

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Pregnant Blue sheep killed in Rong valley of Changthang, poachers missing



The body of the dead pregnant blue sheep.

Morup Stanzin & Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Yet another poaching incident has been registered in Leh district. The poachers killed a blue sheep between Kairy and Nee village in Rong Changthang on May 13. Although the body of the blue sheep has been recovered, the identity of the poachers hasn't been ascertained yet. No arrests have taken place so far.

According to reports, the incident came to the notice of the Wildlife team returning from Hanley. The wildlife rangers found a suspicious army vehicle and started inspecting it. They found a few men carrying the dead blue sheep to the other side of the river. The poachers fled when the wildlife team tried to catch hold of them.

Sources reveal that the blue sheep was pregnant and was carrying an 8-month-old dead fetus in her womb.

Sajid Sultan, Regional Wildlife Warden, said: "The incident took place in the evening, and around 6 to 7 people are involved in the poaching case. As soon our people tried to chase them, they managed to escape leaving behind the carcass of the blue sheep."

"Traces of bullet were found inside the body during the autopsy that confirms that it is a case of poaching. We have solid evidence, and we have filed the POR and initiated the departmental enquiry. We will serve notice to the suspects on our radar. Once the investigation is over, we would submit the final report to the court for further hearing," he added.

"Since we found an army vehicle at the spot, it wouldn't be difficult for us to find the suspects. The cooperation of the Army is a must in this case," he said.

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Leh celebrates low key 2565th Buddha Jayanti amid COVID-19 restriction



Religious procession "Bhumskor" carrying out in Chowkhang Vihara.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: The 2565th Buddha Jayanti celebrated in a subdued manner in Leh without holding big congregations due to the restriction imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ladakh Buddhist Association along with Ladakh Gonpa Association greeted the people of Ladakh and organised a prayer meet with limited monks at Chowkhang Vihara on May 26.

Thupstan Chhewang, President, LBA said, "Due to the prevailing Covid-induced lockdown, the day is celebrated on a subdued note".

He said that everyone is going through a tough phase due to the COVID-19 pandemic and people needs to cooperate and support each other to fight against this virus. He prayed for peace, happiness and prosperity and urged people to follow the COVID-19 protocols and offer the prayers at their home.

He expressed gratitude to all the front-line workers for rendering their service to the welfare of people in these challenging days and urged people to boost their morale and appreciate their work.

Thupstan Chhewang also spoke about the importance of understanding the teachings of Buddha and implementing them practically in our daily life. He expressed the need of translating and imparting Buddha Dharma in a simple spoken language so that people can understand it in a better way.

Buddha taught, "My teaching is not a philosophy. It is the result of direct experience. My teaching is a means of practice, not something to hold onto or worship. My teaching is like a raft used to cross the river. Only a fool would carry the raft around after he had already reached the other shore of liberation." He advised not to accept his words on blind faith but to decide for themselves

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Courtesy Tsetan Angmo

LITTLE STEPS

STAY INDOOR
 WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY
 SNEEZE OR COUGH IN YOUR ARMS

BIG PREVENTION AGAINST COVID 19

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.

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Zanskar, Nubra to get connected to national power grid

L-G Mathur congratulates people of Ladakh on approval of transmission lines

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The Ministry of Power approved intrastate transmission line with an outlay of ₹1309.71 crore for Zanskar and Nubra.

The project will include 220 KV S/C transmission lines of D/C tower (total 307 Km) including Kargil-Padum (Zanskar) (207 Km) and Phyang to Diskit (Nubra) (100Km) and two 220/33 KV Grid substation – one each at Diskit, Nubra (50MVA) and Padum, Zanskar (50MVA).

Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur congratulated the people of Ladakh on the approval of intra-state transmission works for Zanskar and Nubra.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Home Minister, Amit Shah and Power Minister R.K. Singh.

Secretary Power, UT Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar said that these projects were part of PM Development Package (PMDP) 2015 which could not have been taken up due to various issues. However, due to the effort of LG, both the Chief Executive Councillors (Leh & Kargil), Member of Parliament and Advisor to LG Ladakh, the project is now approved and ready for tendering, he informed.

He further added that REC Transmission Projects Company Limited (RECTPCL) is the Project Im-

plementing Agency for executing the transmission works in Ladakh while Power Grid Corporation India Limited (PGCIL) is the Project Management Agency. He also informed that the DPR cost of the projects has been revised from ₹354.74 crore to the tune of ₹1309.71 crore by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

These transmission lines will link far-flung villages to the Grid and phase out DG sets used in far-flung villages thus taking one more step towards achieving Carbon Neutrality in Ladakh. He added that this will also provide the Army and far-flung villages with clean power round the clock.

MP Ladakh chairs DISHA meeting in Kargil

Stresses for proper implementation of central sponsored schemes



MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal chairing a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) in Kargil.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) on May 22 and reviewed the progress achieved under different centrally sponsored schemes in Kargil district.

Deputy Commissioner, Kargil/Member Secretary DISHA, Santosh Sukhadeve briefed about the physical and financial progress achieved on various centrally sponsored schemes presently executed by various departments in the district.

MP Ladakh inquired from the concerned officers in detail the status of progress achieved so far under the flagship schemes like CRF, PMGSY, FMP, AMRUT, PMAY-G, PMKKKY, NHM, SBA, PMUY, PMAGY, PMFBY, RKVY, PKVY, ENAM and other related schemes. He also sought details about the status of action taken on the decisions made in the last DISHA meeting held in the district.

Under the PMGSY scheme, construction of the road in Tangchay, Zanskar was discussed where work has not started on the second phase due to some reasons. The Executive Engineer PMGSY said that the work will start in a week or 10 days. He further said that notice has been served to the contractor seeking reasons for the delay in starting the project.

The status of the work execution on the lift irrigation schemes at Latoo, Sodh and Phosa Thang were discussed. MP directed to complete the Sodh Lift Irrigation on priority which is a genuine demand of the area.

Under Flood Management Programme, concerned officers were asked to take up the issue with the UT Administration to clear the liabilities and to give him a report accordingly on the progress achieved.

Under PMAY it was informed that beneficiaries from Zanskar have been left out from inclusion in the list of beneficiaries due to some technical reasons. MP in-

structed to update the details of the left out beneficiaries at the earliest possible.

MP Ladakh also reviewed the projects under JJM where the concerned officers gave details of the functional household connections been provided to the beneficiaries. He stressed to take into consideration the local wisdom from elders in villages that would be beneficial in achieving better results under the scheme, adding he underlined the need to identify the available appropriate schemes for projects especially under Centrally Sponsored Schemes instead of including all projects under SDP.

While inquiring about the progress and status of work being made on Pangbar Broq and Yarkashing roads and other road projects under PMGSY, MP asked the Executive Engineer concerned to conduct a field visit and take all requisite measures to improve the status of roads.

Under PM Fasal Beema Yojana, the concerned officers informed that people are not ready to pay a premium for the said scheme as they are small level farmers to which the MP suggested to look for possibilities to pay the premium from the LAHDC funds to benefit the farmers of the district.

MP informed that the State Level DISHA Committee has now been constituted in Ladakh which will prove fruitful in initiating further discussion on the outcome of the district level DISHA Committee meetings at the Commissioner Secretary level.

Pregnant Blue sheep killed in Rong valley of Changthang, poachers missing

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Another poaching of a blue sheep was recorded on December 15 at South Pullu near Khardong La. The case sparked controversy due to the involvement of a Ladakh Police officer.

The rise in the number of poaching cases in Leh district has raised questions over the safety of wild animals and the failure of the District Administration to punish the culprits. These poaching cases show the way the system works.

Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Executive Councillor, Wildlife, Hill Council, Leh, informed that the case is under investigation and the wildlife team has

enough proof in the form of pictures and visuals.

When asked about the status of last year's poaching case of a blue sheep at South Pullu, near Khardong La, Tashi informed that the report has been submitted to the court.

Thinles Nurboo, Councillor, said that he and Executive Councillor for Wildlife are personally monitoring the case. He stated that such incidents are a matter of concern for everyone as Ladakh is rich in biodiversity, geographically vast and scattered.

The need of the hour is to enforce strict law against anyone involved in such practices to stop such incidents in the future.

Hill Council, Leh celebrates symbolic Buddha Purnima

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Amid COVID-19 restriction, LAHDC, Leh symbolically celebrated 2565th Buddha Purnima on May 26 at Council Secretariat, Leh.

Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphe, and officials were present.

CEC Gyalson greeted all the people of Ladakh on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima and requested them to celebrate this year's Buddha Purnima at their respective homes. He stated that the current Covid pandemic situation is the perfect time to revisit Buddha's teachings as it can be the guiding light for a peaceful and sustainable world. He added that Buddha's method of introspection and awakening is what we need to show us the path in these troubling times.



Symbolic 2565th Buddha Purnima celebration at Council Secretariat, Leh

Later, Hill Council and District Administration, Leh led by CEC Tashi Gyalson and DC Shrikant Balasaheb Suse distributed refreshments to the COVID affected patients and Para-medical staff deployed at SNM Hospital Leh, dedicated COVID hospitals of Mahabodhi and Ladakh Heart Foundation, and the COVID Care Centre at Dharma center, Choglamsar.

All the officials reviewed current situations and assured all assistance in providing requirements.

Appreciating the initiative of Blood Donors Association Leh, CEC Gyalson voluntarily donated blood at the Blood Bank, SNM Hospital Leh, and further encourages every eligible volunteer of Leh to take part in the noble cause.

Commissioner Secretary, Sahu, inspects under construction Sewage Treatment Plant

First Sewage Treatment Plant of Ladakh to become operational by August 2021



Commissioner Secretary, Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviewing the ongoing work being executed by Housing & Urban Development Department in Leh town.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner Secretary, Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviewed the ongoing developmental work being executed by Housing & Urban Development Department in Leh town on May 27.

During the tour of the town, Ajeet Kumar Sahu inspected the work at 3 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant, site of the proposed commercial building site of MC Leh, Water Supply Plant at Choglamsar and Multi-Tier Parking site at Pologround.

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Ladakh Zahida Bano; Nissar Hussain Kakpuri, SE, PWD, Leh and Mohd Ali PHE besides officers and officials from various departments were also present.

Commissioner Secretary, Sahu was informed that the ₹ 13.78 crore project of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is of 3 MLD (3 million litres per day) capacity and based on SBR technology. 99% of the civil works of the project have been completed. Around 60-70% of the electromechanical component/

equipment have also procured and reached the site while the remaining 30% of material is on the way. It was further informed that 61.60 km of sewer line has already been laid covering most of the Leh Town to feed the STP.

Sahu instructed the concerned officials to start the installation of the mechanical components within a week and complete it by or before July end so that the STP is fully operational by 15 August. He also asked the concerned engineers to inspect the whole sewer line immediately as few complaints of leakages have been received and complete the repair/restoration work immediately before completion of the STP.

He further directed the Director H&UDD to start a plantation drive in coordination with the Forest and Horticulture Department to cover the whole area with suitable plants. He also asked to construct a small model for demonstration and educational purposes. For the lower part of the site, he directed the concerned officials to prepare the DPR for the reuse of treated water for recreational and

irrigation purposes. The Director H&UDD was asked to prepare a list of all the pending issues including the manpower need and preparation of Operation Manuals to ensure the operationalization of the plant within the stipulated time. He also asked the officers to procure additional suction tankers to cover the area not having the sewage network, considering the higher capacity of the STP.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary inspected the Dambuchan site where the Municipal Committee is planning to construct a commercial complex. He asked the concerned to immediately tender the work so that work is started on the ground soon.

While inspecting the lift water supply scheme of Leh town at Choglamsar, Commissioner Secretary asked the SE to float the tender early for the work of preparing DPR for filtration plant for all the water supply schemes of Leh town and 24x7 water supply to all households of the town. He also directed to identify the leakage points promptly and repair the same on a regular basis.

Thereafter, Sahu inspected the ongoing multi-tier parking at Pologround and expressed concern about the slow progress of the work. He asked the Director H&UDD to immediately issue notice to JKPC for the delay and call the contractor on site to submit their schedule of execution. The six-storey parking, coming up at an estimated cost of ₹ 27 crore under AMRUT will play a vital role in the decongestion of vehicular traffic in Leh town besides providing a convenient driving ambience for the people.

Leh celebrates low key 2565th Buddha Jayanti amid COVID-19 restriction

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whether his teachings are right or wrong, then follow them.

Speaking about the importance of the day, Venerable, Geshes Yangjor, Vice President, Ladakh Gonpa Association said, "Saka Dawa is the holiest day for

the Buddhist as it concurs three important events of the Buddha's life including his birth, enlightenment and parinirvana. The day falls on the full moon day, 15th of the Fourth month of the Tibetan Buddhist calendar".

Religious procession "Bhumskor" was carried in Chowkhang Vihara.

₹2350 lakh plan approved for mid-day meal in Ladakh

Advisor Ladakh chairs meeting of Steering cum monitoring committee



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula also the Chairman of UT level Steering Cum Monitoring Committee (SLMC) reviewed the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in UT Ladakh on May 28.

The UT level Steering cum Monitoring Committee approved the annual plan for 2021-22 under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for ₹2350 lakh covering 16248 students of 814 schools for submission to GoI.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme aims to improve the nutritional status of children from class 1st to 8th studying in Government schools and encourage underprivileged children to attend school on regular basis. It was launched to give a boost to the universalization of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance.

The meeting was coordinated by Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Commissioner Secretary School Education Department who is also the Member Secretary of the Committee. The meeting was attended by Dr Pawan Kotwal, Principal Secretary Health; Sa-

gat Biswas, Secretary CAPD; Padma Angmo, Secretary, Social Welfare; Santosh Sukhdeve, DC Kargil; Mumtaz Ali, Director Social Welfare, Ladakh besides other members of UT level Steering -Cum Monitoring Committee (SLMC).

Safdar Ali, Director of School Education made a presentation on the physical and financial achievement of the scheme during FY 2020-21 and placed before the committee the current year's plan for consideration.

It was informed that given the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of schools, dry food grains were distributed among the eligible students and the cooking cost was credited in their bank accounts in place of providing a cooked meal in schools under the scheme. Accordingly, the School Education Department Ladakh with the help of the Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has distributed 414 MT of dry ration to 16319 eligible students in 817 schools under this scheme. A total of ₹320 lakh were spent under the scheme during last FY on procurement of ration and meeting other recurring costs. It was

informed that construction work of Kitchen cum Stores could not be taken up last year due to the COVID pandemic and also due to the non-release of required funds.

Advisor Narula directed the School Education Department to project the requirement for distribution of fortified food grain under the scheme to ensure nutritional security of the children to address anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency in them. He directed Secretary CAPD to follow up the case of fortified food grain with the concerned quarter.

Narula also asked the department to examine the feasibility of providing a solar-based induction cooker for cooking meals in the schools to discourage fossil fuels and promote carbon neutrality. He asked the Director of School Education to take up at least 200 schools this year on a pilot basis to provide solar-based cooker.

He further directed Panchayats and community to be actively involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the mid-day meal scheme and asked the Secretary Rural development to add this in the agenda while meeting with the PRI representatives.

The School Education Department was asked to get the impact evaluation of the scheme done through an expert agency. It was informed that the Social Welfare Department has already finalised arrangements with the Indian Institute of Population Sciences for Impact Analysis of the ICDS scheme and MDM is also a part of the whole analysis.

Distribution of free ration under PMGKAY-III started in Ladakh

18% distributed till date; 100% by May end, informs Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies Department

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Phase III (PMGKAY Phase- III) members of the AAY and PHH categories will receive 5 kgs of food grain per soul per month comprising 3.5 kg of rice and 1.5 kg of atta in May and June 2021.

Food and Civil Supplies Department of Ladakh Secretary, Saugat Biswas convened a review meeting on May 19. He lauded the efforts of the Director, FCS&CA Ladakh, Anil Kaul and the officers of the Department for commencing distribution of food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Phase III (PMGKAY Phase- III) timely.

The Director FCS & CA informed that this free ration for May and June 2021 is being provided in one go to the bene-



ficiaries. The scheme shall benefit 1,37,844 individuals out of which 27,177 individuals and 1,10,667 individuals belong to the AAY and PHH categories respectively.

He further apprised that the department has lifted 1378 MT for distribution under the scheme out of which 245 MT i.e 18% of the distribution has already

been made. The ration is being distributed keeping all COVID protocols in view. He apprised that rationees having any grievances can call the toll free no of the department (14445) during working hours.

Secretary Biswas directed for the completion of the distribution of the ration under the scheme by the end of May.

Principal Secretary, Pawan Kotwal chairs Animal Birth Control meeting

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired a meeting regarding issues of Animal Birth Control in the Union Territory of Ladakh on May 27.

Principal Secretary, Dr Kotwal stressed that the necessary efforts should be made to control the nuisance of stray dogs in the Union Territory. He exhorted that stray/feral dogs could be a danger to the highly valued wildlife present in the region and also a threat to the common citizens.

The concerned officials were asked to prepare a detailed proj-

ect report concerning the birth control of stray dogs scientifically. He further stressed that the birth control mechanism of spaying / ovariectomy among female dogs should be prioritized and state of art facilities should be set up and the latest dog catching equipment should be procured to undertake the sterilization programme effectively.

Dr Kotwal said that the animal birth control programme should be launched in a mission mode with intra-departmental assistance between Animal Husbandry and the Forest Department. He also directed that the person-

nels involved in this programme should be highly trained in order to achieve better results. He also expressed hope to finish this task of sterilizing the whole population of stray dogs in UT Ladakh within a time period of six months.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, UT Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar; Chief Conservator Forest, UT Ladakh, Preet Pal Singh and Director, Animal, Sheep Husbandry, UT Ladakh, Dr Mohammad Iqbal and Accounts Officer to Director, Dr Stanzin Rabgyas.

Ladakh to promote solar-based irrigation pumps

Commissioner Secretary reviews work of Irrigation and Flood Control sector

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Commissioner Secretary, Public Health Engineering/Irrigation & Flood Control, Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviewed the progress of the works under the Irrigation and Flood Control Department in the UT Ladakh on May 25.

After the direction from the L-G, RK Mathur, the Irrigation & Flood Control Department is implementing a scheme to provide solar-based irrigation pumps to provide irrigation facility in identified drought-prone areas.

Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control, Ladakh informed that both the districts have started the process of procurement of pumps and these would be installed in identified areas in the next four months. The scheme is based on a successful pilot done by Ladakh Administration last year. Besides, the department is also doing a pilot on mobile pumps to lift the river water for irrigation purposes which would be the first of its kind and provide immediate irrigation facility without the need of creating much civil infrastructure.

Another major project work reviewed was the ₹53.32 crore Parkachik project in Kargil with a command area of 2262 hectares. It has a tunnel of around 900 meters out of which work



Commissioner Secretary, Public Health Engineering/Irrigation & Flood Control, Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviewing Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

is completed for around 550 meters. The work on both sides of the tunnel has started and expected to be completed by September 2021.

Commissioner Secretary asked the concerned engineers to ensure completion of allied and remaining works so that the scheme is made operational on time.

He also directed the Engineers to send the budget proposals / UCs under AIBP/FMP for the year 2021-22 without any further delay and also to prepare additional project proposals for funding under AIBP so that the maximum area can be brought under Irrigation. He directed the officials of both the districts to hire a consultant to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) as per the AIBP guidelines. Also, he directed the engineers to sub-

mit the proposal for the storage project. It was informed that a tender has already been floated to hire experts to prepare DPRs for new projects.

Chief Engineer was asked to ensure that all the schemes are audited in time by the AG auditors and their observations are replied to expeditiously.

He directed the Chief Engineers and SEs to personally monitor the execution of works and regularly follow up on the pending issues so that physical and financial targets are achieved on time.

The meeting was attended by Engineer, Fareed Chaudhary; Chief Engineer, PHE/I&FC Department; Superintending Engineer, Kargil; Executive Engineer, I&FC Leh and Executive Engineer, I&FC, Kargil besides other departmental officers.

L-G Mathur reviews COVID status, stresses intensify testing across villages

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur convened a review meeting of Ladakh's COVID preparedness on May 22.

Director Health, Dr. Phuntsog Angchuk gave LG Mathur a detailed account of the current number of COVID patients, their condition, and current bed occupancy and also apprised him about the available equipment and medicines. The department also informed about items being procured, including medicines, RT-PCR testing kits, oxygen cylinders etc.

L-G Mathur directed the department to complete stocking of COVID essentials for the next 04 months on an urgent basis to avoid any shortages in the months to come. He also stressed intensifying testing across villages to control the spread of the virus.

Discussing the status of the upcoming oxygen plants at

Zaskar, Drass and Nubra under PM Care with 100 litres per minute capacity, Principal Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal apprised LG Mathur that the plants will be set up by next month, while an additional proposal for installation of 1000 litre oxygen plants, one each at Leh and Kargil has already been submitted to the Health Ministry.

The meeting also held deliberations upon preparing for the third wave of the ongoing pandemic. LG Mathur directed the department to begin infrastructural development and strengthening of the pediatric section, development of more ICU beds equipped with oxygen supply, manpower, oxygen plants etc.

Talking about the prevailing shortage of paediatricians and anaesthetists, LG Mathur stated that the issue must be solved with the help of immediate advertisements for recruitment while providing training to general doctors by present paed-

atricians and anaesthetists will prove helpful in times of urgent need.

LG Mathur also directed the department to build up medicine stock for black fungus for an immediate emergency, while also ensuring close monitoring of patients with high sugar levels.

Taking into account the detection of positive cases while intensifying tests across villages, LG Mathur instructed to ensure that identified health facilities in rural areas may be equipped with basic facilities such as medicines, oxy-meters etc. He also appealed to all to follow guidelines relating to funerals, marriages, other social functions etc.

He requested all stakeholders to assist and undertake extensive publicity to promote adherence to guidelines.

LG Mathur also took stock of the situation of migrant labourers and instructed both the DCs to ensure their welfare.

People's Voice

By Tsering Chosdon

It had been more than a year and we are still fighting against the pandemic. In the mid of April, we were hit by the second wave and looking at the boom in cases administration took measures by imposing lockdown with certain relaxations. As we see the constant rise in cases there is still no clear road to better days. Let's read what they have to say about the pandemic and measures taken to contain the virus.



PHUNTSOK DOLMA, Farmer: The pandemic has affected all kinds of work since March 2020 and all of us are facing huge loss financially but the priority is our health so we need to be more concerned about our health. As farmers, we have been consistently farming but there is no sale of vegetables as the restaurants and hotels are not functioning well. We are also not being able to sell our vegetables in the main market. The pandemic has no doubt gotten everyone working on fields and helping each other with it. The people who have normal jobs and children going to schools are now farming and it is so pleasing to see everyone together like this.

Lockdown is need of the hour and our village (Gompa) has been firm taking all precautions by not allowing even their labourers to go out of the village. But, the timing to buy essentials has become inconvenient for people with no vehicles and people living far away from the shops have to go down within 7 am to 11 am.

Taking into account that last year around this time there were no tourists allowed and now the inflow of tourists is also one of the main issues. The people who are facing the most problems are the labourers in this lockdown. We are fortunate enough to eat our meals but it is disheartened to see the labourers who are finding it hard to find a one-time meal and they are the ones getting infected by COVID easily due to low immunity. They come here to work for us so we should look out for them.

The vaccination campaign is going on in full swing but unfortunate-

Is lockdown a solution to contain the second COVID wave?

ly, some people spread rumours that the vaccine is not safe which is why many refuse to get vaccinated. The vaccines are made by our skilled doctors who would never give us the wrong dose. I would request everyone to get vaccinated. The front line workers are working so hard day and night for us therefore we need to follow the norms.



SHENAZ SHAFI, Assistant Engineer REW, Leh: We have already seen last year how everything was handled in the beginning, the administration had imposed a full lockdown. There were few cases, no flights for tourists, residents from outside Ladakh were brought home safely and much hold over everything. Accordingly, after knowing about the arrival of the second wave we should have been prepared for the worse. The amenities are still not enough to even after a year of this pandemic.

When people from my office were tested positive they were quarantined or hospitalized but other colleagues and I were still supposed to go to the office without a test. If a single person in the office tests positive the whole office should have their test done and our office was not even sanitized. We have rosters to curb the administration like blue chart and green chart but the offices should not be having rosters instead the sarpanch of every village should allot rosters to each family belonging to their village so that they do not face problems like huge crowd while buying the essentials. All the offices should remain close for two weeks. The 3-4 hours window turned out to be a big nuisance as everyone is rushing because of the time barrier. So many of the shopkeepers have also been tested positive.

There are restrictions on the movement of the vehicle without the rosters but there are people who do not have a car or do not know how to drive. We had an office bus for such people but now they have to walk 10kms to reach their office and then later to return home if they do not get a ride they have to again walk back those 10kms. The administration should have looked upon such problems.

I feel there should be a full lockdown for the time being but bearing in mind the labour class who I do not see living and thriving during a lockdown. There was a drive-in Saboo where the people were getting ration for labourers but even the non-labourers, who are fortunate

enough to buy their ration were also taking. Such acts should not be allowed and only the Below Poverty Line people should be allowed. If there is a full lockdown in future then the contractors should at least provide their labourers with food if not wages. Tourists should not be allowed for now as it is not the time to entertain people, it is more about living and saving ourselves from this pandemic. We can live without a road or a bridge for a year but we cannot lose our people anymore. We should understand the gravity of the situation that we are in and we are completely heading towards the third wave. If we do not do anything about it now then we might be left with half of our population.



STANZIN JIGMET, MBA student: The brunt of the COVID pandemic which started in 2020 wreaked havoc on locals as much as the entire world in the form of emotional trauma and financial insolvency. It prolonged in the form of a second wave causing similar trauma if not more. There are 100 beds with oxygen available at SNM hospital and around 34 in Mahabodhi. If we are seeing a rise in COVID cases the main motive should be making more beds and necessary arrangements available. If this is not happening and the lockdown is imposed to settle with the number of cases then we are just delaying the number of deaths or cases.

As our honourable Prime Minister had already mentioned during the second wave speech that lockdown should be the last resort. In the case of India if we take last year's example when there was no lockdown the cases were declining and when there was a lockdown the cases were increasing. This is the biggest proof that the lockdown was a big failure. The negative impacts of lockdown seen later were terrifying in the country, we could also see the same situation.

Management intends to make sure people have access to essentials and necessary precautions are in place while doing it. Though 7 am to 11 am timings have proven to be effective in allowing people to procure their daily needs, but other aspects of life such as going to the bank for depositing cheques or withdrawals have been hindered greatly because everyone does not have net banking. Furthermore

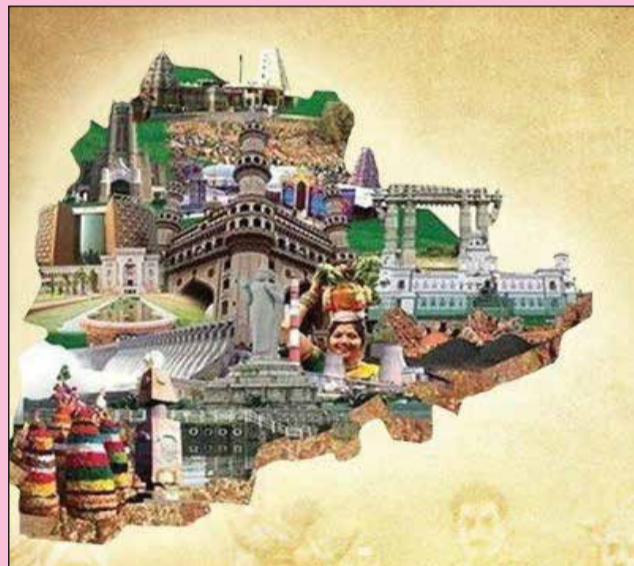
...Continues on Page 7

The World of Juniors

Telangana Formation Day

Telangana Formation Day is celebrated every year on June 2 in the state. This day is being observed from 2014 when the state was formed via the Telangana Bill passed in the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha. On March 4, 2014, the Government of India declared June 2 as the Telangana Formation Day. The birth of the state and the struggle that went into the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh is remembered on this day. The state has a glorious history of at least two thousand five hundred years or more. The struggle of Telangana to generate a new state began in the early 1950s.

In the April 2014 elections, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) emerged victorious and K Chandrashekar Rao was sworn in as the first Chief Minister of Telangana. The name Telangana is derived from the words *Telugu Angana*, meaning a place where Telugu is spoken.



DID YOU KNOW?



Brihadeswara Temple



World Environment Day

World Environment Day is observed every year on 5 June and is celebrated by more than 100 countries. The first celebration, under the slogan "Only One Earth" took place in 1974.



Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus are studies, which originated in India.



The World's First Granite Temple is the Brihadeswara Temple at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. The shikhara of the temple is made from a single 80-tonne piece of granite. This magnificent temple was built in just five years, (between 1004 AD and 1009 AD) during the reign of Rajaraja Chola.



The Art of Navigation & Navigating was born in the river Sindh over 6000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word 'NAVGATHI'. The word navy is also derived from the Sanskrit word 'Nou'.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

The importance of a diary in life



So many people, and so many times, have been asking about the art of diary writing and its importance in life. Well, diary writing initiates one into writing, and it also inculcates a sense of 'compelling responsibility'. And a diary, after years, becomes one's 'history book', a kind of records of self and others, to be made use of in multiple ways, in the near or distant future.

Diary writing helps one go punctual, and to test and exercise one's memory power. You need to draw a clear and coherent picture of what had happened and when, where and why, so that you do a faithful and sincere recall of whatever has happened since the time you did your last diary entry.

I have read a book, *Nausea*, by one of my favourite authors, Jean-Paul Sartre. Not that it is a great book that will enlighten you, but the fact that it is a collection of Sartre's diary items makes good sense in that a beginner would surely understand the art of diary writing. It makes one understand the meticulous way Sartre had undergone while writing his diary items daily, and at times thrice a day.

That brings out a clear picture of how one has to be highly disciplined, and have a sense of do-or-die purpose in life.

An important point one must know is that most of the great authors had greatly depended on their diaries for their top-selling books. And, at times, for some of them, their diaries became their best-sellers.

William Wordsworth, one of the greatest English poets, had said that diary writing is like "filling your papers with the breathings of your heart." That means one can open one's heart to those who open their hearts and minds without any condition. Your diary happens to be the best example of such 'acceptors'.

And then what I like most of the quotes on diary writing come from American actor-singer Mae West: "Keep a diary, and, one day, it will keep you!"

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Executive Councillor, Hill Council, Leh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. You took up the charge of Rural Development, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Command Area and wildlife. Brief us about the sectors and which sector are you going to focus on a priority basis?

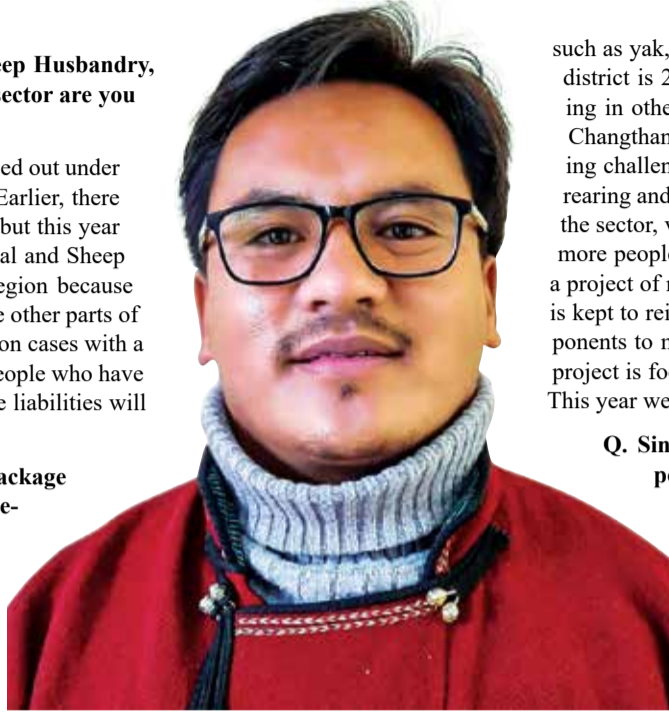
There is various major and minor developmental work that is being carried out under various schemes of every sector. Equal focus is given to every sector. Earlier, there was a challenge to carry out any activities because of the lack of funds but this year enough fund is allocated to carry out the plans effectively. In the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, the focus is made more in the Changthang region because livestock rearing is the main occupation in the region as compared to the other parts of the district. In the wildlife department, there are around 308 compensation cases with a total amount of ₹55,11,970. The amount needs to disburse among the people who have lost their livestock due to wildlife attack during the last three years. The liabilities will be cleared out in the coming days.

Q. Brief us about the Changthang Development Package. How the package will be utilized and what measures are taken to ensure effective implementation on the ground.

Changthang Development Package worth ₹245 crore was released by Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur on August 29, 2020, in Nyoma. The package aims to cater for the core needs of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities of Changthang. The financial package will be covering critical infrastructural development, housing, health, education, employment opportunity, telecommunication, energy, sports, livestock essentials, etc.

The approved annual action plan under SDP for the year 2021-22 is ₹72.63 crore out of which ₹36.32 crore fund is released. Various work such as distribution of pre-fabricated insulated sheds for nomads, pasture and fodder development in Changthang, strengthening of a veterinary hospital, ambulances, construction of a multipurpose indoor stadium, nomadic museum, predator-proof corral pens, insulated houses for the nomads, and purchase of Nomadic Kits such as tents, tarpaulin, portable toilets, gen-sets, radio, etc.

For the effective utilization of the package a series of meeting with all the public representatives from the Changthang region in line with the officials of Animal and Sheep Husbandry was carried out to discuss plans under the developmental package. The meeting was aimed to get feedback and suggestion from the public representative of the concerned areas for a better implementation of works on the ground level.



such as yak, pashmina goats, sheep etc. The total population of sheep and goat in the district is 2.98 lakh, including 2.40 lakh in the Changthang region and the remaining in other parts of the Leh district. Livestock rearing is a potential sector in the Changthang region that needs to be explored and promoted at all levels. The growing challenge at present is that many people in Changthang are giving up livestock rearing and finding other opportunities as a source of income. To revive and promote the sector, various government schemes and plans are introduced to attract more and more people to livestock rearing. Under the Mission Organic Development scheme, a project of reviving the age-old tradition and custom such as Rarzi and Barzi system is kept to reintroduce it and promote livestock rearing which is one of the main components to make organic farming in Ladakh successful. The Rarzi and Barzi system project is focused on villages where the livestock rearing system is already given up. This year we have kept ₹1 crore for Rarzi and Barzi system.

Q. Since you have a charge of Wildlife, what you have to say about the poaching cases happening in Leh. Why the conviction rate in wildlife crime is low?

Every year one to two poaching cases are reported in Leh district which is very unfortunate. Poaching cases are mostly reported in far off places, where human settlement is absent. One of the major challenges is the lack of eye witness in such cases. Under Section 50 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, wildlife department officers are empowered to investigate and book wildlife-related cases. The department is exercising this power which helps in the easy presentation of the case.

The report of the blue sheep poaching case on December 15, 2020, at South Pullu near Khardong La has been submitted to the court. It all depends on the court now.

Training and awareness to all the stakeholders at all levels about the wildlife act, presentation of case categorically and systematically, implementation of the law, etc is very much needed to improve the conviction rate in wildlife cases.

Q. Tell us about the status of the dehairing and milk pasteurization plant. How it is going to benefit the Leh district?

The tender and allotment of the pashmina dehairing plant worth ₹9.36 lakh is completed with the effort of everyone at all levels.

...Continues on Page 6

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ Due to COVID-19 pandemic, many of the projects under various sectors are pending but 100 percent effort is being done to utilize all the funds and make various schemes implemented on the ground effectively. ”

Q. Livestock rearing is one of the important occupations in the Changthang region. Brief us about the potential in the sector and the various initiatives or plans to promote livestock rearing.

Livestock rearing is one of the important and main occupations of the people of Changthang. The region is known for its livestock rearing

Fortnight Highlights



Seva Hi Sangathan: MP, Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal felicitated the COVID warrior stationed at Meenamarg Screening Point with refreshments as a token of thanks for their dedicated hard work during this pandemic.



Labour Department, Kargil organised one day camp for registration and renewal of shops and establishments for shopkeepers at Drass.



CEC and DC Leh taking stock of the ongoing free ration distribution drive for migrant/local labours by the District Administration, Leh.



Swab samples of all government employees/outsourcing/daily wagers in different offices of Leh district were collected for tests. Administration has issued the order to collect COVID samples due to the surge in COVID-19 cases in Leh district to take necessary measures to prevent its spread at workplaces.



CEC, Hill Council, Leh Advocate Tashi Gyalson donating blood, appreciates blood donor association.

CEC, Feroz Khan takes stock of progress on Kargil -Zanskar Road



CEC, Hill Council, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan along with DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve and other officials taking stock of the ongoing widening and construction works on the Kargil Zanskar Road NH-301.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, Hill Council, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan along with DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve took stock of the ongoing widening and construction works on the Kargil Zanskar Road NH-301 carried out by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL).

General Manager, NHIDCL, Ashwani Kumar updated about the ongoing widening and construction works on the National Highway NH-301 and gave details about the various land issues about the road construction sites. He also informed that as per the proposal of the NHIDCL, the total width of the road has to be about 18 meters, and in the case of various densely populat-

ed locations, widening up to 12 meters will be proposed to the higher authorities. He urged the CEC to persuade the people residing along the Kargil Zanskar Highway to make available land for road widening works.

CEC, Feroz Khan assured the GM, NHIDCL that the LAHDC, Kargil will soon convene a meeting with the public representatives including Councillors, PRI members, BDC Chairpersons, Sarpanchs and Panchs to discuss the issues about land acquisition for the widening and construction works of the NH-301.

Meanwhile, CEC Khan stressed that compensation of land should be given to people on time and further directed the concerned officers of NHIDCL to take due care to avoid unnecessary damage to public property and natural resources during the road construction and widening works.

EC, Punchok Tashi reviews COVID-19 vaccination drive for 18+ status at CHC, Padum



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: EC, Zanskar Affairs, Er Punchok Tashi took stock of the pace of health infrastructure development works and COVID-19 vaccination for 18 to 44 years age group at Community Health Centre (CHC) Padum on May 26.

Block Medical Officer (BMO), Zanskar, Dr Stanzin Namgyal apprised the EC about the works about different health infrastructure development works including the up-gradation of Medical Aid Centre (MAC) to Primary Health Center (PHC) in the Sub Division and availability of the COVID-19 vaccines for the above 18 persons at CHC Padum. He also informed about the asymptomatic and other COVID-19 positive patients admitted at the Covid Care Centre (CCC) at CHC Padum.

EC, Punchok Tashi informed that an amount of ₹1.70 crore has been sanctioned under the District Capex Budget for development of health-related infrastructure in the Zanskar Sub Division including the construction of residential quarters for doctors, paramedics and other staff besides the purchase of healthcare equipment and medicines.

He also inspected the ongoing works of the oxygen plant sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund).

Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of KVK, Kargil I, II convenes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of KVK-Kargil-I and KVK Kargil-II under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Kashmir Professor J P Sharma was held at KVK-Kargil, Kurbathang on May 23.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, officers from the allied departments, extension scientists, representatives of farmers and media persons participated in the meeting through online mode.

EC, Agriculture, Hill Council, Kargil, Muhammad Ali Chandan was the chief guest. Director Extension, Dr. D M Makhdoomi; Director Research, Dr. S A Wani; Heads of KVK, Kargil-I and KVK, Kargil II; Dr. Ghulam Mehdi; Dr. Shahawaz Rasool Dar; Senior Scientist, MAR&ES Kargil, Dr. Faizan Ahmad besides scientists other concerned officers were also present during the meeting.

During the day long programme, detailed discussion was held by the scientists, farmer representatives and officers from the line departments on various issues like pest and disease management, utilization of underutilized crops like black zeera, mushroom and buckwheat, high yielding varieties of different crops and technologies for doubling farmers' income.

Muhammad Ali Chandan while expressing concern over the Quarantine Act on the export of fresh fruits from Ladakh said that this not only causes huge losses to fruit growers of the dis-



Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK-Kargil-I and KVK Kargil-II.

trict but is also a threat for loss of apricot in Ladakh. He also underlined the need to strengthen coordination between the parental institutes and agriculture extension departments for finding solutions, dissemination of technologies and enlightening farmers about the farmer-friendly government schemes. He urged Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K to take requisite measures on different issues of Ladakh.

He also appreciated the efforts of KVK and research station teams and expressed optimism that it will not take much time to bridge the gap between lab to land since the entire workforce including the public representatives and directors are proactive with a positive attitude and response.

He further stressed the stations of SKUAST-K in Ladakh to focus on diversified farming, water and fertilizer use efficiency, soil testing, commodities based processing centres, commodities

based marketing organizations/units, food processing etc and further suggested scanning technologies related to the specific regions and to develop pocket-wise technology.

Meanwhile, the Director Extension praised the scientists of KVK and research stations for their hard work and was impressed with progressive farmer Ahmad for successful hydroponic vegetable cultivation in Kargil. He stressed that such technology needs to be promoted keeping in view the decline in cultivable fields.

The Director Research assured to find a solution on the issues raised during the meeting and advised for one farmer-one-village and one-product concept.

Earlier, the meeting started with the welcome note by the Subject Matter Specialist Dr. Disket Dolkar followed by a presentation of the annual progress report and action plans of both KVKs by the respective heads.

18th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of KVK- Leh held

Releases four publication including a handbook of agriculture-related schemes

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

STAKNA: The 18th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK- Leh was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K on May 24 at SKUAST-K Stakna.

Dr. Feroz Din Sheikh, Programme Coordinator KVK Leh and Member Secretary (SAC) presented the Action Taken Report, Annual Progress Report (2020-21) and Action Plan (2021-22) of KVK Leh.

Dr. Sheikh gave a detailed presentation on all the activities of last year including the Action Taken Report 2020-21. He also listed the action plan for the year 2021-22, important achievements of KVK-Leh and the thrust areas where Kendra is focusing.

Stanzin Chosphele, Executive Councillor (Agriculture), LAHDC-Leh; Ghulam Mehdi Executive Councillor (Horticulture), LAHDC-Leh; Director Extension, SKUAST-K Prof. (Dr.) Dil Muhammad Makhdoomi and Director Research; SKUAST-K Prof. (Dr.) S. A. Wani were also present.

While reviewing the activities of the KVK-Leh, Prof. (Dr.) J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K appreciated the work done by scientists of KVK. He advised the Head KVK to work on an area-specific approach identifying cluster of



During the 18th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK- Leh at Stakna.

two to three villages and providing all the relevant site-specific interventions to the farming community. The scientists were asked to work on the certification of organic products, processing and value addition of local produce of the region to ensure that they are being sold at a premium price.

The Executive Councillors asked about setting up of bio-control lab and providing skill-based training in grafting and pruning to the fruit growers of the region.

Meanwhile, four publication of KVK-Leh including a handbook of agriculture-related schemes were released.

Director Extension called for making the farming community aware of these schemes so that they can get the benefit of them. Director Research called for working in close coordination with HMAARI and other institutes of the region and focus

more on researchable issues.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Amal Saxena ADE; Dr. Deepankar Saha, Head CAZRI-Leh, other scientists from KVK-Leh and HMAARI, officers from the Line department and progressive farmers of the region.

The Vice-Chancellors along with Directors visited various demo units of KVK-Leh, where he was briefed on protected cultivation technologies, mushroom unit, livestock farming, food processing and value addition of fruits and vegetables.

While visiting the Dairy unit, the VC appreciated the efforts of KVK-Leh in setting up an integrated farming system model comprising of different units. He also visited the mushroom spawn laboratory and very keenly inspected the different products of KVK-Leh demonstrated at the training hall of KVK-Leh.

Ladakh Skill Development Mission constituted

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: UT Administration sanctioned the constitution of "Ladakh Skill Development Mission (LSDM)" on May 22.

The LSDM will be a two-tier structure comprising of the Governing Council & Executive Committee. The Advisor to the

LG Ladakh is the chairperson of the Governing Council, which will be the apex decision-making body. Secretary, Technical Education and Skill Development Department, is designated as the Mission Director of the LSDM.

The mission will formulate and steer the skill development pro-

grammes under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and various other skill development programmes of Ministries. LSDM aims to bring necessary synergy, oversight and effective coordination in implementing skill development schemes across the departments in UT Ladakh.

In conversation with Tashi Namgyal Yakzee

...Continued from Page 5

It will take around 8-9 months for the completion of the plant. This will be a boost to the pashmina growers of the Changthang region. The expansion of the Pashmina industry will improve the living standards of the nomads of Changthang. The raw pashmina will be procured by the Cooperative Society.

Milk pasteurization plant is set up in Agling which will be beneficial to the milk cooperative societies of Leh district. The pasteurization plant will cater to milk cooperative societies in and around Leh.

One milk pasteurization plant as a pilot project is setting up in the Nubra region, if successful the plants will be further replicated to other far-flung regions of the Leh district.

District Administration, Kargil distributes food items to migrant labourers

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: In the wake of the situation that emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent Corona curfew, District Administration, Kargil distributed free rice, dal, cooking oil, milk powder, soap among more than 100 labourers and daily wage workers at Baroo on May 28.

Later, the officers led by ALC Kargil distributed free food items among labourers and daily wagers in Kargil town and adjoining areas including Baroo, Baroo Tsog, Titichumik and other locations in and around Kargil town.

Food items were distributed among the labourers as per the scale of rice 5 kgs, dal 1.50 kgs, cooking oil 1 litre, Nutri nuggets 1.50 kgs, sugar 0.50 kgs, milk



Officials of District Administration, Kargil distributing free food items to migrant labourers.

powder 0.50 kgs, 3 masks and 1 soap per person besides sanitary pads for female labourers. Furthermore, free medicines are also being provided to the needy labourers on the production of doctor's prescription.

Meanwhile, the free food items are also being distributed in Sankoo, Drass, Shakar Chiktan and

Zanskar Sub Divisions through the respective Sub Divisional Magistrates (SDMs).

More than 4500 migrant labourers will be provided free food items across the district as per the list provided by the officer's committee constituted at the district headquarter and SDMs from the respective subdivisions.

Kargil gets 1 advanced life support & 8 basic care support ambulances



CEC, Hill Council, Kargil flagging off the 8 basic care facility and 1 advanced life support facility ambulances.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: 8 basic care facility and 1 advanced life support facility ambulances were flagged off by CEC, Hill Council, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan on May 19 from Tourist Felicitation Center, Bimathang, Kargil.

Among the 9 ambulances, 1 each has been provided to the Dedicated COVID-19 Hospital, Kargil, RTPCR Laboratory Kargil, Blood Bank District Hospital Kargil, PHC Panikhar, District Tuberculosis Hospital Kargil, NTPHC Batalik and Block Medical Officer, Kargil.

7 ambulances with basic care facility have been procured under the District Capex Budget at a cost of 5 lakh each, and one has been provided by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) under the CSR

initiative. The advanced life support ambulance was provided by REC Power Distribution Company Limited under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative 2020-2021.

CEC, Feroz Ahmad Khan said that these timely procured ambulances will not only benefit the people of Kargil in crucial medical emergencies but will also ease the burden of work over the medical and front-line workers.

He also hailed the authorities of the NHIDCL and REC Power Distribution Company Limited for having provided the ambulances under the CSR initiative.

Reiterating the commitment of the LAHDC, Kargil for strengthening the health infrastructure in the district, he said that while 2 critical ambulances were purchased for CHC Zanskar and Drass under the District Capex

Budget last year, 2 more such ambulances are being procured for CHC Sankoo and Chiktan during the current financial year.

DC Kargil has been directed to formulate a proposal of additional ambulances and essential medical equipment for health centres in the district which are expected to be provided by the (NHIDCL) under the CSR initiative.

Expressing satisfaction over the preparedness of the COVID-19 mitigation measures in the district, CEC Khan praised all the frontline workers and surveillance teams in various blocks for round the clock dedicated services.

He also appreciated the support extended by the public in the strict implementation of the lockdown measures and adherence of SOPs to contain the spread of the deadly Coronavirus in the district.

L-G Mathur sanctions ₹78, 69,000 financial assistance for building and other construction workers

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur sanctioned ₹78, 69,000 as financial assistance to the registered Building and Other Construction Workers (B&OCW) of

UT Ladakh on May 24.

The financial help has been sanctioned as the Building and Other Construction Workers are battling hardships due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

in the region. A total of 7,869 registered workers of the Union Territory of Ladakh would be benefitted from the financial help to be transferred directly to the respective bank accounts of all the registered workers.

CEC, Feroz Khan takes stock of healthcare facilities in Sodh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan visited Sodh and Batalik areas on May 22 and took stock of healthcare facilities at different health centres from Akchamal to Batalik.

Interacting with the healthcare personnel, Feroz Ahmed Khan assured that various issues related to the strengthening of the health centres like provision of upgraded medical equipment, infrastructure and manpower will be addressed in a phased manner.

He directed the concerned health functionaries to project the requirements for up-gradation of

the health centres in terms of medical equipment and other related infrastructure within a week's time so that these centres are developed as model medical centres. He said that concrete measures will be taken to improve the health centres like provision of upgraded medical equipment, repair and renovation work, enhancement of manpower and other requisite facilities for which special funds have been kept under different schemes.

At NTPHC Batalik, the CEC held a meeting with the medical functionaries to discuss the issues being faced by health workers in the villages of the area. He

also inquired about the facilities being provided to the patients at NTPHC Batalik.

Dr Ashwani Koul, Medical Officer briefed about the facilities and problems being faced to which the CEC assured that all basic necessities such as laboratory, requirements of dental section, x-ray and portable oxygen concentrators will be provided soon.

Meanwhile, CEC, Feroz Ahmad Khan also took stock of the pace of progress achieved on the construction of irrigation canals at Lhalung and Gongma Silmoo and directed the concerned officers to ensure completion of these projects within the stipulated timelines.

The CEC also took stock of the screening of inbound passengers at Garkone Screening Point and assured the medical team that the issue with regard to the necessary renovation of the screening point building will be taken up with the authorities of the PWD Department, Kargil besides other requisite facilities will also be provided to the screening staff.

Secretary, Power reviews various works under DDUGJY & PMDP-R schemes



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Power, Ravinder Kumar took stock of the progress of ongoing works under DDUGJY and PMDP-R schemes on May 28.

Chief Engineer, PDD G A Mir; Superintending Engineer Power Distribution, Tsewang Paljor; Chief Manager, PGCIL, Sukhdev; XEN Project Division, Abdul Rehman Bhat; Deputy Manager PGCIL, and other officials of PDD and PGCIL attended the meeting.

Issues related to the various ongoing PGCIL works, transmission line work from Durbuk to Shayok was discussed.

Secretary Power directed the Chief Manager of PGCIL to increase labour at various project sites and to make arrangements for the labourer to stay at the worksite to reduce their movement to other areas.

He further instructed PGCIL to minimise the movement of vehicles carrying construction material for substation and trans-

mission lines works. The PGCIL officials were asked to dump and stock the material at the worksite and to start the work of the Durbuk to the Shyok transmission line after getting permission from the GREF authorities.

Earlier, the Chief Manager of PGCIL apprised Secretary Power of various issues related to the movement of labour and material and issuance of curfew pass for the employees dealing with the various works at the project site.

Is lockdown a solution to contain the second COVID wave?

...Continued from Page 4

the elderly still use payslips instead of ATMs to withdraw.

According to the department of information and technology of UT Ladakh, the cases rose during mid-April and around the end had touched 2000 active cases and in May the cases started to curb further descended to 1400 active cases. Then on

May 7th, our administration decided to impose a lockdown after which cases rose a bit and since has been stagnant with little fluctuations of minimal ups and downs. We have only been through 1/4th of the current lockdown and though we may hope the cases will decline; a foreseeable assurance of the same does not seem pragmatic. Hence, major doubts on the management and elder head current resolute stand.

NOTICE

I, Tsering Stanzin S/o Dorjey Gyaltan R/o Durbuk, Leh UT Ladakh have lost my Contractor Card bearing no. "A-461". Now I want to apply for the duplicate card, objection if any may be report to District Superintending Engineer PWD circle Leh within 7 days from date of the publication of this notice.

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