

# REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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**72<sup>nd</sup> Republic day celebration: L-G Mathur unfurls national flag**



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur during the 72nd Republic day celebration at Pologround, Leh.

**Stanzin Dasal**

LEH: 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic day celebration began with the unfurling of the national flag by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur on January 26 at Pologround, Leh.

March Past of the contingents of paramilitary forces, police, ex-servicemen, band parties, and cultural programmes were also performed.

While addressing the gathering, R K Mathur highlighted the hard work and sacrifices of the frontline workers including doctors and paramedics of Ladakh in the time of the pandemic. He said that Ladakh's fight against Coronavirus was successful because of the administrative responses and the people's cooperation. He urged the people of Ladakh not to fear the coronavirus vaccination and come forward to get vaccinated.

He spoke about health and education as the priority sectors and the multi-crore

projects of setting up laboratories and developing the health, school, and sports infrastructures.

LG informed that for the first time a budget of ₹23.49 crores has been approved for the procurement of medical equipment for both the district and medical staff vacancies are being filled on priority to address manpower shortage. He said that the Administration is also working on introducing mobile units and the use of telemedicine as a prospect of health development.

Acknowledging the people's concern about employment and culture, R K Mathur said that providing employment opportunities is a key objective of UT Administration and assured to initiate regular appointments after the orders are issued based on the ongoing talks which shall give due consideration to the concerns and aspirations of the people of Ladakh.

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**Kargil celebrates 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day with patriotic fervor**



72nd Republic Day celebration in Kargil.

**Reach Ladakh Correspondent**

KARGIL: 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day was celebrated with immense patriotic zeal in Kargil on January 26.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmed Khan hoisted the national tricolor at Khree Sultan Chow Sports Stadium.

Feroz Ahmed Khan recalled the contributions of the makers of the Constitution and supreme sacrifices of the national heroes who laid down their lives for the country. He hailed the services of the Army, paramilitary forces, and police in guarding the frontiers of the country in harsh weather conditions and for maintaining peace, order, and internal security in the country.

While highlighting the achievements, developmental activities underway and plans of the present Council in Kargil district, he said that the LAHDC, Kargil is fully committed to the overall devel-

opment of the district in all sectors, and several important initiatives are presently underway in this regard.

He informed that developmental works are going on in full swing Health, Public Works, Tourism, Youth Services and Sports, Rural Development while concrete measures are being taken to augment other sectors.

About the Public Works sector, the CEC said that during the current financial year, 3 major projects at a cost of more than ₹27 crore have been completed while 3 steel girder bridges have been completed under Central Road Funds (CRF). in hand under the district plan out of which many have been completed.

Regarding the projects under New Connectivity, he said that under this scheme 14 roads of a total of 38 kilometers length have been completed during this financial year, while a total road length

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Courtesy: Tsestan Angmo



**Correction and clarification**

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## Entrepreneurship in Ladakh: An answer to the unemployment problem?

*Naropa Fellowship, Incubation Center a step towards promoting entrepreneurship in the region*



*Naropa fellows interacting with the guest speaker.*

### Tenzin Khetsun and Nayanika Guha

LEH: As the issue of unemployment is escalating in Ladakh, the youth of the newly formed union territory face disappointment and demotivation. With limited government jobs, and a COVID-hit economy affecting tourism, which is one of the largest industries in Ladakh, a quick and easy solution seems unlikely. Amid this crisis, entrepreneurship provides a glimmer of hope for these youth who are now looking to set up their business ventures to earn a livelihood.

Entrepreneurs are focused on finding innovative solutions to local problems. They are self-employed, and can often provide employment opportunities to others in their community.

Deachen Chusket, Naropa Fellow, 2021 batch said, "I don't want to do a traditional job where I have to report to work at 9 am every day. I don't want to be one of the many job-seekers, but a job creator."

Entrepreneurial ventures, especially those falling under the realm of social entrepreneurship, can boost the local economy and culture. Recognising the positive aspects of entrepreneurship, both the local government and private organisations are setting up initiatives to promote it in Ladakh.

One such initiative is the Naropa Fellowship, co-founded by His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche and Dr Pramath Raj Sinha under the grace of His Holiness the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa.

It is a year-long residential post-graduate programme focused on nurturing young entrepreneurs to preserve the culture of Ladakh, and the Himalayan region at large. The Fellowship has engaged professors and mentors from the Himalayas, India, and across the world to provide best opportunities and mentorship to the fellows. The Fellowship culminates in the Naropa Impact Summit, where Fellows get the opportunity to pitch their products, services, stories and ideas to angel investors and thought leaders and secure assistance post the Fellowship.

Tsewang Chostar, Naropa Fellow, 2021 batch said,

"I want to support my family, become self-dependent, and set my work schedule."

However, the journey has not been easy for the young entrepreneurs.

Chozin Palmo, a fellow from the inaugural batch, and founder of 'Jang-sa' says, "My parents want me to look for a government job instead of becoming an entrepreneur. They think that my venture is just a small business with no earning potential."

Hopeful for a bright future, she added, "The Industries and Commerce Department is slowly encouraging the youth to enter the field of entrepreneurship. This year they are finally looking for fresh ideas and promoting entrepreneurship."

The upcoming Incubation Centre in Leh that is being set up by the Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh, is an initiative by the government to take concrete steps to promote entrepreneurship in the region. They have also set up another Incubation center in the district Kargil, which will be operational from April 2021. The vision of the centre is to provide practical and feasible ideas to entrepreneurs to enter the market through proper mentorship, training, and networking.

To promote entrepreneurship in the region, they are trying to get linkages with the government of India and networking with different ministries and departments so that the youth of Ladakh can leverage the different schemes offered by them. They are trying to create a single window for entrepreneurs to streamline the process. A startup Policy and Sustainable Industrial Policy is also being formulated for Ladakh, one which will promote and incentivise entrepreneurship.

While this brings hope for the future of entrepreneurship in Ladakh, there are still unanswered questions whether it will be accepted by society as a viable form of making a living.

Stanzin Tundup, Naropa Fellow'20, explains, "Small businesses have flourished in Ladakh for years- right from the Silk Route where trade was common. However, with modernisation, the challenges are also becoming more modern. Entrepreneurship is coming up in a big way to solve these issues. People will take some time to understand modern technologies and the set up as it threatens the traditional ways of the life of people."

With Ladakh given the status of a union territory, the youth are hopeful of new policies and opportunities in the entrepreneurial space. With encouragement coming in the form of programmes such as the Naropa Fellowship and the Incubation Center, the next few years determine if entrepreneurship could flourish in the region or not.

## Ladakh Winter Conclave 2021 to be held from February 21 to 23

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Rigzin Samphel took stock of preparedness for the three-day event Ladakh Winter Conclave 21 at the Secretariat on January 27.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, Ladakh, AD tourism, Leh/Kargil, Deputy Secretary, Culture, Leh/Kargil, Hotel Association, Leh/Kargil; ALTOA, Leh; AKTTA, Kargil, and others.

Ladakh Winter Conclave 2021 would be held in Leh and Kargil districts from February 21 to 23.

Commissioner Secretary Samphel discussed the guest list and the programme schedule with the stakeholders. It was decided during the meeting to form a committee to verify the list of guests. Commissioner Secretary Samphel also directed AD Tourism, Kargil to invite tenders for accommodation and conference



*Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Rigzin Samphel taking stock of the preparedness for Ladakh Winter Conclave 21 at the Secretariat.*

hall among other necessities. He also directed both AD Tourism Leh and Kargil to exchange the list of guests to avoid duplicity.

Stressing that programme schedule should be prepared according to the needs of the locals, Commissioner Secretary Samphel also directed that heritage walk be organised in Leh and Stok this time.

The opening ceremony of the Ladakh Winter Conclave 21 would be held on February 20 in Leh and February 21 in Kargil.

He also instructed the ADs that LAHDCs be consulted in this regard.

He also informed that the heritage walk would be held on an opening day with two other sessions. The event comprises polo matches, presentations, and the closing ceremony. A fashion show highlighting the rich culture and tradition of Ladakh would be a part of the event.

He further directed that SOPs should be strictly followed during the three-day event.

## Leh remembers Late Dr. Sonam Dawa on his 3<sup>rd</sup> Death Anniversary



*Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur lighting the butter lamp during 3<sup>rd</sup> Death anniversary of Dr. Sonam Dawa at Distkit-Tsal Park, Leh.*

### Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Late Dr. Sonam Dawa, Former Chairman/CEC, Hill Council, Leh remembered on his 3<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary on January 29.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur paid tribute to the Late Dr. Sonam Dawa by lighting the butter lamp during a function held at Distkit-Tsal Park, Leh.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt. Governor said, "Though I didn't have the chance to meet him, I salute this nobleman, an able administrator and a visionary leader who dedicated his entire life for the welfare of the people and long term development of Ladakh."

He expressed his sympathy and appreciation to the

family members for bearing this irreparable loss which he said will be remembered forever.

LG Mathur said that having achieved the status of union territory for Ladakh, it would be the true tribute and respect to Late Dr. Dawa to fulfill the dream he and the people have seen for Ladakh. He said that both administration and political institutions are working towards delivering better services to ensure the growth and development of Ladakh.

Former MP, Thupstan Chhewang reiterated the works of Dr. Sonam Dawa at all levels for the welfare of people.

He said, "I feel that his untimely demise is because of the work stress and the pressure that was build up because of the changing political situation at that time."

He expressed gratitude to the Hill Council, Leh for dedicating the Diskitsal park in memory of Late Dr. Sonam Dawa.

Advocate Tashi Gyalson, CEC, Hill Council, Leh stated Late Dr. Sonam Dawa visionary and dedicated leader who dreamt and worked for the development of Ladakh. He said losing such a leader is unfortunate but we must strive to walk on the path lead by him and work for the welfare of the people.

His Eminence Palga Rinpoche; Deputy Chairman, LAHDC, Leh Tsering Angchuk, and Former CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Gyal P Wangyal also spoke on the occasion.

## Artists from Ladakh win laurels at virtual National Kala Utsav-2020

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Two artists from Ladakh won accolades during the virtual valedictory function-cum-prize distribution ceremony of National Kala Utsav-2020 held online on January 28.

Tsering Kunsal, a student of Class 11, Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh, secured third place in instrumental music-traditional folk. While, Maqsooma Bano, student of Class 10, Government High School, Kaksar, Kargil bagged second prize in 'visual art-2D'.

The event 'National Kala Utsav-2020' was held from January 11 to 22 at Paras Hall, Government Boys' Senior Secondary School, Leh. The UT Ladakh team was headed by Nodal Officer, Kala Utsav, Ladakh, Sonam Yangchan, and Technical Coordinator, Kala Utsav, Ladakh, Tsewang Namgail. The students of both Leh and Kargil districts performed vocal music-traditional folk, instrumental music-traditional folk, dance-folk, visual arts (2D), visual arts (3D), and indigenous toys and games during the event.

Minister of Education, Government of India (GoI),



Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'; Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, GoI; Director and Secretary of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT); Joint Secretary Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET); National Convener, Kala Utsav-2020 along with the state coordinators, teachers, and participants of different states and union territories were present during the valedictory function-cum-prize distribution function.

## EC Tashi reviews preparation for mega plantation drive in Chushul



### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Executive Councillor for Rural Dept. LAHDC Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee reviewed the progress and status of the mega plantation drive to be carried under the Go-Green Go-Organic mission in Chushul on April 22.

Executive Engineer, PHE, Angchuk informed the meeting that 5 bore-wells have already been set up at the plantation site and 3 of them are fitted with Solar Immersible pipes for providing water supply. HODs of departments such as forest, Command Area Development and Irriga-

tion updated their status of preparedness.

EC Tashi directed concerned HODs to speed up the pending works. He also requested public representatives and the organising committee to contribute equally in providing help in successfully conducting the mega plantation drive.

The "Go Green Go Organic" an initiative by H.E Drikung Sk-yabgon Chetsang Rinpoche is aimed at maintaining ecological balance and environmental stability of Ladakh while improving socio-economic conditions and generating ecotourism focuses on environmental education and implementing organic practices in Ladakh.

## Changthang demands separate district status

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A delegation led by EC, Rural Development Department, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee discussed the demand of district status for Changthang region with Advisor to Lt. Governor, UT Ladakh, Umang Narula; Commissioner Secretary, Rigzin Samphel; Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas and DC Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on January 20.



A delegation led by EC, Rural Development Department, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee with Advisor to Lt. Governor, UT Ladakh, Umang Narula.

The delegation includes Councillor Nyoma, Ishey Spalzang; Councillor Kungyam, Thinles Nurboo; Councillor Chushul, Konchok Stanzin; Councillor Korzok, Karma Namdak; BDC Chairperson (Nyoma and Durbuk); LBA presidents (Nyoma and Durbuk); student organisations (Ladakh Drayangs and SAVE) and political party repre-

sentatives (BJP and Congress) of Changthang region.

EC Tashi apprised concerned higher authorities regarding the genuine demand of the people of Changthang to grant separate district status to the region.

The delegation highlighted the importance of the region stra-

telegically, economically, and in various other sectors. They also submitted a drafted proposal justifying their demand to grant separate district status to the region.

The Advisor and all the higher authorities assured to look into the genuine demands and issues of the Changthang region.

## DC Leh reviews Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation programme

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya convened a meeting of the district-level task force for intensified pulse polio immunisation (IPPI) programme on January 25.



DC Leh reviewing the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation programme.

Sub-district magistrate (SDM), Kharu, AG Zargar; Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Leh, Dr. Motup Dorje; Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Manzoor Ul Haq; Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital, Dr. Nurzin Angmo; District Immunisation Officer, Dr. Tashi Namgail, and District Social Welfare Officer, Leh, Tsering Chorol were present in the meeting.

CMO Dr. Motup Dorje and DC Leh Sachin Kumar discussed the strategy and joint action plans to be adopted during the first round of IPPI to be held on January 31, covering booth activity, transit points, mela/bazaars, mobile team, and house-to-house activity on February 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

District Immunisation Officer, Tashi Namgial shared their arrangements to combat the disease and plans to vaccinate a population of 9894 children below five years out of which 773 are non-locals.

It was also discussed that the health department requires 377 vaccination booths, 1504 team members, and 68 supervisors for booth activities. Similarly, they require 10 transit points, 20 team members, and two supervisors at transit points. For mela/bazaars, the medical department needs four mela/bazaar sites, 16 team members, and two supervisors. The CMO further shared that the department also requires addi-

tional 13 mobile team members for the said activities.

Dr. Tashi Namgial informed the officials that the pulse polio immunisation campaign continues to be a regular programme in India as a preventive measure against the possible spread of the disease from neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and some African countries where polio is still prevalent despite India becoming a polio-free nation in 2014.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya directed the effective implementation of the IPPI programme in the district and assured help and support to the medical department.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic day celebration: L-G Mathur unfurls national flag

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He informed of the recruitment of 385 regular employees through LAHDC, Kargil, and around 600 Ladakhis engaged in different government departments through outsourcing on an urgent basis.

He said that major focus is being given on upgrading higher education in Ladakh with setting up of Engineering College in Kargil, the introduction of 10 undergraduate and postgraduate streams in the University of Ladakh, up-gradation of Food Craft Institute, Leh to Institute of Hotel Management, a Medical college, a Mountain Research Institute, Skiing Institute and National Institute of Sowa Rigpa to ensure a better prospect for the Ladakhi youth.

R K Mathur thanked Prime Minister Modi for announcing a new Central University for Ladakh and urged the Ladakhi youth to take full advantage of these facilities at their doorstep.

To ensure sustainable development of Ladakh, LG said that major focus is being given to developing agriculture, horticulture, dairy, handicraft, and handloom sectors.

He informed that various initiatives under PM Food Processing and Micro Enterprise Scheme, Apricots, and Seabuckthorn have been selected as priority products for development under the One District One Product Classification of GOI. Like-

wise, under the national programme, 7000 households have been covered under a benchmark survey across 49 villages, and registration of 32 milk cooperatives is in the final stage and two milk pasteurization units shall come up in Leh and Kargil districts. He further informed that under phase-1 vaccination of the National Animal Disease Control Programme, 94% coverage has been achieved and Ladakh stood 1st among all UTs.

For entrepreneurial development, 2000 entrepreneurs have been trained and other initiatives are under process to promote Pashmina, seabuckthorn, medicinal and aromatic plants, etc.

The Lt. Governor also spoke about effective implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes in Ladakh, promotion of Pashmina, solar power projects, a vision of carbon-free Ladakh, promotion of tourism sector with a prime focus of winter tourism promotion, and power supply.

Earlier, the Lt. Governor of Ladakh paid tribute to the martyrs in a wreath-laying ceremony by the Indian Army at the Hall of Fame. He was accompanied by Lt. Gen. PGK Menon, GOC, HQ 14 Corps, and Maj. Gen Aakash Kaushik, Chief of Staff, HQ 14 Corps.

Different people for their commendable service to society and excellence in different fields were also honoured.

## Ladakh to be renewable energy hub of India

Green hydrogen energy could be best alternative to make Ladakh carbon neutral, says L-G Mathur

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur discussed renewable energy potentials and roadmap for carbon-neutral Ladakh with Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, GOI, Raj Kumar Singh on January 19.



Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur; Advisor Umang Narula and Additional Secretary Ravinder Kumar attending the meeting with Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, GOI, Raj Kumar Singh via video conferencing.

The meeting was held via video conferencing. Advisor Umang Narula and Additional Secretary Ravinder Kumar were also present.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was made on the objectives, plan of action, bottlenecks, and solutions to make Ladakh the renewable energy hub of India. Issues concerning the Ladakh power scenario, energy demand, and possibilities of replacing diesel with green hydrogen energy for electricity, heating, and transportation purposes were deliberated at length.

MNRE, SECI, ONGC, NTPC, and PGCIL officials apprised the Minister of the proposed pilot projects, other projects in pipelines, the present status of progress, and current renewable energy initiatives to make Ladakh carbon neutral. The projects included harnessing the maximum potential of solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy combina-

tion to provide a 24x7 electricity supply with an increased storage facility.

L-G Mathur expressed thanks to the Power Minister for his intervention to facilitate the timely implementation of these projects in Ladakh towards achieving the goal of making Ladakh carbon neutral. He informed the Minister that green hydrogen would be the best alternative to make Ladakh carbon-neutral considering its production feasibility, climatic, geographic, and road conditions of the region. He said that the success of the 200 KW Green Hydrogen CHP pilot project at the SNM Hospital, Leh would be a big achievement meeting the need for electricity, heating, and oxygen and the model can be scaled up for the use of the army and tourists.

He informed the Minister that a committee will soon be constituted to find out a long term solution for land issues for all renewable energy projects. He also requested to consider the possibility of heavy vehicles and load carriers in Ladakh to run on hydrogen fuel and electric buses for public transport.

The Minister exhorted the executing agencies participating in the meeting to submit the comprehensive project with required data, conduct surveys, study feasibility, financial requirements, set time frames, and gave a go-ahead to start implementing the projects on the ground at the earliest. He said that these projects will not only take Ladakh towards carbon neutrality but would also provide a sustainable source of income and employment generation.

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



A team of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during the meeting with Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC, Leh Advocate Tashi Gyalson.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A team of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) met Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC, Leh Advocate Tashi Gyalson on January 27 to discuss the signing of MoU with LAHDC, Leh to launch a pilot project on Hydrogen fuel cell-based bus/vehicle project for passenger

transportation in Leh.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Under Secretary, Power, UT Ladakh, Ashwani Hansa; Project Director, LREDA, Dr. Tsewang Thinlas; Subir Karma, Rahul Patabala, and Ritwick Goash of NTPC were present in the meeting.

CEC Gyalson welcomed the pilot project in Leh and said that LAHDC Leh is very keen to switch towards renewable energy in line with Prime Minister Modi's efforts to make UT Ladakh a carbon-neutral region. He assured to extend all possible assistance and help from LAHDC Leh to NTPC in the successful implementation of the pilot project.

He further requested NTPC to bring more clarity in the proposed draft of the MoU mentioning the share and equity of LAHDC, Leh, and future action plan of NTPC in Leh.

## Kargil celebrates 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day with patriotic fervor

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of 30 kilometers has been macadamized which would benefit more than 4000 souls.

In PHE Sector, Khan said that to provide safe and adequate drinking water facilities to people under Jal Jeevan Mission, 700 functional household connections have been provided so far, adding that as per the target fixed for the year 2022, 19000 such connections will be provided across the district.

He hailed the tireless efforts of the COVID-19 frontline workers in containing the spread of COVID-19 in the district. He also made special mention of the Deputy Commissioner and CEO LAHDC Kargil, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary and all the officers of the Civil and Police Administration, doctors, paramedical staff as well as other Corona warriors and volunteers.

Feroz Ahmed Khan also spoke about various infrastructure and developmental activities carried out in different sectors such as. Health, education, tourism, agriculture, etc.

Congratulating the people of Kargil for the formal kick start of work on the construction of Zojila tunnel, CEC Khan expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this historic devel-

opment. Khan also said that with the signing of MoU between the LAHDC Kargil and the Army for the evacuation of Kurbathang Plateau, a new and well-planned township in Kargil is expected to come up under the Smart City Mission.

Feroz Ahmed Khan also expressed happiness over the conferring of Padma Shri Award to Tultim Chonjor from Zaskar. He also congratulated the persons and organizations of Kargil district including Muhammad Ali Teacher, Kacho Ahmed Khan Theatre Artist, Baqirya Health Care, and Research Center, Muhammad Baqir In-charge PP Minamarg, staff of designated COVID-19 hospital Kargil, and staff working in all COVID-19 testing labs in Kargil district for achieving State Awards in various categories.

Meanwhile, colorful cultural programmes were presented by the artists of Ladakh Cultural Academy, Kargil.

Mementos and certificates among the employees of various departments, meritorious students, members of NGOs, volunteers, and individuals for their extraordinary performances and noteworthy contributions for public welfare especially during the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed. Prizes were also distributed among the participants of the March Past and cultural programmes.

## People's Voice

By Konchok Nurboo

**Apprehensions among Ladakhi youths, especially on employment generation and recruitment after Union Territory set-up is increasing as the administration has so far not issued any notifications related to jobs. More than 5,000 posts, including 1,000 gazetted posts, are lying vacant in different departments of UT Ladakh. Youth from Ladakh alleged that the much-promised UT status has created more chaos and confusion among them. They complained that youth are facing a crisis as there are limited job opportunities in the new Union Territory set-up. Let's read what they have to say about the unemployment crisis.**



**SONAM WANGAIL, B.Sc (Physical Science):** Pandemic has caused a drastic impact on economy, health and education. Yes the vaccine gave new hope but Ladakh is also facing a huge crisis in terms of employment. Unemployment is at peak. Ladakh abruptly got UT status in 2019 and since then there is not even a single post advertisement for gazetted and non gazetted posts.

On one hand 6000 job vacancy are guaranteed specially during the Hill Council, Leh election. Meanwhile, UT administration claims absence of recruiting agency and a proper policy, reason behind delay in filling vacancies. It is high time for such policies to be implemented on ground with the combined effort of both UT administration and LAHDC.

It would be better if UT administration direct the energy of youth in development of Ladakh by recruiting them to various post and not by outsourcing. With no safeguard and job security students are in a fragile phase of depression and anxiety.

There should be balance opportunities for masses so everyone can play its role in society in accordance to it's knowledge and talent only then not only Ladakh but whole India could prosper.

## Unemployment among youth: A crisis in the making



**STANZIN YANGDOL, B.A Graduate:** As far as the job crisis is concerned, the unemployment is at alarming rate. Needless to say, administration need to take a restricted measures to cope up with this problem as soon as possible. It has been faced by the locals not only after UT status but also before the abrogation of

Article 370. Ladakh still remain unchanged in this regard.

Unemployment burden is getting higher and higher with time as well as the age of the students, precisely age group between 20-30 years. There are more than 1000 graduate students seeking for jobs. The vacant post left in school, college, hospital, offices and so forth are impacting social environment directly or indirectly. Anxiety, frustration, depression, family pressure, social isolation, weakening of self-confidence among young generation sometimes compels one to choose wrong ways to earn money.

Last but not the least, a strong recruitment policy must be implemented at the earliest.



**TSEWANG NORBU, B.Com Honours:** In respect of employment either government or private, we can't see much vacancy in Ladakh as magic of UT has worn out. Dreams and aspirations of young Ladakh has left to migrate to other states as usual. Ladakh could be different from other states of India but I guess we have to accept

the truth because I am adamant with saying that it's great actions which brings great results not luring speeches. I remember my school teacher talking about brain drain from India, now I know why. Health education and jobs are the three criteria in which two are growing but third one is abandoned.

As said by the great leaders, self-employed is the best employment and I agree but entrepreneurship is still risky business but failure is lesson for next venture. Ladakh has many entrepreneur both social

and commercial which has ignited the lost hope of survival and reiterated the success in youth, which can be more encouraged by new convenient and accessible loan schemes but still it's not everyone cup of tea likewise how not everyone can be a scientist or doctor.

People always remember which government kept onion price in control or who made roads for them but as for youth we tend to clinch on who empowered us the most.



**TAKSPA TSERING, MA (Urdu):** It's been more than one year of reorganisation of erstwhile J&K state in two UTs. During this one year and five months the most depressed and neglected community is the unemployed youths of Ladakh. There are more than thousands of unemployed youths here who are bearing

the burden of lack of employment and struggle to find job due to the lack of job policy and are living with the hope of special employment drive by the government.

There is no government job opening in Ladakh since it became a UT. The understaffed administration has been bringing in government employees on deputation from J&K and the mainland. Until now the administration has not come up with a recruitment policy. For job notified by the J&K, Ladakhis are not eligible to apply. The grave concern is that many may cross the age limit to apply for job even if a recruitment board is established in the future.

J&K have a Domicile Law and recruitment policy but Ladakh has none.

At present, recruitment through outsource agencies has become a serious problem for the unemployed youths of Ladakh. What is the need of outsourcing when highly qualified youths in Ladakh are already unemployed? It hurts when flocks of people from other states are appointed in various departments through various outsourcing agencies.

Now it is a matter of time to see, how the things would turn out to be and hope for the best.

## First Zanskar Winter Sports and Youth Festival begins



Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju during the inauguration of Zanskar Winter Sports and Youth Festival, 2021.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

**ZANSKAR:** Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju in presence of Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh, R K Mathur, and MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal inaugurated the Zanskar Winter Sports and Youth Festival, 2021 on January 21 at Zanskar Ski School Padum.

Kiren Rijiju in his address said that the winter sports and youth festival under Khelo India has been conducted with the twin objective to promote winter sports and adventure activities and to provide an ideal platform to the local youth to explore their hidden talent in modern as well as traditional games and sports.

The Minister congratulated the UT Administration Ladakh and the people of Zanskar for organizing such a grand event successfully.

He said that the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to bring changes in the life of the people of Ladakh. He said that the grant of UT status is a major step to achieve this goal, adding it will protect the basic character of Ladakh including its language, culture, and identity that people will realize its full potential and

benefits in the coming years.

The Minister assured to provide sports infrastructure in all villages of Ladakh and said that Ladakh will be developed as the largest center of Ice Hockey in the country. He further said that both sports and adventure activities are necessary for this region to boost the economy and culture and the Ministry of Sports, Gol in close coordination with the UT Administration Ladakh will take concrete steps to develop the sports sector here in the coming years.

L-G Ladakh, R K Mathur in his address said that Zanskar has huge potential in winter tourism and the need of the hour for the local people of this area is to change their mindset of migrating to other places during the winter months and work hard here to bring economic prosperity.

He also congratulated all the stakeholders who made this mega event a historic one and said that the UT Administration is committed to the development of all regions of Ladakh.

MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal also spoke on the occasion and said that on the pattern of this ongoing event, he had initiated

the proposal for a winter tourism festival to boost tourism in Zanskar. He said that his idea of trekking on the Chadar Trek was to promote the route for tourists and also to physically visit the villages and inspect the roads on this route.

Executive Councillor LAHDC Kargil, Er Phunsog Tashi while addressing the gathering raised various issues of Zanskar viz; district status for, etc. He thanked the UT Administration for providing helicopter service, road connectivity, and telecommunication to the region.

Earlier, DC Kargil Baseer ul Haq Choudhary briefed the dignitaries about various events to be held during the 13 days long festival.

A 13 day Zanskar Winter and Youth Festival 2021 will continue till 30th of January, in which various cultural and sports activities like ice hockey, snow skiing, horse riding, yak riding, ice climbing, snow sculpture, archery matches, local food festival, yoga, and meditation sessions and other related activities are being held.

Around 700 people from various different parts of Zanskar are participating in the event.

## SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

### Books that could 'beat' Covid-19



My previous two columns were on New Year resolutions, and life in general. I got a lot of enquiries on the nature and fulfilment of my resolutions. I am thankful to them, friends, most of them.

I have books to be read in the New Year as one of the resolutions. Not too many, 12 months, 12 books. I am a very 'lazy and slow' reader. And I am happy if I can read, on an average, one book a month. In all, 12 books in 12 months.

Likewise, even for the year just gone by, I was to read 12 tough but important books like *Beyond Good and Evil* by Friedrich Nietzsche, *Existentialism and Humanism* by J P Sartre, and *What They Don't Teach You at Harvard Business School* by Mark H. McCormack.

I am happy that I read all 12 of them, and could pass the Covid-19 boring and difficult days with some kind of satisfaction. Despite the Covid pandemic, these books gave me hope and light for better days ahead.

'Books to be read', as one of the New Year resolutions, has been there with me for many years now. My bedroom and drawing room are, at times, in a complete mess with books lying here and there. That happens when I read quite a number of books, only a few pages each, on a particular day.

Like most of you, I too take books as 'gurus' and friends to depend on, anytime, anywhere. True, their value of being of great importance can't be overestimated even by any stretch of imagination.

Of all the ideas that great books give you is that life has to be enjoyed fully, and all possibilities should be exploited to one's maximum potential. I am one of those who take this life as the only life we have, and that our lives get blown away with our ashes to nowhere, after death.

And, let's begin the New Year with Henry Ford's wisdom: "If you think you can, you are right. If you think you can't, you are still right."

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

# Ladakh needs a sustainable, inclusive transportation system



By Khadim Hussain

The humongous growth of traffic in Ladakh since the last decade has compelled road users to ponder about its solution. But before thinking about a solution, an understanding of the problem with a different perspective is necessary. Ladakh has and is witnessing rapid urbanization. Highways, new arterial roads, industrial estates, housing projects, and other infrastructure are mushrooming on the areas that were predominantly agricultural land. A matter of concern is that without strategic interventions in land use management and transportation planning, environmental and economic constraints will increasingly affect cities. A strategic framework for the solution can be suggested according to the local conditions and problems.

During the last 10 years, the growth rate of motorization has increased tremendously due to an increase in population and rising income. Motorization has a negative impact on the quality of cities and citizens. According to Pendakur (1998), "The phenomenal increase in motorization all over the world has accompanied by tremendous traffic congestion, lack of adequate, efficient and low-cost public transport and detrimental impact on public health due to transport induced air pollution." According to Puchar (2005), all developing countries suffers from a transportation problem like a limited network of narrow poorly maintained and unpaved roads, congested road with a mix of motorized and non-motorized vehicles travelling at different speeds, inadequate roadway accommodation for buses and non-motorized transport, non-existent of traffic control and management, rising traffic fatalities, overcrowded, insufficient, slow and dangerous public transport and high levels of transport-related populations, noise and environmental impacts.

The mobility problem is another concern arising due to unplanned transport. The poor spend a long hour and a high proportion of their income meeting the basic mobility needs and reducing this mobility burden is important to lift the poor out of poverty. Children's independence declining as cities and towns motorize. Children's freedom to travel, explore and play independently outside the home is restricted. Stress has become dangerous for children. Aggressive drivers, fast-moving traffic, an unsafe environment for pedestrians, air and noise pollution has become very dangerous. Similarly, people with disabilities and frail old people need transport for maintaining autonomy and self-sufficiency. The urban transport system



dominated by cars and motorbikes is bad for people and special public transport must be designed for them.

Ladakh region has still scope of future road safety action which includes; standard design and planning of new road schemes, remedial measures applied to problems of existing roads, drivers training, and testing and vigilant enforcement through traffic police and other agencies.

The causes of road accidents are mainly divided into four parts, Road conditions, drivers' behavior, vehicles, and environment. Growth of road transport increase in vehicles population, inadequate road infrastructure, and heterogeneity of vehicles, poor road surfaces, lack of enforcement and casual attitude of road users are some reasons for road accidents.

Three pillars of a free accident environment known as the three E's, Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. It includes road safety education for children and public training of drivers, enforcement of rules and regulations by the police department, more stringent motor vehicle laws, and better walking and crossing facilities for pedestrians.

Road safety 'should be made an essential item of the culture to promote a road safety culture. Maximum of the road accident cases are avoidable if road users exercise caution and keep cool. Measures for road safety should not only be exercised by the government organizations, agencies, and transport industry, non-government and social activists should also take a lead to spread the road safety message throughout the region.

The purpose of transport planning is not to maximize mobility, but to help gain access to goods, services, and contacts even if it involves little or no transport. Effective transportation strategies are critical because of the contribution of transportation assets to promote economic growth, providing domestic security, social cohesion, and national defense. Concise and cogent policies are required.

Sustainable transportation can be achieved by:

- **Land use planning strategy:** planning locations of business centers, shopping centers, and housing societies to employ market-based action
- **Supply-side management strategy:** designing policies to improve choices and the availability of modes of travel. This in turn includes designing public transit, construction of pedestrian and cycling infrastructures, and construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes.
- **Demand-side management strategy:** designing policies to discourage the use of private vehicles by imposing congestion charges, fuel and vehicle taxes, increase parking charges car-day restriction, vehicle quotas, peak period restriction, and location restriction.

The existing public transport system of Ladakh is vulnerable, due to poor attendance. The disproportionate route permits issuance for various categories of Taxis slashed down public transport frequency. While the offseason considerable amount of taxis especially M3 Category (Omni Van) intruded into the domain of public transport this puts tremendous pressure on the public transport which already reeling under the reduced productivity and inflated cost. The bus services running on the few lucrative routes are so overstuffed that getting in and out of the buses is nothing short of a miracle at peak hour. During the peak hour, the buses carry more than twice the maximum design capacity; many passengers are forced to hang perilously outside the bus while ones lucky to be inside are standing back-to-back like a tin of sardines. Clearly, public transport is severely compromised and screaming for attention.

Public transport in Ladakh needs to be fully privatized and to be run under the supervision of the government in a systematic way. Privatization will definitely ease some of the financial burdens and help to generate employability. The government policies that have encourages the manufacturers of small cars have resulted in unhappiness in public with the public transport system opting for personal cars. This has only increased the burden on the already congested

...Continues on Page 6

## Fortnight Highlights



Tsultim Chosjor conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award for his contribution to the society, specially in construction of Zanskar Sumdo to Kargyak Lungnak.



Ladakh's historic first tableau ever at Republic Day parade in the capital post bifurcation.



Artist from Leh 'Kangsing' completing their snow sculpture of National Emblem at Stongday, Zanskar.



L-G, R K Mathur paying tribute to the martyrs in a wreath laying ceremony by Indian Army at Hall of Fame.



ITBP team became the champions of the 10th IHAI National Ice Hockey Championship at Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir.

## Secretary Labour, Ravinder Kumar discusses labour laws



Secretary, Labour, Ravinder Kumar convening a meeting regarding labour law at Secretariat.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Labour, Ravinder Kumar discussed and chalks out plans regarding Labour Laws/Labour Codes and various notifications issued by the Government during a meeting convened on January 27 at Secretariat.

The action plan of unorganised workers was also discussed.

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Leh, Ghulam Nabi Tak; Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kargil, Public Law Officer, Labour and Employment Department UT Ladakh were present during the meeting.

Several key points were discussed during the meeting, including setting up of Labour Facilitation Centre, drafting rules and laws about labour courts, designing a new portal and App and setting up a committee.

Ravinder Kumar informed the new labour law comprises four categories to deal with wages, social security, industrial safety and welfare, and

industrial relations. He directed Assistant Labour Commissioner, Leh, Ghulam Nabi Tak to explore the feasibility of implementing Centre rules and laws, and the implementation of these laws in courts in the post-UT Ladakh scenario.

He informed that the administration would draft rules and laws, and form a committee while discussing the four new labour courts.

The Labour Department was asked to complete the construction of the Labour Facilitation Centre with a bathroom, kitchen, room with a few beds, and a hall with chairs. He further directed the Labour Department to identify govt. land/sites for the Labour Facilitation Centre near the gathering areas of labourers.

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Leh, Ghulam Nabi Tak Ghulam informed the Secretary about the awareness camp to be held in Changthang in the first week of February.

Secretary Labour directed Ghulam Nabi Tak to deploy personnel at entry points at Meenamarg, Sarchu, Darcha and the KBR Airport at Leh to prepare the database of labourers.

During the discussion, it was decided that the design of the new App and the portal of the Labour Department would be discussed with NIELET, whereas the App and the portal would be made available for public use by April 1.

Speaking on welfare boards of building and other construction workers, Secretary Ravinder directed the labour department to form a welfare board. Ghulam Nabi Tak informed the Secretary that the Labour Department will invite experts to frame rules and laws at the earliest.

## Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games Women Ice Hockey Championship 2021 concludes

*Kharu team beats Domkhar by 3-2 goals*



Winner of the Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games Women Ice Hockey Championship at Ice Hockey Rink, NDS Sports Complex.

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Kharu team won Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games Women Ice Hockey Championship at Ice Hockey Rink, NDS Sports Complex on January 28.

The team beat the Domkhar team by 3-2 goals. The event was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, in collaboration with Ladakh Winter Sports Club, Leh.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Advisor to LG, UT Ladakh, Umang Narula applauded the team for their sporting spirit and exhibiting their skills and techniques in the final match. He assured that the UT administration would

provide support for the promotion and development of ice hockey, and the upgradation of infrastructure in other sports disciplines.

He also expressed hope to see ice hockey players from Ladakh excelling at the international level in the future and watch international teams taking part in competitions at the ice hockey rinks in Ladakh.

Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Ravinder Kumar shared that various activities are in progress in the Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games and apprised the guests about the upcoming L-G Cup and CEC Cup

ice hockey tournaments.

He also informed about the UT Government's initiative to construct ice hockey rinks in all blocks of UT Ladakh, purchase equipment, and boost different sports in both districts of Ladakh. He further informed that the archery tournament under Khelo India was aimed at promoting local sports.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Leh, Rajiv Pandey; Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), Ladakh, Preet Pal Singh were among the officials present during the final match.

Prizes and trophies were also distributed among the participants.

## NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'JANGCHUP CHOSILING NUNNERY EDUCATION AND WELFARE SOCIETY' Leh UT Ladakh with the Registrar of Societies UT Ladakh under Society Registration Act 1860.

List of Executive members of the Society:

S.No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Designation
1	Tsultim Zangmo	D/o Sonam Paljor	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	President
2	Thupstan Zangmo	D/o Tsering Targyas	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	Vice-President
3	Thuptan Paldan	D/o Tsering Namgail	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	Secretary
4	Samtan Lhamo	D/o Tsering Namgyal	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	Joint Secretary
5	Tsering Dolma	D/o Tsering Namgyal	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	Cashier
6	Thuptan Angmo	D/o Phunchok Dorjay	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	Joint Cashier
7	Lobzang Choton	D/o Tsering Namgyal	Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery, Leh	Member

Objection if any, in this regard may kindly be submitted to General Manager Industries, Leh UT Ladakh within a period of 21 days from the publication of the Notice.

President

'Jangchup Chosiling Nunnery Education and Welfare Society' Leh UT Ladakh

## Tsultim Chonjor conferred with Padma Shri award

### Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Executive Councilor, Tourism and Zanskar Affairs, Er Phunsog Tashi congratulated Tsultim Chonjor from Stongday Zanskar for being conferred with prestigious Padma Shri award.

In his congratulatory remarks, EC Tashi extended gratitude to the UT Administration Ladakh, CEC LAHDC Kargil, DC Kargil, and SDM Zanskar for recommending the name of Tsultim Chonjor to the Govern-



ment of India for this prestigious award. He said that Tsultim Chonjor is the only person from Kargil to have honored with this prestigious award and the people of Zanskar are overjoyed with this news.

Tsultim Chonjor in 2014 out of his own expenses, selling his land and property initiated the construction of a motorable road from the border of Himachal Pradesh to village Kargyak Lungnak Zanskar, which extends to the length of 38 kilometers.

## Ladakh needs a sustainable, inclusive transportation system

...Continued from page 4

road. The government should make separate lanes on the road especially for public transport so that the buses don't have to be negotiated with all the other vehicles as well. With lesser congestion and better speed, the service will get better.

The introduction of the Metro-train could be another solution to some extent in the long run. This initiative which proposes to feature several expresses on elevated guideways could really help in easing

the pressure during peak hours. Also, no family should be allowed to own more than one car. Automatically people will start using carpools and public transport thus reducing the pressure of traffic on the road. Lots can be done with the limited resources we have if only the people and the government come together to help each other. We must all join hands to make a Ladakh better.

(The writer is an Assistant Regional Transport Officer. You can send your comment and views on kargilarto@gmail.com).



## HELPAge INDIA

### REQUIREMENT FOR OLD AGE HOME MANAGER

HelpAge India, a premiere NGO, requires old age home manager for our home in Leh. The person should be atleast MSW/PG in social work/sociology or BSW with relevant five-year experience in project implementation, monitoring, liasoning and budget management.

Interested candidates should mail their resume to hr@helpageindia.org or Helpage India C-14, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016. Log onto our website www.helpageindia.org

For further detail please contact Helpage India Branch Office near Panchayat Ghar, Building Shey Gongma. Contact 9622380762

## NOTICE

Tuskhor Spalgais S/o Rinchen Namgail R/o Samphuk, Nubra has applied for vanity/ Choice No. LA 02-2121 for his newly purchased car.

Vehicle type: Bolero Camper. Chasis no. : MAIZN2TNKL5J16153. Engine No. : TNL4J80113.

If anyone wants to bid for the aforesaid Bid No. LA 02-2121, he /she shall apply in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer within a period of 7 days of the publication of this notice in newspaper, after which no claim shall be entertained and said Bid no. will be given to the said application on first come first serve basis.

ARTO/L/UT/2021/224 . Date: 16/1/2021

Assistant Regional Transport Office



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Garlic	01 Kg	Rs 180
Beans	01 Kg	Rs 135
Cauliflower	01 Kg	Rs 135
Cabbage	01 Kg	Rs 60
Brinjal (Barta)	01 Kg	Rs 135
Brinjal (Kashmiri)	01 Kg	Rs 135
Karela	01 Kg	Rs 135
Lemon	01 Kg	Rs 190
Capsicum	01 Kg	Rs 135
Mushroom	01 Tray	Rs 55
Palak	01 Kg	Rs 135
Saag	01 Kg	Rs 135
Beetroot	01 Kg	Rs 135
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Anar	01 Kg	Rs 250
Kiwi	Per piece	Rs 40
Orange	01 Kg	Rs 190
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