

REACH LADAKH BULLETIN

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L-G, launches several initiatives on 2nd anniversary of Ladakh's UT

Cleanliness drive, e-buses, cycle rally, and Leh Phonya magazine launched during the occasion



RK Mathur flagging off the cycle rally organised by Ladakh Police in which more than 50 cyclists took part.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: UT Administration launched various initiatives as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the second anniversary of Ladakh's Union Territory status on August 5.

RK Mathur flagged off the sustainable cleanliness drive with the tagline 'Swachh Ladakh Swasth Ladakh', five e-buses each for Leh and Kargil districts, and a cycle rally organised by Ladakh Police in which more than 50 cyclists took part. He also handed over the keys of Refuse Compactor and Grabbing Machine to the Municipal Committee Leh and launched the bilingual magazine, 'Leh Phonya' published by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

Leh Phonya, a century-old publication was started by the Moravian Missionaries in the first decade of the 20th century under the name Ladakh Phonya.

The publication aimed at disseminating information on important policies and schemes implemented by the Administration and LAHDC, Leh in Leh district, and highlighting notable stories and achievements.

Addressing the gathering, LG Mathur highlighted the role of the local community in maintaining a clean environment. He sought cooperation from the residents in keeping Ladakh clean to achieve a healthy society.

Citing various initiatives taken by the villagers and residents in cleaning and conserving the ecosystem, LG Mathur termed Ladakhi society as culturally conscious of cleanliness and sanitation habits. He also stressed the need for inculcating the habit of generating minimal garbage and removing single-use plastic from the lives of the people. He

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Development in Changthang border areas not satisfactory even after UT status, says former EC Konchok Stanzin



Former Executive Councillor, Hill Council, Leh also the sitting Councillor of Chushul constituency, Konchok Stanzin raising border area issues.

Stanzin Dasal

LEH: Former Executive Councillor, Hill Council, Leh also the sitting Councillor of Chushul constituency, Konchok Stanzin raised various issues faced by the people residing in Border areas of Leh district during a press conference convened at Council Secretariat on August 11.

Talking about the recent recruitment issues in the Border battalion of Ladakh Police, Konchok Stanzin said, "I have always raised the point that youths residing in border areas should be given some relaxation and preference in recruitment drive carried out by various organisation be it Police, Army, Paramilitary forces, etc. The recently held border battalion recruitment rally is a good opportunity for all the youths of border areas and for which many have prepared themselves but it's unfortunate to see that only 4 got selected the reason for which is unable to understand".

"As there is relaxation in height, there should also, be a relaxation in a physical test for a candidate of high altitude areas", he added.

Konchok Stanzin appealed to UT administration, MP Ladakh, Hill Council, and all other concerned leaders and officials to make the vacancy of border battalion reserved to the young candidates residing in border areas only.

Highlighting other issues of border areas he said that the expectation of developed border areas with all facilities after UT status is all in vain.

"Two years went and if we look back at the status of border areas, it is just the same. The health system, education, electricity, telecom, and infrastructure are still not up to the mark. All this has compelled people of border areas to migrate", he added.

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L-G launches Tourist Wing of Ladakh Police



Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur flagging off Ladakh Police Tourist Wing vehicles at Police Line, Choglamsar.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Lieutenant Governor, RK Mathur launched the Tourist Wing of Ladakh Police and flagged off nine dedicated vehicles for the new wing on August 6 at Police Line, Choglamsar.

The Tourist Wing of Ladakh Police will deal with issues faced by the tourists and ensure environment-friendly activities by the tourists visiting Ladakh.

L-G Mathur stated that in a short

period, Ladakh Police has come a long way and has attained landmark achievements. He said that, with suitable communication and technological support, the Tourist Wing of Ladakh Police, can handle rescue missions and other medical emergencies faced by tourists and suggested that they be well-equipped with first-aid and oxygen supplies.

R K Mathur urged that this new wing be trained suitably to create flawless communication system

with various tourism agencies, the District Administration, the health facilities, and other stakeholders for effective coordination in the face of an emergency.

“A balance between assisting the tourists and adherence to the legal aspects will be the key element defining the successful operation of this new Tourist Wing”, stated LG Mathur.

Highlighting the need for the addition of other dedicated branches, LG Mathur mentioned the suggestion made by the ADG Police, Satish Khandare regarding the addition of a Water Wing to the Police Department. He said that post-relevant training; the Water Wing can handle accidental drowning cases and also perform medical evacuations through water systems.

He congratulated the Ladakh Police, particularly their tourist wing, and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

National Handloom Day: Week-long handicraft exhibition organised in Leh, Kargil

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Celebrating National Handloom Day, Department of Industries and Commerce, UT Ladakh organised a week-long exhibition of local products in Leh and Kargil from August 7.

Over 30 local artisans, crafts-person, and entrepreneurs from Leh and 25 in Kargil are showcasing their products.

The Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7th August 1905 had encouraged indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers. In 2015, the Govt. of India decided to designate August 7 every year, as the National Handloom Day. The day is celebrated to honour the handloom community and acknowledge their contribution to India's socio-economic development.

During the inaugural day in Leh, Lt. Governor, R K Mathur appreciated the Department of Industries and Commerce for organising multiple exhibitions, workshops, and events in their endeavor towards taking Ladakh's handloom industry to newer heights.

He stated that handloom has been an integral part of Ladakhi tradition and with the right-hand holding and encouragement, this sector holds the great economic potential to make Ladakh prosper.

He further stated that almost 70-80% of this sector witness women's involvement and providing the required impetus to this sector will encourage women to become self-reliant and financially independent.

Advisor Ladakh, Umang Narula said that the Handloom has been an intrinsic part of the heritage



Lt. Governor, R K Mathur interacting with local weavers during the National Handloom Day.

and culture of Ladakh. He said that the world-famous pashmina has its roots in Ladakh and the new generation is moving away from this kind of livelihood, and the option to promote it must be explored.

Advisor Narula further added that UT Administration has been focusing on upskilling design, skill improvement, and providing various marketing opportunities. He also appealed to the artisans to take benefit from various schemes like the Weaver Mudra scheme and others. He also emphasized creating awareness and empowering the artisans so that they are in a position to maximize their income.

Executive Councillor, Handloom, Ghulam Mehdi Ashoor said that this kind of exhibition will provide opportunities to the artisans to earn their livelihood through Handicraft and Handlooms sectors. He expressed hope that the UT administration will continue providing support to encourage the artisans and also expressed his appreciation to the Department for providing marketing opportunities in Delhi for the local artisans.

Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Saugat Biswas informed that the Department is exploring

avenues to uplift the Handicraft & Handloom sector of Ladakh. He added that special emphasis is being given to products such as Pashmina, Yak wool, Camel wool, etc. and improvement in the complete value and supply chain is another major focus of the Department. He informed that the process of Geographical Indicator (GI) tagging for pashmina is in its completion stage.

He also informed that the Department is focussing on branding and advertising of the produce of Ladakh, which is presently not known to the mainland.

Highlighting the initiatives, Biswas added that they have already tied up with national-level institutions such as National Institute for Fashion Technology, NID Ahmedabad, Central Leather Research Institute, Wool Research Association, and others for establishing high-quality production, storage, packaging, etc.

Director, Industries and Commerce Department, Ladakh, Moses Kunzang said that UT Ladakh is celebrating Handlooms Day for the first time both in Leh and Kargil districts. He informed about various training programs being carried out by the Department in different villages of Ladakh.

Hill Council, Leh, celebrates 2nd anniversary of Ladakh's UT status

Unveils Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's bust at Council Secretariat

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: LAHDC, Leh celebrated the second anniversary of the formation of the Union territory of Ladakh after the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh on August 5, 2019. Celebrating the day, H.E Late 19th Kushok Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche's bust was unveiled at Council Secretariat on August 5.

His Eminence Togdan Rinpoche was the Chief Guest. CEC, Tashi Gyalson; MP Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Executive Councillors, councilors, Members of Bakula Memorial Society, Monks of Spituk Monastery, Religious and Political Organization heads, Veteran Political Leaders and district officers attended the ceremony.

A new book of Sonam Wangchuk Shaksपो, titled, “Ek Yug Pravartak, Kushok Bakula Rinpoche – Ek Jeevni” Hindi Version translated by Nitin Vaidya was also released.

President, Bakula Memorial Society extended his gratitude to the Hill Council Leh for putting up a bust of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche at the Council Secretariat which is a sign of integrity, and to remember his legacy and vision for the Modern Ladakh.

Addressing the gathering, MP Ladakh highlighted the contri-



Unveiling of H.E Late 19th Kushok Gyalsras Bakula Rinpoche's bust at Council Secretariat, Leh.

but ion of late Kushok Bakula Rinpoche during the struggling days of Ladakh demanding UT status. He added that we should strengthen our relationships and work collectively for the future of Ladakh as per the vision of the late Kushok Bakula Rinpoche.

CEC Tashi Gyalson expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh, understanding the importance of the development of Ladakh for the nation. Congratulating the people of Ladakh on the second anniversary of the formation of UT Ladakh, CEC Gyalson highlighted the contribution of many leaders who have even sacrificed their lives for the cause of Ladakh during the initial days of agitation. He added that we should work towards making Ladakh sustainable and maintain the ex-

isting peace and harmony among the people of Ladakh.

H.E Togdan Rinpoche stressed the need for strengthening the foundation of the newly formed Union Territory. He highlighted the need for maintaining the tradition of brotherhood among all communities and Ladakhi society at large. He shared his experiences working with veteran leaders including the late Kushok Bakula Rinpoche for the welfare of Ladakhi people in the past times.

Family members of the martyrs who laid down their lives during the agitation period in Ladakh were felicitated. Quiz Competition organized by the News Wing of All India Radio Leh on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of AIR Leh and the upcoming 75 glorious years of India's Independence was also launched.

L-G launches several initiatives on 2nd anniversary of Ladakh's UT

...Continued from page 1

also urged the need for strictly following the practice of waste segregation and recycling for a successful waste management system.

Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson, appreciated the steps taken by the UT Administration led by LG Mathur in starting several initiatives. He emphasized the need for mass participation in making such initiatives successful to protect the natural resources and the fragile ecosystem of Ladakh. He urged Ladakhis to contribute to build a strong foundation for the newly Union territory of Ladakh.

Secretary Tourism, Mehboob Ali Khan shared that the cleanliness drive would be held from August 5 to 15. He highlighted the initiative of the Tourism Department is conducting a cleanliness drive every month to keep Ladakh clean.

Advisor, Umang Narula; ADGP Ladakh, Satish Khandare; Divisional Commissioner, Saugat Biswas; Inspector General, BS Tuti; Secretary Information, Padma Angmo, Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Ravinder Kumar; SSP Rajiv Pandey; Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Suse, and concerned officials from different organizations and NGOs were present during the occasion.

Development in Changthang border areas not satisfactory even after UT status, says former EC Konchok Stanzin

...Continued from page 1

Konchok said, “After UT status, development is seen in areas around the bureaucrats, and hill council but the people living in the border areas are still living high hopes and expectations. It is always said that the border areas are top priorities at every level but the work progress and implementation is zero on the ground.”

He also spoke about the issues of telecom connectivity in border areas and stressed the need to resolve the issues as telecommunication is a basic

need in this fast-growing digital world. He said that the education sector is suffering in border areas because of the lack of internet facilities.

He stressed the need for practical and proper implementation of the Changthang Development Package designed to cater to the core needs of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities of Changthang. The financial package was aimed to cover critical infrastructural development, housing, health, education, employment opportunity, telecommunication, energy, sports, livestock essentials, etc.

The Philosophy of Ladakhi Language

Sonam Phuntsog (Achinathang)

The local language of the region Baltistan (now in Pakistan), Kargil and Leh is same i.e. the Ladakhi language script. In Kargil and Baltistan it is called 'Ighe' while in Leh it is called 'Bodhi' which is actually a Tibetan script. The dialect differs in these regions due to the distance between places. Few years ago members of the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association named the Ladakhi language as 'Bhoti' which was

argued and discussed at various level.

According to my research about the language in Indian history all around India the Bhoti language does not exist. In the book called 'Vishal Shabd Sagar' based on Indian History (page 1035) it is mentioned that Bhoti is called the language of Bhutan and also referred to the people of Bhutan just like people and language of Kashmir are called Kashmiri. Nowadays,

the language of Bhutan is called 'Zongkha' and their script is 'Tibetan'. For this reason, it is difficult for Bhoti as a language to get recognition in the constitution of India. Also it was already mentioned as Ladakhi and not Bhoti.

The people of UT Ladakh want their cultural heritage protected and hence suggest that the textbook in schools should be written in their mother tongue instead of Tibetan.

Cultural Academy, Leh, organises poetic symposium, releases 'Shesrig Melong' book



During the release of Bi-monthly journals and publications 'Sheeraza' and the first Ladakhi Publications of 1976 'Shesrig Melong' translated in English.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A poetic symposium themed, 'Environment and Carbon-neutral' was organised by the Academy of Arts, Culture & Languages, Leh on August 9 at Lotsava Auditorium.

The Bi-monthly journals and publications 'Sheeraza' and the first Ladakhi Publications of 1976 'Shesrig Melong' translated in English were also released as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'.

The book 'Shesrig Melong' (Mirror of Culture) 1976 is translated by Dr. Nawang Tsering, Former Principal, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh & edited by Dr. Thupstan Norboo, Editor of Cultural Academy, Leh. The publication comprises important articles on varied aspects of Ladakh like art, culture, literature, geography, history, script, folklore, painting, architecture, performing, arts, ancient arts, and others.

Dr. Jamyang Gyalton said that the poetic symposium should be organized more often. He said that the dissemination of information on important topics through an artistic form is praiseworthy. Similarly, Dr. Nawang Tsering added that translation is important to disseminate the information to a larger audience.

Dr. Thupstan Norboo briefed about the publication and welcomed the gathering.

First meeting of Ladakh Pollution Control Committee held in Leh

Committee approves proposal to outsource scientific and administrative staff



During the first meeting of the Pollution Control Committee at the UT Secretariat.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Climate Change, UT Ladakh, Dr Pawan Kotwal chaired the first meeting of the Pollution Control Committee at the UT Secretariat on August 6.

Detailed discussion on varied issues such as the Mandate and Duties of the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee, Outsourcing Scientific and Engineering staff, setting up of Air, Water and Noise monitoring stations was held.

Discussion was also held on the delegation of Powers to issue consents under section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the delegation of Administrative Powers, and delegation of Financial Powers. The Committee deliberated on these proposals and approved them.

The Committee was informed that the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee was constituted on March 25, 2021, as per section 4 of the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974 and section 6 of the Air Prevention and Control of Pollution Act), 1981.

The Committee approved the

proposal to outsource the Scientific and Administrative staff for the PCC UT of Ladakh for which Ladakh Administration be requested to provide the requisite funds. It was informed that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) already sanctioned eight Water Quality Monitoring Stations for UT Ladakh under the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP). The funds under the head 'Machinery and Equipment' are presently available for the procurement of equipment for these stations.

During the meeting, the Committee proposed that LPCC may seek the assistance of CPCB to prepare a comprehensive proposal for setting up of these stations, including preparation of bid documents for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the stations.

Dr Pawan Kotwal requested the experts of CPCB to extend handholding support to the newly constituted PCC of the UT of Ladakh so that it can discharge its functions effectively as soon as possible.

Member Secretary of CPCB, Dr. Prashant Gargava, assured that they will provide all the necessary technical guidance and assistance to the PCC of UT of

Ladakh.

The Chairman, Ladakh Chamber of Industries Tashi Gyalson raised the issue of issuance of Consent to Operate (COO) to the Guest Houses & MSMEs. He informed that there exists a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) in Leh Town which has been developed by an international NGO, namely, BORDA of Germany. He requested the Member Secretary CPCB to send a team of experts from CPCB to ascertain whether treatment of the Faecal Sludge / Sewage at this plant would be sufficient as per Norms for giving COO to the Guest Houses / MSMEs on this disposal technique. The Member Secretary CPCB said he would send the expert/s as soon as all the DPR / Data of the said Plant & the Technology used in it are sent to the CPCB by the PCC Ladakh.

The Committee approved the adoption of the consent fee structure which was in force in Ladakh before the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of J&K into UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh.

Preet Pal Singh, Chief Conservator of Forest gave a detailed presentation on the Ladakh Pollution Control Committee.

Delhi University, University of Ladakh sign MoU for academic collaboration

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Ladakh and the University of Delhi on August 5 for scientific and academic collaboration.

The MoU aims at encouraging the pursuit of scientific and academic collaboration between the academic and research centres of the two Universities; exchange of faculty/staff and students, organizing faculty development programmes, providing hands-on experience to students of the University of Ladakh regarding various advanced technologies available in the University of Delhi to expand their knowledge horizon; encouraging and facilitating inter-University student and faculty visits; joint research and publications activities; sharing library resources as well as providing access to laboratory facilities and organizing joint Ph.D. programmes.



During the signing of MoU, C. Phunsog, Vice-Chancellor; Imteaz Kacho, Registrar; Professor Deskyong Namgyal, Dean, Academic Affairs/Controller of Examinations; Dr.Sonam Joldan, In-charge, Centre for Himalayan & Trans-Himalayan Studies and Dr.Stanzin Mantok, Assistant Professor of Commerce from University of Ladakh were present. Professor P.C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor; Dr.Vikas Gupta, Registrar; Professor K.Ratnabali, Dean, Academic Activities & Projects among others from University of Delhi were present.

C.Phunsog expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi for having facilitated the collaboration between the two Universities particularly for reposing faith in the newborn University of Ladakh. Congratulating the University of Delhi for the fact that it will turn hundred years old next year, he expressed hope that the University would extend the much-needed hand-holding to the University of Ladakh in its quest towards excellence. He assured that the University of Ladakh would leave no stone unturned in making the collaboration abiding and productive.

Two-day workshop for ICDS workers held in Leh



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Two-day workshop for field functionaries on various schemes implemented through Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in Leh was concluded on August 5.

The workshop was organised by the Social and Tribal Welfare Department of UT Ladakh as a part of the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations. Lieutenant Governor, UT Ladakh, R K Mathur, was the chief guest for the concluding ceremony.

Appreciating the contribution of the ICDS workers during the pandemic in monitoring COVID-19 cases and distribution of rations, R K Mathur highlighted their noteworthy role and the need for their continued assistance for the community at large.

The workshop for the field functionaries of ICDS focused on learning and replicating the best practices followed at different Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). ICDS is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India and represents one of the world's largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development for children under the 0-6 age group.

L-G Mathur lauded the initiative of the Social Welfare Department for organising the workshop aimed at learning and adopting the best practices implemented through ICDS in Leh and Kargil districts. He hoped that the workshop would prove beneficial for improving

the functioning of ICDS programmes in Ladakh.

He also stressed the need to work hard to provide all the facilities available at the Anganwadi centres, including providing running water and dry toilets. L-G Mathur hoped to see the process of co-locating Anganwadi centres with schools carried out on a priority basis.

Speaking on the possibility of the third Covid-19 wave, LG Mathur shared that the administration would soon launch a drive to boost the immunity of the population yet to be vaccinated, i.e. children below 18 years and pregnant women. He said that the ICDS workers would play a pivotal role in delivering immunity boosters and health supplements to children and pregnant women.

Secretary, Social Welfare, Padma Angmo stressed the need for learning and adopting best practices followed by the AWCs under ICDS in both Leh and Kargil districts. She expressed hope to see AWCs in Kargil co-located with schools or other government buildings on the line of AWCs in Leh districts. She added that the interaction between the ICDS functionaries of both districts should continue even beyond the workshop.

Secretary Padma stated that the best practices adopted by AWCs in Ladakh, including grading Anganwadi Centres at Nubra, Poshan Vatika (Nutri Garden) at Marteselang, using local organic materials for teaching and

learning methods and practising yoga at AWCs in Kargil, would be replicated in other AWCs at the earliest.

The concerned ICDS officials shared the issues faced by them and Secretary Padma assured to take up the matter forward after qualitative analysis of the issues.

Director, Social Welfare Department, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali expressed hope that the workshop would be the ideal platform for exchanging ideas on the best practices implemented through ICDS. He also shared the details about the administrative formalities required for the smooth functioning of the ICDS centres and the proper implementation of the various schemes under them.

Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Kharu, Nubra and Nyoma presented the best initiatives/practices taken under the ICDS project in their respective areas. Similarly, ICDS supervisors from Leh and Kargil districts shared best practices and success stories from their areas.

Resource persons from National Institute Planning Corporation and Child Development (NIPC-CD), Mohali, Dr. Monika Sharma and Sunil Kumar, shared the best practices in ICDS based on supplementary nutrition, early childhood care & education, community participation & practices under corporate social responsibility & NGOs. They also shared other best practices followed under ICDS in other parts of the country.

Director, Social Welfare Department, Leh, Mohd Mumtaz Ali; District Planning Officer, ICDS, Leh, Tsering Palden; District Social Welfare Officers; Child Development Project Officers and ICDS Supervisors from both Leh and Kargil districts and the concerned departmental officials participated in the two-day workshop.

Practical steps towards protection of the environment

By His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

These days the environment- the source of life for all beings in the world including Tibet, the Land of Snows- is undergoing extensive degeneration. At this time it is extremely important that every human being, according to his or her ability, consistently puts effort into ensuring the conservation and protection of this planet's environment and its inhabitants.

The benefits of an "undefiled environment are many; for instance, a healthy tree purifies the air and supplies oxygen for living beings to breathe. It harmonizes the elements and increases life expectancy. Its shade provides a refreshing place to rest. It brings rain at the right time. It nourishes crops and livestock, and balances the temperature. It contributes to an attractive landscape and continually replenishes its surroundings. It brings about natural development in the spheres of education, economics and so forth.

The drawbacks of a polluted environment include a decline in the pure, cool qualities of the oceans and lakes, so that the creatures dwelling in those places are disturbed. The loss of vegetation and forests causes degeneration in the earth's nourishment.

Rain does not fall when it is needed. Unprecedented fierce storms rage, and so on. So there are many disadvantages.

From the Dharma point of view our teacher, the king of Shakya, was also born at the foot of a tree. He attained enlightenment under a tree, and finally passed away under a tree. Particularly in the Vinaya of the holy Dharma, fully ordained monks are taught how to nurture trees and so on. From that we can understand that planting and nurturing trees are virtuous acts. Moreover, the wisdom deities of the non-mundane worlds, as well as various local devas, nagas and spirits, inhabit trees. That also leads us to understand that trees are by nature extremely important.



It is generally beneficial to plant various types of trees, as mentioned above. In particular, fruit trees provide a living and nourishment predominantly for humans, as well as benefit to many other sentient creatures. They help to improve health and increase appetite, and so forth. So it certainly is important to plant trees.

Likewise, planting flowers also is a pure virtuous act. For example, when making a mandala offering we pray that the ground may be covered with incense and strewn with flowers. Flowers assist us in accumulating merit and purifying obscurations,

and also is an indispensable offering item everywhere in performing religious activities, such as the visualization of meditational deities. Moreover, if there are colorful flowers and then you offer them through visualization to the Triple Gem, the benefit of a swift accumulation of merit occurs. What is more, when people who are experiencing mess and an imbalanced mind stroll for a while in a garden, their minds are benefited by becoming refreshed and filled with pleasure.

Therefore, the whole of society needs to take an interest in planting various kinds of trees and flowers around monasteries, schools, offices, hospitals,

factories, restaurants, hotels and residences, on both sides of thoroughfares. In order to protect the growth of whatever has been planted in the best way, people should advise their children not to harm them. This definitely is a beneficial service to oneself and others and, in fact, to all living beings.

In Tibet, previously there was a good tradition of instituting laws to safeguard hills and valleys for unprotected and unsupported wild animals and birds and for the protection of various defenseless creatures. We should maintain the continuity of this tradition. At the present time, a few thoughtless people hunt wild animals and catch fish and seals, through their craving for money and material goods. It is noble work for self and others, and for present and future lives, to stop all of this from happening.

Similarly, it is inappropriate randomly to discard fruit-peel, paper, plastic bottles, old cloths, food leftovers and other kinds of garbage. Nor should people urinate and defecate everywhere. Such things spoil the beauty of the landscape and are a hazard to health and hygiene. There are some people, especially, who tie their worn cloths and fallen hair to the branches of trees. This looks extremely unattractive, so from now on this habit should be abandoned.

In short, this is a request that, through understanding the interdependent nature of the world and its inhabitants, people will implement practices based upon unmistakably accepting the correct means to cherish the potential of the vast natural realm.

May the attractive and healthy forests be increased in all the one hundred directions! May sentient creatures be freed from untimely death and live happy lives!

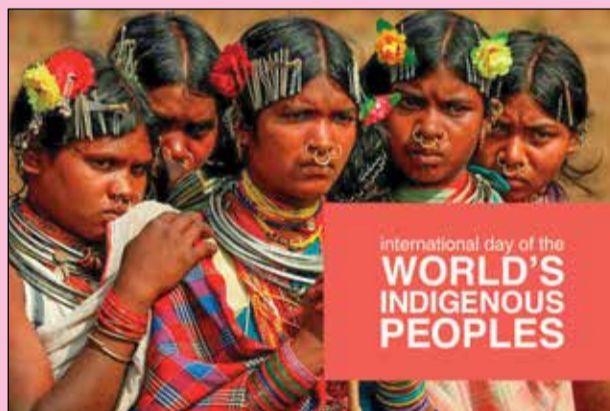
(Source: Official webpage of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. This message was delivered on Tibetan Democracy Day, September 2, 1994.)

The World of Juniors

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On 23 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided, in its resolution 49/214, that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples shall be observed on 9 August every year. The date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The theme for International Day of Indigenous Peoples 2021 is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract". The people around the world, the United Nations says, must raise their voice and demand indigenous peoples' inclusion, participation and approval in the constitution of a system with social and economic benefits for all.

Unique cultures, traditions, languages, and knowledge systems define



the world's indigenous peoples. The United Nations says that they have a special relationship with their lands and have a different way -- based on their worldview and priorities -- of looking at the development. The day serves as a reminder to all of us that we need to do much more than what we have done so far for indigenous people. Worldwide, people are encouraged to spread the United Nations' message of protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people.

DID YOU KNOW



Indian Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra

- Indian Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra became the first athlete from the country to win a gold in track and field in the Olympics. He threw a distance of 87.58m to pick up the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2021.

- Boxer Lovlina Borgohain from Assam became the third Indian boxer to win an Olympic medal. She won bronze at Tokyo Olympics 2021, becoming the third to win an Olympic medal in the sport after Vijender Singh and Mary Kom.

- Shakespeare wrote some of the most beloved and revered pieces of literature the world has ever known, but in order to craft his plays and poems, he sometimes resorted to making up his own words. In fact, The Bard is said to have come up with more than 1,700 words including moonbeam, laughable, eyeball, bump, puking, champion, bedroom, excitement, and zany.

- Guinea pigs are social animals that prefer the companionship of another guinea pig. Therefore, it is illegal to own just one of the little critters in Switzerland.

SoulSpeak

P.P. Wangchuk

Make the best use of your day



You must have heard this many times: Live every day as if it were your last. Some of us may enjoy mocking over it and say: Why should I do that? I will live many more years! Yes, sure, you should live for many more years, certainly. But if you understand the inherent meaning of the phrase, you will not only live long but will have a great one too.

The phrase means that one should never leave today's work for tomorrow, and that tomorrow's work not for the day after. A good and productive day is one when you fulfil all your commitments on the day itself because tomorrow you may have many other things to cop up with. And who knows tomorrow you may not be able to do anything because of certain unavoidable circumstances?

In other words, the phrase means one should make the best use of any moment, any day. A day gone can never be recalled, and hence any work left undone on any day leaves an unbridgeable gap forever.

"You can, and you should. And, if you are brave enough to start, you will." That was US author Stephen King on how to determine yourself and get going to tackle any issue. Only doers can do, and their only mantra is: Action, action, action.

The first step any day is to convince yourself that any day is a good day, and that hurdles might come any day. Therefore, in a sense, there can't be a good day or a bad day when you are on a mission.

Getting back to our main theme of forgetting the past, one can say that we are what we are just because of our past experiences. Those of us who had tried and succeeded in getting out of negativity would only thank our past for our present. And those who could not go along with the vicissitudes of time can only regret and try to change their mindsets for a better tomorrow.

Courtesy: WongWorld

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

In Conversation with Sonam Angmo, Mushroom Grower

Interviewed by Tenzin Dajon

Q. Brief us about yourself and how you got into farming?

Like all other students, I too explored various opportunities asked people's opinion and suggestion on various career options. I was interested in studying science and chose medical subject as a field of study. I appeared JK Common Entrance Exam and got agriculture as a field of study. Though I had no plans of studying agriculture but was curious to study about it so I decided to go with it and found it very interesting subject to learn. I pursued Master's in Agri biotechnology.

I got an opportunity to work with LEDeG and got to learn and know more about Leh. During that time agriculture and farming-related activities were considered unprofitable, unfashionable, and low-grade work. Food is a basic need, but working in the field is considered not a good option. Farmers are an important part of our society and to support the farming community I chose farming activity in general and mushroom cultivation in particular.

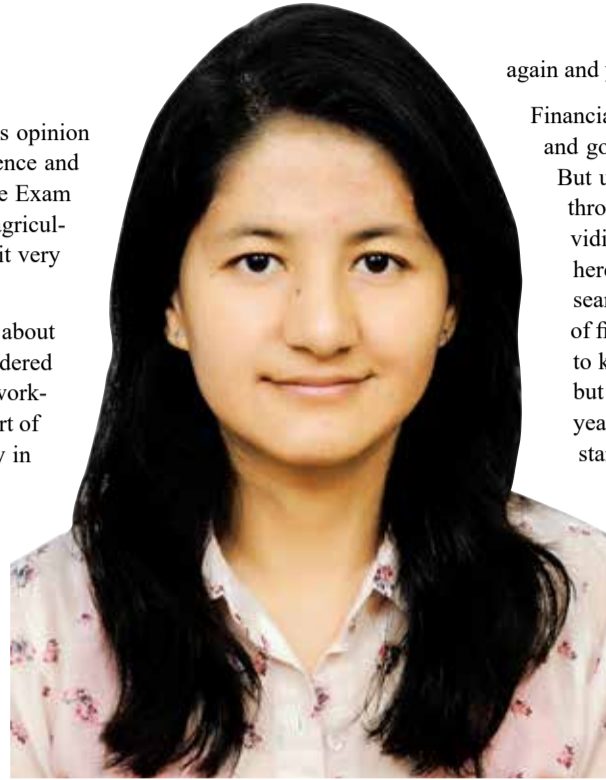
Q. How do you see the Brand Ladakh initiatives? Is it helpful to promote local agricultural products?

It is a good initiative taken by DIC (Department of Industry & Commerce) to bring all local entrepreneurs under one roof and to sell their products under one banner. This will help in encouraging all local entrepreneurs and give them a platform to promote and sell their products. It is presently established at Tourist Information Centre and Hotel Grand Dragon where tourists could buy authentic local products.

There is no Ladakh-specific market like Tibetan and Kashmiri market. In Brand Ladakh stall, I sent few packets of mushrooms and within few days I got a message to send few more packets. It is a clear indication that local produce has a good response from the tourists. The Ladakh-specific market is the need of the hour to promote local products.

Q. You are a well-known mushroom grower. What are the challenges that one has to face at the initial stages? Do have any advice for the new entrepreneur?

After completing my Master's study, I got support from my family which boosted my confidence. In 2018, KVK under Dr. Vikas Gupta's guidance conducted a research study on mushrooms. I contacted him and gathered a lot of information regarding the production. Later, I



again and yes, I did it.

Financial constraints are the main problems of every entrepreneur. I researched loans and govt schemes, gave an interview for JKEDI regarding mushroom production. But unfortunately, J&K was bifurcated into two Union Territories, and financing through JKEDI got stopped and others (NABARD & SBI RSETI) aren't providing loans for mushroom cultivation in Ladakh. And Agri-related departments here weren't confident enough to invest in this venture as it was only in the research part at that time. Where ever I got the chance I strongly asked for the need of financial support for mushroom entrepreneurs like me from govt. Later I came to know about DIC loan schemes where they provide loans for lab construction but not for mushroom cultivation. So, I applied to DIC for spawn production this year. Took time to gain the trust of my family but their support has helped me to stand firm on my decision.

Some other challenges are that our society doesn't consider farming as a full-time profession/job. In addition to this if someone with high qualifications decides to pursue this profession then people consider it as a failure. Some have even suggested me to get a secure job as being woman it becomes more difficult to pursue our dreams later in life.

Taking the path less taken is one of the biggest challenges in itself as it is full of roller coaster of emotions. But no matter what I always reminded myself that my main purpose was to motivate others especially youngsters towards Agriculture and allied ventures.

I am happy to tell you that people have already started cultivated mushrooms in different parts of Ladakh, many organizations are giving training on mushroom cultivation, and even in a recent meeting with EC Agriculture came to know that they are ready to fully support the upcoming mushroom cultivators. I suggest all the young aspiring entrepreneur's research first on all avenues before deciding. Also, there will be challenges, failures but try nothing is impossible.

Q. Is farming sustainable and commercially successful in Ladakh?

Farming is sustainable for sure and is well proven during the COVID-19 lockdown days. The pandemic has crippled every sector but Ladakh being a tourist destination area, people who are direct-

...Continues on Page 6

MESSAGE TO THE READERS

“ We should purchase local products to support the farming community and never discourage them who wants to do agriculture as it is also a profession. ”

did one-month training in KVK and opened my first unit at home. A practical implication of what was learned is a different experience. My first trial was unsuccessful but it didn't stop me from trying. I tried

Fortnight Highlights



Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse launched a cleanliness drive to clean the water sources at Tetsa Spang in Likir as a part of the ongoing 'Paani Maah' under Jal Jeevan Mission and sustainable cleanliness drive.



Brand Ladakh, an initiative by Department of Industries and Commerce to bring all local entrepreneurs under one roof and sell their products under one banner.



Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, called on Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K Singh, and discussed various issues related to power and renewable energy of Ladakh.



Pawan Hans conducted successful trail landing at Markha Helipad.



7 days long traditional folk music (daman and surna) workshop organised by the Ladakh Academy of Art Culture and Languages Kargil at Garkhon Changrah. Around 30 children participated in the music workshop.

Ladakh to host first Himalayan Film Festival

THE ADMINISTRATION OF
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: UT Administration of Ladakh is hosting the first edition of "The Himalayan Film Festival-2021" (THFF) from September 24 to 28, 2021 at Leh in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI.

Popular films from the Himalayan states viz Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh besides In-

dian Panorama selected films will be showcased during the festival. Master classes and In-conversation sessions with renowned film personalities aiming to impart necessary skills and networking opportunities to budding as well as established filmmakers will also be organized during the festival.

There will also be a competition section for short films and documentaries to recognize talented film-makers in the Himalayan region of India, connect to the sparsely located film-making

community of the region and encourage fresh talent.

Padma Angmo, Secretary, Information, Ladakh convened the first preparatory meeting with the officials of DIPR, Leh and Kargil. Ghulam Nabi Tak, Deputy Director, Information & PR, Ladakh and Mohd Ali Tak, AD Kargil on August 11.

She said that the film festival also aims to create an interactive and exposure platform to promote aspiring local film makers and to showcase Ladakh as an attractive film destination.

CEC, Leh, visits Govt. High School Wanla, distributes Edu-tabs to students



CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalson distributing pre-loaded educational tablet 'Yountab' to the students of 9th and 10th standard of Govt High School (GHS), Wanla.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

WANLA: CEC, Hill Council, Leh, Tashi Gyalson visited Govt High School (GHS), Wanla and distributed pre-loaded educational tablet 'Yountab' to the students of 9th and 10th standard on August 10.

Addressing the students, CEC, Tashi Gyalson asked students to use the tablets judiciously.

He said that the digitalization of villages in the Singay Lalok region is in full swing and soon all the villages of the region will be connected digitally through a proper telecommunication network with adequate internet facilities.

He also reviewed the infrastructural status of the school and directed BDO Singay Lalok to

speed up required renovation work and construct proper facilities such as wash facilities for better hygiene of the students and teachers at the school.

CEC Gyalson visited Hanupata village to inaugurate the annual archery festival organised by Samstan Ngosdup Tsoqspa of Hanupata village. He appreciated the villagers and the society for organising such festivals, which he termed as an effort to preserve the region's ancient local culture and heritage. He also gave a patient hearing to the grievances of the villagers and assured to resolve the issues at the earliest.

BDC Chairperson, Singay Lalok; BDO Singay Lalok, Headmaster/ Teachers of GHS Wanla, village representatives including, Sarpanch, Panch, VEC Chairman, villagers, and concerned departmental officials were present on the occasion.

In conversation with Sonam Angmo

...Continued from Page 5

ly dependent on tourism suffered a lot. It was seen that during the lockdown days people were mostly engaged in farming activities and realized the importance. We have to understand that fertile land in Ladakh is very limited and we are shrinking it further by doing construction on fertile land instead of on barren land. The agricultural season of Ladakh is unique. We can export our products to other cities to fill the demand gap. For instance, in other cities peas are grown in winter while we grow them in July-August.

The good sign is that entrepreneurship has become a fashion but economically we need to do it on a larger scale. The market issue is a reality but there is a scope and we can create it because the market for agricultural produce can never end as we cannot stop eating food.

Organic Ladakh is a good initiative but the certifi-

cation process should be fast to avoid farmers from suffering and to make agriculture more sustainable.

Q. How important is it to engage educated youth in agricultural activities?

Now Ladakh is a Union Territory, many outsiders will come to explore farm business in Ladakh. Therefore youth must come forward to grab the opportunity on time. Nowadays a lot of domestic tourists are coming and they are not aware of actual Ladakh and how the locals are living. We can merge farming with tourism which will boost quality tourism.

I see a bright future for those who wanted to explore this field as the administration and hill council are ready to support financially. Along with income generation farming keeps us connected with nature. There is also an option apart from farming, one can start marketing and packaging business of local produce. I feel there should be a farm day to attract youth in a farming business.

Pawan Hans MI-172 helicopter lands successfully in Sapi

Recce of helipads conducted in Barsoo Khandi and Chechesna Sankoo to check the feasibility of helicopter landing



Successful trial landing of Pawan Hans MI-172 helicopter at the newly constructed helipad at Sapi village.

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Trial landing of Pawan Hans MI-172 helicopter was done at the newly constructed helipad at Sapi village in the presence of the DC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve on August 7.

Executive Councilor, Councilor Choskore, Constituency, Nassir Hussain Munshi extended gratitude to the UT Administration Ladakh, Department of Civil Aviation Ladakh, CEC, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan, and Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Santosh

Sukhadeve for taking serious efforts in the operation of helicopter services in the remote village of Sapi. He further said that the importance of the helicopter services becomes very crucial for the village especially in winter months when the village gets completely cut off from the rest of the world due to which people particularly patients suffer a lot.

The villagers also expressed gratitude to the UT Administration and LAHDC, Kargil for taking the initiative which was a long pending demand of the vil-

lagers to ease up the aerial transportation.

Meanwhile, the team of officers and Pawan Hans crew members conducted the recce of Barsoo Khandi and Chechesna Sankoo civil helipads to check the feasibility of helicopter landing on these helipads. In the coming day's trial landing will also be done on the helipads at Tangole, Rangdum, Batalik, Padum-Zanskar, Lungnak, and Kargyak.

Pertinently, successful trial landings at 4 helipads in Kargil District including Drass, Hinaskot, Namkila-Wakha, and Kargil Civil Helipad have already been successfully done in the recent past.

SSP, Kargil, Anayat Ali Choudhary; ADC, Kargil, Tsering Motup; Executive Engineer, R&B 2nd Kacho Mehmood Ali; Nodal Officer Pawan Hans/ Civil Helipads, Muhammad Hassan, pilot, crew members of Pawan Hans and villagers of Sapi were present on the occasion.

Taxi Union, Kargil, meets Secretary, Transport

Demands permission to ply Kargil-based taxis across Ladakh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: Taxi Union Kargil met Divisional Commissioner cum Secretary Transport Ladakh Saugat Biswas on August 10 at Tourist Facilitation Centre and discussed the route permit issue faced by the Kargil-based taxis.

Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Santosh Sukhadeve, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil Tsering Motup, and representatives of Taxi Union Kargil were present on the occasion while the RTO, Ladakh; ARTOs of Leh, and Kargil attended the meeting through video conference.

The representatives of Taxi Union Kargil urged the Secretary Transport to allow them to freely ply on the inner routes of Ladakh without any interruption. They further requested to remove all blockades in both the districts of Leh and Kargil and also demanded to approve and revise the new rate list for the taxi operator unions.



Taxi Union Kargil discussing route permit issue with the Divisional Commissioner cum Secretary Transport Ladakh Saugat Biswa at Tourist Facilitation Centre.

Secretary Biswas assured to consider the issues for appropriate measures. He said that there is no restriction on vehicles from Kargil or Leh who possess State Permit for plying on their designated routes in Ladakh. He urged Taxi Union Kargil to resolve the recurring dispute arising between the Taxi Unions of Leh and Kargil by mutual talks with the mediation of the LAHDCs of both Kargil and Leh, and arrive at an amicable solution. He also said that both CEC's of Leh and Kargil LAHDCs has been requested to mediate and re-

solve disputes between the Taxi Unions.

He further urged the Taxi Unions of both the districts to work in close cooperation to maximize the benefits, provide high-quality service and a comfortable experience to the tourists.

He appreciated the Taxi Union Kargil for their resolve to assure Leh Taxi Union to ply their vehicles on all applicable routes in the Kargil district. Further, he assured that the newly revised rate list will be notified soon.

NOTICE



I, Tsering Choedon D/o Tsetan Phunstok and Tsewang Lhatso R/o Sumdho, Changthang, Leh, Ladakh lost my class 12th Pass Certificate duly issued by Central Board of Secondary Education through SOS Tibetan Children Village, Bylakuppe, Mysore, Karnataka under Roll No 4622616 with Session Annual 2016. Now I have to apply for issuance of duplicate Pass Certificate. Objection if any may be sent to the CBSE Regional Office, Old No. 1630 A, 6th Avenue, 3, 6th St, near Sri Devi Hospital, Bharathi Nagar, Anna Nagar, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) within 7 days from date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I, Stanzin Lapoo S/o Lobzang Tashi R/o Phey, Zanskar do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK-1020090007124 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.

Table-top exercise on earthquake hazard held in Leh

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted its maiden Table Top Exercise (TTE) on the earthquake disaster at DC Conference Hall on August 2.

The exercise was held under the chairmanship of Shrikant Balasubrahmanyam, DC, Leh also the Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Leh. Various stakeholders, including Revenue, Police, UTDRF/ Civil Defense, Armed forces, NHPC Nimoo-Basgo, PWD, Medical, and NGOs were present.

Assistant Commandant, 13th Battalion, NDRF, Deve Darshan Velwal gave a detailed Power-Point presentation on the structure and role of NDRF in India,

its abilities, the list of machines used for dealing with all types of natural and man-made disasters, etc. He stressed the need for co-ordination among the stakeholders during a disaster to reduce response time for rescue measures as Ladakh is located under level IV and V earthquake seismic zones.

Heads of different stakeholders headed by Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DDMA, Leh, Sonam Chosjor, responded to the queries developed by the NDRF, as per the draft plan of the DDMA, Leh.

CEO, DDMA Leh, Sonam Chosjor also gave a brief presentation about the draft plan of DDMA Leh developed as per the global disaster guidelines. He shared an

all-important database at district and sub-divisional levels designed to respond to all types of disasters.

A mock exercise will be conducted on August 3 at the Institute of Hotel Management, Taski-Thang near Lamdon School, Leh, at 11:00 AM by the NDRF team to sensitize stakeholders with the preparedness of the mechanisms at the time of an earthquake.

The meeting deliberated on key points, including the opening of the NDRF branch in Ladakh, satellite phone, helipads, medial infrastructure and response team, hygiene and sanitation, drinking water supply, the role of media, awareness, and training regarding disaster management in the district.

Divisional Commissioner reviews progress of flash flood-related restoration works



Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas reviewed the progress of flood restoration work in Ladakh on August 3.

A detailed discussion on the progress of the restoration of Irrigation Khuls, footbridges, houses, drinking water, and electricity in both the districts of Leh and Kargil was held during the meeting.

Noting the progress made in restoration work, Saugat Biswas advised that complete power connectivity, telecom service, and drinking water supplies need to be restored on a priority basis. He directed the Executive Engineers of both the districts to complete all the temporary restoration within 7 days and to complete permanent restoration

within 30-45 days.

"Only exceptionally complicated works may be allowed to take more time," he added.

The Executive Engineers of both the districts were asked to prepare an inventory of machinery & equipment, manpower engaged in the restoration work and asked to submit the report within a day.

It was informed that a committee has been constituted to examine the estimates of the damages caused by the flash floods. Biswas further directed Executive Engineers to expedite the work of distribution of pipes and other construction material and to take the restoration work on topmost priority.

The Chief and Superintending Engineers were asked to review

the restoration work daily. Saugat Biswas directed the Deputy Commissioners of both the districts to stay in touch with the Sarpanches and Nambardars and involve them in the restoration activities.

During the meeting, it was informed that water tankers have been deployed by the PHE department where pipelines are damaged. Divisional Commissioner directed the deployment of adequate tankers till such time water connections are restored.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner was apprised that the temporary restoration work has been completed in most of the flood-affected areas, and in few villages the restoration is in progress.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; Chief Engineer, R&B Ladakh; Superintending Engineer, PWD Leh/Kargil; Assistant Commissioner Development, Leh/Kargil; Executive Engineer, I&FC/R&B/Construction; All Executive Engineers, Spl. Sub Division, of Leh & Kargil District and Dr. Asif Hussain, OSD to Lt. Governor Ladakh.

NHPC to install Oxygen Plant at CHC Khaltse

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

LEH: District Administration, Leh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited on August 6 at Council Secretariat.

NHPC Ltd is installing one Oxygen Generation Plant with a capacity of 200 LPM, a 125 KVA DG Set and Pipeline, etc. for Community Health Centre at Khaltse in Leh district under Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Initiative.

Officials from NHPC highlighted the achievements and contributions of NHPC to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

GM NHPC Ltd, Rajil Vyas appreciated Hill Council and the District Administration, Leh for

their constant assistance towards NHPC in executing various initiatives in the district. He stated that to consolidate and take the developmental procedures further, forming a partnership brings together capacity, resources, and linkages towards a model and demonstration of sustainable development.

CEC, Tashi Gyalsen extended his gratitude to the team from NHPC for their assistance to the Hill Council in particular and Ladakh at large for several social welfare projects and initiatives for a long time. He highlighted the need for such an Oxygen plant at the sub-divisional level in Khaltse which would benefit the people of the sham region and the tourists traveling through the route since it is located at the center of Leh and Kargil districts.

DC Leh, Shrikant Suse stated that such a partnership will put in place a mechanism and procedures to facilitate the involvement of all the stakeholders in the development process in an accountable manner. He informed that the District Administration Leh is working in full swing and preparing to combat any critical situation in the future like the recent wave of Covid-19.

Councillor Khaltse, Lobzang Sherap extended his gratitude to the entire team of NHPC Ltd. for the number of contributions to the region of sham after the establishment of the Nimoo-Basgo Hydral Project at Alchi. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Chairman, LAHDC Leh, and DC Leh for their constant support in strengthening the developmental requirements in the region.

Feroz Ahmed Khan discusses various issues of Kargil district with Principal Secretary

Reach Ladakh Correspondent

KARGIL: CEC, Hill Council, Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan discussed various issues of Kargil district with Principal Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal at Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC) Bimathang on August 10.

Executive Councillor for Works, Aga Syed Abbas Razvi; Executive Councillor for Social Welfare, Aga Syed Hassan Arman Mosavi; Executive Councillor for Health, Mohsin Ali and Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Santosh Sukhadeve were present in the meeting.

Feroz Ahmed Khan urged Principal Secretary UT Ladakh to set up a system for redistribution of CAPEX Funds within sanctioned head and authorization for grant of approval to be placed at the disposal of the CEO, LAHDC, Kargil. He also underlined the need for early issuance of modified guidelines for CCD Funds in wake of the short working season besides making the District CAPEX Budget non-lapsable.

He also requested Principal Secretary Ladakh to increase 15% in Annual District Capex Budget in each succeeding financial year from the year 2022-23 onwards. He also said that the subsidy component under agriculture and allied sectors should continue in the upcoming budgets as it directly benefits BPL beneficiaries.

CEC also highlighted the need for the creation of 7 posts of Block Medical Officers, up-gradation of CHC Chiktan to the level of Sub District Hospital, up-gradation of PHC Shargole and PHC Panikhar to the level

of Community Health Centre, establishment of Urban Health Center at the location of current District Hospital once it is shifted to its new location at Kurbathang Kargil, sanction of Block Programme Management Unit staff under NHM for Kargil and Shargole, providing of air ambulance service to Kargil, provision of three 4x4 ambulances for COVID-19 Hospital Kargil for use during winter months, provision of 1 CT Scan for COVID-19 Hospital Kargil, up-gradation of NTPHC Batalik to PHC, clearance of time-bound promotion cases of Medical Officers, incentives for Dental Surgeons serving in far-flung areas and other related issues.

He urged the Principal Secretary that the SDP and State Sector Budgets must be vetted by the LAHDCs to avoid duplicacy of projects/works, and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) should also be vetted by the LAHDCs so that works are taken for execution as per the actual requirement of the general public. He also underlined the need for the release of funds under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

Feroz Ahmed Khan also took up the issue of the evacuation of Lower Kurbathang Plateau and monitoring of the implementation of MoU signed with the Army, inclusion of Kargil Town, Poyen and Baroo areas in the Actual Line of Control (ALC) category, and inclusion of all areas (irrespective of urban/rural divide) within 10 KM of the ALC in the list of beneficiaries of areas under ALC certification. He stated that the severe drought and post flash flood situation in

the district during the current year requires major relief for the drought-hit and flood-hit areas.

He urged the Principal Secretary for filling up the posts of SDMs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris and other staff of the Revenue Department as a large number of these posts in the revenue department are vacant.

Regarding the issues of the Wildlife Protection Division and Forest Department in Kargil, the CEC underlined the need for the creation of two new ranges at Sankoo and Drass on a similar pattern as that in Kargil Division and creation of new posts in Wildlife Protection Division Kargil. He also emphasized the need for the creation of new forest ranges at Shakar Chiktan, TSG, and Shargole for proper implementation of Forest schemes in Kargil district. He further urged that a separate range of Pollution Control Board with sufficient number of staff is required in the district.

Also, he highlighted the requirement of a separate Forest Research Institute and Agrostology wings on the similar pattern as of the Union Territory of J&K to ensure introduction of new species to the district and in standardization of growing medicinal plants in the area, establishment of Forest Training School at Kargil to impart departmental training to the officials, filling up of vacant posts in Forest Division Kargil, transfer of Forest Protection Force from UT J&K to UT Ladakh and other related issues.

The Principal Secretary assured that the issues will be considered for suitable follow-up.

NOTICE

No 9925935 P Rank Hav Sonam Jorgias Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO has claimed that his son namely **Thinless Norbu** has been wrongly entered as **Thinless Nurbu** instead of **Thinless Norbu** in the Army record of, **Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO** and produced an affidavit duly verified by Notary public Leh with Certificate No. IN-LA0129209093374BT to this office for making necessary correction. Hence the notice is hereby served through press to file objection if any in this office, **Unit 4 Ladakh Scouts C/o 56APO** within 7 days from date of publication failing which necessary correction will be made.

NOTICE

I, Sonam Dawa S/o Late Sonam Dorjay R/o Alchi, Leh, Ladakh do hereby notify that I have lost my driving license bearing no. JK-1020090006340 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.



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