quarter
Contact: 9858394403

Printed at:

Archana advertising Pvt Ltd.
C-78 Okhla Industrial Area Phase I.
New Delhi, India 110020

CIBS students suffer due to unrecognised certificates

Director, School Education, sends show-cause notice to Director, CIBS

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: There is uncertainty in the air for students of Central Institute of Buddhist Studies as the class 10th and 12th certificate issued by the institution is invalid.

A lack of positive response and concrete result from the CIBS administration forced the students to raise voice for their rights. Students carried out a series of protests and demonstrations in the last few months. The administration was given a deadline until December 10 to resolve the issues, but nothing has been done in this regard. The deadlines kept on extending and the students were given assurance to address the issue but their dialogues with the CIBS administration have failed to yield any result. As a result, the students have been left clueless and helpless.

Stanzin Targais, President, Student Welfare Committee, CIBS, said, "The issue of the certificate is not new as students have been facing this problem since 2016. Students are facing difficulty in getting admission and jobs because of the non-recognition of certificates. Our life is at stake".

"All this time we were assured by the CIBS administration to look into the matter and resolve issues related to certificates, but nothing has been done so far. We are compelled to step outside and raise our voice for our right," he added.

CIBS was disaffiliated from Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in 2016 that created chaos and panic among students. The Director School Education Department of UT Ladakh sent a show-cause notice to the Director of CIBS on December 1, 2020, asking the latter to take necessary corrective measures within a month from the date of issue of the notice, failing which the department threatened to take action. The Director of School Education asked CIBS to get affiliation of any competent



CIBS students during the protest demanding recognised certificate.

authority and recognition to run the school course, failing which the department will initiate appropriate action against the director of the institution. The Director of School education also asked the institution to shift students to other recognised institutions for the completion of their studies.

As per the notice, the institution is not competent to conduct academic courses for 1st to 12th classes and to issue certificates after its disaffiliation from Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. CIBS is violating statutory provisions and rules of recognition/ registration as prescribed under J&K School Education Act 2002/ Rules SRO123 which stipulates that 'no school shall be permitted to function without obtaining recognition from the government as per the provisions of the Act.'

The notice reads: "For obtaining recognition, the institution needs to get the affiliation of a competent board which has not been done so far and courses are being

run in utter violation of the statutory provisions. The act of CIBS by continuing with the courses without affiliation of any competent authority and recognition thereunder is to the prejudice of student's welfare, and will jeopardise their career."

Speaking on the issue, Director CIBS, Professor Konchok Wangdus said, "We followed UGC's notification which doesn't have any objection in issuing certificates for class 10th & 12th courses. We discussed the matter with the J&K Board and informed them about the foundation course, which is important to run higher education courses at CIBS".

"The Board shared that CIBS would be granted to issue equivalence certificate if it is recognised by the UT Administration," he added.

MP Ladakh and the Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of LAHDC Leh took up the matter, but only assurances have been given so far.

Newborn boy found abandoned in Leh



Stanzin Dasal

LEH: A newborn baby boy was found abandoned in a garbage dump at Nyemoling on December 5 morning.

After some passersby spotted it, they informed the police about the body of a dead baby lying among the trash. Police have traced the mother of the child the very next day and have registered a case against it. The case is still under investigation.

As per the sources, the child was dumped by an unwed 26-year-old mother who lives in a rented accommodation alone.

The body of the baby was sent for post-mortem, and the report is still awaited. The police are looking into the identity of the child's father.

Cases of newborn children being abandoned, dead or alive, is not new in Leh. Similar incidents have come to light in the past also. The number of the unreported incident may be unknown. The desperation and question still surround us that what drives a mother to this point. What is the root cause of the problem of child abandonment?

Child Welfare Committee, Leh suggested setting up of Cradle Baby Reception centre in Leh to ensure that babies who would otherwise have been killed are given up for adoption. The order of establishing one such centre has been issued by the Directorate Health of the erstwhile state of J&K which is still pending.

Woman dies after delivery at SNM hospital, family alleges medical negligence



Stanzin Dasal & Morup Stanzin

LEH: A 32-year-old woman died after giving birth at the SNM hospital allegedly due to negligence of the hospital staff on December 7. According to the family, the woman allegedly died due to excessive bleeding and blamed the hospital administration for negligence.

The sister of the deceased shared: "I had come for my sister's help at the hospital. She was shifted to the labour room around 2:30 AM on Sunday. She had a normal delivery and gave birth around 3 AM. However, we were not allowed to meet her because the staff told us that she is tired. They asked us to bring boiled water for her. When we were not allowed to meet her despite repeated request, we went inside forcefully and found her bleeding excessively. She had turned pale. The nurses attending her did not bother to inform us about her condition. There was no doctor around to look at her condition. Instead of making an effort to reach the hospital on time, the doctor was guiding the nurses over the phone."

The situation, the family members alleged, got complicated over time. "The doctor finally arrived at the hospital around 4:30, but she started asking about COVID test report instead of inspecting her. Her COVID test had already been done and her result had come negative. My sister, who was bleeding profusely, was shifted to OT for surgery in the morning. She died around 4:30 in the evening," said the deceased's sister.

The family alleged that the deceased could have been saved had the doctor intervened on time.

SNM Hospital is regarded as one of the best hospitals in north India with proper infrastructure and facilities. However, we are left with unanswered questions when we hear such cases of negligence at such a reputed hospital. The unavailability of a doctor at the hospital during the night hour in cases of emergency is a matter of concern and also poses questions over the functioning of the hospitals.

...Continues on Page 3

2nd edition of Ladakh Literature Festival, 2020, held virtually



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The second edition of Ladakh Literature Festival, 2020 themed, 'Ladakh at the Cross-roads' was inaugurated virtually by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur on December 10.

The festival organised by the Tourism Department of Ladakh is going to be held virtually till December 12. A diverse group of distinguished authors, thinkers, and journalists will be participating in the 25 literary sessions of the three-day virtual event.

R K Mathur said that in today's context of Ladakh organizing a literature festival is of para-

mount importance. He said that Ladakh and its rich culture have generated a vast interest among literature enthusiasts all over the world which is reassuring and stressed the need to build on this opportunity. He said that Ladakh having an amalgamation of different cultural influences from India, Central Asia, and Tibet gives the region and its people a unique cultural identity.

He appealed to students, in particular, to participate in the festival as it mirrors the contemporary Ladakhi society and reflects the image held by outsiders for Ladakh.

He added that the knowledge

of these two worlds will bring a new perspective which is important and useful for the local youth to develop a sense of cultural rootedness and identity.

CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan; MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Rigzin Samphel, Executive Director, LAMO, Dr. Monisha Ahmad; Ordained Dharmacharya Teacher, Shantum Seth; Author James Crowden; Former AD Tourism, Kargil; Ex-Director CIBS; executive members of ALTOA and AKTTA virtually attended the inaugural session.

Advisor reviews COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula also the Chairman of State Steering Committee, for COVID-19 vaccination, Ladakh convened a review meeting regarding the smooth distribution of COVID vaccine on December 9 at Conference Hall, UT Secretariat.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the collection of data from various stakeholders and other requirements such as cold chain maintenance and storage facilities, transport of vaccine, syringes availability, adequate and suitable vaccine administration personnel, locations for vaccination, etc.

Advisor Ladakh directed the members to provide this data to the Health Department within the shortest possible time and also asked each agency to appoint a Nodal officer for co-ordination purposes. Keeping in view the timely delivery of vaccines to the remotest areas Advisor Ladakh directed that a coordinated plan be prepared by



During the review meeting of COVID vaccine distribution in Ladakh at Conference Hall, UT Secretariat.

both Districts with the Air force to ensure the safe delivery of the vaccine to the snow-bound areas in the region.

Nodal officer, Dr. Tashi Namgail briefed on the various major tasks that are expected to be undertaken to be ready to carry out vaccination in UT-Ladakh. He also shared that, to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine in the country, the eVIN app will be fully repurposed and a faster, better app named CoWIN will be used to ensure last-mile vaccine delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The CoWIN app will digitally track stocks of vaccines and

help stakeholders access data on availability, procurement, and keep track of beneficiaries who have been chosen/will receive the vaccine.

He further explained that as per guidelines of the Government of India, the priority would be given to Healthcare workers (Government and Private Sector) and frontline workers from various agencies.

After the presentation, members discussed various issues and shared their opinion to seamlessly and successfully implement the vaccination program.

MP, CEC, Leh, and BJP leaders meet Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister

Discuss the status of Ladakh's economy, badly affected due to COVID-19 pandemic



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal along with CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, and senior BJP leaders of UT Ladakh met Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Member Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal along with CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, and senior BJP leaders of UT Ladakh met Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman on December 11.

The delegation requested to waive loans of hoteliers, guest houses, resorts, homestays, restaurants, etc., and also to waive loan interest of the business community as thousands of individuals and families dependent on tourism directly or indirectly and other business community is affected badly due to COVID-19 pandemic. They informed the minister that

the tourism sector of Ladakh has dealt a heavy blow which is the backbone of Ladakh's economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

The Finance Minister was requested to implement all Central Sponsored Schemes including incentive schemes of the Government of India in the UT of Ladakh for the overall development of the region. They also requested to retain the funds of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, and Kargil as non-lapsable including the budget of UT Ladakh considering the short working season and tough geo-climatic constraints of the region.

Nirmala Sitharaman assured the delegation to give due consideration to all the genuine demands of the Union Territory of Ladakh from the Government of India.

L-G Mathur visits Shakar Chiktan Sub-division



Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur during the ceremonial guard of honour at Chiktan Shagaran.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur visited Shakar Chiktan Sub Division and took stock of the developmental needs, demands, and grievances of the people on December 11.

Feroz Ahmad Khan, CEC, Kargil; DC Kargil, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary; SSP Kargil, Dr. Vinod Kumar, and other concerned officers accompanied the L-G during the tour.

The Lieutenant Governor accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the historic Chiktan Shagaran.

Various public delegations including councillors, BDC chairpersons, Sarpanchs, Panches, Nambardars, and representatives of religious and political organizations, civil society groups, senior citizens, and other delegations met the L-G with their representations.

The demands projected by the delegations mainly included the creation of Shakar Chiktan Shar-gole area as a separate district, up-gradation of the Community Health Center, Chiktan as Sub District Hospital, widening and up-gradation of Khangral San-jak Road and its handing over from BRO to the Civil Administration, sanctioning of Degree college, creation of Tourism Development Authority and PWD Division for Shakar Chiktan, restoration, and up-gradation of Chiktan Razi Palace and construction of public park nearby, creation of CD Blocks for Khangral, Shakar and Chiktan, construction of protection bunds and nallah training along the banks of Kanji Nallah, completion of the incomplete works of Namlingthang Canal, provision of mobile towers and lift irrigation and water supply schemes, up-gradation of schools and health centres, deployment of more doctors preparation of

Master Plan for Kanji Nallah, replacement of HT line from Sanjak to Shakar Sapi and other related demands.

L-G Mathur gave a patient hearing to all issues and demands projected by the delegations and assured of looking into each issue for suitable follow up.

The LG while highlighting the need to restore the traditional glory of the Chiktan Razi Palace said that necessary restoration of the palace should be done through the expertise of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) professionally with a focus on its basic design and idea.

LG Mathur stated that restoration of the palace will go a long way in giving impetus to heritage and high-end tourism in Chiktan Valley which abounds in tremendous natural beauty and cultural assets.

Kharnak herders concerned over sudden death of yak

A team from Animal Husbandry to investigate the cause of death

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Around 6 yaks died in two days and many are getting sick in Kharnak village of Changthang area.

According to the sources the yaks are having symptoms like saliva dripping from their mouth, nasal discharge and heavy breathing.

When asked Animal Husbandry Incharge, Dr. Ladol about the incident she said that the sick yaks are getting treated, also we have informed the Animal Husbandry Department, Leh about the issue. A team from Leh will be sent to investigate the disease.

Dr. Stanzin Rabgais, Disease Investigation officer, District Animal Husbandry department said that a team headed by laboratory officer will leave from Leh on December 13 to ascertain the cause of death.

He said that the disease is somewhat similar to one sporadically reported from Hanley which is named Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS) caused by a Bacte-



ria (Pasteurella multocida).

Dr. Rabgais further added that the samples will be taken to test the cause of death and symptomatic treatment will be given on spot.

Yaks are the lifeline of pastoral nomads living in the high altitudes area of Changthang. The animal is one of the important sources of livelihood for nomads.

Mobile connectivity still a distant dream for Barsoo block



Mansoor Hosain Beigh

BARSOO: Despite so much technological progress towards 'Digital India', there are villages in Barsoo block that are yet to get a mobile phone connectivity.

Barsoo block in Kargil district lies 10 km away from Sankoo Subdivision and 70 km away from Kargil town. Living in a digital society where the internet plays a vital role, students are unable to avail the benefits of online classes, due to the absence of mobile connectivity.

People of the area are facing severe problems and finding it hard

to live without mobile and internet services in this digital world. They demand mobile connectivity to continue the education of the students living in Barsoo block hassle-free.

Zakir Hussain a resident of Barsoo said, "Due to the absence of mobile connectivity in the area we have been suffering immensely."

"On the one hand we are living in a village where no mobile connectivity is provided but on the other hand government is making huge claims of 'Digital India'. Mobile connectivity is

still a dream for us", Feroz Shahi, a student said.

"We feel cut off from the rest of the world", he added.

The villagers said that two JIO satellite towers were installed this year one at Shargandi and another at Bartoo but both are not functioning. Locals alleged that these towers have been kept idle to trouble the villagers.

Lack of access to mobile internet has hindered online examination processes, admissions, and information. Mobile connectivity and internet access have been such that it has deprived students of applying for various courses and appearing for various examinations. Students are finding it difficult to opt for career paths and enrolling in various courses that interest them.

The residents of village Barsoo urged Lieutenant Governor, Member Parliament Ladakh, Chairman & CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Deputy Commissioner CEO/ LAHDC- Kargil to look into the matter at the earliest and address their problem on a priority basis.

ONGC proposes geothermal energy projects in Leh



During a meeting regarding proposed pilot projects of ONGC on geothermal energy in Leh district at Council Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting regarding proposed pilot projects of ONGC on geothermal energy in Leh district was chaired by Deputy Chairman LAHDC, Leh Tsering Angchuk with the team of ONGC headed by Deepak Kumar, DGM Energy, and Uday Shankar, Chief General Manager, ONGC Energy Sector on December 12 at Council Secretariat.

Chairman/CEC LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson, and MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal virtually attended the meeting from Delhi.

SE PDD, Leh, Tsewang Paljor; OSD to Secretary Renewable Energy, UT Ladakh, Dr. Stanzin Thakchos; Advisor to LAHDC, Leh on Renewable energy, Kunzes Dolma and Nawang Thinles Coordinator, ONGC Leh were

present in the meeting.

The team informed that there have been efforts made by various organizations in the exploration of geothermal energy for decades in Ladakh. The Govt. of India under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has assigned ONGC to harness geothermal energy from Puga and other potential areas of UT Ladakh for which the initial survey is going on these days.

CEC Gyalson, MP JTN, and Dy. Chairman Angchuk welcomed the team of ONGC to Leh and highlighted the immense geothermal potential of Leh district. They said that if this clean energy will be tapped properly without affecting the fragile environment and ecology of Ladakh and without compromising the interest of local people, then it

will be a game-changer for UT Ladakh in the power sector and other potential sectors associated with geothermal energy.

They assured all possible support from Hill Council Leh to ONGC in harnessing geothermal energy from potential areas but asked the ONGC team to sign MoU with LAHDC, Leh involving all the stakeholders for the proposed pilot projects with clear understanding and consents of key players.

Kunzes Dolma and other concerned officers also highlighted the scope of this sustainable energy in context with Puga, Chumathang, Panamik, Demjok, etc known for geothermal repository. Also, they suggested their ideas to ensure sustainability and eco-friendly ONGC's pilot project if implemented in the future.

Tourism department declares First Tourism Home Stay Policy in Ladakh

Aims to preserve, promote and encourage the unique culture of Ladakh along with strengthening of rural economy



During the declaration of Ladakh's first Tourism Home Stay Policy.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: To strengthen the rural economy by promoting responsible and sustainable tourism in Ladakh, the first Tourism Home Stay Policy was issued by the Department of Tourism UT Ladakh on December 7.

The policy was jointly prepared by the Department of Tourism and Wildlife Ladakh.

According to the policy, rural tourism can be a more effective

tool to boost the tourism sector in Ladakh as its rural areas are endowed with amazing natural beauty, serene environment, heritage sites, and unique cultural flavor. The endorsement of rural tourism will ensure the dispersal of tourists from city congestion to the villages so that they can have a glimpse of the rural Ladakh and familiarize themselves with the unique village culture and heritage. The policy further envisages har-

nessing the vast untapped rural tourism potential of Ladakh so that its benefit reaches out directly to the rural communities.

The Home Stay Policy is expected to boost tourism in remote areas of Ladakh such as Changthang, Nubra, Singelalok, Zaskar, Drass, Batalik, Shargole, Suru Valley, and Sharak-Chiktan areas of Ladakh.

One of the highlights of the scheme is the Hospitality Training/ Skill development to the stakeholders/ personnel engaged, besides identifying Eco Guides to provide training to the local youth.

Regarding the selection of the Home Stay beneficiaries, various committees are constituted at the level of Director Tourism, Ladakh to scrutinize, monitor, and approval the cases.

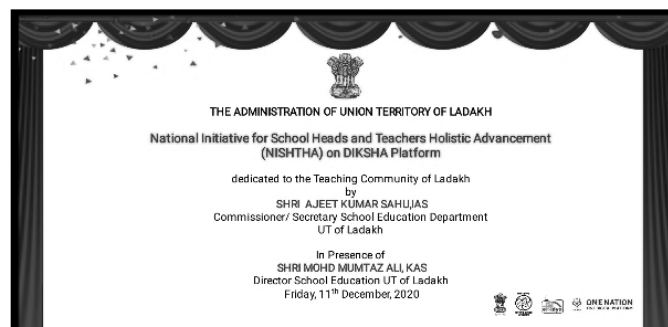
A K Sahu launches online teacher training programme, 'NISHTHA'

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner/Secretary School Education, UT Ladakh, AK Sahu virtually inaugurated and dedicated the app 'National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement' (NISHTHA) to the teaching community of Ladakh on December 11.

'NISHTHA' is a capacity-building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training. It aims to build competencies among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.

The programme is a first of its kind launched by NCERT supported by the Ministry of Education. Around 4122 elementary



teachers registered till now using the DIKSHA android app. The teachers will go through 18 modules which will be available from December 12 for UT Ladakh.

Director School Education Department, Ladakh, Mohd. Mumtaz Ali, team DIKSHA for UT Ladakh, Ministry of Education GoI headed by Ravi Kumar

VL, Chief Education Officers of Leh and Kargil, Principal District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) Leh/Kargil, and State/District Nodal officers NISHTHA Leh and Kargil were also virtually present.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by the trainee teachers from both districts.

L-G Mathur e-inaugurates seminar on prefabricated bridge construction

Reach Ladakh Correspondent



LEH: A seminar on the construction of prefabricated bridges using the latest technology in Ladakh was e-inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur on December 12.

The seminar was conducted by the Public Works Department, Ladakh in collaboration with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. Kolkata.

R K Mathur emphasised the need to use the best possible technology and management techniques to extend the working season for developmental activities in Ladakh and to reduce the construction period to a minimum.

He informed that the funds allocated to Ladakh for bridge construction are ₹700 crore which he said needs to be utilized with extra effort to ensure the

construction of world-class bridges. He added that bridges are an important aspect of infrastructure development in Ladakh for both civil and military purposes.

R K Mathur highlighted the need for the construction of footbridges, single lane, and double lane bridges considering the nature and weather changes like a strong wind, flash floods, sharp increase in water level, and changing the course of rivers during summers.

He suggested including local MSME units in the construction of bridges and asserted that it will not only boost the local economy but would be of immense help in upgrading their capacity and technology that would help both the civilians and army in launching bridges during contingencies. He expected the participants to deliberate on management techniques and maintenance aspects of bridge construction and ensure its application in service delivery by PWD.

Mathur thanked GRSE for their support and conduct of training sessions for the engineers. He said that the combined knowledge and technological expertise of GRSE, BRO, Army, and CPWD put together would help Ladakh build a strong network of quality bridges and easy accessibility for the people of Ladakh.

Commissioner Secretary, A K Sahu; General Manager, GRSE, Subrato Ghosh; SE PWD Leh, Pradeep Kumar Sharma, officials of BRO, engineers of CPWD and PWD were present on the occasion.

Woman dies after delivery at SNM hospital, family alleges medical negligence

...Continued from page 1

tal, especially at night.

Speaking on the incident and the non-availability of a doctor to attend emergency cases at night, Dr Norzin Angmo, the Medical Superintendent of SNM Hospital, shared that a committee has been constituted to look into the matter to bring out the facts. "It is too early to draw any conclusions. The matter is being investigated and a proper audit of

the incident will be conducted," she said.

An internal audit in case of maternal mortality needs to be conducted as per guidelines to ascertain the reasons so that such an incident could be avoided in the future. As per sources, such audits were performed in many other cases but could not yield any concrete result.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalson asked Commissioner Secretary, Health, UT Ladakh to order a magisterial inquiry in the matter at the earliest.

On this Losar, let's treat animals better, choose kindness over cruelty



By Venerable Sanghasena

During the summertime, many animals lives in Gyamtsa valley and as the winter set in these animals return back to their respective home or the owners will come looking to take them back. Two beautiful

ox and some horses were staying back in the valley for a long time and there is not enough grass left for them. As we have some grasses grown inside the compound wall of my hermitage, my assistant brought them inside the compound where they stayed and enjoyed the grass for a few days. Also, we tried to convey messages to their owners through some visitors, to come and take them home.

It is very sad to inform that one of the oxen was killed and eaten away, probably by a group of aggressive dogs or Snow leopard while the other one is still missing. His life might be in great danger if he has not reached back to his home safely. Both of them probably belong to a family of Upper Leh or Gonpa village. Some time back, one of the beautiful horses was also attacked by a snow leopard.

It is very heartbreaking to see that such sad things are happening in the land that is known for compassion. We claim ourselves religious and the compassion which is the core of our religion seems to be deteriorating.

The innocent domestic animals are the ones who suffer the most during the harsh cold winter, as there is nothing for them to eat outside their home. The owners must take care of their animals.

“Dear people of Ladakh please show mercy and compassion towards animals. These innocent animals cannot speak or express their pain and suffering, they need more compassion than human beings.”



As the Losar celebration is on, we witness that animals are slaughtered specially yaks for human consumption.

As the saying goes “*Jaisa Ann Waisa Mann*,” which means as will be my food so will be my mind. If you eat food that is brought out through violence and death will certainly affect one's mind. The different kind of foods one consumes creates a similar vibration and emotion in the mind. The mind of one consuming non-vegetarian food is comparatively more violent and aggressive when compared to a vegetarian individual. This analogy is visible in the animal world. The herbivores such as cows, horses, deer, goats, sheep, yak, etc. are less aggressive

and violent than the carnivores such as lions, tigers, cats, etc are much more aggressive.

If we wish to have a pure mind and want to grow spiritually, we must be aware of the food we eat. We must eat Satvik food, which is not procured through violence, pain, and killing of any form of life.

We all know that animals have feelings, thoughts, emotions, and we have all heard of the horrors taking place in slaughterhouses. Most often it barely takes us a minute to ask ourselves and introspect on unthinkable, shocking, and inhumane methods used to butcher the animals in slaughterhouses. These animals go through much pain and trauma while be-

ing pulled to the situation of a knife on their heads. Their emotions towards us ‘humans’ are filled with a tremendous amount of hatred, anger, resentment, fear, hurt, pain, and helplessness. It is unbearable for us to think and imagine. Take a second to imagine ourselves in those positions; it would be the scariest few seconds of our lives.

These poor helpless animals are killed, cooked, and then served on our plate covered with colours and spices. When we are eating meats from our plates, we are unable to see and feel all the hatred, anger, resentment, fear, pain, agony, torture, helplessness, violence, death of the animal. We are not only eating just flesh but we are also eating all pain, hatred, anger, fear, agony, torture, and helplessness of the innocent animals. All these violence go into our mind and into every cell of our body. We try and justify by saying our body needs the protein and health. This is nonsense! How about the protein for those who are enjoying a perfectly healthy life without eating the meat of animals?

The western world many years ago was once a complete non-vegetarian society, however, now we see many of them becoming vegetarians and vegan. It is now scientifically proven that vegetarian food is much healthier than non-vegetarian food. Research shows, meat-eaters have a 200% chance of catching cancer compare to non-meat-eaters. The human body was made herbivorous, it was not made carnivorous, if you see our teeth structure, we have molars for grinding. Carnivores have incision teeth for cutting the flesh, unlike humans they have no molars. On the contrary, we humans have molars all the way till the end. Carnivores only do a linear motion of their jaws and the herbivores can do bi-direction and grind their food, which once again proves our point that biologically as well we humans were made to be herbivores.

We have enough vegetables and alternative nutritious foods available. Please be kind to innocent animals and do not make your stomach graveyard of killed animals.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates curtain-raiser of 6th India International Science Festival



Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurating the 6th India International Science Festival (IISF) – 2020 virtually at DIHAR.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences inaugurated the curtain raiser event of the 6th India International Science Festival (IISF) – 2020 virtually at Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh-Ladakh, on December 8.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan briefed about the importance and relevance of celebrating this festival and asked the stakeholders to promote and make science and technology reach every remote location of the country. He further emphasized the importance of S&T in realizing the theme of the 6th IISF to “make India self-reliant and contribute to global welfare”.

The Union Minister congratulated DIHAR for the contribution

is making in terms of R&D to improve the agro-animal development of the Ladakh region.

India International Science Festival (IISF) launched in 2015 is a celebration to promote Science and Technology and demonstrate how science could lead India towards a developed nation within a short time. The aim is to engage the public with science and show the ways how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) provide us with the solutions to improve our lives. This unique platform 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 2020 is the sixth of the

series, organized since 2015-2019. Every year IISF has witnessed diversity in terms of many events, participants, etc. Today, IISF has become a much-awaited annual event that celebrates the achievements of Science, Technology, and Innovation and demonstrates how science can be the fulcrum of the country's progress.

Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur briefed about the role of Science & Technology to improve the socio-economic standard of the population as well as its capacity to reach every corner of our country, irrespective of physical boundaries. This becomes more relevant in Ladakh, where the harsh environment is a great challenge for the sustenance of humans and animal. S&T has immensely helped to make a livelihood in Ladakh more comfortable for the general

public and remunerative for the local farmers, for which the contribution of DIHAR is commendable. He also briefed about the huge potential to exploit renewable energy sources of Ladakh to make the region self-sustainable with zero carbon emission.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh briefed about contributions made by DIHAR by developing suitable technologies to increase the availability of vegetable diversity in Ladakh. Endeavors like this, utilizing the potential of S&T has to be disseminated in various other domains and far-flung locations.

Dr. AK Singh, DS & DG (LS) DRDO, mentioned the importance of taking science out of R&D premises to the actual field, so that livelihood of the population is made healthier, economical, and sustainable. He emphasized strengthening S&T to find local solutions to the prevailing local problems.

Dr. OP Chaurasia, Director, DIHAR and overall coordinator of this event, in his welcome address, mentioned the importance of organizing such an event in a remote location of Ladakh and he pledged to disseminate the developed technologies among the masses in this high altitude region of Ladakh.

The event witnessed participation via online media from diverse areas like administration, policy, education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and students.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The ‘write well, speak well’ mantra



Recently, I heard someone saying that if you build up your skill in ‘Speaking well and writing well’, you have already achieved 50% success. Well, there maybe some truth in that, but it is also true that it is not really like that. All those good at writing as well as speaking may not be men of success. But then it can be taken for sure that most of them are.

Of course, mere speaking well and writing well can't make one succeed. There are many people who write as well as speak well but they use these qualities negatively. In such cases, they become not heroes but enemies of the society.

Whereas one who can write and speak well, and uses his qualities for good causes, is a blessed person, and success comes to him automatically.

Most of the great historical figures were good at writing as well as speaking. That is why they could have their way the way they wanted to influence the masses in a manner that their utterances became the gospels of truth.

In our own country, we had Jawaharlal Nehru who could deliver speeches that would sway the hearts and minds of the people. And when he wrote, whatever, those writings became “a thing of beauty, a joy forever.” If you read his books, *The Discovery of India*, *An Autobiography* and *Letters From a Father to His Daughter*, you will realise the intensity of his passion for words and the sheer beauty of his language.

Similarly, we had Mahatma Gandhi who did not speak as well as Nehru did, but his speeches were more touching because they came from his heart, whereas in Nehru's case, they came more from his mind. Gandhi's speeches were as simple and touching as his physical outlook. And his writing too reflected similar qualities and greatness in simplicity. If one reads his *My Experiments with Truth*, one will have no way but to be left in ‘wow moments’!

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with

Tsetan Angmo, Visual Artist

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Tell us about yourself. What made you pursue art as a medium?

I have always liked and enjoyed drawing as a kid, but at the same time, I was a very academic-oriented person. I thought grades are the only thing that matters in life, but little did I know that I was a toad in a well. Soon after, as I left Leh for my higher studies and was exposed to a new environment, the only thing that kept me sane was my friends and my pencil. I used to doodle a lot, a new escape that turned the table around. Soon, I realized where my strength lies and there I choose to take the creative path. That's where my creative journey began.

Q. Brief us about your artwork? What are the medium and process like?

Every artist develops a certain style after a period of practice and like that, it took me a great deal of time and practice to develop one. My artwork usually includes figurative drawings inspired by our rich culture and wildlife as well as from the nuances of our life. The medium I use varies with the kind of artwork I aspire to create. As a graphic designer, my work revolves around digital mediums and when I switch for illustrations I usually go for watercolors, it feels more organic and expressive. I also experiment with acrylic colors and would like to explore more mediums in the future since every medium comes with new excitement and feelings.

Q. Your first animation work is "No Eechu". Can you talk to us about it?

In 2018, I created one animated movie inspired from a folk story "No Eechu" (Eechu means sparrow in Ladakhi) for the Bird Festival held at Ladakh Art and Media Organisation (LAMO). Animation was not my course study and I had very little information about the software. All I have ever learned during the process was through an online platform following tutorials and lessons. I managed to create a short animated movie where people welcomed and appreciated it on a great scale. It gave me immense joy to create it.

Q. What skills are most important for an animator?

As far as I know, as an animator you need to know how to give life to your characters, you should practice character design and know their expression as well as feel their emotions. These will help you to build up your characters which would later help in your animation. I think



the basic skill which is essential for an artist is to keep sketching; it is the only asset that helps you in the long run and gives ultimate joy.

Q. As a young artist what would you say are the challenges to your creative energy?

There are different kinds of challenges one faces while creating work and it hugely depends on what kind of work you do. One major challenge that is worth mentioning here is the lack of proper guidance. Although I was fortunate enough to have met many skilled people in my life, especially at Ladakh Art and Media Organization and I am eternally grateful for it. In the beginning, I always wanted someone to guide me through my approach in the field of art or to tell me about income generation using my skill. Being an introvert person, I was always reluctant. But along the way, I realized how my personality became an asset to my work and accepted it as a part of my journey.

Sometimes artists also face creative blocks, sometimes it shakes your faith in yourself and makes you very vulnerable and can even drive you to compare yourself with the other fellow artist or other artists on social media. I have also experienced them but through time, we get to know that these are phases and they will pass and we will create again.

Q. Where have you exhibited your work so far? What's next for you?

Until now, I have had the opportunity to exhibit my works at Ladakh Art and Media Organization at their summer art camps. I also got the opportunity to showcase my work at Gallery JIB in Tokyo, Japan. I am aspiring to experience and learn more in the future. I recently got my admission in the National Institute of Design, where I am pursuing Masters in Animation Design and I hope to learn more about the animation world and create more meaningful works in the future.

Q. What advice would you give to aspiring animators?

I don't know if I am qualified enough to give any advice, but one thing I would like to recommend to all the aspiring illustrators/ artists is that they should always keep a sketchbook handy with them and keep filling it with their thoughts, ideas, drawings, sketches and draw inspiration every moment. All you need to do is scribble, even if it is not perfect initially; the practice will drive you far and wide. Keep practicing and you will see how you will improve each day.

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“I would like the readers (specially the Parents) to show their love and support to the creative side of their kid. They are going to make you proud. And yes, it is a CAREER! ”

Fortnight Highlights



CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson inaugurated the NHPC Power Grid line for Photoksar under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana at Photoksar village electrifying the village after 70 years.



COVID-19 mitigation campaign: District Administration, Leh starts random sample collection in and around Leh.



Two High Flow Nasal Cannula worth around ₹6 lakh was donated to SNM hospital by the Action Covid-19 team (ACT). The two machines were handed over to Dr. Norzin Angmo, Medical Superintendent of SNM Hospital Leh by Dr. Nordan Otzer.



Press Club of Ladakh, Kargil organizes annual meet on December 9 at District Police Lines Auditorium, Kargil.



The valedictory function of five-day long "IMPACT" (Integrated Multidisciplinary Professional Advancement Course for Teacher) training was held virtually at District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Leh.

CEC, Kargil, inaugurates 'Linkipal Ski Slope' in Kargil



CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan inaugurating the Linkipal Ski Slope at Kurbathang, Pashkum.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Linkipal Ski Slope was inaugurated by CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan on December 10 at Kurbathang, Pashkum.

The ski slope has been maintained by the Friends Social and Sports Association Pashkum with the help of the local community.

The spot has been declared as one of the international standard snow ski slopes by Col J.S Dhillon, Principal IISM (Ministry of Tourism), Gulmarg during his recent visit to Kargil district. He was deputed by the Ministry of Tourism, GoI to submit a detailed report regarding the winter tourism potential in Ladakh and to initiate winter and adventure sports in Ladakh through IISM.

Feroz Ahmed Khan congratulated

the people of Pashkum for dedicating the patch of land for the establishment of the ski slope considering the potential of winter sports like snow skiing for the local youth. He expressed optimism that the ski slope will be one of its kind in Ladakh and will be an ideal location for organising winter sports in the future.

He also hailed the voluntary services of Friends Association Kargil and the elderly and youth of Pashkum area in establishing the ski slope.

Underlining the inclination, passion, and ability of the local youth towards season-specific traditional and modern games like archery, polo, snow ski, and ice hockey, he informed that attention is being laid on the promotion of these sports in the district so that the emerging players can compete at the national and

international level.

Friends Social and Sports Association Pashkum demanded the establishment of necessary infrastructure around the ski slope.

Feroz Khan informed that the KDA building nearby will be renovated and handed over to the Friends Association Pashkum for organizing winter sports activities. Also, he assured that steps will be taken to install ski chair lift, allocate funds for the purchase of snow grooming machine and construction of wooden ski hut cum rest room/view point near Linkipal Base, and to provide snow ski equipment to the local players through the Department of Tourism and Youth Services and Sports. The projection for funds allocation in this regard will also be kept in the UT Budget and District Plan next year.

UT Administration gears up to start AN-32 courier service for Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Prior closure of Zojila pass, UT Administration gears up for AN-32 Courier Services for transportation of passengers of Kargil as well as essential goods.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Umang Narula chaired a State level officers' meeting to review the preparedness for the winter life-line on December 12.

Advisor Narula appreciated the departments/agencies for their last years' support and cooperation that resulted in the smooth functioning of the winter air-service. He also mentioned the work-load that had risen due to COVID pandemic. He expressed his hope to get similar cooperation from all the concerned departments and stakeholders to provide better facilities to the passengers.

He gave directions for the appointment of Liaison Officers

and told DCs of both the districts to make arrangements for medical screening before boarding. Directions were also given to the concerned agencies for the appointment of Nodal Officers and ensure advance arrangements in place for the overall smooth functioning of the operation of flights.

Commissioner/Secretary Civil Aviation Rigzin Samphel informed about planning to start the Courier service tentatively from the third week of December on weekly basis from Kargil to Srinagar and Jammu sectors.

He briefed about the background as well as the requisitions during the upcoming operation of AN-32. Various discussions and decisions were made in consultation with the counterparts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting deliberated on several aspects in connection with alternate ways during flight cancellations due to bad weather condition and other unavoidable reasons, rush periods especially during February and March/April, availability of alternate IL-76 or C-17 for stranded passengers, medical emergency evacuations, space for ticket counters, bus transportation, ticket fare among others.

Air Force authority informed that following the COVID-19 advisory, the passengers intending to avail of the air service must adhere to the mandatory requirements of medical screening before boarding. Any passenger with flu-like symptoms is to be denied boarding, passengers are provided with fresh triple-layer mask and face shield, based on social distancing requirement a maximum of 25 passengers will be accommodated. Only the approved number of passengers will be permitted to arrive at the aircraft and handling of passenger baggage by a separate team.

SDM, Zanskar, inaugurates newly-built ice hockey rink in Stongday



During the inaugural ceremony of the Ice hock rink at Stongday, Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: An ice hockey rink constructed under MGNREGA at a cost of ₹ 19 Lakh was inaugurated by Area Development Officer/ Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Zanskar, Sonam Dorjay on December 7 at Stongday village, Zanskar.

cember 7 at Stongday village, Zanskar.

Congratulating the people of Stongday, SDM Zanskar expressed hope that the rink will prove instrumental in providing opportunities to the ice hockey players to sharpen their ice hockey skills besides also helping in conducting ice hockey events.

He also hailed the Sarpanch Stongday for his efforts in ensuring the construction of the ice hockey rink well in time.

He further assured the locals that the demand for provision of funds for ice hockey equipment would be considered on priority and would be taken up with concerned departments in due course of time.

BDO Zanskar, Tourist Officer Zanskar, SHO Zanskar, BDC Chairperson Padum, Sarpanch Stongday besides the locals of Stongday village were present on the occasion.

WCBCCL demands bird rescue, rehabilitation centre in Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Members of Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh/Birds Club, Leh met Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur regarding various demand on December 8 at Raj Niwas.

They submitted a copy of a memorandum demanding bird rescue and rehabilitation centre in Ladakh, the inclusion of Ladakh Bird Festival in the Ladakh Tourism Calendar and to recognize Black-necked Crane as the state bird and Snow Leopard as the state animal of UT Ladakh.

President Lobzang Vissudha and Secretary, Dorje Daya of



Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh/Birds Club, Leh informed about the existence of around 350 bird species in Ladakh which is 25% of the bird's species in the Indian sub-continent. They spoke about the objectives and activities of their organization through a PowerPoint presentation.

The Lt. Governor appreciated WCBCCL for their endeavours towards the conservation and promotion of birds and wildlife of Ladakh. He gave assurance to extend all possible support on part of the UT Administration.

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GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION BEGINS!

This year has changed the world we live in. Our lifestyles, habits, relationships and the overall state have experienced a shift. The uncertainty of the future has brought words like fear, depression, suicides, crisis, chaos etc. in our routine usage. The external disturbances demand an internal shift in our mindset, perspective and approach towards life. The calm to this chaos, the solution to this problem is 'Transformation.'

Maitreya Dadashreeji, the founder and visionary of MaitriBodh Parivaar has introduced the 'WORLDWIDE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM' for every being who wants to work towards creating a better world for the future. With 25 life-changing tools over a span of 2 years, this program is reflective, meditative and experiential.

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MaitriBodh Parivaar has been working to uplift the human consciousness since 2013 through its various spiritual programs and initiatives for social welfare.

Maitreya Dadashreeji has appealed to all spiritual leaders, spiritual masters world over to join him in talking more on 'Transformation' and be a part of this effective wave of Global Transformation

Let's take the first step towards our Growth,
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Register for FREE at <https://maitribodh.org/transform/> or write us at info@maitribodh.org

NOTICE

An application has been received from Shakeel Ahmad S/o Ahmad Khan R/o Yourtung, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. JK10A-9678 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of lost documents.

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



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Happy Losar

As another year comes to an end, we wish you all good health, happiness, and prosperity. Also, we wanted to say Thank You for supporting us and looking forward to your continued backing in the future.

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