

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Caste-based inequality still a social reality

The system is still in practice, but I am sure that could be abolished by changing people's attitude, says nominated Councillor, Phuntsog Nurboo



LBA President, Thupstan Chhewang with Phuntsog Nurboo, Nominated Councillor during the celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti at Chowkhang Vihara.

Tenzin Dajon

LEH: Caste-based inequality has lived the reality in Ladakh. Certain sections of the society are victims of many violations which is neither appropriate in culture nor relevant in religion.

Buddhism preaches benefit of all sentient beings but when we alienate and discriminate people based on their occupation aren't we contradicting ourselves to be called as the followers of Buddha?

While preaching the devotees at the Zanskar Photang in the year 2017, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama said, "In Buddhism, Buddha stands against caste system before 2600 years ago. It is against the Buddha and the Dalai Lama, if you still continue to practice caste system."

He further added that no religion speaks of discriminating against one person or the other, just because they are from the low class. All religions preach only love.

Phuntsog Nurboo, Nominated Councillor said, "After assuming charge of nominated councillor, I came across few incidents which is very unfortunate. The discrimination is still in practice but, I am sure that it will be abolished completely with the change in people's attitude".

"The attitude of new generations is different, which is a hint that we are moving towards an inclusive society. Recently on Ambedkar Jayanti I was honoured as a chief guest by the LBA Youth Wing which is a history in itself", he added.

He said that education is the only weapon to bring change.

His Holiness gesture of embracing, playing the musical instruments and teaching to condemn caste system has somehow brought a wave of change over the few

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Surging COVID-19 cases in Leh- a cause for concern

Grim situation as Ladakh continues to witness unabated rise in Covid-19 cases on a daily basis



Passengers getting screened at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, Leh.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Ladakh continues to witness a rise in COVID-19 cases, with 1758 active cases in Leh district and 99 cases in Kargil (Data till April 26). The total number of fatalities in UT Ladakh has reached 138, including 94 in Leh district and 44 in Kargil district.

The current COVID-19 situation in Leh is critical and strict adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols is needed.

With the beginning of the working season in the Ladakh region, the heavy influx of migrant labour has been one of the reasons for rising COVID cases. Students and locals arriving from other states have also tested positive. Fear and anxiety have gripped the people as they are afraid of the situation getting worse in the upcoming days due to the opening of the national highways.

Sixty patients were admitted between April 4 to 26, out of which 21 patients

were below 40 years of age, including a 16-year-old. Currently, 20 patients are in the ICU of SNM Hospital, out of which ten are critically ill (Data till April 26 at 4 pm). The rising number of COVID cases has put immense pressure on the health department. The hospital is in dire need of more human resources to combat the situation. The health workers engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic are working round the clock on a salary of Rs 15,000 per month.

A staff working in ICU (name kept anonymous) said, "There are six of us taking care of around 30 patients for ten days round the clock in the ICU. We work for nearly 7-8 hours with the PPE kit on. Despite working hard in such hard times, our salary is just 15,000 per month, but that has also been pending for the last three-four months."

"We did not get time to meet our friends and family for ten days. We are kept in

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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.

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Free medical camp for Cardiothoracic patients held in Leh



Dr. Shiv Chaudhary, Head of the Department (HOD) of Cardiothoracic department (CTVS), AIIMS (All India Institute for Medical Science) checking a heart patient at Lha-ri-sa resort, Skara.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: A total of 74 patients from different parts of the Ladakh region including Leh, Sham, Changthang, Nubra, Kargil, and Zaskar were checked during the two days free medical camp for Cardiothoracic patients (heart surgery) on April 19 -20 at Lha-Ri-Sa Resort, Skara, Leh.

Dr. Shiv Chaudhary, Head of the Department (HOD) of Cardiothoracic department (CTVS), AIIMS (All India Institute for Medical Science), New Delhi was present.

The medical camp amidst the COVID-19 pandemic has helped a lot to the patient of the far-flung region who could not go for medical check-up. The camp was crucial for the patients to get one round of check-ups.

Tashi Motup, Kawoo, General-Secretary, Asoka Mission, New Delhi informed that except 9 patients, all 65 patients had undergone heart surgeries sometime in the last 3 decades. About 16 patients had undergone heart surgeries back in the 1990s.

“One of the patients seen was an elderly woman from Domkhar, who was the first patient from Ladakh to have undergone heart surgery. She was operated in 1988, more than 3 decades ago, at AIIMS by Dr. P. Venugopal, former HOD of CTVS and later Director of AIIMS, he added.

The cases of heart surgeries seen during the medical camp related to valve repair and replacement, ACHD (Adult Congenital Heart Disease), ASD (Atrial Septal Defect), RHD (Rheumatic Heart

Disease), coronary artery disease (narrowing or blockage of the heart), pacemaker, and hole in the heart.

The health issues reported by the patients included breathlessness during walking or climbing, tiredness after brief exertion, chest pain, shoulder and back pain, nose bleeding, and acidity after meals.

Tashi Motup said, “One of the problems which came to light from the medical camp was that many patients have missed the routine check-up because of which their health condition has deteriorated. Some patients have also not adhered to doctor’s advice about food habits and lifestyle. The medical history of each patient was recorded to assist them further, and receive treatment at AIIMS in future.”

He thanked Dr. Shiv Chaudhary for giving his precious time and charitable service to the people of Ladakh. Also, he expressed gratitude to the administration and staff of S.N.M Hospital Leh for conducting the necessary tests of the patients.

He further appealed to the people of Ladakh to be aware of their health situations, and get a medical check-up and treatment for their ailments in time to have a happy and healthy life.

Leh celebrates 32nd birth anniversary of 11th Panchen Lama

At the age of six, 11th Panchen Lama was taken into captivity by Chinese authorities, becoming the world’s youngest political prisoner

Morup Stanzin

THIKSEY: The 32nd birth anniversary of Gedhun Choeyki Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama was celebrated on April 25 at Sherab Skitsal Ling Library, Thiksay Monastery

Thupstan Chhewang, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association was the chief guest. Advocate Tashi Gyalson, CEC, Hill Council, Leh; LGA President, Venerable Shedup Chamba; CRO Tsetan Angchok and Lower Leh Councillor Tsering Namgyal were also present.

The celebration was organised by Tashi Lhunpo monastery. The celebration began with prayers, offering of Mandala and lighting of holy lamp and cake cutting ceremony.

Kachen Lobzang Tsultim, Lopon Naris Chakzot briefed biography of 11th Panchen Lama. He said, “Gedhun Choeyki Nyima was born on 25th April 1989 in Lhari, Tibet, and was recognized and announced as the 11th Panchen Lama by the 14th Dalai Lama on 14th May 1995. Three days later on 17th May 1995, the 6 years old Panchen Lama was kidnapped by Chinese Government, installing another boy in his



Thupstan Chhewang, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association cutting the cake during the 32nd birth anniversary of Gedhun Choeyki Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama at Sherab Skitsal Ling Library, Thiksay Monastery.

place. Gedhun Choeyki Nyima remains forcibly detained by the Chinese Government, along with his family, in an undisclosed location since 1995. He was for years considered the world’s youngest political prisoner. His Khenpo, Chadrel Rinpoche, and another Gelugpa monk, Jampa Chhungla were also arrested”.

He further added that the United Nations, with the support of numerous States, organizations, and private individuals continue to call for the 11th Panchen Lama’s release.

Thupstan Chhewang said that the kidnapped of Panchen Lama by the Chinese is not only a huge loss for Buddhists but is also a

loss to the entire humanitarian organization in the world and no one knows about his whereabouts about. He added that in recent times even America also start questioning China about Panchen Lama.

He also assured to celebrate Panchen Lama’s birthday in Ladakh annually from next year.

CEC, Hill Council, Leh said that the United Nation Convention to find out Panchen Lama is a ray of hope for Buddhist followers to see him in near future.

CRO Tsetan Angchok, LGA President venerable Shatup Chamba, and Dr.Lobzang Tsewang also spoke on the occasion.

Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare visits Mahila Shakti Kendra, One-Stop Centre

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Social and Tribal Welfare, Padma Angmo visited Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) One Stop Centre (OSC) and Anganwadi Centre on April 20 in Leh.

The staff of Mahila Shakti Kendra apprised Secretary Padma about the various awareness camps and activities organised by the department. It was informed that One Stop Centre has received 49 cases, out of which 21 cases have been solved and

28 cases are in process.

Women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse undergo rehabilitation at OSCs. The OSCs also facilitate immediate, emergency, and non-emergency access to a range of services, including medical, legal, psychological, and counselling support to women.

Mahila Shakti Kendra aims to empower women and make them self-dependent. It also aims to create an environment in which

women realize their full potential, convergent support is being proposed for equal access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational guidance, employment, health and safety, social security, and digital literacy.

In Leh, Mahila Shakti Kendra was set up in 2019 and the One-Stop Centre in 2018. In Kargil, Mahila Shakti Kendra and the One-Stop Centre were set up in 2021 which was e-inaugurated by LG Ladakh, R K Mathur on International Women’s Day 2021.

Leh pays tribute to Dr. B.R Ambedkar on his 130th birth anniversary

Tenzin Dajon

LEH: Ladakh Buddhist Association, Youth wing organised 130th birth anniversary celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Chowkang Vihara on April 14 in Leh.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Nominated Councillor, Phuntsog Nurboo said, “Casteism is one of the issues that people of the particular community still face. People share with me their suffering who face discrimination and it is very sad. We should not relate the work of musicians and other artists with caste. It should be considered as an art. Buddhism does not teach caste, but discrimination is practiced in our society and many are suffering. We need to work collectively and root out such evil practices because everyone deserves equal respect”.

President, LBA, Thupstan Chhewang said that if India is considered as a nation with a strong democracy then it is because of our Constitution, which was drafted under the chairmanship of Dr. Ambedkar.

Talking about caste issues in Ladakh he said, “It is clear that there is no caste system in our religion, but in our society, it exists. Therefore, we have to discuss how it is introduced in our society and understand the reason behind it to eliminate it from



our society.”

He assured to deliberate on the issue with Gonpa Association and the experts from Ladakh to uproot the system from the society.

Talking about the Post UT status, Thupstan Chhewang slammed UT Administration for being ineffective because of which people are in confusion and facing a lot of problems. He sighted the example of unemployment and safeguard issues.

Ven Shedup Chamba, President Ladakh Gonpa Association said, “Babasaheb Ambedkar was not only the architect of our Constitution but a great statesman around the world. His work for the upliftment of the downtrodden is exemplary. Being Dalit he faced a lot of problems at every step of his life and later he embraced Buddhism saying that there is no casteism in it. We have several good things in our society but at the same time few

bad practices are also there such as drinking alcohol and casteism which needs to end.”

Thinles Angmo, President, LBA Women wing said, “it is clear from the struggle of Ambedkar that uprooting casteism is not a piece of cake. Like him, we have to focus on various levels including education to end such practice. The person who designed our constitution and accepted our religion is a pride for us. He said that he wants to follow the religion where liberty, equality, and fraternity exist and he saw these qualities in Buddhism. Therefore we cannot tribute him in a real sense unless we uproot casteism from our society.

Rigzin Dorjay, President LBA youth wing also spoke on the occasion.

Essay writing competitions among students, cultural programs, and prize distribution were also held.

Caste-based inequality still a social reality

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years. The practice of not allowing them to eat and drink from the same utensils providing separate cups and glasses at the village gatherings or ceremonies is improved.

Venerable Shedup Chamba, President, All Ladakh Gonpa Association said, “It is very unfortunate that the caste system is practiced in our society. The condition has somehow improved now as compared to earlier times. Today we all sit and eat together, which is a good sign.”

He said that the younger generation can play a bigger role to eliminate such evil practices as it is difficult to convince older generation due to lack of education.

Traditional musical instrument such as Daman and Surna plays an important role in the culture and tradition of Ladakh. They are the artist whose contributions in culture preservation and protection are immense but are often look down, abused or discriminated at all levels. Social taboo and stigma attached to it has compelled many of them to give up their profession because of the lack of dignity.

Tsewang Paljor, Special Officer, Ladakh Art, Cul-

ture and Languages Academy said, “Imagine our society without Surna and Dhaman, how our songs and culture would be? The contribution of traditional musical instrument players in our culture is immense. Today we feel proud of our rich culture, but we forget to recognize their contributions.”

The good thing is that the mindset of young generation is different as they see all this skills and art as education. New generations are opting this art which is very fortunate, he added.

On the occasion of 130th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Thupstan Chhewang, President, LBA at Chowkhang Vihara said, “We have to discuss how this caste system originated in our society and understand the reason behind it to uproot such evil practices. Though it is a difficult task but we have no option except to abolish it.”

He further assured that the LBA will deliberate on the issue with Gonpa Association and various experts from Ladakh to uproot the system from the society.

The constitution of India also guarantees, “Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth” under Article 15. Thus, the discriminatory practice is not legal also.

World Heritage Day: Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation initiates stupa restoration project

Aims to restore ten stupas across Ladakh till October 2021



Tukla villagers during the deconsecrating ceremony of Kagan Chorten, an ancient stupa in Tukla on World Heritage Day

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

TUKLA: World Heritage Day, themed 'Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures' was observed by the Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) in collaboration with the Community of Tukla village, Changthang April 18.

HCHF has been celebrating this day every year since 2010. This year the organization initiated a Stupa Restoration Project, aiming to restore ten stupas across Ladakh till October 2021.

Thupstan Chhewang, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association attended the event as the Chief Guest. H.E. Khamtak Rinpoche, Jigme Nawang Namgyal blessed the day with his gracious presence. Also, Ven. Shatup Chamba, President, Ladakh Gompa Association and Thinles Nurboo, Councillor, Kungyam constituency was also present.

Kagan Chorten, an ancient stupa that once marked the entrance to Tukla Village was deconsecrated. The stupa has been in a depleting condition and requires urgent attention. HCHF and the village community of Tukla decided to observe this World Heritage Day with the restoration of this ancient stupa.

Thupstan Chhewang focused on the importance of village communities to realize the importance of culture, heritage, language, and the traditional way of

agricultural activities for sustainable development.

H.E. Khamtak Rinpoche highlighted the importance of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and their preservation. Rinpoche has assured to work closely with HCHF to restore old monuments, especially in the Changthang Rong area.

Dr. Sonam Wangchok, Founder/Secretary HCHF explained the significance of observing World Heritage Day. He stressed the importance of heritage education and conducting awareness programs to educate people, especially the youth for different values of culture and heritage. He also emphasized local communities taking up the responsibility and actively participating in conservation and preservation of the Heritage and Culture of their region.

He further appreciated the community members of Tukla village for having shown interest in their local heritage and joining hands in making this significant celebration possible.

He said, "For various reasons, most of the stupa in the villages of Ladakh built by the ancestors are deteriorating and are in various stages of preservation. Some of them may still be in good condition, but a good number of them have well past the stage of recovery and rehabilitation."

"According to our observation, one of the main reasons of damage to stupas is lack of knowledge on the part of local people, about the possibilities of conservation. Time factor and climate change are some other reasons for deterioration of stupas in Ladakh", he added.

Councillor, Thinles Nurboo said, "Learning about culture and heritage should start from home. Parents should educate their children by telling stories about their forefathers and make them feel proud of their family legacy. This would automatically make them value their local heritage."

Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation (HCHF) is a community-based, non-government organization, devoted to promote and conserve Himalayan indigenous, natural and historic heritage by working directly with the different mountain communities and strengthening and supporting community-based institutions. The foundation laid great stress on training and workshops that ensure more practical and beneficial outcomes both in terms of learning and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Himalayas..

Surging COVID-19 cases in Leh- a cause for concern

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quarantine for five days after spending ten days with the Covid patients. Once we test negative, we are back on the field," she added.

The medical staff have to carry the mega oxygen cylinders to the wards due to the absence of male orderlies in the SNM Hospital. Some medical staff said on the condition of anonymity that they had to call their relatives and friends to carry oxygen cylinder to medical wards due to a shortage of human resource. Some reportedly paid from their pocket to hire labour to transport the oxygen cylinders.

Medical Superintendent, SNM Hospital, Dr Norzin Angmo, refused to speak to the media, saying that she does not have the authority to speak. Hospital staff and doctors also refused to speak to the media, saying that there is strict instruction from higher authorities not to interact with the media.

Speaking to the media, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority, Leh, shared that the administration would soon resolve the human resource and pending salary issue.

On April 27, CEC, Hill Council, Leh Advocate Tashi Gyalson and District Magistrate, Leh took stock of the SNM hospital and assured to resolve all the issues. Meanwhile, to facilitate the rising COVID positive patients, Ladakh Heart Foundation Hospital, with 40 beds, has been converted into a COVID-19 dedicated hospital.

Despite the rising number and worrying situation, the Ladakh administration rules out the possibility

of imposing a lockdown. District Magistrate Leh said, "A complete lockdown is not a solution. We will enforce the necessary restrictions. The livelihood of people also has to be taken care of."

However, on April 26, Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority, Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse ordered all the District and Subordinates office to work in staff strength of 50%. Dining places in hotels and restaurant would work with 50% capacity and have been encouraged to provide home delivery services and room services. Indoor games facility, public libraries and gymnasiums would remain close. The administration has also put restrictions on the number of people participating in social and religious gatherings. There would be a night curfew from 9 pm to 5 am, except for essential services and medical emergencies. Public/ private vehicles would ply at only 50 per cent of their seating capacity.

Amidst the second wave of Covid-19 wreaking havoc across India, an RT-PCR Negative report is a must to all passengers travelling to Ladakh. Though tourist and travellers undergo tests on arrivals, the situation is in a grim state. Incoming passengers travelling without an RT-PCR report would be provided hotel accommodation by the administration till their COVID-19 negative test report is out the next day.

While testing and vaccination are in progress, the administration allowed various events and festivals to be held in March and April when the COVID cases are surging. The absence of media briefing in the alarming situation by the health department or UT administration is also becoming a rising concern.

Two-week workshop on Research Methodology concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Two-week long Research Methodology Course, funded by ICSSR and organized by the Centre for Himalayan & Trans-Himalayan Studies, University of Ladakh and Department of Sociology, Government Model Degree College, Zanskar concluded on April 25.

Around eighteen eminent personalities spoke on various issues related to research and research methodology through offline and online mode. The speakers included Professor P.C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Professor Abhijit Pathak (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Dr.Tsewang Namgyal, Senior Scientist, Snow Leopard Conservancy, Sonam Angchuk, Founder & Director, Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Learning.

Presentations on how to write a research proposal, methodology of research, ethics in Social Sciences, putting research into action, and so on were carried out during the workshop. A one-day field visit to Petroglyph sites in Saspol and Alchi was also held. The experts of the field visit were Dr. Quentin Devers and Professor Tashi Dawa.



Dr. Avatar Kishan Raina, Professor and Senior Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research spoke on the role of a geologist and geotechnical engineer and Former Ambassador P. Stobdan spoke elaborately on research prospects in Ladakh.

Dr. Tsering Nurbu, Padma Shree Awardee and renowned Physician of Ladakh shared his experiences about research works that he had conducted which are published in reputed international journals. Through his life experiences, he motivated participants to work with dedication and zeal and contribute to society through research which would certainly be acknowledged sooner or later. Despite being short on funds for his first project, but with a passion to contribute to society, he was credited with the development of Geo-Medicine (Medicine and Community).

Dr. Sonam Joldan, Head of the Organizing Committee, presented a brief outline and objectives of the course and about how to build research capacities and research aptitude. He hoped that participants benefitted from the course.

Inteeaz Kacho, Registrar expressed his hope to increase research programs in the University in the coming years with state-of-the-art facilities.

Dean, Academic Affairs, Deskyong Namgyal stated that the University has established the Centre for Himalayan & Trans-Himalayan Studies. He informed that it is the second faculty development programme, the first was organised in October 2020, both through offline and online mode.

Later, certificates were distributed to resource persons and participants.

Indian Army signs MoU with HPCL & NIEDO for Ladakh Ignited Minds project



During the signing of a tripartite MoU to secure a better future for Ladakhi youth.

Tenzin Dajon

LEH: A tripartite MoU to secure a better future for Ladakhi youth was signed among the Indian Army 14 Corps with corporate partner Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and executing agency National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) at HQ 14 Corps, Leh on April 26.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Tsering Angchuk, Deputy chairman, Hill Council, Leh; Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP, Ladakh; Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula; Ravinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary, Lt Gen PGK Menon, AVSM, GOC 14 Corps along with Prince Singh, Chief Regional Manager, Retail J&K, HPCL, Dr. Rohit Srivastav, Managing Trustee and CEO, NIEDO and various other senior Army officials and civil dignitaries.

The project 'Ladakh Ignited Minds' has been conceptualized to secure a better future for the youth of UT Ladakh and a full-time residential program to mentor and guide them for twelve months for the entrance examination of various Medical and Engineering Colleges spread across India. The program will be executed by Kanpur-based

NGO, NIEDO under the aegis of the Indian Army. The army would oversee the overall operations including administration and logistics with requisite funding support through HPCL.

Umang Narula, Advisor to LG Ladakh on behalf of UT Administration and Lt Governor R.K. Mathur appreciated the project and said it is a significant step taken by the Indian Army to provide support to the young students of Ladakh.

He said, "We have tried to understand the issues more deeply and one of the problems we are facing is a deficiency of manpower including doctors and engineers. Such initiatives will help to produce a local force of professionals to serve in the region after the completion of their studies."

Talking about Ladakh's unique topography and challenges, he said that only the person who lives in Ladakh can understand and give the best solution.

MP JTN said, "The project is not only people friendly instead it is a mission set by the army to fulfill the manpower shortages in Ladakh. It is a proud moment for Ladakh that Lt Gen PGK Menon, who has served in the region for

18 years has put personal interest in the project."

Informing about the project, Lt Gen PGK Menon 14 Corps said, "The project is yet another important milestone of Indian Army's people-friendly efforts for the children of Ladakh. This project is a residential cum educational coaching facility for children ideally from rural and semi-urban areas of Ladakh. Initially, we are looking at 45 students of which 25 will be boys and 20 will be girls and we may increase it in subsequent years".

"The project will also employ the marginalized people in administrative duties at the centre. The project aims to establish long-term opportunities for the children of Ladakh", he added.

Dr. Rohit Srivastav, CEO, NIEDO expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and HPCL for allowing NIEDO to co-partner in this initiative.

Prince Singh, Chief Regional Manager, Retail, HPCL said that the project aims to provide a platform to the underprivileged and yet talented students of Ladakh. Establishing a way of free residential coaching program will prepare students for NEET and JEE. HPCL will provide financial support for the first batch of the project under CSR.

He said, "I am confident that Ladakh Ignited Minds will give us many success stories."

The project will also focus on soft skills, leadership, critical thinking and personality development and end-to-end grooming till they become a productive human resource for the nation.

People's Voice

By Tenzin Dajon & Tsering Chosdon (Chhozee)

There is immense scope in the agriculture sector of Ladakh because the region is still dependent on other parts of the country to feed the local population, tourists, army troops, etc. The economic opportunity available in the agriculture sector of Ladakh needs to be explored. It is said that young farmers can play an important role in ensuring food security if they are encouraged to get involved in farming and the challenges they face are addressed. Some youths are shying away from agriculture but some in Ladakh are setting an example in the agricultural sector. The involvement of the youth with new techniques, and practices will change the scenario. Let's read what they have to say about the potential, scopes, and challenges in the agriculture sector.



TSETAN TASHI, Chief Agriculture Officer: Agricultural activities in Ladakh are sidelined by many because of multiple factors. Earlier the joint family system has helped a lot in farming activities as the young and old come together on-field and work. With time everything started changing because of exposures, financial stability, and new opportunities. Children are sent off to towns and big cities for better education and because of which the younger generation lost their interest in farming activities. The booming tourism industry is one more factor that has turned the farms and agricultural lands into concrete jungles. The mushrooming guest houses, hotels, resorts, and camping sites on agricultural land have taken over the age-old practices. To some extent, PDS has also negatively impacted our agricultural system. The availability of food at low rate has also made people leave their farms unploughed.

Because of the pandemic, people have now realized to some extent that they cannot sustain themselves without agriculture. Therefore one must do little farming along with jobs and businesses to be self-sustainable and reduce over-dependency on imported food items.

Engaging youth in agriculture

The potential of agriculture in Ladakh is immense, for example, floriculture and bean production. The flowers of Ladakh are considered as one of the best flowers in the world, because of our unique geography. Therefore youth must explore this highly commercial sector. The beans (rajmah) of Ladakh have very high commercial value.

To attract educated youth we have introduced micro-irrigation such as sprinkle and drip irrigation which will reduce the irrigation labour. Interested youth can avail of this benefit at a subsidized rate from the department. In addition to that we are providing two types of Green Houses at 75% subsidy, 60x40 for commercial purpose and 32x18 for domestic consumption, to make agriculture attractive.

The department is also working to promote organic farming to increase the value of farm production. Ladakh Organic Marketing Society (LOMS) is under consideration, it will be created through cooperatives and we will sell products in the market. First, we are focussing on the local market because we have limited production. Later we can move to big markets like Delhi and Chandigarh as our production increased. Registration is going on to certify the villages, and after the certification, a product value will be enhanced by 3-4 times.

There are potentials in farming and more and more youths should explore for sustainable development.



SONAM ANGMO, Progressive Farmer: As a mushroom cultivator, I acknowledged that mushrooms were initially eaten by the royals and now everyone has developed their tastes for it because of its nutritional values. Eating wild mushrooms was a tradition in Eastern countries like Japan and China so these people are trained in mushroom foraging as the traditions are passed on. They identify edible mushrooms because sometimes wild mushrooms are poisonous. The cultivation of mushrooms is a labor incentive so there are job opportunities. Mushrooms are consumed by the army, the restaurants, the hotels, and local people especially a large number of vegetarians but nobody is producing it here in Ladakh instead it is brought from outside. From an environmental point of view, carbon footprint is increasing. Production of mushrooms in Ladakh is not that difficult, especially Oyster Mushrooms are the easiest to produce as

they grow on agro-wastes like Phugma which we also feed the cows. The first year of my cultivation the mushrooms were rotten but the next year was successful. For now, Oyster is a success and I have tried button mushroom but the process is hard still there is a possibility. The next experiment I am looking forward to is Shitake mushrooms.

People's perspective is if you get a job even as a peon is much better than agriculture farming. Taking mushroom cultivation as a profession or a part-time business on a smaller scale is commendable in case of financial problems. For a larger scale, I decided to take a loan through NABARD and SBI RSETI but they did not provide in Ladakh. So JKEDI turned out to be the right option but by then Ladakh became a Union Territory. I have now applied to District Industries Centre for spawn production. So the best way to commence is to start on a smaller scale. The season is from April to October but it could also be produced in the winters even though the process gets slower.

Agriculture, on the whole, is a necessity but it depends on us if we choose to buy organic products or the imported products. We focus on the barren lands for farming leaving behind the fertile lands for the construction of houses, hotels, and buildings whereas the barren lands take years to get the soil fertile. People who were dependent on tourism faced a lot of problems due to COVID-19 so I do not mean we should wholly depend on organic farming as an alternative. With varieties of techniques coming up even winter organic farming is possible. The youth can play a huge role in bringing up markets for organic products in main market places. There are a lot of scopes in agriculture like becoming florists; tree cutting services by groups of youth during spring, opening agriculture implement shops, compost and manure business, etc.



ZUBAIR, President, Progressive Farmer: Ladakh is a land of sea buckthorn, pashmina, and apricot along with varieties of vegetables. So I would say there is a lot of scopes and opportunities in agriculture which need to be explored. If entrepreneurs could grow and sell their products at a large scale then they

...Continues on Page 7

The World of Juniors



Earth day

In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 as 'International Mother Earth Day'. The day is celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. The year 2021 marks the 51st anniversary of the annual celebrations. This year's theme for Earth Day is 'Restore Our Earth'.

Earth Day was first observed in 1970, when 20 million took to the streets to protest against environmental degradation. The event was triggered by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, as well as other issues such as smog and polluted rivers. For over the next half century, Earth Day continued to play an important role in environmental activism.

This day provides an opportunity to raise public awareness around the world to the challenges regarding the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports.

DID YOU KNOW



The landmark Paris Agreement, which brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions, was signed on Earth Day 2016.

The woman nicknamed 'the human calculator' is from India. Shakuntala Devi from Bengaluru city in India earned a mention in the 1982 Guinness Book of World Records when she multiplied two, thirteen digit numbers and gave the correct answer in

28 seconds. The genius mental calculator was aptly nicknamed, 'the human calculator'.

Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to mankind. The Father of Medicine, Charaka, consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago.

Varanasi is the most ancient surviving city in the world. The holy city of Varanasi, also known as Banaras or Kashi, is believed to be one of the oldest living cities in the world. In fact, it is believed that this place was once the home of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The 2H success formula



I happened to watch a TV talk on success secret, recently. It was by a highly successful person, Ajay Banga, born and educated in India, now an Indian-American. A Padma Shri awardee for excellence in his work output, he is the former CEO of MasterCard company, and now the Executive Chairman of the company.

Banga talked about what he called the 2H success formula. 2H stands for HUMILITY and HUMOUR. Humility, he said, is the real and necessary quality in any person to march ahead in life. And what is humility? Never to assume that you are better than others, and that to remind yourself time and again that there are so many people around you far better than you to learn from.

And, humour is the ability to laugh at yourself, and to admit that humour alone makes you feel fit for any challenging task ahead.

Having said that, one may point out that humility and humour are surely important factors, but not the only ones. There are several other crucial factors for success: A clear vision, diligence, consistency and resilience. But it is also true that every successful person may have a different but valid stress on the factors for success.

As US philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson had said, it is a great man who is always willing to be 'little'. That means that, in a way, all great men have risen to great heights because of their humility. Humility forms the very basis of all other qualities of head and heart. Without humility, your wisdom, your intelligence etc. are of no use. People will shun you, and you will feel unwanted.

On humour, there is a lovely quote by American writer Mary Kay Blakely: "Our humour turns our anger into a fine art." How true! Those who can laugh at themselves and can make fun of themselves are the real blessed ones. Because, as evangelist Rick Warren has said, "A sense of humor is God's antidote for anger and frustration."

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Stanzin Chosphele, Executive Councillor, Agriculture, LAHDC, Leh

Interviewed by Tenzin Dajon & Tsering Chosdon (Chhozee)

Q. What are your plans and initiatives for the development of the Agriculture sector?

Agricultural produce of Ladakh needs a good market and with the ongoing projects like Mission Organic and Ladakh Greenhouse Project, our focus is to explore market opportunities to sell the local produce. We are planning to establish a dedicated organic market in hub areas such as Leh, Skalzangling, Skara, Choglamsar, Khaltse, Diskit, etc where the local organic vegetables or farm produce will be sold.

The plan is to build shops with all the needed facilities like racks, refrigerators, and licenses. Only the rent of the shop has to bear by the seller.

Also, through the cooperative department, we have allocated ₹1 crore for refrigerated vans to export organic products in the market. We are working on exploring and connecting the market at all levels to make the agricultural produce of Ladakh profitable.

The local products need to be valued by the locals first before pitching outside buyers. We need to encourage our local farmers at all levels to develop and promote the agriculture sector in a real sense. This year we have celebrated the first Ladakh Kisaan Divas on March 17 2021 to appreciate the farmers and aware people of farming practices.

Q. Brief us about the Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) of Ladakh and Ladakh Greenhouse Project.

Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) is a full-fledged policy document started in 2019. After Union Territory status, Prime Minister allotted a budget of ₹500 crore for this policy which is to be equally distributed to both Leh and Kargil districts which will be distributed phase-wise. For 2021, ₹70 crore each for Leh and Kargil has been proposed and the rest shall be allocated soon. Our motive is to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers by 20% every year by encouraging livestock rearing which is being given up in the present days.

The organic products will be certified by Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA). There are three phases to get such certification namely C1, C2, and C3. Phase I includes villages and crops in which chemical fertilizers and pesticides have not been used for three years or more. Phase II includes villages where the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is less than five metric tons and Phase III is above five metric ton. Until now around 34 villages have been certified C1.

The Ladakh Greenhouse Project is one of the components of MODI



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ I request youths of Ladakh to explore agriculture sector and avail the benefits of the Govt. schemes. Also, we all should prefer to buy local farm produce to encourage and support farmers of Ladakh. ”

which has been technically studied by DIHAR. The greenhouse is designed as per the geographical needs of the region and has more life because of polycarbonate sheets. It is made available in two sizes, small-sized (32x18) and big size (60x24), both for domestic and commercial use. Last year 79 greenhouses were given at a 75% subsidized rate. The greenhouse is an initiative to meet the demand for vegetables in the harsh winter months.

Q. Ladakh being a tourism hub, the agriculture sector is being neglected. How important is it to work on sustainability?

There is no doubt that the tourism sector is the prime economic source of Ladakh but around 70% population according to 95 Panchayat Halqa are engaged in the agriculture sector. Thus, the sector can't be ignored or neglected. Ladakh might be famous for its heritage, scenic beauty, art, and culture but the agriculture sector plays an important role. There is a need of promoting and developing the agriculture sector along with all other sectors. The local hotels, guest houses, and other commercial establishments can encourage the agriculture sector by buying our local produce as much as it is possible. This will support our local farmers to a great extent.

COVID pandemic has made every one of us realize the importance of sustainability. The present scenario is changed; the agriculture sector needs to be explored with the latest technologies to make it economical. There is scope and potential in the agriculture sector not just to meet the local demands but to export outside.

Q. What are the challenges faced by the farmers of Ladakh and how Hill Council is working to solve them?

The main challenges in front of farmers are lack of market opportunities and irrigation facilities. Therefore under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, we have brought sprinkle and drip irrigation, further, we are going to set up lift irrigation.

Local farmers produce in limited quantity, therefore controlling the price of their products will be not fair unless we provide them a market. So we have planned to provide them market which is under consideration. We are also working on a document to create awareness about the importance of local food. Right now we are dependent on PDS, but it is not by our choice instead it seems compulsion to some extent. But the policies like connecting market, awareness campaign, and vocal for local will counter the over-dependent on PDS.

One of the biggest challenges in front of us is giving up on agriculture practices. Today, people are opting for other sources of income such as daily labour wages in BRO and GREF, rather than working in fields. Therefore, to engage more people we need to make the agriculture sector economical.

...Continues on Page 7

Fortnight Highlights



MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering took stock of the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport, Leh on April 20.



Horticulture Department, Leh organised a one-day farmer awareness programme on 'Management of Codling Moth Inspect on Apple' at Nimoo. A total of 80 farmers, sarpanch and nambardar of the village took part in the awareness programme.



District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse taking stock of the arrangements at the COVID-19 checkpoint, registration point, and COVID Care centre in Khaltse.



All Ladakh Tour Operator Association (ALTOA) elected Deleks Namgyal as a new president and Stanzin Norbu (Babu) as General secretary.



Aryan valley women performing a folk dance during the Apricot Blossom Festival-Chuli Mentok 2021 at Baima, Aryan valley. The festival was organised by the Tourism Department, UT Ladakh.

Secretary, Animal Husbandry convenes meeting to boost dairy sector in Ladakh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary Animal /Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries Department, Ravinder Kumar discussed issues of the Dairy Sector in UT Ladakh in a meeting with the Managing Director, Mother Dairy and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) on April 22.

Secretary, Ravinder Kumar informed that the department has requested National Dairy Development Board, Mother Dairy, IDMC to support them in making the existing plant successful and to harness the potential of the dairy sector of Ladakh. He added that the department has done a benchmark survey for both Leh and Kargil district and added that Ladakh produces sur-

plus approx 16,000 liters of milk per day.

He informed that due to the lack of a pasteurization facility in UT Ladakh, Ladakh is facing a shortage of fresh and packaged milk in winter and unable to meet the demand of local and Army.

He further informed that a team from NDDB had visited Ladakh to see the technical aspect of the plant and suggested some changes. Secretary further informed that around 66 cooperatives societies are in the process of registration and as soon as it gets registered in both the districts, the department will be forming the Milk Federation. He added that the department is planning to cater to the locals, army and

tourists and added that there will be no scarcity of demand.

It was discussed in the meeting that preference should be given to the local benefits and increasing the farmer income through dairy sector. It was informed that Ladakh has a potential for indigenous cow milk and yak cheese. Also, the department is planning to export yak cheese and butter.

He added that the plant would boost the dairy sector of the district by the establishment of new milk cooperatives and by providing organized milk marketing support.

It was informed that Leh has 4 Bulk Milk Coolers (BMC) and 42 villages in a radius of 100 km are associated with the BMC. It was further informed that the pasteurization plan will get functional with the help of IDMC by the end of September.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director, Mother Dairy India; Director Animal/ Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Leh/Kargil and Deputy Registrar Cooperative, Leh/Kargil.

KREDA governing body meeting convenes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan chaired a meeting of the Government Board of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) at Tourist Facilitation Centre Bemathang on April 26.

The meeting was convened to aware board members about the successful projects executed by KREDA during the last couple of years, generation of revenue from these projects to LAHDC, Kargil as well as restructuring of KREDA to transform and streamline the administration besides functioning of the agency for its better and mechanised work.

Various issues including the pro-

motion of some employees, approval for creation of Accounts Officer and Assistant Engineers posts, stipend to affiliated employees among other relevant issues were discussed.

It was informed that power is presently being supplied to the grid from the 1 MW Chilong SHP and 1.5 MW Sangrah SHP and to the Drass region from 1.5 MW SHP Benaras.

Feroz Ahmed Khan said that the projects of KREDA funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy GoI, have become a major source of revenue for the LAHDC which is going to generate around 5 crore a year from all these small hydro projects. He further said the upcoming projects including SHP Matayen, SHP Khandi, SHP Raru,

and SHP Zunkul shall make KREDA and the LAHDC reasonably more efficient in serving the people and generating revenue and source of income in the area apart from making Ladakh carbon neutral by considerably minimizing the use of DG sets for electricity.

Project Director KREDA, Kachho Ahmad Khan gave a detailed presentation over achievements of the agency, ongoing and completed projects, revenue generation, and vision 2050 of the agency.

KREDA also requested the board for revalidation of funds surrendered last year under Capex Budget and also to approve the newly proposed works which were assured to be considered for a timely release.

Training on Big Data Analytics, Cyber Security concludes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Around 35 participants from various departments, including Planning, Information Technology, Police, Statistical, GAD and NIELET, took part in the three-day training programme on 'Big Data Analytics & Cyber Security' from April 23 to 25 in Leh.

Big Data Analytics and Cyber Security training focus on efficient sourcing of data, processing of data with contemporary IT tools, and optimization of analysis of big data. The training will extensively deal with cybersecurity, issues of hacking, protection from security threats, investigation, and legal matters surrounding cybersecurity.

Earlier this month two more training were conducted for the officers of Ladakh administration, one on 'Govt. Process Re-engineering' and another 3-day training on 'Detail Project Report (DPR), Request For Proposal (RFP) and Contract Manage-

ment. The training was attended by senior and middle-level officers including Secretaries to the Government. Over 100 participants took part in all three trainings.

Information Technology Department has been conducting this training in collaboration with the National Institute for Smart Governance (NISG), Hyderabad. The NISG has been pulling in expert resources from various parts of the country. The experts conducting the training were Satayjit Vagvala, SGM NISG; G. Chamu, GM NISG; Jagdish Viswanathan, GM, NISG; Madala Venkateshwarlu, Founder Ciberts; and Sandeep Madulkar, CEO, Sytech Labs.

While inaugurating the training programme, Secretary, Information Technology, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas said, "The administration of UT Ladakh looks forward to empowering the officials of the Union Territory with the latest and contemporary knowledge and skills in Information

Technology".

"The importance of cybersecurity both in the larger public domain and personnel computing needs cannot be understated. We need to be fully conversant as responsible public servants in these fields," added Biswas.

Chief Guest of the concluding day, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ladakh, Bhim Sen Tuti, Tuti complemented the information technology department for organizing such interesting and useful training and informed the audience of their efforts to build capacity by conducting four training sessions over the last three months. He termed data analytics as a powerful tool, especially in the hands of police officers. He further requested NIC and the IT department to invite officials of the police department to participate whenever such training is held in the future.

Later, certificates were distributed to the participants.

Ladakh Traffic Police to use Radar Speed Gun to check speeding

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Traffic Police Ladakh under the supervision of PHQ, Ladakh launched Radar Speed Gun to check the menace of overspeeding and rash driving on April 20.

SP Traffic Ladakh, Mohd. Rafi Giri-JKPS; DySP Traffic Leh, Rigzin Sandup-JKP; DTI Leh, Inspector Rigzin, Flying Squad in charge Inspector Raja Abdhulla, SOs of traffic, and other officers/officials of the traffic wing were present.

The overspeeding challans were carried on by traffic police by modern digital Radar Speed Gun at Airport Road.

SP Traffic Ladakh, Mohd. Rafi Giri said that the present launch is a part of already initiated traffic reform initiatives which are being implemented on the ground under the direct supervision and control of Chief of Ladakh Police, ADGP, S.S Khandare-IPS, and guidance of DIG Ladakh Range, B.S Tuti-IPS.

He said that in the recent past people-friendly e-challaning was incorporated by traffic police which is yielding good results



Traffic Police Ladakh during the launch of Radar Speed Gun to detect overspeeding vehicles.

and is being appreciated by the public. He said that one of the major reasons for accidents on the roads of the area has been overspeeding and rash driving and to curb the same we needed modern Radar Speed Gun which records the speed of the vehicles while plying which is used as strong evidence to challan the offender in the court of law.

SP Traffic also informed that after the new Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019 punishment and a fine of different offenses has been increased to control accidents and loss of precious lives on the road. He said that Radar Speed Gun would prove a strong deterrent to check and curb rash

driving and overspeeding.

Sharing further plans, he said that Ladakh Police in the coming months has various plans and proposals for a better traffic system. A traffic study of Leh and Kargil is being carried on through expert traffic engineers and also modern traffic gadgets are being procured, he added.

DySP Traffic Leh, Rigzin Sandup requested people to cooperate with traffic police while obeying traffic rules for a better traffic system in both Leh and Kargil districts.

Traffic police are taking all necessary steps to improve and make the traffic system of Ladakh better.

NOTICE

I, Puntsog Namgail S/o Tsering Angdu R/o Khaltsey, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK-1020150015517 and I am 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.

NOTICE

I, Tsering Angchok, R/o Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my Fitness Certificate, Registration Certificate, and Vehicle Permit bearing no. JK-10 4036 and I am 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.

NOTICE

I, Tsewang Rigzen S/o Tashi Norboo R/o Diskit Nubra, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK-1019870012368 and I am 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.

NOTICE

No. 9926290 K Rank Nk Tsewang Sangdup S/o Norboo R/o Rongo, Changthang, District Leh U.T Ladakh A/p posted at Utrakhand has claimed that his son date of birth has been wrongly entered as 05-01-2002 instead of 05-01-2004 in the Army record and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh to this office for making necessary correction.

Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in the office within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

Principal Secretary, Pawan Kotwal reviews State/SDP plan of PHE & I&FC



Principal Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Dr. Pawan Kotwal during the review meeting of State/SDP plan of PHE & I&FC at the UT Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Dr. Pawan Kotwal reviewed the State/SDP plan of PHE & I&FC at the UT Secretariat on April 21.

Dr. Pawan instructed the officials from PHE & I&FC to plan a good design purely based on Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) for extraction of water, filtration, storage, and distribution. He further asked the officials to submit a DPR explaining water source,

discharge data, and filtration and asked to involve DCs in preparing the DPR. He further asked to prepare a comprehensive plan incorporating the international norms so that it will work in winters as well.

The component of the DPR should include source development, filtration infrastructure, and reservoir, he added. A project on Engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) mode was also asked to prepare and directed the officials to keep 5 years for maintenance.

The Secretary of the department was asked to examine the existing source, filtration capacity, treatment plant, storage overhead tank, and electromechanical component. He further directed to make use of technology purely based on (SCADA) systems at the water source.

Talking about filtration, Principal Secretary directed the concerned officials to consult the experts about the quality of water that is distributed to people. He added that as per the norms of potable drinking water it should be filtered and then distributed among the people. He added that the distribution network should be laid deep underground so that the pipelines do not get damaged in the winter due to frosting so that safe drinking water could be supplied 24X7 during the whole year.

Chief Engineer Hydraulics, Superintendent Engineer, Hydraulics, Kargil; Executive Engineer, PHE Leh/Kargil; Executive Engineer, I&FC Leh/Kargil, and DD Planning were present.

DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve takes stock of irrigation system at Sodh area



DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve along with officials taking stock of the pace of progress on the construction of lift irrigation system at Sodh area, Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve took stock of the pace of progress on the construction of lift irrigation system at Sodh area on April 23.

Superintending Engineer, PWD Kargil, Er Ved Prakash; Executive Engineer, Mechanical Divi-

sion, Er Om Prakash; Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Tsering Dorjay; Project Director, KREDA Kacho Ahmad Khan besides other concerned officers accompanied the DC during the tour.

The Deputy Commissioner while inquiring from the concerned officers about the present status of the project stressed the

need to ensure completion of the remaining work to make it a sustainable water source for the people of Sodh which is facing a shortage of irrigation water. He inspected the pump house, lifting pipes, water tanks, and other components of the project.

He said that a detailed meeting of all concerned departments and executing agencies will be convened soon to discuss the requirements and other expenditures likely to be incurred on the first stage of the project. He also stressed devising sustainable solutions to make the long-pending project a successful one.

While underlining the need to shift the pump house to a different location as the current location is at a flood-prone area, the Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned officers to acquire the required land for the said purpose.

Governing body of LREDA discusses issues, plans & strategies

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson also the Chairman of the Governing body of Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA) discussed issues and strategies for strengthening LREDA on April 21 at Council Secretariat.

Project Director LREDA, Nisar Ahmed gave a presentation on the work done so far under LREDA and discussed plans and proposals for considerations. He apprised the house of the successfully commissioned and inaugurated Solar Power Plants (SPP) at Turtuk, Hanle-Pungog, Hanle-TR, Rebel Sumdo, Dipling, 169 Solar Street lights from Chuchot Yokma to Gongma, the first-ever Rooftop SPP at SWM Plant in Skampari Leh and Hydro project at Chamshen, Nubra.

The meeting discussed major agenda points which include the requirement of Service Charge for projects by LREDA, Strengthening/Improvement of



Governing body of Ladakh Renewable Energy Development Agency (LREDA) during a meeting at the Council Secretariat.

Transmission lines for Hydro Projects, Approval for new MHP at Sasoma, Approval for the expenditure of LREDA revenue/balance payments for meeting salary requirements, and office expenses and the requirement of manpower at LREDA.

Few sustainable projects with the consent of all the Governing body members of LREDA were also approved during the meeting and also allowed to cover up pending revenue issues from the liabilities of executed projects. The house

also took decisions on important issues and had a wide discussion to find unanimous solutions at certain necessary points.

Dy Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Tsering Angchuk; DC/CEO LAHDC Leh, Shrikant Suse who is also the Vice-Chairman of LREDA; Executive Councillors; I/C PWD Leh, Nisar Ahmed; SE PDD, Tsewang Paljor; Xen PDD, Tundup Spaljang; CCF LAHDC Leh, Jigmat Namgail and Project Engineers of LREDA were present during the meeting.

Engaging youth in agriculture

...Continued from Page 4

could make a handsome amount of money.

I would like to attract the attention of youth to poultry, dairy and fisheries as well because it is also related to agriculture. Today we import eggs, milk, and fish, but it can be fulfilled here by interested youth. If we do free-range poultry (open poultry) then the size and quality of the eggs will be best in comparison. Similarly, fisheries and dairies have become the need of the hour.

By engaging the youth we could also solve the shortage of vegetables in winter. The need is to support interested youth and farmers that could

grow vegetables at the commercial level by providing them 5-6 greenhouses.

I started a programme called 'Agri Agro Tourism' at Chushot to give tourists hand on experience of our traditional agriculture system. It is commercially quite successful as tourists pay to do work in fields. It can be connected with homestays and will be more successful in rural areas.

At last, we must remember that we are surrounded by two hostile neighbours and completely depend on tourism is not a wise idea. So exploration of agriculture and other sectors is a necessity for sustainability.

In conversation with Stanzin Chosphe

...Continued from Page 7

Q. How important is it to engage educated youth in the agriculture sector? How it can be done?

There are a lot of opportunities in the agriculture sector for youths. Time has changed now, youth in the agriculture sector with knowledge of the market, and the latest technologies can play an extensive role in making the agriculture sector profitable.

We are also working at our level to engage educated youth in the sector. Youth can form FPO (Farmer Producer Organisation) which has many structures with a lot of scopes in it because to run FPO it requires educated youth who could write, audit, negotiate, and how to take the benefits of the schemes, etc. At the department level, we provide seeds, hybrid vegetable seeds, and agricultural tools, etc. to attract youth.

NOTICE

We the following persons, propose to register a Non-profitable NGO under the name and Style as 'Dudtul Tharpaling Gonpa Society Hanu Thang' 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/Spouse	Residence	Designation
1	Ishey Stanzin	Gurmat Dorjay	Hanu	President
2	Murup Dorjay	Nawang Chosphe	-do-	Vice-President
3	Thubstan Dorjay	Sonam Dorjay	-do-	Secretary
4	Sonam Angdu	Stanzin Dorjay	-do-	Joint Secretary
5	Rinchen Tundup	Skarma Stanphel	-do-	Cashier
6	Tsewang Namgyal	Tashi Bulu	-do-	Member
7	Sonam Stobdan	Tundup Sonam	-do-	-do-
8	Tundup Dorjay	Tsering Dorjay	-do-	-do-
9	Rinchen Namgyal	Tsewang Namgyal	-do-	-do-
10	Tsewang Phunchok	Tsering Tashi	-do-	-do-

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
'Dudtul Tharpaling Gonpa Society Hanu Thang' Leh, UT Ladakh



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