

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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Ladakh administration e-inaugurates YounTab scheme

Around 12,300 students of classes 6th to 12th of Government schools will get educational tablets



CEC, Hill Council, Leh along with MP, Ladakh; Deputy Chairman and DC, Leh handing over tablet to a student during the inauguration day.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Amidst COVID-19 pandemic where schools remain mostly closed, L-G Mathur e-inaugurated the YounTab scheme to provide better educational support to the students on June 4.

YounTab scheme is an initiative of the Department of School Education with technical support by the Information Technology Department under which 12,300 tablets with pre-loaded online and offline content, including textbooks, video lectures and online class applications, would be distributed to govt school students from Class 6th to 12th. The offline content has been prepared class and subject-wise to help students in remote areas with no internet connectivity. The IT Department and NIC have developed a few applications for providing these contents loaded in these tablets to the students.

Addressing the event, L-G Mathur

stressed the importance of education technology in the years to come. He expressed satisfaction for having fulfilled the immediate need of the students of Ladakh. Tablets were distributed among students from remote areas during the event.

Addressing the internet connectivity issue, LG Mathur informed that the existing telecom companies have agreed to install additional towers. Further, UT Admin has also been in touch with the Telecommunication Department to implement NOFN in Ladakh by laying OFC up to Block level, in place of VSATs. An additional 115 towers with 1760 km of OFC cables have also been requested to ensure 100 per cent connectivity across Ladakh, informed LG Mathur.

Ladakh has become the first UT/state in India to have successfully launched the scheme. The distribution of tablets

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Water crisis turns alarming in Kumik, Zanskar

Acute water shortage forces villagers to migrate and build a new community elsewhere



Kumik village of Zanskar.

Tenzin Dajon

KUMIK: Struggle for water in Kumik village of Zanskar intensifies, forcing inhabitants to migrate to the new village of Lower Kumik. The village with around 57 families is losing its identity due to climate change. So far, around 20 families have already migrated and got settled in Lower Kumik. Each passing day the situation is becoming worse.

A resident of Kumik village, an 82-year-old man said, "The scarce water problem in Kumik village was from a very long time which is getting worse every year compelling people to abandon their ancestral land and homes. Less snowfall in winters, rapidly receding glaciers, warm spring days are causing water scarcity."

Kumik villagers are settling down and building a new community from the scratch in Lower Kumik close to the Zanskar river. The river water is made available through a canal built by the villager itself. For drinking purpose, the

villagers are depended on water tankers. Abandoning the ancestral land and homes and starting a new life from the scratch was not an easy job.

Sharing the challenges and difficulties, Rigzin Stantar, said, "I have migrated here (Lower Kumik) in 2016. It is very challenging to settle in a new place as we have to start from the beginning like constructing a new house and ploughing new agricultural fields etc. The soil is also not so fertile here. Though every household owns land here but many couldn't migrate due to financial problem."

Thukjay Rinchen, Panch, said, "The villagers are leaving their field uncultivated due to water scarcity. Seeing the greenery in the neighbouring villages we often think that how fortunate they are. The situation is getting worse every year but so far we didn't receive any satisfactory support from the government."

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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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MP visits Tia, Tingmosgang, reviews installation of Airtel towers



MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal along with Bharti Airtel team and village representatives of Tia Tingmosgang.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: MP, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal along with Bharti Airtel team visited Tia and Tingmos-

gang villages and reviewed the final location survey for the installation of Airtel towers on June 11.

The team visited selected sites and finalised the installation of two Airtel towers in Tia and Tingmosgang. They also assured to complete the installation of the towers at the earliest, considering these villages were previously not covered under the Airtel network.

Councillor, Sonam Dorjay and the village representatives including, Sarpanches and Nambardars; President, Ama Tsogspa; President, Youth Tsogspa; President, Girls Youth Tsogspa of both the villages, expressed their gratitude to MP Ladakh for his proactive and prompt action regarding their demand for Airtel connection.

L-G Mathur assesses challenges of Pashmina entrepreneurs of Ladakh

Assures all tools needed for first-generation entrepreneurs



Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur along with a team of local entrepreneurs working in the field of Pashmina and wool production in Ladakh at Raj Niwas.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur convened a meeting with a team of local entrepreneurs working in the field of pashmina and wool production in Ladakh on June 10.

The entrepreneurs requested Lieutenant Governor for support in the field of marketing/promotion, subsidy on procurement of machinery, raw material storage facilities, training, design development, etc.

R K Mathur assessed their needs

for putting Ladakhi Pashmina products on the international platform, as envisioned by the UT administration. He stated that all the required handholding needed for the first generation entrepreneurs of Ladakh will be made available.

Discussions also took place regarding availing various Government schemes for the benefit of the entrepreneurs as well as the Pashmina breeders.

Speaking about the various possibilities in Pashmina and wool

production, LG Mathur stressed the importance for Ladakh to own the entire value chain in Pashmina production with a commercial approach. He expressed the need for creating an annual marketing calendar for the promotion and sale of Pashmina products at premium markets across the world.

In the field of skill development training, Divisional Commissioner/Secretary Industries and Commerce, Saugat Biswas apprised LG Mathur of the tie-ups already done with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), National Institute of Design (NID), etc for imparting relevant training to the entrepreneurs and the artisans.

The entrepreneurs were informed about the various pilot projects to be initiated in Changthang for the development of pastureland to make the region self-sufficient in producing fodder for the Pashmina goats.

Ladakh administration e-inaugurates YounTab scheme

...Continued from page 1

would be completed in the next two months.

LG Mathur spoke about finalising the board, improving school infrastructures, the possibility of keeping the schools functional during the winter months and teaching and learning in the local language. He shared about the establishment of 91 new ICT labs in Ladakh.

He announced ₹25 lakh to Gram Panchayats from LG's fund for facilitating better provision in the villages for conducting community classes for primary school students.

Meanwhile, CEC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson expressed his gratitude to GoI, led by the Prime Minister, for sanctioning and providing the tablets by understanding the importance of digital technologies for the education of school students in Ladakh. He added that the network issues in remote areas further hamper the access to online classes and education during the pandemic that needed a viable solution to alleviate the difficulties faced by the students.

CEC Leh expressed that the free distribution of pre-loaded educational tablets would hugely benefit the students of Ladakh. He shared that the Hill Council would provide all the necessary support to help this scheme reach out to every eligible school student of Leh district.

CEC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan, congratulated the

UT Administration Ladakh for implementing the scheme and expressed that it would help students with weak internet connectivity in Ladakh, including 9324 students of Kargil district, get timely education during the ongoing Covid pandemic.

He also urged the UT Administration to consider the proposal of the Education Department Kargil to provide dedicated tablets to the teachers to monitor their work.

MP Ladakh, JTN shared that it has been a dream of Ladakh, especially after becoming a Union Territory, to impart smart education through the digital medium. Both the UT Administration and Hill Councils have worked together by formulating schemes and provisions in this regard. He termed this project 'Yountan Nurboo Lagcha,' an instrument to access education with its pre-loaded syllabus of NCERT and JKBOSE, 40 learning apps, and selected content for the students.

Officials of NCERT and JKBOSE assured their full assistance in providing necessary guidance for the students of Ladakh. They appreciated the steps taken by the UT Administration and Hill Councils of Ladakh in exploring innovative alternatives in the education sector.

CEO Lenovo India shared that Lenovo has partnered with the administration in implementing the YounTab scheme in UT Ladakh and assured services wherever and whenever required in the future.

Hill Council, Leh, introduces subsidy components for 10 new departments for 2021-22

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: LAHDC, Leh introduced ₹25 crore subsidy for Leh district under the subsidised plan for the year 2021-22 to boost the promotion of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep, Handloom, Handicraft, Sports, etc.,

The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson along with Deputy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk, Executive Councillor for RDD, Tashi Namgyal Yakzee, Executive Councillor for Horticulture, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor, Executive Councillor for Agriculture, Stanzin Chosphel, had a detailed discussion and deliberations on the action plans and coverage of the subsidised components and its schemes for the year 2021-22.

LAHDC Leh has introduced huge subsidy components in various departments for the welfare of the people of Leh district, especially people living in remote



CEC and EC's of LAHDC, Leh during the meeting of the subsidised plan for the year 2021-22 at Council Secretariat.

regions engaged with agriculture, horticulture, ASH, sports, handicraft, handloom and other sectors. This year, LAHDC Leh has granted subsidy components for ten new departments. Provisions such as advanced training centres for skill development in various trades and predator-proof corral pens have been introduced in Leh district this year that would be provided to the concerned constituencies on a need basis.

For the first time, LAHDC Leh has introduced a 100 percent

subsidy in providing world-class equipment for Ice Hockey players at the block level of Leh district, and the same components would be kept in several other sports disciplines. CEC Gyalson stated that this would benefit the sports enthusiasts of Leh district left behind due to financial constraints in purchasing costly sports equipment.

CEC Gyalson also directed concerned officials to monitor and identify beneficiaries only in consultation with the Councillors of LAHDC Leh.

International Yoga Day to be celebrated indoors amid coronavirus



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas chaired a preparatory meeting on June 8 for the International Day of Yoga celebration themed 'Be With Yoga Be at Home'.

Saugat Biswas informed that because of the COVID-19 situation, the celebration of International Day of Yoga will be held at home with no gathering strictly as per COVID protocols.

He asked the DCs to ensure the participation of the yoga trained

volunteers of NYK and NRISR to train the dignitaries, officers and other participants about the Yoga protocol. He also said that the Yoga training modules are also available on YouTube and the Ministry of AYUSH website.

Underlining the need to take all advanced measures to create a Yoga environment before the celebration on June 21, Saugat Biswas directed both DCs to carry out awareness and publicity measures through the respective DIPRs. The DCs were asked to convene preparatory meetings to

work out elaborate plans of action and submit the same within 3 to 4 days.

The ADs of DIPR Leh and Kargil were asked to ensure proper media coverage of Yoga sessions by all the VVIPs, VIPs, opinion leaders, youth icons, other prominent persons and children besides also ensuring proper publicity of the main IYD event through print, electronic and social media including Doordarshan and All India Radio.

To ensure maximum participation of people especially children in the IYD, 2021 celebrations, Biswas suggested conducting district level Yoga contests among adults as well as children where the winners can be felicitated.

The Sub Divisional Magistrates would coordinate the event at the sub-divisional levels in both the districts and people will follow the Yoga protocols circulated by the Ministry of AYUSH.

Action COVID-19 team donates 7 portable ventilators to SNM hospital, Leh

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: 7 portable ventilators were donated to SNM hospital, Leh by the Action Covid-19 team on June 2.

The ventilators were handed over to Dr. Motup Dorje, CMO, Leh

and Dr. Norzin Angmo, Medical Superintendent by Dr. Nordan Otzer and Stanzin Chonjor Dawa in the presence of Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, MP Ladakh.

The ventilator is small size, portable, and can run on batteries. It can be moved easily from one

place to another within the hospital.

In December 2020, ACTS Grant donated two High Flow Nasal Cannula worth around ₹6 lakh to SNM hospital, Leh, 30,000 N95 masks and 20 Coronaoven to Ladakh.

Water crisis turns alarming in Kumik, Zaskar

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"Migration of people leaving their ancestral land is not only lost of house and properties but the history and culture are also being faded", she added.

Stanzin Gawa, a student said, "The word global warming is global. It has its impact even in my village in the Himalayas. We have unwillingly migrated here in search of water. Even in this new habitat, we are facing similar challenges when the river

water level decreases. I could see the possibilities of growing trees and fields here if we get adequate water."

There is no denying that climate change is affecting and life of the people is changing. The Kulum village in Leh district and Kumik in Zaskar is a wake-up call to many other such villages of Ladakh facing water scarcity due to the effects of climate change. The migration is real and the time has come to plan and think for a sustainable future.

DC, Leh, inspects villages around Leh town, reviews progress of JJM



Deputy Commissioner/Chairman, District Water and Sanitation Management (DWSM), Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse during his visit to Diskit Ling, Agling.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Deputy Commissioner (DC)/Chairman, District Water and Sanitation Management (DWSM), Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse visited Diskit Ling, Agling and reviewed the status of ongoing works under the Jal Jeevan Mission on June 8.

Shrikant Balasaheb Suse visited the site of the ongoing works

under JJM in Agling Yokma, where Executive Engineer, PHE, apprised him of completing the installation of solar pumps and bore wells. Work on the pipeline is currently in progress. Several colonies in Agling, including War Widow Colony, MS Colony and Urgain Ling, would be covered under the Water Supply Scheme.

PHE department was asked to

execute works on a war footing basis and the geotagging of FHTCs.

DC Leh also inspected the functioning of the recently installed solar pumps and directed the concerned officials to expedite the laying of pipelines and adherence to timelines set for the execution of works. He further reviewed the status of the improvement of the Water Supply Scheme for Choglamsar, under which installation of 250 FHTCs is in progress in the Choglamsar area around Das Pema.

The Executive Engineer of PHE was asked to tender the allotment and execution of works at the earliest due to the short working season in the region. He impressed upon the concerned officials to achieve the targets set for the year 2021-22.

Executive Engineer, PHE Leh; AEE mechanical and other officials from the PHE department accompanied DC Leh during the visit.

Secretary, Ravinder Kumar reviews State Plan (CAPEX) & ongoing/new SDP work of various departments

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar reviewed various works being taken under the state plan (CAPEX) and ongoing/new SDP works for the FY 2020-21 and other priority issues in Youth Services & Sports, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department on June 11.

Secretary Ravinder directed the departments to make maximum procurement in the first quarter and clear all the prerequisite formalities such as the preparation of DPRs, administrative approvals, technical sanction, etc. He also impressed upon the officials to take the pending projects of last year on a priority basis.

The HODs and district officers were asked to monitor all projects with executing agencies and ensure completion before time. He added that in case of any lapse on the part of department officers and executing agencies will be



Administrative Secretary, Ravinder Kumar reviewing various works being taken in Youth Services & Sports, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Department.

viewed seriously and severe action will be taken against them.

Secretary directed all HODs and District officers to make optimum utilization of the working season for construction works and asked to persistently follow up the works with executing agencies. Departments were also asked to explore the options of going for pre-fab structures for smaller projects. He also added that annual performance reports

of the officers will be reviewed based on works done and expenditure made during this year.

Lastly, he directed all the heads of the departments and concerned officers to work with dedication and informed that the next review meeting on the same will be taken after one month.

The officers from the Kargil district attended the meeting through video conference.

Advisor chairs first meeting of Executive Committee for monitoring Tribal Sub-Plan

Emphasise on completing ongoing projects this year

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula also the Chairperson of the Executive committee for monitoring Tribal Sub-Plan discussed the Tribal Sub-Plan for the year 2021-22 of Leh and Kargil district on June 9.

Deputy Commissioners, Leh/Kargil also the chairman of the District Planning and Monitoring Committee (DPMC), placed the draft annual Tribal Sub-Plan 2021-22 before the Executive Committee for their consideration and approval.

Chairperson Narula directed the districts to take up projects that can be completed in one to two years and execute them in a time-bound manner. He further added that more solar projects should be encouraged to promote carbon neutrality in Ladakh.



Virtual meeting of the Executive committee for monitoring Tribal Sub-Plan chaired by Advisor, Umang Narula.

Principal Secretary, Planning, Pawan Kotwal asked DCs to identify ongoing projects where there are gaps in funding and the same may be met through the tribal sub-plan.

Administrative Secretaries gave their inputs regarding the project components related to their respective departments. The Dep-

uty Commissioners were asked to revisit the plan based on the inputs of the members of the Committee and submit the revised plan within a week.

The framework and proposal under the new scheme, Special Central Assistance for Tribal Development (SCA-TD), was also discussed in the meeting.

L-G Mathur discusses Sea Buckthorn commercialisation, pashmina promotion and skill development training

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur convened a meeting with Secretaries of Industries and Commerce, Animal and Sheep Husbandry and Skill Development departments on June 11 and reviewed their progress.

L-G Mathur was apprised about the value addition and promotion of Sea Buckthorn. Discussion was held on setting up of a Sea Buckthorn Centre of Excellence at Nimmo with provisions of submersible pumps to irrigate the nursery and orchard, horticulture processing unit, laboratory etc.

L-G Mathur suggested the facility may be used not just for Sea Buckthorn but also for processing other berries such as Goji berry, which is a potential high-income generation source. He spoke about the scope of the experiment with other berries. Further, he suggested bringing on-board consultants like Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the prospect of sorting help from countries working successfully in the field, stating that the target must be to opt for the best available source to produce international standard products with a professional approach.

The Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Saugat Biswas briefed about the new tools and equipment being procured to facilitate harvesting with a target to double the yield.

Discussing initiatives for Sea Buckthorn plantation, L-G Mathur stated that for commercial viability, focus should be on large plantations and handholding for contract farming with entrepreneurs must be done strictly in accordance to set rules of the



Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur convening a meeting with Advisor Umang Narula, Secretaries of Industries and Commerce, Animal and Sheep Husbandry and Skill Development departments at Raj Niwas.

Ministry of Agriculture, GoI.

He stressed that the development of Sea Buckthorn, similar to all other potential resources, must lead to entrepreneurship opportunities for the youth of Ladakh. "Let it be led by entrepreneurs while the administration becomes the facilitator," stated LG Mathur.

Further, discussing fodder concerns of the nomads of Changthang under Changthang Package with Secretary Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Ravinder Kumar, the Lieutenant Governor directed the department to look at long term solutions such as the development of grazing land. He stated that the 6% growth in the Pashmina goat population is a notable development, made possible by the efforts of the Department and all concerned.

The meeting also discussed at length various means to provide better living conditions to the Pashmina herders with facilities of lighting, heating, toilets etc.

Secretary Kumar informed about the distribution of equipment such as solar milk churners and developments in health, school education and sports.

LG Mathur also suggested proper management of livestock manure by converting it into compost, thus contributing to

Mission Organic Development Initiative.

Later, Secretary Technical Education and Skill Development Padma Angmo presented statistics of the youth population of Ladakh based on their gender, educational qualifications and briefed about works being undertaken by the department to generate employment opportunities by providing skill training.

She informed that the department is in coordination with Beauty & Wellness, Tourism & Hospitality, Food Processing, Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Councils (SSC) for facilitating training. She stated that the District Skill Committees (DSCs) have identified homestays and Eco Tour Guides as potential job-generating areas. In addition, National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) has identified the trades of solar technician and mobile repairing for training to generate jobs, she informed.

She also put forth proposals for partnering with organizations like the United Nations Development Plan (UNDP), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and Ladakh of University (UoL) for comprehensive scientific studies for skill gap assessment and job generation approach.

Secretary Padma discusses implementation of Special Pilot Cells for women in Leh & Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Secretary, Social & Tribal Welfare Department, Padma Angmo convened an inter-departmental meeting to discuss Special Pilot Cells for women in UT Ladakh under a violence-free home project supported by the National Commission for Women (NCW) through video conference on June 1.

The officials discussed the scope and potential to establish two special cells on a pilot basis in the Leh and Kargil districts of UT Ladakh. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) would implement these special cells in collaboration with NCW as per a signed MoU between the two.

The officials discussed the steps to implement the pilot cells, in-

cluding approval of specific locations within police offices in Leh and Kargil and appointing a nodal officer for the pilot cell.

Secretary Padma asked TISS to submit an action plan with a timeline for selection, training and commencement of these cells in Ladakh. She suggested having the cell as a special cell for women and children. The cell will support the existing structures like CWC, OSC, JJB, etc., in Ladakh and extend outreach, accessibility, expert assistance, psycho-social and legal support to women and children.

B S Tuti, DIG, Ladakh informed about the existing women help desk in police stations and stated that the data of crime cases lodged by women in Ladakh is low compared to the rest of the

country. He said that the project would be a welcome step that would support the Police Department in addressing the issue and benefit women of Ladakh at large.

The project aims to strengthen the Police system response to gender-based violence in public and private life by empowering women to access all types of support and justice. This special cell would help to connect the survivors of gender-based violence to other services such as legal aid, shelter homes, medical services, OSC as per need. These cells will be established and implemented in coordination with the Department of Home, Police and WCD/Social Welfare and ensure a strengthened multi-agency coordinated response.

People's Voice

By Tsering Chosdon (Chhozee)

Online education may be the only way to reach students during this pandemic, but the digital medium also comes with many challenges. On one hand, students and teachers residing in far-flung villages are facing trouble to stay connected because of no internet facilities while on the other hand, the city dwellers are in trouble because of poor network connectivity. Some students have to walk kilometres for internet facility. Though the administration has introduced offline medium such as tablets, broadcasting lectures on TV and Radio etc to reach out to the students in far-flung areas but the need for good telecom connectivity has become the need of the hour in this digital world. Let's read the problem faced by the students, teachers and parents.



SONAM DOLMA, Student: I am from Manda village in Zaskar where we have BSNL towers that facilitate call services only, the internet service is bad even though the tower is installed near my house. Sometimes for a week or two, there is no network at all. In 2020, Jio started their network service but the tower is in the nearby village Phey. To get the internet service we walk 4km to attend our online classes. After all these efforts, we still do not get a proper connection. Sometimes, the network goes off in the middle of classes, sometimes in the end.

When there is a poor network it becomes all blurry and we cannot reach anything written on the board. Zoom has a capacity of 100 people in a meeting room because of the huge number of students we are taught on a different app called Teachmint that requires more internet data.

We are given homework that has to be submitted in a limited time and due to slow service, we often end up submitting late. During the examination, the questions paper is given on Google Form which

Poor network connectivity hampers online education

takes longer to load further it consumes our time. The Jio network is now working in our main village Padum and also nearby village Abran providing better connectivity. I have been living in Agling, Leh at my cousin's place away from my family to receive a better connection but it makes no difference. For the sake of education, we should be provided with better internet facilities in this pandemic.



STANZIN KUNZANG WANGMO, Teacher: Indeed, the network has been a major issue in Ladakh. I live in the main city of Leh. I'm telling you this because in March 2020 when schools were closed because of the pandemic I decided to take online classes and initially I was very disappointed not to be able to take online classes because of poor internet connectivity in my area (Skara).

Then I started driving every day to the top of a nearby mountain where I could access the network and I could deliver my lessons. Spending 2-3 hours daily on the mountains taking classes and responding to the students was not easy for me. Juggling between my motherly responsibilities towards my two and a half-year-old daughter and professional responsibilities was very hard. My family life is badly affected because I have to take online classes so I am shifted to my mother's house and my daughter gets to see or meet her father only on weekends.

Taking online classes isn't a walk in the park. I prepare my lessons and deliver every day and always encourage my students to interact and participate in the discussions, but the response I get is unsatisfactory even after giving lessons and putting 100% in my teaching. So when I checked to see how much they grasped, students were not able to answer so it shows that they are not taking online classes seriously which is disappointing. Virtual classes cannot replace actual face to face teaching, I miss class and school.

Certainly, students from far-flung areas face a lot of problems regarding attendance, tests and exams. I think this is the biggest loophole of the government, we claim that we accomplished Mars Mission and many more but on the other hand in some areas students are not getting their basic fundamental right to education and information. I have some extraordinary and excellent students in Zangskar and

Changthang but they can't attend classes. Whom should we blame students or the government?

As I mentioned earlier, I juggle between my motherly responsibilities and professional responsibilities and even to this day I'm still struggling because of poor internet connectivity. If this is the situation in the main city Leh, how could I expect that students in far-flung will get good Internet facilities?

In the past year, I changed 3 sims (BSNL and Airtel) hoping to get good access to the internet but all my expectations were shattered when none of the services was up to mark. Right now I'm using the Jio Internet facilities which are quite better than the other two. The situation of the Internet is pathetic in Leh. I think authorities are not taking proper measures to provide Internet facilities in remote areas. Therefore, I request the U.T administration to intervene and to speed up the work of tower installations in far-flung areas because students are suffering the most and online classes are the only way out to teach and impart education, in this pandemic.



DORJEY NAMGYAL, Parent: Our village, Nurla comes on Leh-Srinagar highway which is 92kms away from Leh town. We have a BSNL & Jio tower in the village and also an Airtel tower in the nearby army cantonment. BSNL is lacking in the form of both internet and call service whereas for proper

connection of Airtel we need to walk or drive near the army cantonment. Jio operates well but people from other villages like Tingmosgang and Tya come down almost 8km to use the internet, mainly the students to attend classes. Bearing in mind that the village is on the National Highway and a large number of people from all the villages mentioned above even Jio service becomes slow.

My children study in 4th, 8th and 9th standard. For a 4th grader, there is much less work as compared to the others as there is a lot of work to download during which slow network becomes a huge problem. I drive my kids to the army area and stay with them as we cannot leave them there alone. Sometimes they get done within 20 minutes but sometimes it goes on for 2 hours. There are times when

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The World of Juniors

World Day against Child Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight.

The theme World Day Against Child Labour 2021 is "Act now: End child labour!" According to International Labour Organization the number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide - an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years" due to the impacts of COVID-19.



DID YOU KNOW



● Chail Cricket Ground in Chail, Himachal Pradesh is the highest cricket ground in the world. Built in 1893 after leveling a hilltop, this cricket pitch is 2444 meters above sea level.

● Lonar Lake – India's only lake created by a meteor impact. The lake is located at Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra, India. The lake's age is usually estimated to be over 52,000 years!

● The rocket for India's first ever rocket launch was carried in parts on a bicycle to the launch site, a church in Thiruvananthapuram in 1963. The launch sent NASA-made Nike-Apache rocket to space and led to the foundation of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by Vikram Sarabhai on August 15, 1969. The church was later renamed Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

● The ostrich is also the fastest running bird in the world, having a running speed of 70 km per hour!

● The smallest bone in the human body is present in the middle part of the ear. It's called the stirrup and is only 2.8 mm (millimetres) long.



Lonar crater lake

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Thanks to failure for success!



I am not going to say anything new here but to remind myself and others of this basic point: No one gets success all the time; and no one is a failure all the time. This is a proven fact. I always remind myself that success and failure are the two sides of the same coin; and, hence, one has to embrace and carry along the burden of failure as well.

Failures give us great lessons, the first of which is to be careful and be ready to make up your mind to give one more try. It is said, in the corridors of stock exchanges, that there is no rise without a fall. Every steep fall gives you a chance to plunge for the coming bull-run that will give you a new peak of success. History shows that there has never been a new peak without a great plunge.

What I am trying to drive at is that failures are essential to make us more sensible, realistic and determined. There is no place in the world of success for one who prefers to remain in his cosy life after a defeat. Nothing good comes your way the easy way. Only the brave and the determined get to earn name and fame.

As American coach John Wooden had said, failure isn't fatal, but failure to change is. What a great saying! If we do not act, and step aside after a failure, then it is as good as life coming to a standstill. This also could mean that those who can understand the value of failure are the sure achievers. And those who can't are left out to rue the pangs of life.

Life teaches many lessons, and failures and successes are some of them. One who wants to have a purpose in life must learn to understand the importance of pitfalls as well. They are inevitable in the long journey of life.

And the punch: Only those who dare to fall greatly can achieve greatly: Robert F Kennedy.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, District Magistrate, Leh

Interviewed by Stanzin Dasal

Q. Brief us about the different measures taken by the District administration, Leh to cope up with the COVID-19 pandemic in the district.

As a part of the preparatory measures, number of mechanisms such as testing and screening facilities at the entry and exit points of the region (National highways and Airport) are already in place to prevent further contaminations. RTPCR Negative report is mandatory for all the tourist and travellers entering Ladakh. On Leh-Manali highway a team is deployed at Serchu and Upshi for screening and testing. The screening of the passengers coming from Leh- Srinagar highway is done in Khaltse. Similarly, the test is also being carried out at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport. The local passengers are being quarantined in centres/ hotels till they get their RTPCR reports. This has been an initiative to control the spread of COVID-19 among families and furthermore. The screening and testing of labours were most important and we have tried all our best to get them screened and quarantined. One of the strategies we adopted is to conduct maximum screening during the lockdown so that we can control the spread of infection.

Apart from screening and testing, healthcare infrastructure is also being placed. As an advance preparatory measures for possible third wave of the pandemic, the 1000 LPM capacity oxygen plant of SNM hospital is being upgraded to an additional 500 LPM. A 200 LPM capacity oxygen plant will be established in Khaltse and 100 LPM in Nyoma PHC and Nubra. We are also working on increasing the bed capacity in the hospital by additional 90 beds which include 10 beds in the paediatric ICU ward, 10 in the adult ICU ward and 70 oxygen facility beds. The hiring of medical staff especially doctors is under process.

All the necessary precaution, such as testing of Govt. employees, CB-NAAT testing facility in rural areas to decentralize the testing measures, sensitizing people about COVID-19 Behaviour, training of ASHA health workers etc, teleconsultation facility, an online facility for accessing Negative RT-PCR reports are also being carried out.

The vaccination drive is going on in full swing and once the local population is done, we will vaccinate the non-locals who are residing in the district. The COVID-19 restriction and guidelines have been reviewed from time to time as per the situation. The cooperation of everyone is very important to contain the virus.

Q. Brief us about the various developmental plan and initiatives for Leh district.



MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ We have not overcome with COVID-19 pandemic fully. I appeal to people to follow the COVID Appropriate Behaviour strictly and cooperate in containing the spread of the virus. Together we will win this fight. ”

₹207.42 crore is approved for the District Plan of LAHDC, Leh under the Capex Budget of the year 2021-22. The plans under different department are being executed and 50 percent fund is also released. Focuses is made to complete the ongoing pending works and some of the major work to carry out are strengthening of medical sub-centres, PHC's, school buildings, irrigation works, drinking water facility etc. This year a new scheme- Housing for Poor- has been proposed to

construct a housing colony for the poor homeless families in Leh town. The land for which is already identified. Provision of drinking water facility under Jal Jeevan Mission is also being carried out in the district. The work pace of providing drinking water taps at home is being expedited.

Q. The sewerage system and drinking water pipeline work under Leh Beautification project is still incomplete. What causes the delay and when it is expected to get complete?

The work has been carried out under the old scheme before bifurcation. The sewerage pipeline has been laid but the establishment of the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) was pending because of some legal issues which have been sought and are expected to get completed by this year. ₹13.78 crores project of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) is of 3 MLD (3 million litres per day) capacity and based on SBR technology. The project was delayed because of tendering and other technical issues which are all take care of.

Q. What are the various challenges faced and how is the administration overcoming them?

After bifurcation, the additional infrastructure needed in the new UT set-up was facilitated and supported by the District administration which was a whole new challenge. Secondly, Ladakh has a short working season and completing the work qualitatively within a specific time is challenging. There is no dearth of funds, but because of the pandemic, the developmental work suffered last year and this year also only a few months are left to carry out the work. The geographical and climatic condition of the region is a challenge to carry and complete the developmental work on time. I have noticed that we need capacity building training for all the officers for all the technical know-how to complete the work qualitatively on time and in an effective manner. The district officers are working efficiently despite all the challenge and in the coming days as soon the manpower increases, things will improve more.

Q. How administration is keeping watch on the growing rumours and fake news on various social media platforms?

Rumours and fake news in times of pandemic is a matter of concern and to curb this District Police, Leh is strictly monitoring and filing cases against the violators as per law. The matter is being strictly dealt with. I appeal to people not to believe in such rumours. The authentic and needed information is disseminated on our District administration websites and pages.

Union Territory Status: Implications, ramifications and imperatives in Ladakh



By Tsering Samphel, Former MLA

Shri Amit Shah, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, moved an unexpected, bold and historical constitution amendment in the Parliament of India on the 5th of August, 2019, scrapping the special status of Jammu and Kashmir State available under Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India. Another Act followed it that reorganised the State into the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The extraordinary move of the Hon'ble Minister fulfilled a very long-cherished dream of the people of Ladakh, particularly of Leh district. The abrupt news led its people into jubilation for days together. The separation of Ladakh from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir was a breakthrough of new vistas for Ladakh, taking it to the doorsteps of New Delhi for a swifter economic upliftment and overall prosperity. It infused a calming psychological mindset promoting a stronger sense of belonging as a citizen of India. The making of Ladakh as a Union Territory not only fulfilled the long-cherished demand of the people of Ladakh but has further cemented the security of the country as Ladakh hold great geostrategic importance down the history due to its proximity with Pakistan and China in the northernmost frontiers. Even amid the euphoria, an undercurrent mix of emotions of collective anxiety started to bubble to the surface and murmurs of discontent about the lack of legislature, particularly regarding the protection of the unique identity of Ladakhis ethnicity, their valued rich cultural heritage and the fragile ecology in the new reality rant very high. Conferences, seminars, interactions and discussions about the implications, ramifications and imperatives followed with various perspectives.

The Implications

- Indigenous people in Ladakh will be overwhelmed demographically with the sure influx of outsiders from across the country in a few years, putting the locals at risk on all fronts.
- Once the demography of the indigenous people reduced to insignificance, it will jeopardise its culture, social systems, traditions, ethnic identity and fragile ecology.
- The economy of Ladakh is agriculture-based, and the arable land holdings of the farmers are very limited, which will fall prey to indiscriminate and distress sales and transfers, rendering these indigenous people into abject poverty and stranger in their birthplace.

• Barren lands in Ladakh, accounting for 99% of the whole area, has exposed exploitations in multifarious ways and means.

• Once Ladakh was opened for tourism in 1974, its floodgates of economic benefits have remained confined to the indigenous tribal people. Now, the apprehension of hutching up the business by the corporate chains, big transporters and international agents are very high and locals will be rendered high and dry in a few years.

• All the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and OBCs, irrespective of their states, are now eligible to become government employees in all union territories on the lines of job reservation by the Central Government. Under such circumstances, all reservations will be open to the whole nation in the Union Territory of Ladakh. (Chandigarh Administration v/s Surendra Kumar & Ors and S. Pushpa & Ors v/s Sivachanmugavenu ors9 (2005 INSC 92 (11.2.2005) giving reservation in Dhaman. Hence, the local population of 98 % Scheduled Tribes of Ladakh would be denied their rights being STs in its own Union Territory.

• Job opportunities in the new UT set-up would be a phenomenon. However, it will be opened for all, pushing the local tribal indigenous youth to the walls due to the lack of provision reservation of jobs only to the District and Division or State to which they belong and in Government Corporations in the same way.

• PSC recruitments were held very often in the erstwhile J&K State, wherein at least half a dozen candidates from the Ladakh region used to get through into KAS and KPS in each recruitment turn. With the UT status now, Ladakhis educated youths have lost such opportunities. Moreover, such opportunities look rare for the future.

• The District Recruitment Boards in Ladakh used to recruit hundreds of District and Divisional cadre employees in each district of Ladakh in a year in the erstwhile J&K State. This is not happening in the new Union Territory set up even the District level recruitment Boards are not yet in place. It is being said that the recruitment policy is under consideration.

• With the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the "J&K Grants of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020" has come into effect in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It provisions domicile certificates to those who have 15 years minimum residency in J&K or has studied for seven years and appeared in class 10th and 12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K or children of those central Government officials who have served in

J&K for a total period of 10 years and the registered migrants. The new domicile settlers now have the right to obtain Government jobs, lands ownership and seats in the professional institution etc.

• The conditions of domicile that promulgated in UT of J&K, if applied in the UT of Ladakh, would threaten the very existence of the indigenous tribal people of Ladakh and its culture will disappear in a matter of few years.

The Ramifications

• Although the conferment of Union Territory status to Ladakh has freed it from the discrimination of Kashmiri dominance, it has deprived it of various safeguards available under Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India while under the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

• After achieving the UT status, Ladakh is now exposed at all front, rendering it vulnerable to indiscriminate mining and exploitations of its natural resources, endangering its ecology irreparably as the local indigenous population will have very little say in these matters.

• Despite facing discrimination in all fields, the democratic institution of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils in Ladakh had a prominent space of Ladakh's identity and dignity in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State. This will now fade away amid a galaxy of bureaucratic echelons of high profile and powers in the new set up of Union Territory headed by the Lieutenant Governor, infusing a sense of inferiority in the mindset of the fragile Ladakhi society.

• Ladakh used to have four MLAs and two MLCs in the erstwhile Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir and one MP in Lok Sabha besides one member to the Rajya Sabha sometimes to Ladakh out of the four Rajya Sabha seat of the erstwhile J&K State. Now, with the UT status, Ladakhis will lose all the above seats except the Lok Sabha seat forever. In the above circumstances, the participation of Ladakhis in democratic processes of deliberations has been reduced to the lowest ebb for ever-narrowing their identity, lost in their own nestles. Ladakh will have now only a solitary member in the Lok Sabha to represent them.

• Ladakh used to have at least two Cabinet rank and other junior Ministers in the erstwhile Ministry of J&K Government to its MLAs and MLCs. After becoming a UT, there is no opportunity or space left for such constitutional seats of power for Ladakhis anywhere in the future.

...Continues on Page 6

Union Territory Status: Implications, ramifications and imperatives in Ladakh

...Continued from Page 5

The Remedies

The Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature has all the implications and ramifications detailed hereinbefore. Unfortunately, the tiny population of Ladakh of around 3 lakh disadvantages it to a full-fledged State and to struggle for it seems to chase a mirage as advised by the experts. Now, Ladakh has exposed itself to all sorts of exploitations and pressures socially, culturally and economically, in the Union Territory set up. Our great visionary leaders had envisaged special safeguards in our Constitution for the tribal concentrated population in the North East of India in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Ladakh is the fit case to be put under the Sixth Schedule under the special provision provided under Article 244 (2) and 275 (1) of the Constitution because Ladakh has 98 % scheduled tribes. There are no legal impediments in extending the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh.

Sixth Schedule can be extended to a Union Territory on the lines of the Union Territory of Mizoram. Clause 3(58) (b) of the General Clauses Act.1897 defines State shall mean a State specified in the First Schedule to the Constitution and shall include Union Territories. Article 244 of the Constitution does not anywhere say that Sixth Schedule is confined to the tribal area of North East only as such constitutionally there is no problem in extending it to other areas. The Ministry of Home Affairs was asked whether the Sixth Schedule could be extended to any other State or area outside the North East or the intra vires of the proposed move to extend the Sixth Schedule status to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. He had conveyed no legal or constitutional objection to carrying out the proposed amendment in a written response. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Home and Law/ Justice have conveyed their no objection to the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes if it recommends the grant of Tribal Area status to the Union Territory of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India in its 118th meeting held on 27.8.2019. Accordingly, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has officially recommended the case of Ladakh to include it under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution as per their decision taken on 11th of September, 2019, in its 119th meeting.

The provisions of the Sixth Schedule can be amended in three different ways:

- By Constitutional amendment by following procedure laid down in Article 368 of the Constitution.
- By an ordinary Parliamentary legislature as provided in paragraph 21 of the Sixth Schedule and
- By a notification issued by the Governor under paragraph 1 (3) of the Sixth Schedule resulting in an amendment to the table appended to paragraph 20 of the said Schedule.

After independence, the Sixth Schedule has been amended on more than ten occasions.

The grant of the Sixth Schedule has been the first commitment to the people of Ladakh by the Bhartiya Janata Party in the general elections to the Parliament in 2014 and 2019, followed by the Ladakh Hill Council election 2020 in their election manifesto and

The system of local governance under the Sixth Schedule is a guarantee for the protection of ethnicity, culture, land, ecology and jobs of the tribal populated areas from the threats of large scale influx of non-indigenous and non-tribal from other parts of the country.

The Imperatives

In the wake of the inclusion of Union Territory of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, it is expedient to apply it with contextual amendments in relevance to the situation and conditions of Ladakh to safeguard its unique tribal/ indigenous identity, valued culture, fragile ecology, scarce lands and jobs. Over the years, the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution was applied in ten Districts / tribal areas in four North Eastern States of the country with amendments as per their respective requirements and needs of different tribals on more than ten occasions. Therefore, putting UT of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the following Ladakh specific vital matters requires to be delineated in clear terms in the proposed amendments to be affected:-

- Provided always that all the clauses, which have proven effective in percolating benefits to the grassroots during their functioning in the last 25 years of the Ladakh Hill Councils under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act.1995, should have to be retained in the new set-up under the Sixth Schedule.
- Paragraph 3B of the Sixth Schedule, with all relevant additional powers, extended to the Bodoland Territorial Council to make laws in respect of the subjects, should also be extended to UT of Ladakh.
- The ADCs should be given all executive, administration and financial powers in respect of subjects transferred to it.
- The existing Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil are statutory bodies by an Act of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State. It should be replaced by the Constitutional bodies envisaged under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and with the nomenclature as, "Ladakh Autonomous District Council, Leh / Kargil as the case may be.



Ladakh student associations under the banner of Student Organisation for Unified Ladakh took out a peaceful protest rally demanding 6th schedule for Ladakh on February 10, 2020.

Each Autonomous District Council should consist of 35 members, out of which 30 should be selected based on adult suffrage. The remaining five should be nominated- one each from Shea, Sunni, Christian communities, one from amongst the less privileged Buddhist community and one monk from amongst the Lamas of Gompas in the District.

- The nominated members should have no voting rights.
- Moreover, the Member of Parliament from Ladakh, all Chairman of the Block Development Councils, and President of the Municipal Committees will be ex-officio members of the respective ADCs but the ex-officio members shall have no voting rights.
- There should be a 33 % reservation to the women from amongst the total constitutions by rotation.
- An Executive Council should be answerable to the General Council in each of the ADCs comprising not more than 7 Executive Members among the members of the General Council on the lines of LAHDCs headed by the Chief Executive Councilor/Chairman.
- The Chief Executive Councilor/Chairman shall be elected by the General Council through an election. The CEC/Chairman shall nominate the remaining 6 Executive Councilors on the assumption of the post of CEC from amongst the General Council members. However, one EC out of the six should be from Shea, Sunni and Drokpa communities.
- Provided always that the CEC/Chairman should be of the rank of a State Cabinet Minister and the ECs as that of a MOS having equal salaries and perks, etc. They shall also perform normal duties and powers functioned and exercised by them. The Councilors should have salaries and perks at par with MLAs in other State/ UTS of the country.
- The constituency in Phyang, Upper Leh, Lower Leh and Skurbuchan should be delimited to create an additional seat out of each. However, the new one created from Skurbuchan should comprise exclusively Drokpat speaking populated villages/hamlets with adjustment of Skurbuchan, Lamayuru and Lingshet constituencies with each other.
- Anti defection law of the country should apply to the UT of Ladakh's proposed ADCs.

Though under the paragraphs of the Sixth Schedule, ADCs are like miniature State having specific powers and responsibilities in respect of all the three pillars of a Government, i.e. legislature, executive and judiciary. As far as the judiciary is concerned, Ladakh already stands integrated into the mainstream system of judiciary. Legislative powers can be limited to some local traditional and social system as the Faspun, Langsde and Chutsir, etc. This will strengthen them legally for their long run practices. Panchayat system should function in Ladakh with their integration with the ADCs by dint of their BDC's chairmen as an ex-officio member of ADCs and function under the overall control of the ADCs having all the functions and powers of Zila Parishad vest in the ADCs.

All centrally-sponsored schemes should be executed under the overall control and supervision of the ADCs subject to strict auditing by CAG. The ADCs should have full control over the officers and staff connected with the delegated subjects working in the ADCs area and should be competent to transfer officers and staff within the ADCs area. ACRs of these officers should be written by appropriate ADCs authority.

Relationship with the land is the basis of Ladakh's indigenous identity. Therefore, the land owned by the tribal people of Ladakh should be protected:-

- Lands owned and under the possession of religious institutions of Ladakh be prohibited from the transfer.
- Lands owned by indigenous tribal of Ladakh are prohibited from transfer to non-tribal other than eight tribes of Ladakh or in between them who stands declared scheduled tribes of Ladakh.
- Benami transfer of lands should be completely banned in Ladakh. In case of contravention, the illegally transferred land should vest in the respective ADCs who should be empowered to dispose of for generation of resources to the ADCs provided always that the buyer should be indigenous tribal or for a public purpose in exchange of compensations.

- The ADCs be empowered to regulate Banjar lands in Ladakh.
- The ADCs be empowered to formalize and update land records from time to time.
- Provided always that tribal-owned land and Government barren lands, i.e. Banjar lands required for a public purpose or industrial set-ups shall be governed by the statutes of "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Resettlement Act.2013" with the informed consent of the local population through the ADCs

Mining and minerals are the single largest factor endangering the ecosystem of the tribal area of Ladakh. Therefore,

- Permission and leasing of mining authority should vest in local ADCs.
- 80% of royalty should be shared with the local ADCs.
- Mining should not be permitted without the prior informed consent of the locals.
- "The Samtha v/s State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors (1997) judgment, where the Supreme Court declared that the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining was null and void. It further said that in such tribal area, only a Cooperative consisting of tribal or a public sector undertaking can mine," have to be kept in mind concerning Ladakh.
- Mine and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act.2015 or MMDRA Act and its rules empower the State Govt. to change the eligibility criteria for mining lease auction keeping in mind Article 244 of the Constitution should be adhered in UT of Ladakh.
- All laws and rules of different states, restricting and prohibiting the transfer of tribal lands, should be kept in mind as that of Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas and Land Transfer Regulation, 1959 and the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966, etc in guiding the land policy for the tribal area of the UT of Ladakh.

There should be a complete ban on the mining of Uranium in Ladakh

Recruitments in Government jobs are held up because Ladakh needs domicile rules as that of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, but the criteria and conditions have to be quite different to that of UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Since Ladakh is populated by 98 % STs, domicile of the Union Territory of Ladakh should be based on the following conditions:

- That he/she belongs to one of the eight different scheduled tribes of Ladakh.
- If he/she is not an ST from Ladakh, but his/her or their parents or ancestors are living in Ladakh from the year of independence, i.e. 1947 and owning and possessing immovable properties in Ladakh.
- Ladakh should have its own separate State Cadre employees as LAS and LPS, etc., with a separate Public Service Commission for their recruitments.
- The Divisional and District Recruitment Boards in Union Territory of Ladakh should be set up immediately so that the Divisional and District cadres vacancies are filled up at the earliest.
- Since there has been no Divisional and District-level recruitment in the last three years in the Union Territory of Ladakh, there should be an age relaxation of 3 years for the local candidates applying for Government recruitments in UT of Ladakh.

The all-India reservation pattern that is applicable to all the union territories, i.e. 15% for SCs, 7.5% for STs, 27% for OBCs and 10% for EWSs, should not apply to Ladakh as it is populated by 98% STs.

People of Ladakh identify themselves amongst the common citizen of India and are fully integrated into the mainstream. Their patriotism and loyalty towards the nation have undergone litmus tests during the Pakistani tribal invasion in 1947, the Chinese aggression of 1962 and all wars with Pakistan in 1965, 1971 and 1999. The Constitution of India made unity in diversity, the bedrock of Indian polity. Therefore the country is duty-bound to protect and safeguard the cultural diversity of its different ethnic communities.

- Now, Ladakh is a case in hand, which cultural assimilation with the mainstream will lead to its disappearance if their special ethnic identity, their valued cultural heritage are not protected. Therefore, a wide range of development-oriented initiatives is taken up to protect and promote the cultural heritage of Ladakh.
- Photo language is given constitutional recognition by including it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India and a National Council for Promotion of Bhoti Language is constituted.
- A Cultural Complex at Leh for the existing "Ladakh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages" to accommodate Art Galleries, Museum, Library and activities of researches and publications, etc. be sanctioned. And
- A college of Music and Performing Art is sanctioned for Ladakh.

The writer is a Former MLA and Ex President of District Congress Committee, Leh. You can send your views and comment at samphehtsering46@gmail.com

'Live to Love' donates 500 Oxygen disposal masks to COVID hospitals of Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: 500 Oxygen disposal masks were donated by Live to Love (LTL) and its ground partner Young Drukpa Association (YDA) to SNM Hospital, Mahabodhi Karuna Charitable Hospital, and Ladakh Heart Foundation on June 3.

The donations were handed over by LTL and YDA Ladakh representatives to CMO Leh, Dr. Motup Dorje in presence of the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Dy Chairman, Tsering Angchuk; DC/Chairman DDMA Leh, Shrikant Suse, and Councillor Kungyam/Former YDA President, Thinles Nurboo



Members of Live to Love handing over the 500 Oxygen disposal masks to CMO, Leh at Council Secretariat.

at the Council Secretariat.

CEC Gyalson extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Live To Love organization headed by H.H The Gyalwang Drukpa

Rinpoche for their noble gesture during such a tough time of the pandemic. He hopes that such organizations' contributions will surely help fight together against the Covid-19 pandemic.

EC, Zanskar Affairs, surveys land for airfield, bus stand, taxi stand, industrial areas in Zanskar



EC Punchok Tashi conducting joint survey of land proposed for construction of airfield, bus stand, taxi stand, industrial areas, other locations in Zanskar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

ZANSKAR: Executive Councillor for Tourism and Zanskar Affairs, EC, Punchok Tashi conducted a

joint survey of the land proposed for the construction of airfield, bus stand, taxi stand, industrial areas and other locations in

Zanskar on June 9.

During the survey, EC, Zanskar Affairs along with the Area Development Officer/SDM, Zanskar, Sonam Dorjay and the team of Revenue Department visited various locations allotted by the government. A total of around 4000 kanals of land including 3500 kanals for airfield, 50 kanals each for industrial estate and bus stand and 5 kanals of land for taxi stand were demarcated by the team.

EC Punchok Tashi directed the Executive Engineer PWD to construct fencing on these locations at the earliest possible.

Sarpanchs, Panchs, Lambardars and members of the concerned villages were also present during the land demarcation.

NOTICE

An application has been received from Tsering Stanzin S/o Dorje Gyaltsan R/o Durbuk, Leh, Ladakh owner of vehicle no. JK10 9300 for issuance of duplicate Registration Certificate of the above said vehicle in lieu of the lost documents. Now, it is therefore notified for the general public information that objection if any shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer ARTO within a period of 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Phurbu Gyaltsan S/o Tsering Dorjee R/o Hanley, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK-10 20120003728 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.

Poor network connectivity hampers online education

...Continued from Page 4

teachers have to wait for late submissions due to slow networks and they understand the situation although they even have a life. I feel they just finish their meals within the least possible time and get back to preparations for class or to take classes.

There are so many people I know who have sent their kids to their relative's houses for a better network. Back then when I was a kid we used to stay in hostels for studies and now there is no difference as the students still go away from their homes.

Also, it is confusing for the children because before this pandemic we have been telling our children to avoid mobile phones now we are giving our mobile phones to them for education. Students do not get their attendance even after attending the class owing to bad internet and the teachers complain to the parents whereas parents scold their children.

People are stressing so much about the communication services yet we do not see any ground improvement. This is about the child's future and life thus the government needs to strive for better network connectivity.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES OF LOOMS OF LADAKH- YARN BANK, DESIGN STUDIO AND OFFICE AT CHUCHOT, LEH, LADAKH



Due Date: 25th June 2021

About Looms of Ladakh

Looms of Ladakh is a rural women co-operative movement to establish the textile cottage industry of Ladakh. It was conceived as a farm to fashion initiative, committed to extend due recognition to the pashmina, yak and sheep wool rearing communities and its artisans. The co-operative encourages women empowerment by allowing unemployed women from remote villages to develop their skills in making organic and designer products to sustain themselves financially.

Description of Services

Proposal/ Bids are invited from the eligible consultants / Agency who have similar experienced for developing design and execution of building development at Chuchot, Leh, Ladakh.

Minimum Eligibility criteria

The consultant / agency should meet the following minimum criteria:

- i. The applicant should be a reputed architect Firm / Agency / Individual registered under the Council of Architecture, New Delhi, India.
- ii. The applicant must have minimum 5 years of experience in Ladakh
- iii. Should have completed at least 3 projects in Ladakh.
- iv. The Firm / Agency / Individual should have demonstrated experience in earth building and should have worked with local construction techniques and materials.

Scope of work

The consultant/ Agency will have to provide detailed design review and support for:

- i. Architectural design,
- ii. Structure design,
- iii. Utilities design, interiors as required.
- iv. Landscape design where required
- v. Working drawings for implementation by Partners
- vi. Support in preparation of preliminary budget estimate and scope of work for construction contractor
- vii. Support in Selection of the suitable contractor for construction
- viii. Site visits and supervision during the execution of the project.
- ix. Any other reasonable request made by Looms of Ladakh

Building Specifications and requirements		
S no.	Designated Space	Details
i.	Handspun Yarn Bank Hall	Ability to store large quantity of yarn throughout year, temperate and safe from rain/wind/sunlight
ii.	Reception along with waiting area	Ability to accommodate 5 people + reception counter + waiting area+ sofa + notice board etc.
iii.	Dyeing Unit	Ability to accommodate three different sections – temperature controlled wet area for dyeing yarns, fabric washing unit, indoors area for drying yarns, and small portion for storage
iv.	Water Recycling Unit	Small recycling unit adjacent/closer to dyeing & washing space
v.	Machine room with separate foundation	For machinery processing like carding/calendering etc.
vi.	Discussion hall	A space for board meetings with capacity of approximately 20 people and provision for audio- visuals. And adjoining larger space/ outdoor space with partition in between so that both spaces can be merged into one for larger gathering of 200 people.
vii.	Working space	Open office space with tables and lockers and charging points and long discussion tables. And storage space for files & other resources
viii.	Tailoring unit	Ability to accommodate approximately 20 tailors & machines to work and space for mood boards, pattern making tables, for hanging garments, fabric cutting tables, ironing tables and a corner for the in-Studio model shoot.
ix.	Weaving unit	Ability to accommodate approximately 15 loom units. and storage space to accommodate additional looms parts & material.
x.	Spinning / knitting unit	Open space with minimal furniture and sitting arrangement for spinning & knitting. And storage space to accommodate additional parts & material.
xi.	Pantry	Small pantry for daily requirements
xii.	Guest rooms/Cubicle	Single & Double occupancy rooms with shared bath and toilet spaces. and kitchen and laundry cleaning and drying space, store for housekeeping. Rooftop space accessible for cubicle residents.
xiii.	Final products inventory	Area for storing final products in organized manner
xiv.	Ladies room/ Creche	For children play area & space for nursing mothers
xv.	Cooperative's room	A small library cum shop and archive for the products made in the past and the timeline of the organization

Key Deliverables / Submittals

The Selected service provider will be required to submit the following-

- i. Concept design.
- ii. Proposed plans, site plans, foundation plans, floor plans, ceiling plan, roof plan, phasing plan, sections and elevations, schedules, perspectives/impression demonstrating the spatial quality, as well as operational needs and accessibility requirements.
- iii. Mechanical site plans, Plumbing & Sewerage drawings, Electrical/IT & Fire protection drawings
- iv. Demonstration of type of construction, materials, functions.
- v. Site visits and supervision during the execution of the project.

Descriptions, Instructions & General Terms & Conditions

- i. Any query/clarification with respect to the sites or RFP documents intended to be raised by the Bidder(s) should be submitted via email (loomsofladakh@gmail.com, loomsofladakh.coop@gmail.com) to Looms of Ladakh at least seven (7) days before the scheduled date for the bid submission.
- ii. The Proposal / Bids should be submitted on or before 17:00 Hrs (IST) on 25.06.2021. Looms of Ladakh reserves the right to cancel, terminate, change or modify
- iii. this procurement / bid process and / or requirements of bidding stated in the RFP at any stage without assigning any reason or providing any notice and without incurring any liability, of any nature whatsoever, for the same.
- iv. Proposal/Bid received after due date and time will be rejected.
- v. Looms of Ladakh is not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation and submission of Bids including costs and expenses related to visits to the site.
- vi. Selection in the panel at no point of time guarantees any award of work by Looms of Ladakh and the service providers who fail to get the opportunity shall not have any right to claim any damages whatsoever against Looms of Ladakh.
- vii. Looms of Ladakh reserves the right to remove any/all service provider from hiring list at their sole discretion without assigning any reason thereof.
- viii. Confidentiality- The service provider shall, at all times, maintain the utmost confidentiality regarding the contents of this RFP; the arrangements contemplated by this RFP; any business, technical or financial information, data or knowhow, given to it by the other (hereinafter the "Confidential Information") and shall not provide/discard or otherwise make available all or any part of such Confidential Information to any person or entity for any personal, business, commercial or other purposes, unless with the prior written consent of such disclosing party.

Evaluation Mechanism & Timelines

Looms of Ladakh is committed to a fair and equal opportunity of all interested agencies irrespective of religion, gender and region. The eligible Proposal/Bid received will be scrutinized on the following basis:

#	Parameter	Description	Weightage
1	Professional Experience	The consultant/agency should have a minimum verifiable experience of 5 years. Experience of working in Ladakh is preferable.	1.2/3
2	Contextual knowledge / Experience	The consultant/agency has working experience in Ladakh employing local construction techniques and using local resources/ materials for 70% of materials used in the project.	1.2/3
3	Bid price	Price quoted by the consultant	0.6/3

Proposal / Bid must include:

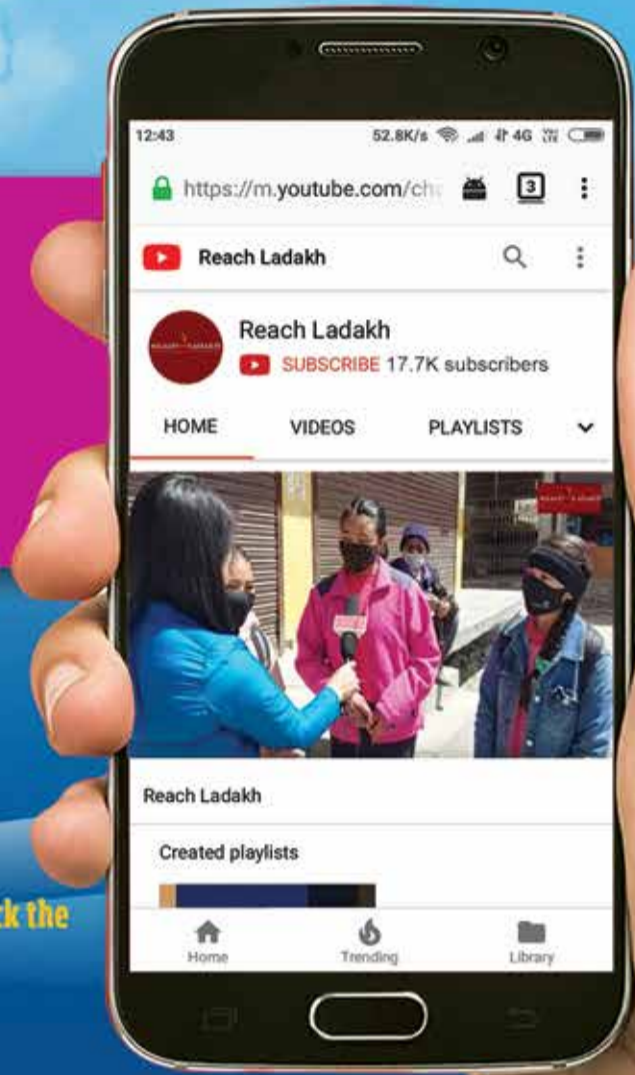
- a. Cover letter by the competent authority expressing interest to provide services in reference to the RFP.
- b. KYC documents of the Consultant / Agency.
- c. Proof of Document for minimum eligibility criteria mentioned above.
- d. List and details of relevant work completed along with completion certificates.
- e. CVs of Key personnel with relevant experience highlighted.
- f. Profile/Portfolio of works.
- g. Sq.ft base rate for the listed project for design and execution.

The Proposal/Bid must be submitted on or before 18:00 Hours (IST) on 25th June 2021.

The Proposal/Bid with complete documentation should be mailed to loomsofladakh@gmail.com & loomsofladakh.coop@gmail.com

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