

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

VOL. 9 ISSUE 3 PAGES 8

February 16-28, 2021

People's Voice

Pro's and Con's of online classes

5

Fortnightly Special

Fortnight Highlights

5

facebook Find us on FACEBOOK: Reach Ladakh

twitter Follow us on twitter: ReachLadakhBulletin

Visit our website: www.reachladakh.com

Brief News

MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal congratulates LBA President Thupstan Chhewang

LEH: Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal congratulated Thupstan Chhewang on being elected as the new president of Ladakh Buddhist Association on February 12.

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal termed Thupstan Chhewang a great leader with quality of honesty and selflessness. He said that he is a man with altruistic motivation and under his leadership, the aspirations of the people of Ladakh would be fulfilled.

The LBA presidential election was held on February 11. A total of 345 votes were polled, out of which Thupstan Chhewang got 270 votes and Rinchen Namgyal got 70 votes and 4 votes were rejected.

Kulum Water Crisis: A wake-up call for Ladakh

Residents forced to migrate due to water scarcity



Old abandoned house of Kulum village.

Stanzin Dasal

KULUM: Kulum, situated 50 km north to Leh town, was once a thriving village with its inhabitants dependent on agriculture and livestock rearing for their livelihood. Things changed drastically post 2010 due to shortage of drinking water. The villagers were forced to migrate to Upshi, the nearby village, as the worsening water crisis aggravated. The once-bustling village with 11 families is now only left with four families.

Since agriculture is no longer a viable option for the villagers, they either work as daily wagers or have set up shops or tea stalls at Upshi to put bread on their tables.

Kunzang Namgyal, a resident of Kulum, shared: "We are dependent on spring water for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. We have been facing an acute water crisis since 2010 due to the drying up of water streams and springs. We

were forced to abandon our ancestral agricultural lands as there is no water available for irrigation purpose. We shifted to nearby villages for our livelihood."

Residents of Kulum village were dependent on spring water and snowfall in winters to meet their water demands due to lack of other sources such as glacier-melt water. Less snowfall and drying up of springs forced the villagers to move from agrarian-based economy to industrial-based economy.

Owing to less snowfall and drying up of water springs have not only forced the villagers to give up the agrarian-based economy but rendered them to arrange water for day-to-day needs.

It could be aptly said that the village has become a victim of climate change- a concern often raised on various platforms, but hardly any action has been

...Continues on Page 2

Thupstan Chhewang elected new LBA President

His earlier tenure as the LBA president was from 1989-95



Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP, Ladakh elected as the new president of Ladakh Buddhist Association on February 11.

Since its inception from the year 1934, the presidents of LBA were elected uncontested. This is for the first time the presidential election of LBA was contested between two candidates. Thupstan Chhewang, Former MP, and Rinchen Namgyal, Former Vice President LBA were both in the poll fray.

A total of 345 votes cast, Thupstan Chhewang secured 270 votes, Rinchen Namgyal got 71 votes while 4 votes went rejected.

Thupstan Chhewang expressed gratitude to the Buddhist community of the Ladakh region for having faith and electing

him as a President LBA, thus allowing serving people of Ladakh.

He said, "There are so many challenges to Ladakh region after UT status and Apex Body run by veteran leaders will continue to work for the safeguard of the region. The apex body will be further strengthened, it will not fall weak and go out of track after taking charge of LBA".

He said, "Ladakh Buddhist Association is a prime organisation for the Buddhist community of the region and over the past so many years the organisation has played an extensive role for the welfare of Ladakh."

He appreciated the blend of youth and experienced people as General Council members representing different regions of Ladakh. He said that the blend of young and old minds will help in the de-

...Continues on Page 2

DISCLAIMER

Reach Ladakh does not take responsibility for the contents of the Advertisements Display/classified published in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.

Courtesy Tsetan Angmo



Correction and clarification

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

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

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

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

Owner, Publisher & Printer: Tundup Dorje

Editor: Stanzin Dasal

Interns: Konchok Nurboo and Nayanika Guha

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

DON'T ENGAGE IN MANUAL SCAVENGING OR MAKE ANYONE ELSE DO SO WITHOUT PROPER SAFETY GEAR

IF FOUND GUILTY OF THIS OFFENCE YOU CAN BE FINED 2 LAKH RUPEES OR 2 YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR BOTH

CALL 14420 (LEH)

TO GET YOUR SEPTIC TANK/TOILET PIT CLEANED APPROPRIATELY

UPDATES AT :

@eomcleh @MCL_leh @municipal_committee_leh

PDD, LREDA sign power purchase Agreement for 6 hydel projects



Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for six hydro projects signed between Chief Engineer, Power Development Department (PDD), UT Ladakh, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, and Project Director, LREDA, Dr. Tsewang Thinles in presence of Administrative Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for six hydro projects was signed between Chief Engineer, Power Development Department (PDD), UT Ladakh, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, and Project Director, LREDA, Dr. Tsewang Thinles in the presence of Administrative Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar on February 11.

The PPA for six hydro projects- already commissioned/ to be commissioned in UT Ladakh- was signed between the two in which the interim power tariff was fixed at ₹2/unit vide Government Order No:54(PDD)/UTL of 2021, Dated: 04.02.2021, from the beginning of these hydro projects until JERC prepares the tariff policy for UT Ladakh. The

PDD has been directed to make payments to LREDA as per the above-notified tariff rates. In case JERC fixes the final power tariff above ₹2/unit, the PDD shall pay as per JERC tariff and vice-versa.

Administrative Secretary, PDD congratulated both the signee officers and said that the PPA was signed as directed by L-G UT Ladakh. This PPA would resolve all the issues of the staff of LREDA and would motivate the employees to work with more dedication for the smooth operation of these hydro projects.

Earlier, Project Director, LREDA thanked LG, Administrative Secretary PDD, CEC LAHDC Leh, and DC Leh for taking this decision and for supporting the LREDA in resolving their long-pending issues.

Road Safety Month: Traffic police organises awareness rally

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Traffic Police Ladakh, while celebrating the 32nd National Road Safety Month organised a road safety awareness program at Petrol Pump, Leh on February 11.

An awareness rally was carried out in which students from various institutions, representatives from the transport union, drivers, and volunteers participated.

RTO Ladakh, Tsering Paldan-KAS; Road Safety Engineer, Aditya Magotra; SP Traffic, M.R.Giri-JKPS; and DySP Traffic, Rigzin Sandup-JKPS, Taxi Union president, drivers, students, and volunteers were present.

SP Traffic highlighted that the purpose of this awareness programme is to make the transporters, students, and general masses aware of road safety thereby saving lives from road accidents. He stressed that commuters should use seat belts, avoid rash driving and wrong parking and obey traffic rules.

He sought the cooperation of all stakeholders in making the traffic system better in both districts.

Road Safety Engineer elaborated road accident data of India and factors responsible for accidents.

DySP Traffic, RTO Ladakh and Taxi Union also spoke on the occasion.

Kulum Water Crisis: A wake-up call for Ladakh

...Continued from Page 1

taken to tackle the issue.

Phuntsog Dolma, an elderly woman of the village, said, "It's sad to see the village turning into a ghost town. We are facing water scarcity, but we never thought that things would go so bad that we have to leave everything and settle down somewhere else. It's disheartening to see everyone moving far away. Now, only the elderly people are left behind in the village."

"We are not taking care of the environment and are constantly exploiting it for our own selfish needs. It seems we are paying a heavy price for it," she added.

Even as the issue of mass migration due to shortage of water is real in Ladakh, there are institutions such as Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL) providing a ray of hope for residents of Kulum. Attempts are being made to rehabilitate the village by solving the water crisis through artificial glaciers.

The HIAL team with help from the villagers are building three artificial glaciers, famously known as 'Ice stupa'.

Urgain Chorol, a resident of the village also shared the issues and said, "It's disheartening to leave everything and start afresh, finding a new source of living, etc. is never easy."

Mass migration due to the water crisis is real in Ladakh and amidst this crisis, the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh gave a ray of hope for Kulum. An attempt is being made to rehabilitate the village by solving the water crisis issue through an artificial glacier.

Three artificial glaciers are famously known as 'Ice stupa' are built by the HIAL team along with the help of a villager.

The people of Kulum is very hopeful that the initiative will solve their water issue.

Urgain Chorol exudes confidence and is optimistic that the initiative would soon solve the water issues. "We expect the water from the glacier to meet the requirements of the people during the sowing season. It will help us to cultivate our land that was left abandoned," she said.

She shared that villagers would return to the village if these projects are successful.

Ramon Magsaysay awardee, Sonam Wangchuk, said, "The idea of coming up with artificial glaciers to solve water crisis is crucial because the village has turned into a ghost town. The idea behind this is to rehabilitate the village, and also inspire similar villages facing the same issue and crisis."

"The success story of the village will attract tourists from different parts of the world and boost the economy of the village," he added.

Sonam Wangchuk while speaking on meeting the requirements of water for people through the artificial glacier, shared that alternative methods and technologies such as the drip/sprinkle irrigation and greenhouse would be explored to make the best use of water.

The story and plight of residents of Kulum village is a wake-up call to many other such villages of Ladakh facing water scarcity due to the effects of climate change. Now the time has come to rethink, plan and act wisely for a better and sustainable future.

India's first geothermal field development project to come up in Puga, Leh

UT Administration, LAHDC Leh and ONGC sign a tripartite MoU

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A historic tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing the first-ever Geothermal Field Development Project in India, at Puga Leh was signed on February 6 in Leh between UT Administration Ladakh, LAHDC-Leh, and ONGC Energy centre.

L-G, Radha Krishna Mathur; CEC LAHDC-Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson; MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, and Advisor Umang Narula were present.

On behalf of UT Administration Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary PDD, and on behalf of LAHDC Leh, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, LAHDC-Leh signed the MOU with ONGC Energy centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Lieutenant Governor said that Ladakh is blessed with a rich bounty of potential resources. He said that signing of the MoU with ONGC for the first geothermal project in India is a promising initiative towards innovative and sustainable development of Ladakh and also a step towards achieving the goal of carbon-neutral Ladakh. The LG emphasized the need to study and learn from other countries about developing tourism



and greenhouses around the geothermal project.

L-G Mathur lauded the efforts put in by the CEC, LAHDC, Leh, and his team in evolving the MoU with ONGC and initiating the geothermal project. He thanked ONGC Energy Centre for commencing the geothermal project in Ladakh and urged them to execute it at the earliest and ramp it up to 200 MW capacity for greater benefit.

Director-General, ONGC Energy Centre, Dr. Sanjeev S Katti while giving a brief description about the pilot project informed that energy from this project will give 24x7 power supplies and the hot water from the spring could be used for space-heating and establishing hot swimming pools to attract tourists.

Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal thanked LG for helping Ladakh enter a new era of development

and stressed on advocating the 'Vocal for Local' concept for making Ladakh a self-sustainable region. CEC, LAHDC, Leh Tashi Gyalson called the signing of the MoU a historic moment for Ladakh and said that this project would increase job opportunities and tourism in the region.

In Phase 1 of this pilot project, 1MW Power generation capacity shall be generated and 100 % free power shall be supplied to the general public. ONGC-OEC is the implementing agency for this Pilot Project. Phase 2, shall involve a deeper and lateral exploration of a geothermal reservoir by drilling an optimal number of wells and setting up a higher capacity demo plant in Ladakh. Phase 3 shall be a commercial project as per discovered capacity.

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the first Developmental Conclave held in Leh.

Hill Councils, Leh and Kargil conduct joint meeting, discuss common issues



During the meeting of Hill Council, Leh and Kargil at the Council Secretariat Leh.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Leh and Kargil, Advocate Tashi Gyalson and Feroz Ahmad Khan discussed and deliberated common issues of Hill Councils with all the Executive Councillors of Hill Council Leh and Kargil at the Council Secretariat Leh on February 6.

Deputy Chairman LAHDC, Leh Tsering Angchuk; EC Rural, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee; EC Ag-

riculture, Stanzin Chosphele; EC Minority Affairs, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor; EC Social Welfare, LAHDC Kargil, Aga Syed Arman; EC Works Mubarak Shah Naqvi; EC Tourism and Zanskar Affairs, Er. Punchok Tashi and EC Health, Mohd Ali Chandan were present in the meeting.

This is the first meeting of all executive members of both the Hill Councils after the formation of the 6th LAHDC, Leh. Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan, and Executive Council-

lors of LAHDC Kargil congratulated the new executive team of LAHDC Leh led by CEC Tashi Gyalson.

The meeting discussed several common issues including explorations as well as utilizing existing powers in accordance to the LAHDC Acts, strengthening of both the Hill Councils, early constitution of recruitment policy in UT Ladakh, Hill Council's role on State and SDP plan budgets to fulfill public demands and avoid duplication of projects, flexibility in CCDF guidelines and transfer policy, etc.

To continue more deliberations, the meeting decided to strengthen coordination between both the council to resolve common issues jointly. Also to understand the strengths and weaknesses of both the council in different fields, the meeting decided to conduct a joint meeting at regular intervals.

Thupstan Chhewang elected new LBA President

...Continued from Page 1

velopment of the region.

There are 396 General Council Members (GCM) which includes 331 GCM from Leh district and 65 GCM from Kargil district. Each GCM represents 300 Buddhist member populations from different regions of Ladakh. Out of 396 members, 345 members turn out on the voting day.

Talking about the priority set as a new president of LBA, Thupstan Chhewang said that the utmost need of the hour is to carry forward the safeguard

demand of the region after Union Territory status.

LBA election Returning Officer, Tsering Dorjay said, "As per the re-drafted constitution of LBA, the election for the post of President is held for the first time in a free and fair manner. The election process will be a benchmark for the future election process."

Konchok Ishey Stak, President, LBA Youth wing congratulated Thupstan Chhewang for being elected as President LBA. He said that under the new leadership LBA will prosper and work more enthusiastically for the welfare of Buddhist communities.

Advisor Narula reviews NHIDCL projects & plans of UT Ladakh



Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula reviewing various ongoing projects of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL).

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula convened a meeting to review various ongoing projects of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) on the proposed tunnel, road and infrastructure, at the Secretariat on February 10.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner/ Secretary, AK Sahu; Secretary/ Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas; ADGP, Ladakh SS Khandare;

Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar; Deputy Commissioner (DC), Leh, Sachin Kumar, and Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Basheer-ul-Haq. Managing Director, NHIDCL, KK Pathak, was also present in the meeting.

The Advisor was apprised that NHIDCL has set up its regional office at Leh, and site offices at Kargil, Padum, Keylong and Upshi. It was informed that NHIDCL has already taken up DPR of three important tunnels Zojila

Eastern Portal, Shinkun-La, Lachung-La and Tanglang-La and the DPR is in progress.

NHIDCL in a presentation informed Advisor about various projects of different Departments undertaken by them including Ladakh Police, Urban Local Bodies (ULB), School Education, Hospitality & Protocol, and Social & Tribal Welfare Department.

Advisor Narula asked the concerned officials to design solar passive winter-friendly buildings which will help the UT to reduce carbon foot-prints. He said that this can help run the schools in winter also. He also asked them to plan wayside amenities on the Kargil-Zaskar road of NH-301.

Advisor Narula asked Commissioner/ Secretary AK Sahu to explore the possibilities of the construction of additional multi-level parking facilities in Leh town.

First meeting of Ladakh Disaster Management Authority held



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh/ Chairman LDMA, R K Mathur convening the first meeting of Ladakh Disaster Management Authority at Raj Niwas.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first meeting of Ladakh Disaster Management Authority (LDMA) was convened under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh/ Chairman LDMA, R K Mathur on February 10 at Raj Niwas.

Lieutenant Governor pointed out that NDMA guides at the national level in terms of thinking, planning, and funding to undertake any kind of disaster risk management programme in Ladakh. He exhorted to engage various Government of India agencies in disaster management planning for Ladakh ensuring regular interactions to study disaster-related aspects throughout the year.

Mathur stressed the need to strengthen the ability of the Met Department and suggested drafting information proforma to ensure a strong database of disaster-related information and updating it at regular intervals.

He further asserted that handling of any disaster is the responsibility of every individual and the entire Ladakh needs to contribute to the risk reduction of natural as well as man-made

disasters. He exhorted to initiate preparations to decentralize by providing emergency stocks, equipment, volunteers, and training at the habitation level to ensure immediate response to any disaster that hits any village.

As immediate measures, LG Mathur exhorted to strengthen the administrative buildings in Ladakh on priority by making them earthquake and fire resistant along with the deployment of satellite phones. He said that the governing authority/ officials should be available as first responders in a functional position at the time of any disaster. He stressed the need to station the helicopters in Ladakh and the capacity of the helipads should be made to handle bigger aircraft like M-17 or Chinook and to have additional airstrips for relief, rescue, and evacuation purposes.

He suggested the Police Department to use drones to keep constant monitoring and ensuring analysis of imagery on daily basis. Access to medical services and extensive training to paramedics in handling disaster victims, immediate setting up of Emergency Operation Centre,

and measures to address the possibility of the drought was pointed out by the LG.

A detailed presentation was given by the DC's of Leh and Kargil and the Nodal Officer about the powers and functions of Ladakh Disaster Management Authority. They highlighted the history of disasters in Ladakh, rescue operations, training, and possible threats with required actions and requirements in both Leh and Kargil and disaster preparedness measures taken at UT level.

MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalsong and CEC, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan also shared their views and opinions.

Umang Narula, Advisor to LG stressed the need to have a comprehensive disaster plan for Ladakh in order to cater to possible contingency and disasters. He impressed by the use of technology like drones, satellite, etc. to improve communication networks and community-level involvement through training, mock drill to enable them to manage disaster as first responders.

The meeting deliberated on the importance of training to SDRF, NCC cadets, students, volunteers, community people on disaster management, procurement of essential and specialized equipment and machinery, the conduct of mock drills, retrofitting of critical buildings, the establishment of Emergency Operation Centre, setting up of community radio system, enhance prediction capability and weather station and water conservation plans.

Measures to decongest traffic discussed in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A meeting to find possible solutions for the increasing traffic congestion issues in Leh town and the adjoining areas was convened by L-G Mathur on February 8 at Raj Niwas.

Advisor to L-G, Umang Narula; Commissioner Secretary, Ajeet Kumar Sahu; Divisional Commissioner/Secretary Transport, Saugat Biswas; ADG Satish Khandare; Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; SSP Rajiv Pandey, RTO Tsering Paldan; Director Urban Development, Zahida Bano and SP Traffic Rafi Giri attended the meeting.

The traffic police department gave a detailed presentation on the prevailing traffic concerns on the basis of a detailed survey undertaken in Leh and the plausible solutions. While highlighting the safety of pedestrians, the presentation proposed strategies for pedestrian safety, car parking areas, and implementation of public transportation such as buses and e-rickshaws, etc for the de-congestion of Leh town.

As per a report by RTO Leh, it was pointed out that a 26.17 % increase in vehicular registration was observed in Ladakh in 2020, while 26,000 vehicles were registered in Leh as of date.

L-G Mathur lauded the efforts made to analyze and



Police department giving a detailed presentation on the prevailing traffic concerns in Leh town.

understand the issues and stated that a committee is formed under the chairmanship of the Divisional Commissioner in consultation with all stakeholders for the implementation of the suggested solutions which must ultimately cater to the comfort of the local people as well as the tourists.

Pointing out the need for a beautification drive within Leh town and nearby areas, LG Mathur suggested initiation of work on the said front by utilization of the existing infrastructure.

Further, he directed the concerned departments to put in place the solutions before the onset of the tourist season.

KREDA signs power purchase agreement with Power Department, UT Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed between Chief Engineer, Power Development Department, UT Ladakh Ghulam Ahmad Mir and Project Director, KREDA Kacho Ahmed Khan in presence of Administrative Secretary, UT Ladakh Ravinder Kumar on February 8 at the Secretariat.

The PPA for 7 hydro projects already commissioned/ to be commissioned in UT Ladakh was signed between the two, in which

Interim Power tariff @ ₹ 2/unit which was fixed vide Government Order No:54 (PDD)/UTL of 2021 Dated:04.02.2021 from the start of these hydro projects till JERC makes the tariff policy for UT Ladakh. The PDD is directed to make payments to KREDA as per the above notified tariff rates.

In case, if JERC fixes the final power tariff in excess of ₹2/unit, the PDD shall pay as per JERC tariff and vice versa.

The agreement was signed as per

the decision of meeting held on February 4 in the review meeting on LREDA/KREDA issues under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur.

While speaking on the occasion, the Administrative Secretary, PDD said that this PPA would resolve the salary issues and other issues of the staff of KREDA and will bring efficiency in workers. This will further add up enthusiasm among the employees and they will work up to their fullest level in running and maintaining various hydro projects and other projects.

Further, PD KREDA thanked Lieutenant Governor, Administrative Secretary PDD, CEC LAHDC- Kargil and DC Kargil for this historic decision and supporting the KREDA in resolving their long pending issues.

Advisor, Ladakh, convenes COVID Vaccination State Steering Committee meeting

Issues of scientific disposal of bio-medical waste arising out of Covid -19 discussed

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula, who is also the Chairman of State Steering Committee for Covid-19 vaccination discussed the issue of scientific disposal of bio-medical waste arising out of Covid -19 treatment and the compliance of Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 on February 11 at Secretariat.

Discussions were held on the vaccination of frontline workers; data entry of beneficiaries above 50 and below 50 years with comorbidities; deputation of revenue/ ICDS/ education department for collection of data along with IT personnel; the involvement of councillors/ Panchayati Raj Institutions /Nehru Yuva Kendras and NGOs, and the vaccination plan in snow-bound areas of Leh/Kargil districts etc.

Advisor Narula was informed that of the enlisted health care workers 62% in Leh and 45% in Kargil have been vaccinated till February 10 recording an overall 53% for UT Ladakh. A total of 4932 healthcare workers are registered on the CoWin App.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Leh, Dr Motup Dorje and Chief



During the COVID Vaccination State Steering Committee meeting at UT secretariat.

Medical Officer (CMO) Kargil, Dr Munawar Hussain Wazir informed that vaccination of the healthcare workers would be completed by February 20.

It was also informed that the frontline workers, including police, paramilitary, revenue, Municipal Committee and PRI personnel, would be vaccinated starting February 16.

Advisor directed the officials of the Health Department to prepare a daily report on the progress of Covid-19 vaccination to enable close monitoring of this process.

He also directed CMO Kargil, Dr Munawar Hussain Wazir to coopt BDCs, councillors and religious leaders to sensitise people about the Covid-19 vaccination drive and weekly conduct of the District Task force and Block

Task force meetings to review the pace of vaccination.

Advisor Narula directed the officials to prepare a plan for treatment of Effluents (ETP), Bio-Medical Waste and Sewage Treatment for the medical establishments in Ladakh.

It was informed that the segregation, collection, transportation and disposing of the waste are done according to the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules 2016.

Advisor Narula directed CMOs of both the districts to follow the guidelines set by the CPCB in handling Covid waste. He also directed them to prepare a comprehensive plan for disposing of bio-medical waste and a specific sub plan for handling such waste at Zaskar.

L-G Mathur chairs first Developmental Conclave, chalks out plans for Ladakh

Says UT Administration, Hill Councils, and Panchayati Raj Institution should work together to ensure the progress of Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The first Development Conclave to chalk out a long-term developmental plan for Ladakh with a holistic approach focusing on all sectors and departments in consultation with the stakeholders was chaired by Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur on February 7.

Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Chairman, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan; Chairman, LAHDC, Leh, Tashi Gyalson along with the Executive Councillors from Kargil and Leh represented the elected representatives. Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Umang Narula and the Administrative Secretaries, HoDs of various departments, and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Leh and Kargil participated in the conclave.

R K Mathur said that the objective of the conclave is to have a common deliberation platform for the political executives and bureaucrats to work for the development of Ladakh. He also added that the idea is to collate new ideas and improve the execution of existing projects.

The Administrative Secretaries presented the vision, mission, and the draft action plan for the next five years for each department along with the tentative outlay of budget needed to achieve the same. The elected representatives gave their detailed inputs on each sector and also flagged issues and gave ideas for new projects.

The education department presented its action plan aiming at holistic development of all children of 3 to 18 years with a 100 percent literacy rate. Higher & Technical Education presented the vision to sustainably transform Ladakh into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all, and mission is to enhance access to quality higher education, ensuring equity and increase gross enrolment ratio (GER), and to improve the employability of graduating students.

Sports Department also presented its aim towards the construction of sports infrastructure at all levels. Department of Social Welfare shared the vision to build a caring community with self-reliance, dignity, harmony, and happiness with a focus on achieving major Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Labour Department aims to ensure the security and well being of the labourers of organised and unorganized sectors.

Effective and transparent distribution of food grains, establishment of food testing laboratories, ensuring round the year reliable and safe connectivity, carbon-neutral technologies, and promotion of eco-friendly transport were also focused upon.

Department of Industries presented its action plan with a focus on building local capacity, managerial capacity with policy intervention, and organizing skill-building initiatives with special focus products such as pashmina, apricots, and sea buckthorn with improved institutional support. Tourism Department shared its vision of focus on quality tourism while taking care of sustainability and eco-tourism besides focus on the promotion of agro-tourism along with conservation and reconstruction of the cultural heritage of Ladakh.

Speaking on the urban, water, and waste management sector, Commissioner Secretary shared the vision to create economically vibrant efficient, eco-friendly, and sustainable urban habitat by finding holistic and integrated solutions.

The Department of Information and Technology aims to provide telecommunication services to the remotest areas and develop command and control centres at UT and district levels. Agriculture Department shared its action plan to increase the land under agriculture by 5% till 2026, improve food security and achieve 50% self-sufficiency in vegetables by adopting modern techniques. Health Department, as per the action plan, aims to provide access to world-class, equitable, affordable, and quality health care service to every citizen of La-



During the first Developmental Conclave to chalk out a long-term developmental plan for Ladakh.

dakh. Department of Environment and Forest aims to achieve a carbon-neutral Ladakh and Power Development Department (PDD), shared Vision 2050 under which the aim is to provide reliable and uninterrupted 24x7 clean power supply to all inhabitants by harnessing renewable energy power potential of Ladakh and implementation of Smart Grid system and Smart Metering

MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal stressed the need to focus on the practical viability of plans with the aim of inclusive growth for Ladakh. Similarly, the CECs and the ECs of the Hill Councils of Leh and Kargil districts also shared their ideas and concerns regarding action plans by departments.

Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson said the objective is to serve the people and to make Ladakh a unique Union Territory and a role model for other Union Territories of the country. Chairman, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan, thanked the LG for organising the Development Conclave and said that sharing of action plans will help avoid

duplication of work.

L-G Mathur stressed that the UT Administration, Hill Councils, and the Panchayati Raj Institution should work together to ensure the progress of Ladakh. He said Ladakh has the potential to become one of the richest Union Territories in the country in terms of per capita income.

Speaking highly of young boys and girls from Ladakh, LG Mathur said that it is critical to involve the youth in the economic development of Ladakh by engaging them in various developmental initiatives as entrepreneurs in addition to opportunities in government jobs. He directed the Administrative Secretaries to firm up the action plans and seek necessary approvals ahead of the next financial year so that the implementation can start from the 1st April 2021.

The deliberations of the Conclave shall be taken up to expand and fine-tune the Action Plans by the departments.

Sports, a career option in Ladakh

Kalyan becomes the first cricketer from Ladakh to play in national-level tournament

By Lobzang Thuwang Bodhicitta



Skalzang Dorjay Kalyan, the first-ever professional cricketer player from Ladakh whose name got listed in Jammu & Kashmir's squad for BCCI's Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy is an inspiration to many youths of Ladakh. His selection is not only his achievement but of the whole Ladakh specially the youths who are playing different sports in the cold desert. His selection has raised the hopes of enthusiastic sports' aspirant of Ladakh to become a professional sportsperson. There is no doubt that we get inspired by great sports stars like Messi, Ronaldo, Virat Kohli, Sania Mirza, etc., but when someone from our region makes it into the national or international level, it boosts our confidence much higher.

Ladakh has lots of talented youth in sports but due to the lack of basic facilities required to groom a youth in world-class sports standard, they are unable to fulfill their dreams. Young players from Ladakh need guidance from experienced and professional people to help

them achieve their goals. The selection of Kalyan in the national team is an eye-opener and encourages moving forward. Looking at him I am sure that the young players will work harder than ever, to pursue their dreams.

Sport is about challenges, being physically fit and mentally prepared. The players of Ladakh being grown up in high altitude areas have good stamina as compared to the players of the rest of the country. Also, the geographical and harsh climatic condition of the region has opened many other avenues in sports such as ice hockey, skiing, mountaineering, rock climbing, etc.

There is the scope and we need to nurture the talents by providing opportunities, platforms, good infrastructure, and facilities to make the caliber youths excel in different fields.

Ladakh desperately needs good infrastructure. It is sad to see that many of the caliber players are unable to practice and perform better because of the inadequate infrastructure and experts. The establishment of sport's infrastructure and allocation of sport's resources in schools/villages along with better implementation is very crucial for the overall development and progression. And I'm sure

that sooner a bunch of talented youth will represent Ladakh UT in various sports at the national and international level.

Now, that, Ladakh is a Union Territory, we are confident that the administration will abide by our faith in providing better platforms to all sports' aspirants.

Sport is an agent for social change. It plays an important role in one's life but also brings social change. Nowadays we see a lot of kids are involved in illegal activities, getting addicted to drugs, tobacco, and many other things. Sports can be one important factor to engage a child in a better way. Secondly, sports teach discipline and punctuality. It further enriches an individual life with more confidence, focus, spirit, and overcoming difficulties and challenges.

It is rightly said that for children, the sports field is a better place than a classroom to learn key life skills. The day is not far when the young boys and girls from Ladakh will bring laurel to the whole Ladakh and for the country.

The writer is B Sc graduate hailing from Zanskar. You can send your comment and views to lobzangsani@gmail.com



SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The 'doing nothing' mission



Doing nothing, at times, is doing big! That is from Jeff Bezos, the richest man on this planet until Elon Musk displaced him, recently.

Bezos is on record saying that the most valuable time everyday is the time he spends doing 'nothing'. At least, nothing as scheduled. Bezos' book, 'Invent and Wander: The Collected Writings of Jeff Bezos', has many such 'amazing' thoughts to keep us wondering and wandering!

But what does that mean? I mean, is doing nothing a big business? And, is that ever possible? Actually, what Bezos wants to say is that one should not be a slave to work and money. Though there is nothing wrong in making tonnes of money, one should have the time for leisure and self-reflection as well. That also means that money is very important but not everything in life.

Life is to have fun and enjoy as much as possible. Who knows whether there is life or not after death!

Such a situation of 'wonder and wander' can be created only if one takes breaks from one's busy and day-to-day scheduled work. Of course, one has to spend the 'unspent time' fruitfully and meaningfully, so that one does not while away one's precious time.

Such meaningful breaks can be used to look within without any work stress, and also to have chit chats with friends and relatives. Maybe, even 'sweet-nothings'. Another way is to go for a long solitary walk where you are all alone in the lap of nature; and get back home with greater zeal and energy to work.

And, yet another way-out is to go with friends or family for outings to places not yet visited. One such could be wildlife sanctuaries, or even places of great attraction and historical importance.

The whole idea behind 'no-work' business is to give your tired body and mind some respite from the daily chores.

Each one of us, working hard for a living, requires intermittent breaks to give some relief to our mechanised body system.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

People's Voice

By Konchok Nurboo

The COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuing lockdown has impacted people of all ages, but one cannot deny that students, especially, have been severely affected. Regular classrooms filled with hands on activities, lab work, and excitement, have been exchanged for a computer or phone screen. With that come added challenges of how to make science experiments intelligible in the online modality, or how to engage in learning through games which is essential for the younger students. Schools have had to rethink their entire way of functioning and keeping students engaged. In Ladakh, where network connectivity is an issue, the success of online classes is questionable. Its essential to consider who gets left out in such a mode of education. What happens to those in remote villages with no network connectivity or those who cannot afford smartphones? Parents, already struggling to ensure good quality education for their children, are now being compelled to buy smartphones with Internet access.

However, parents and students are not the only ones struggling -- teachers have not had it easy either. While this is a great learning opportunity for all, teachers themselves are also facing challenges including network issues and keeping the students engaged during this digital learning phase.

The online classes are potentially destructive along with constructive. Let's read what they have to say about it?



TSERING DISKIT, Mother: I am a mother of two daughters studying in 2nd and 7th class. The lockdown impacted every human activity especially education. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, everything remained closed including the schools. Online classes started to keep the classes going which was a new concept. There were confusion and chaos in the beginning but it's also a relief that the studies are going on without any

Pro's and Con's of online classes

breaks. Classes would be conducted through WhatsApp or Zoom classes which was not much convenient as there were times of network irregularities causing panic amidst tests. Children with a smartphone at such a small age are also a matter of concern. I try to be with them as much as possible during classes but sometimes due to work have to leave the mobile with them, which concerns me. Sometimes they even tend to get annoyed with the classes and with the schools to open and the pandemic to get over which I hope for too.



STANZIN DAYSAL, 7th class student: At the beginning, the teachers taught us through WhatsApp by sending us photos and audios and then after few days with apps like Zoom, Google classroom, etc. It was a little difficult for me and also for some of my friends mainly because of network problems as in some villages the network didn't work properly because once even I had to cancel travelling to my village. I also didn't understand that much through online classes as we used to understand in schools. The tests and exams are conducted through the apps. Online classes have also made the students lazy as they don't do their homework properly and some also cheat during their exams/test and misuse their cell phones which can have a bad effect on our eyes too. So I think that schools are better than online classes which I am eagerly waiting to open.



THUPSTAN KUNPHEL, BBA student: My online class experience was all in all not bad. One of the problems I faced is keeping track of classes as they are at different times on different days. The app at first was a bit confusing, now I'm used to it, giving a whole new experience. There were certain issues especially the Internet which I bet must be common which sometimes led me to me getting kicked out of the class after which rejoining is a hard task. I know the institutions are trying their best with what resources they have and I'm satisfied with the online classes and how our professors are working dynamically and transferring their teaching method. I feel happy about the fact I have all the necessary equipment to learn through on-



line classes but sometimes leaves me wondering distressed about the fact that how it would be affecting those who don't have this facility, probably residing in some far-flung areas where the internet still seems to be the dream.



STANZIN NORLHA, Teacher: The pandemic caused the unprecedented lockdown in March which I thought would last only a month or two but it extended. Soon we were instructed by our Head of Staffs to stay in touch with the students through an online platform, so initially, I taught my students through WhatsApp till their exams in November after which I realized that this medium was okay but not a good source as the response by the students seems to be below average and the outcomes were not satisfying. So, after exams, I preferred exploring other online streams like Google Meet, and Zoom classes which gave me the platform to interact directly with the children as here I could teach the students on the spot and get the response accordingly, which as a teacher satisfied me and the students seem to be involved too which was not possible earlier. The pandemic had also given us teachers an opportunity to explore some unused source of teaching which could be beneficial in the normal future scenario too. The only disadvantage of this source to be the network issue which tends to hinder the teachings. Now, since the vaccines are being given around the nation and the world, we shall overcome the virus soon and meet and teach our students again.

Fortnight Highlights



The second batch of 40 Sarpanches including 21 women Sarpanches from the Union Territory of Ladakh leaving to Uttarakhand for a five-day training cum exposure tour on The team was flagged off by Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Saugat Biswas.



The 13th CEC Ice Hockey Cup 2021 organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kargil concluded at Ice Hockey Rink Biamathang. In the men's category, Drass Red beats Chiktan Ice Hockey while in the women's category, Chiktan Women Ice Hockey Club won over Wakha Mulbekh Club.



Executive Councillor for Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee distributing feeds to the livestock rears of Kargyam and Shachukul villages.



A delegation of Student Council EJM College, Leh during a meeting with Deputy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk. Discussed various issues faced by the students.



Advisor to L-G, Umang Narula reviewing the establishment of an Agro-Processing Cluster (APC) under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) at the Secretariat.

Three-day course on narcotic crime concludes

ADGP stresses over need of flawless investigations

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Three days course on Narcotic Crime was concluded on February 6 at District Police Office Conference Hall.

Additional Director General of Police, UT Ladakh, Satish Khandare-IPS and SSP Leh, Rajiv Pandey-IPS were present.

Satish Khandare exerting the necessity of such courses said that drug menace is spoiling the youth very badly and keeping in view the destination importance of Ladakh, there is utmost need of better intelligence gathering and surveillance to break the network of narcotics.

He informed that Anti-Narcotics Unit established in both the districts for the same purpose which will be trained for the specific skill sets and professional investigations. This course will definitely help the Investigating officers to deal with the Narco Crimes in a professionally better manner.



He also thanked the experts from Narcotics Control Bureau, Mohd Nawaz, Superintendent and Satish Kumar, Intelligence Officer for imparting the training.

Mementoes were also presented to the trainers by the Additional Director General of Police.

SP Traffic, Rafi Giri-JKPS; Dy.SP Traffic, Regzin Sagdup-JKPS and the participating officers were present.

The Course Coordinator, Dy.SP Hq Leh, Ishtyaq A Kacho-JKP conducted the event and also presented the vote of thanks.

ARTO, Kargil, organises road safety awareness program for taxi drivers

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Motor Vehicles Department Ladakh and ARTO Kargil organized a road safety awareness program for taxi drivers on February 11.

Khadim Hussain said the purpose of the awareness programme was to enlighten the taxi drivers about road safety measures as they are a major stakeholder of road traffic.

While underlining the importance of the etiquettes of responsible driving to avoid accidents, he also spoke about the importance of Motor Vehicles Act for drivers and requested them to abide by the road safety regulations. He stressed to abstain from drowsy driving during long journeys.

He further added that there have been instances of complaints regarding extra fares being charged and SOP violations during the COVID-19 pandemic,



ARTO Kargil, Khadim Hussain during the road safety awareness program for taxi drivers in Kargil.

which should be looked into by the taxi unions to bring relief to the general public.

The representatives of the transport unions and the drivers also shared their grievances and issues which mainly included the reconsideration in rate lists, installation of traffic sign boards in the markets and other related issues.

L-G reviews Pashmina development plans

Directs departments to promote Ladakh's Pashmina internationally



Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur along with other officials of UT administration during the Pashmina development meeting at Raj Niwas.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, Radha Krishna Mathur convened a meeting regarding development of Pashmina and to list challenges and their potential solutions on February 5 at Raj Niwas.

Advisor Umang Narula; Secretary Industries, Saugat Biswas; Secretary Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Ravinder Kumar; Director Industries, Moses Kunzang and officials from District Industries Centre attended the meeting.

L-G Mathur stated that for the expansion of the Pashmina industry, it is foremost important to develop a sustainable plan of action for improving the living standards of the nomads of Changthang with

boosted medical assistance, education for the children, electricity, heating, internet, etc.

He directed the concerned department to seek the assistance of an expert organization to conduct a thorough study and to develop a plan of action for the development of the nomads of Changthang.

Stating that Pashmina must be treated as a luxury product right from the start, L-G Mathur stated that the department must invest in the best machinery and equipment to enhance output and ensure its quality. The department was instructed to invest in imparting large scale training in spinning, weaving and or-

ganic dyeing with precedence being given to the people of Changthang so that it can become a source of income for them.

Emphasizing that a 100% organic approach must be achieved in the production process, with USPs of being hand-spun, handwoven and organically dyed, he stated that all pashmina products produced in Ladakh must carry a GI tag, a commercial brand of Ladakh and simultaneously a producer tag to authenticate its quality.

Further, LG Mathur suggested that a nutrition policy for the feed for the goats must be put in place, while also formalizing a breeding policy for conservation and betterment of Ladakh's Pashmina goats.

An ICAR headed committee may be set up to achieve this, he suggested.

L-G Mathur advised all the concerned departments to work with the vision to mark identity for Ladakh's Pashmina in the international market and thus bring benefits to the people of Changthang.

Mathur's stress over tap water supply, power generation potentials from local ponds

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Impounded waters in Ladakh and energy harnessing potential was discussed in a meeting presided over by Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R K Mathur via video conferencing on February 6.

Alok Kirloskar, Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Limited gave a presentation on their proposed design for Ladakh to explore the possibility of using existing irrigation ponds (Zing) for sustainable power and water supplies within the localities specially in winter season when limited water flows. This is a step to bring the traditional zings to meet the contemporary needs in a sustainable and scientific manner as envisaged by LG Mathur.

The Lt. Governor asked the group to make field visits to check if their technologies can be feasible in Ladakh. He also stressed on the need to look at the possibility of recycling of pond



water, use of temperature gradient technology and adding of the inbuilt water purification process in their proposed system. Also, he asked them to ensure supply pipes as per winter temperatures.

The Lt. Governor thanked the Principal Scientific Advisor (O/o PSA) to the Prime Minister, Prof K Vijay Raghavan in facilitating the initiatives and discussion on this project concept. He also welcomed the offer made by Kirloskar Group to support the first pilot project from their CSR funds.

The Lt. Governor also spoke about promoting Astro Tourism in Ladakh and to set up a Dark Night Sanctuary at Hanley in Changthang on a pilot basis. He

also thanked the office of PSA for setting up of Astronomy Labs at Kendriya Vidyalaya School in both Leh and Kargil.

Mathur said that the education sector will be highly benefited by these labs. He impressed upon the need to provide this facility in more schools in Ladakh that will boost the interest and motivation of the students as well as teachers and Astronomy Tourism guides.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner/ Secretary A K Sahu, Dr. Shailja Vaidya Gupta, Senior Adviser/ Scientist 'H', Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Swapan Mehra, President Waste to Wealth Mission and his team.

NOTICE

Sh. Mutup Dolma S/o Sh Nawang Chonjor R/o Skara has applied for Bid No LA02 2222 (newly purchase vehicle)

Vehicle type: XL 6 Smart Hybrid Alpha. Chasis no. : MA3CNC32SLL234970. Engine No. : K15BN1152876

If anyone wants to bid for the aforeside BID No; LA02-2222 He/She shall apply in the office of the undersigned within a period of 7 days of publication of this notice in newspaper, after which no claim shall be entertained and said bid no shall be given to the said application on first come first serve basis.

ARTO/L/134 . Date: 19-01-2021

Assistant Regional Transport Office

NOTICE

I, Tsering Stobdan S/o Konchok Tashi R/o Tia, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK07 20121269656 and I'm applying for duplicate driving license. Objection, if any may be conveyed to Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Leh, Ladakh within 10 days from the date of publication.



Siddhartha High School, Stok

Affiliated with J&K State Board of School Education

Affiliation no. : F (Aff,Gen-Ext) JD/17/A17 School Code: 50042

FEE STRUCTURE 2018-2021

w.e.f. 1st November, 2018

CLASS	TUITION FEE (Per Month)	Admission Fee
X	1,100	12000
IX	1,100	12000
VIII	880	12000
VII	880	12000
VI	880	12000
V	600	12000
IV	600	12000
III	600	12000
II	600	12000
I	600	12000
UKG	600	12000
LKG	600	12000
NURSERY	600	12000

Annual Charges: 2,000 per annum for all the classes.

Gortsa extended its delivery areas

Delivering now up to Likir to the West and Sakti and Martselang to the East

www.gortsa.com

ALL NON-VEG ITEMS WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE ON GORTSA FROM 11th FEB TO 25th FEB, 2021 IN REGARD OF THE BUDDHIST HOLY MONTH

Sorry, we're
CLOSED ON SUNDAYS
ORDERS RECEIVED ON SUNDAYS WILL BE DELIVERED ON MONDAY

Let us take care of your ration needs
"Your needs are our concern"

OFFER

Basmati rice
1060 Basmati Rice - 35K g
₹3500 Offer ₹2500

Atta
Bajaura Manali Fine Atta
40 Kg ₹1500 Offer ₹1350

Sugar
Sugar- 50 Kg
₹3000 Offer ₹2400

Order now at: 8491947039 / 8491947041 / 9858394405

Buy local products, support local economy

Download the Android app on www.gortsa.com

8491947039 / 8491947041 / 9858394405



GORTSA
AT YOUR DOORSTEP

STAY SAFE AT HOME & SHOP ONLINE



ORDER

NOW

UP TO
30% OFF



Order online at www.gortsa.com
or by phone or whatsapp
8491947043, 8491947056
01982 252108, 01982 252110